RESULTS OF AUST ATTACK ADVANCED LINE WHICH NOW APPROXIMATES TO COAST AT EIGHT SEVEN ONE THREE ZERO SEVEN, EIGHT SEVEN TWO THREE ZERO ZERO, EIGHT SEVEN SIX THREE ZERO THREE. ONE BATTALION OF ONE TWENTY FIFTH GERMAN REGIMENT REPORTED TRAPPED. THREE HUNDRED FIFTY GERMAN, FIFTY ITALIAN PRISONERS TAKEN. TWO COUNTER ATTACKS MORNING THIRTY FIRST REPULSED. FROM MAXWELL FOR MARSHALL NIGHT THIRTY THIRD FIRST TWELVE B TWENTY FOUR UNITED STATES BOMBERS ATTACKED MALAISE AIRPORT. TARGET LOCATION DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF HEAVY BROKEN CLOUDS, FIFTY FIVE BOMBS ONE THOUSAND POUNDS EACH DROPPED IN TARGET AREA. OBSERVATION RESULTS LIMITED BUT FIVE IN DISPERSED AREA SEEN. ENCOUNTERED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE, ONE SHIP DAMAGED, ALL RETURNED TO BASES WITHOUT CASUALTY.

MAXWELL

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INFO. COPIES: G-2
CG AAF
LOG
CM-IN-00155 (11/1/42) 0600Z CE

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/44

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SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No ANSME 2259 Oct 31, 1942

Enemy air operations over Malta and Delta area from October sixteenth to thirtieth: Oct seventeenth enemy changed tactics by sending in several formations simultaneously from different directions. Changed tactics again Oct nineteenth abandoned use of bombers during daylight over Malta. Raids now being conducted by fighter bombers with fighter escort. On very few occasions were medium bombers reported over the island. All told seven hundred forty eight enemy sorties were flown during period Oct twenty-fourth to thirtieth none of these raids caused any severe damage to ground installations although some bombs landed on airfields. During period enemy sorties diminished and on Oct thirtieth no aircraft appeared over the island. Axis casualties this prd forty seven destroyed sixteen probable forty three damaged, allied nineteen destroyed twenty one damaged.

On Oct twenty-ninth twenty nine Spitfires were carrier borne to within flying distance of Malta, arrived safe. During past nine months twenty submarines carried nineteen hundred tons supplies to Malta bulk being white petroleum products, vast ordnance, ammunition, food including thirty six and one half tons powdered milk.

For Marshall from Maxwell during this period there was very little enemy air activity over the Delta area. In all only gece missions were flown by single ships. Oct twenty-seventh several bombs were dropped by an unidentified aircraft bound in the sea of Alexandria. One or twenty four shot down same day by Beau fighter.

Maxwell

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CM-IN-00159 (11/1/42) 0615Z

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/94
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid
No. 3695 Oct 31, 1942

Artillery fire dispersed Axis attack concentration tanks and Infantry twenty ninth Egypt. Axis twice attacked both flanks of wedge reported our three six seven nine on thirtieth. Both attacks repelled. Feint attack against Massimah failed to provoke Axis reaction. Night patrols very active. One two six four Germans one eight seven three Italian prisoners evacuated to six hours thirty first.

Madagascar British occupied Alakamisy two hours twenty ninth and Fiansarantsoa sixteen hours. Opposition slight. Mayor cooperating but only indifferent welcome accorded troops. Road cleared six miles South Fiansarantsoa by evening twenty ninth. Three five five native eighteen five European including last two battalion Commanders on Island captured. British casualties light.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 EA
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF LOG

CM-IN-13201 (10/31/42) 1410Z law

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/1944

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304 NORTH AFRICA
No. AHSME 2246, October 31, 1942

At twenty two hundred hours October thirtieth the Ninth Australian Div attacked northeast toward the coast. No report yet of progress.

For Marshall from Maxwell Tenth Arm Div has reverted to Command of Tenth Corps. Second New Zealand Div with One Fifty Second BDE moving into forward positions with AUST and Fifty First Divs.

Following a feint attack against Himeimat which brought no enemy reaction there appears to be movement of Seventh Arm Div toward Central Sector.

Night twenty ninth thirty RAF attacked enemy formations in northern sector with good results. The first mission of the air has been to help Ground Forces while at the same time keeping enemy air on the defensive. Numerous fires, including enemy fuel dumps, and motor transport by hits have resulted. Despite dust conditions developing afternoon thirtieth a forty minute bombing attack was made on enemy northern positions prior to AUST night attack. Enemy air attack by sixteen Stukas with ME one zero nine escort was intercepted, five Axis aircraft destroyed or damaged. Total enemy air casualties for day four destroyed two probable seven damaged British lost three. Total Allied Sorties seven twenty nine.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 2

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AESME 2246, October 31, 1942

Further in rear enemy fighters attacked El Adem
Airfield and destroyed four JU fifty twos and damaged
two warming up on ground.

United States medium bombers participated in
forward area attacks on enemy landing grounds. Ten
United States heavy bombers attacked MacIsa Airfield
where Axis transport planes are concentrated. Estimated
transporting up to three hundred tons fuel nightly and
becomes major target. Results thirtieth moderately
successful, difficulty due to clouds. Attack repeated
night, results pending.

Keil Group eight six two two nine nine, fifteenth
Panzer eight six four two nine five, thirty third Recce
eight six nine three zero five, thirty third anti tank
eight six six three zero two new German locations.

Maxwell

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11665, Sec. 2(B) and 10210 or (2)
OSD letter, May 2, 1973

By S, Radio Dec.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-13307 (10/31/44) cenz

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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSR 2221, October 30, 1942

Medium B dash twenty-five bombers of twelve group flew twenty-four sorties dropped one nine two bombs each of two fifty pounds on enemy tanks, motor vehicles, enemy positions, in support of Eighth Army attack October twenty-eight. No enemy fighter opposition encountered antisubmarine opposition light, fairly accurate. No casualties. For Arnold from Berston. Direct hits observed on all targets, bomb patterns generally excellent, highly effective. P dash forty F fighters of Fifty Seven group flew one zero four sorties in fighter bomber, bomber escort, fighter sweep missions. Generally attempted to close with enemy aircraft over battle area but enemy for the most part refused combat. Reported four enemy fighters destroyed unconfirmed. One our aircraft slightly damaged by enemy aircraft.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CH-IN-12922 (10/30/42) 2156Z ce

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/1984
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3677: Oct 30, 1942

Malta day two nine: fifty four ME nines at great height patrolled west of island attempting intercept delivery aircraft. Twenty eight spitfire sorties drove off GAF all delivery aircraft landed safely: one thirty Axis sorties attacked island during day sixty four spitfires airborne, no losses reported.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 A1
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-12711. (10/30/42) 1251Z cen
N. B. JOURNAL NO. 88 OCT 30 1942

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/44
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR, Washington, D. C.

No. Amne 2228, October 30, 1942

Our B dash twenty five bombers of Twelve Group dropped ninety six bombs two fifty pounds each, made twelve sorties on October twenty nine. Dust prevented observation of results. For Arnold from Brereton, two aircraft hit by shrapnel both crash landed our lines one killed three wounded but unable to furnish names at this time. P dash forty P fighters of Fifty Seven Group flew fifty sorties including bomber fighter, bomber escort and fighter sweep missions. No enemy aircraft encountered, no casualties all aircraft returned safely.

Maxwell

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Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, Log

CM-IN-13098 (10-31-42) 0532\% 065

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44
PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Annex 2213, October 30, 1942.

Night twenty eighth twenty ninth twenty
Aust Bde attacked North and reached point eight
six eight three zero four, narrow salient being
held. A coordinated attack by twenty sixth
Aust was launched westward parallel to coast
but was not successful. From Maxwell for Marshall.

At seven hundred houses twenty ninth British
air action sank three thousand ton tanker off
Tobruk. Reports of Axis destroyers deck loaded
with supplies indicate Rommel's supply problem
becoming more critical.

British claim one fifty enemy tanks out
of action, thirty destroyed.

Axis has shown little disposition to strongly
counter attack. Afternoon twenty ninth formations
of infantry and tanks in area eight six six two
nine nine were dispersed by artillery fire and
made no further attempt to advance by dark.

Allied air attack totalled six twenty seven
Sorties for day. Formations attacked northern
sector ground targets, enemy landing grounds and
communication lines back of Matruh. Axis air has
shown a more offensive trend, two escorted Stuka
and one fighter bomber raid over forward area with
little damage. Axis days losses four destroyed one
probable two damaged. One British fighter missing.

Specially heavy concentrations of enemy aircraft

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E. O. 12256, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

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300 North Africa
on Crete airfields targets of USAAF heavy bomber
attack twenty four hundred hours twenty ninth,
preliminary reports indicate success, no
confirmation.

Maxwell
From: Cairo
To: Agbar
No. AMSHE 2236 Oct 30, 1942

Up to twelve hundred hours thirtieth only minor local ground actions desert front. From Maxwell for Marshall no enemy counter attack has developed.
Through twenty ninth British claim total twelve hundred sixty four German prisoners eighteen hundred seven three Italians.
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSME 2214 Oct 30, 1942

As of twelve hundred hours twenty ninth the following locations are reported twenty first Panzer eight six three two nine zero, Kiel Group eight six two two eight seven unconfirmed, one sixty fourth dispersed area eight six four three zero four, Ariele eight six three two seven two; British ninth Aust Div Tatt eight seven eight two nine nine, twentieth Aust eight six eight two. Nine nine, twenty fourth Aust eight seven five three zero one, twenty sixth Aust eight seven two three zero zero, eighth Arm eight six seven two nine six, one Thirty Third BDE eight six seven two nine six, Second New Zealand Main Div eight seven nine two five, Fifth and Sixth New Zealand BDEs four two five, nine zero zero, Ninth Arm eight seven nine two nine zero. First South African Div eight eight one two nine two, First South African BDE eight eight six two eight six South African eight seven three two nine zero, Third South African eight seven five two eight eight, First Arm Div eight seven two nine five, Second Arm eight seven nine two nine five, seven not eight six nine two nine five, twenty fourth Arm eight six eight two nine four, fifty first Div Tatt eight seven six two nine five, One Fifty Second BDE eight six nine three zero one, One Fifty Third BDE eight seven one two nine two, One Fifty Fourth BDE eight six nine two three, Thirty fifth Main eight eight two nine six,
WAR DEPARTMENT  
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INCOMING MESSAGE  

From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR  

No. AMSHE 2214 Oct 30, 1942  

Twenty Third Arm eight seven eight two nine seven, Fourth Lt Arm eight eight five two five seven for Marshall from Maxwell. British.  

Maxwell.  

Action Copy: OPD  
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CM-IN-12830 (10/30/42) 19012 cen  

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3679 Oct 30, 1942

Limited partially successful British Infantry and Tank attack night twenty-eighth dash twenty-ninth drove three mile wedge in Axis northern Sector Egypt. Ground held despite counterattack. Considerable regrouping of British Forces effected and mass Axis armor believed shifted northward. War Office states air arm completely responsible smashing two recent Axis counterattacks.

Malagasy British now twenty miles north of Antananarivo.

Hughes

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(B) and 3(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By JS, NASS Date, FEB 21, 1973

Action Copy: G-2 EA
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CM-IN-12712 (10/30/42) 1254Z cen

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44
WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

October 29, 1942

From Cairo
To: Agwar

No. 2200, October 29th, 1942.

New enemy locations are as follows: ninetieth LT eight five nine three zero six, fifteenth Panzer eight five five three zero zero, one sixty fourth eight six four two nine six, Littorio eight five two two nine zero, twenty first Panzer eight six three two nine zero, Trento eight six nine two eight eight, Bologna eight seven four two seven nine, Ariete eight six three two seven two, Brescia eight seven four two six seven, Folgore 01200 seven four two five seven. These changes occurred during the twenty seventh and twenty eighth. From Marshall to Maxwell, they conclude the first phase of the Battle. The British strategy played largely on the element of surprise and the bulk of their power was thrown onto the front line attacking in the North. It was fully anticipated that this would be a hard fought engagement with heavy casualties on both sides. Events have proven this true although figures are still lacking. A penetration of the enemy defenses was made and the forward positions are now held by the thirtieth corps plus the Arm Div. The tenth corps is withdrawing into reserve to provide the necessary depth to meet the heavy counter attack threatened by the Axis regrouping of armor. The enemy, wishing to conserve on fuel and deceive as to location of the main attack, waited in position until sure of the main effort, then brought the major part of his armor into position to meet it. Afternoon twenty eighth concentration of enemy armor formed in area eight six four two nine five, heavily attacked from air, enemy attack did not materialize.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

From Cairo

To: INCOMING MESSAGE

No. Amsne 2200, October 29th, 1942.

In the south the forty-fourth and fiftieth Divs are actively patrolling with the seventh Arm Div remaining in reserve.

Total seven hundred forty-two Allied Air Sorties twenty eight. Continued close support of Northern Sector Ground Operations, also attacks on Axis forward Area. Enemy Air continued in a defensive role. Total Axis days aircraft casualties nine destroyed, three probable, six damaged. British two fighters missing.

USAAF heavy bombers attacked Navarino Bay in search of tanker reported southbound. Not located, attacked three Italian Cruisers, one hit claimed.

Closes for twenty-four hundred hours twenty eighth October.

Maxwell

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Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-12470 (10/29/42) 21112 ce

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

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From: London  
To: Milid  

No. 3673, October 29, 1942.

Forward British troops Egypt easily repelled Axis tank and infantry attack area three miles west Tel El Eisa late twenty seventh. Despite British bombing, Axis armor formed in area eight miles WSW Tel El Eisa counterattacking British armor late twenty-seventh; Axis losses heavy British light; later Axis attack captured one British forward position. Night twenty-seventh dash twenty-eighth Axis unsuccessfully attacked northern forward infantry position. Reorganization British forces whole front conducted per plan.

Evening twenty-seventh British forward troops Madagascar reached point six miles north Alakamisy. Demolitions bad, weather good.

Signed Hughes
To: MI9ID

No. 3667, October 28, 1942

Day two seven Malta: GAF made three raids on aerodromes no serious damage one Wellington one Spitfire damaged on ground, fifty five Spitfire one twenty four Axis fighter sorties, three HE nine damaged one probably destroyed AA one Spitfire damaged.

Hughes

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CG AAF

CM-IN-11951 (10/28/42) 16192 cen

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/44
From: Embassy London
To: MILID

No. 3668 Oct 28, 1942

British bombing Axis concentrations twenty-sixth prevented counterattacks Northern Sector Egypt. Defensive fire checked forward Axis progress during night.

Night twenty-sixth dash twenty-seventh British farther south attacked Capturing Kidney Ridge five miles west Tel El Makh Khad. Armor unable exploit further west account heavy antitank fire. Small advance made Deir El Dhib area to edge Axis minefield with four Platoon positions one thousand yards west.

Southern Sector captured Axis maps supplied defense works information. Clearance second minefield continues.

Madagascar British advancing three roads account extensive obstruction on direct Alakamisy road. Leading troops twelve miles north Alakamisy twenty hours twenty-sixth.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 ER
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94
From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR

No. Amsue 2162 October 28, 1942

In three separate attacks on enemy shipping convoy vicinity of Tobruk twenty six October eighteen B dash twenty four D planes of nine eight Bombardment Group, eight B dash twenty four D planes of First Provisional Bombardment Group, five B dash seventeen E planes First Provisional Group dropped one hundred and fifty thousand total poundage bombs. For Arnold from Brereton. Aircraft of nine eight group attacked first from altitude ten to twelve thousand feet, ten bombing primary target five thousand ton tanker on which two direct hits four near misses observed. Eight attacked barges scoring one direct hit. Twelve to fifteen enemy fighters engaged formation over target one ME one zero nine, two unidentified enemy fighters hit and believed destroyed. B dash twenty four First Provisional Group attacked next from altitude fourteen thousand no hits no near misses claimed. No fighter opposition reported. B dash seventeen attacked next from altitude fourteen thousand feet no hits or near misses claimed. One Macchi Fighter seen, probably destroyed. From these missions one B dash twenty four and one B dash seventeen returned early due engine trouble. All our aircraft returned. B dash twenty fives of Twelve Medium Bombardment Group made eighteen sorties, dropped thirty four thousand total poundage of two fifty pound BP bombs scoring direct hits and many near misses on tanks motor transport and tent areas. On one mission Allied Fighter escort shot down two enemy fighters. Fifty seven Fighter Group made seventy two sorties as bomber escort fighter bomber escort and fighter patrol missions. Pilots of Sixty fifth Squadron engaged four Macchi two zero two, shot down all of them.

Maxwell

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CM-IN-11994 (10/28/43) 18222

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/9/44
INCOMING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No Ammex 2166 October 28, 1942

Desert battle to twelve hundred hours October twenty seventh: Kidney Ridge taken by second arm Bde and seven motor Brigade. High ground at Mussaib, eight eight three two six zero, captured. Slight advance southwest by second new sea and first south African Divs. Strong counter attack on twenty sixth Australians repulsed by own defensive fire. For Marshall from Maxwell moderate tank engagements in the northern sector and indications point to a major armor battle shaping up late twenty seventh. To date estimates place German and British tank losses at about fifty each out of action but not destroyed. Reported tendency toward concentration of twenty first and fifteenth Panzer Divs and ninetieth Lt moving closer to line. Axis Avn restricted morning twenty seven and allied air pressed attacks. Large merchant ship accompanying tanker hit by aircraft tornados and blown up. Total two three five zero prisoners through cages, about thirty percent Germans.

Maxwell

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CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-11075 (10/28/42) 1726Z cen

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

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No. Agreement 2174, October 28, 1942.

At seventeen thirty hours twenty seventh combined Axis tank and infantry attack on twentieth Ausp was repulsed. Some regrouping of Northern British Units, New Zealand Div with dash drawing to reserve.

From Maxwell for Marshall, armored counter attacks against First Armd Div late afternoon in area eight six six two nine five. Second attack during evening. One British Inf Battalion position over run, heavy enemy tank losses with light losses to British armor. First Armd and Fifty First Diva engaged in night demolition of Axis tanks and recovery of own in area west of Kidney Ridge where heaviest fighting has occurred.

Air forces effort primarily given to close support of Army movements in Northern Sector. Enemy made one large mixed type aircraft raid, intercepted and running battle from Daba to front lines. For day total enemy air casualties eighteen destroyed, eight probable, five damaged against six British missing. Allied total sorties eight hundred ninety six. No heavy bomber attacks on enemy shipping of Four areas. This report concludes twenty four hundred hours twenty seventh October.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2 CG AAF Log

CM-IN-11943 (10-28-42) 1553 Z mjC

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/94
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSF 2175, October 28, 1942

Medium B-twenty five bombers flew forty sorties on October twenty seven, dropped three hundred and twelve bombs each of two hundred fifty pounds on enemy motor transport, landing grounds, troop concentrations and tank concentrations. Many direct hits, many near misses observed. For Arnold from Breston. They also burned dock area at Matruh. On direct hits certain but one possible on buildings and several possible ones on supply dumps top one B-twenty five crash landed due direct hit on one engine results unknown. Four aircraft boled. Staff Sergeant LL Achay suffered wounds scalp and arm. Oral report of fighters revealed destruction three ME one zero mines four CR forty two with four other enemy fighters probably destroyed three damaged.

No Sig

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CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-12146 (10/29/42) 01432 law

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 10/30/1982

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Telegram no. 1599
From: Vichy

Dated: 10-28-42, 6 p.m.
Rec'd: 10-29-42, 9:28 a.m.

PARAPHRASE (CORRECTION)

Last paragraph of paraphrase of this telegram should read as follows:

"SS" elements have arrived at Mulhouse and Strasbourg and a mountain division, unidentified, has arrived near Dole. New tanks from Germany have been received by the 10th armored division.

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CM-IN-1207 (11/3/42) 21572 cen

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

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300 NORTH AFRICA
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSMK 2138, October 27, 1942

Continuing support Eighth Army attack on twenty five October S—twenty five of Twelfth Bombardment Group made thirty sorties, dropped sixty thousand pounds GP bombs. Direct hits observed on tanks and motor vehicles excellent: bomb patterns on motor vehicle dispersal areas, many fires started. For Arnold from Brereton. No casualties to our personnel although two planes holed by antiaircraft. Fighter resistance over battle area light: antiaircraft heavy, fairly accurate. Fifty Seventh Fighter Group made seventy two sorties on fighter bomber and bomber escort missions. On first mission of day six NE one zero nines attacked our formation, our fighters shot down four IX KHAR.

Maxwell

Originator: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
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LOG
CM-IN-11704 (10/27/42) 2259Z mov
INCOMING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. AMHE 2145 Oct 27, 1942

Afternoon October twenty-sixth a threatened enemy tank attack eight six nine two nine nine prevented by successful bombing attacks. Seventh Motor Brigade with strong artillery support attacked Kidney Ridge eight six seven zero two nine five five night twenty-sixth dash twenty-seventh no report yet of results. First armored Div attempting break through westward had not succeeded by evening. First South African and Second New Zealand Divs moved slightly southwest. Sixty Ninth BDE had not succeeded in dislodging enemy on south elevation of Munassib. One hundred thirty first BDE continuing to clear New Enemy Minefield located at eight seven nine seven two five five zero. Grounded summary shows main effort continues to break through west and north in the northern sector while local attacks continue along central and southern sectors. Enemy defenses strongly held and offering very stiff resistance. From Maxwell for Marshall night twenty-fifth dash twenty-sixth Allied air attacks concentrated on enemy forward positions in close support to Ground Forces. Axis forward landing grounds targets of medium and fighter bomber attacks. Long range fighters during day hit motor transport and destroyed two fuel trucks near Haneish. Enemy air
attacks on Ismayid and landing ground five one zero nine zero seven, some damage. Increased scale to Axis air activity. Allied total sorties eight hundred two Axis aircraft suffered fourteen destroyed, eight probable, thirteen damaged against four pilots reported missing. USAAF activity took part in fighter and medium bomber attacks over battle and forward enemy areas with total ninety sorties. Sixty fifth Fighter Squadron engaged four NC two hundred two, shot down all. Total of thirty one B twenty four and B seventeen heavy bombers attacked enemy convoy vicinity of Yobrik scored two direct hits on five thousand ton tanker four near misses, later observed burning full length. Twelve to fifteen fighter's engaged formation over target four hit ABD probably destroyed. All aircraft returned safely no damage or casualties reported.

Total one nine six eight enemy prisoners in cages at eighteen hundred hours twenty sixth.

Maxwell

Action Copy: C-2 A
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF Log

CM-IN-11829 (10-28-43) 0451Z ems
INCOMING MESSAGE  

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSCHE 2143 Oct 27, 1942

Positions of British forward line Brigades or Divs Northern Sector as at twelve hundred hours October twenty sixth: Twentieth Aust eight seven one three zero one twenty sixth Aust eight seven three two nine nine First Armored Div eight seven two two nine seven One Hundred Fifty Third BDE eight six nine two nine six seventh motor eight six eight two nine six Second Armored eight six seven two nine five One Hundred Fifty Fourth BDE eight six nine two nine two twenty fourth Armored eight six eight two nine one six New Zealand eight seven one two one One Eighth Armored eight seven five two nine two one hundred thirty third BDE eight seven two two nine zero Second South African eight seven three two eight nine Third South African eight seven seven two eight eight Fifth New Zealand eight seven zero two eight seven Ninth Armored Marigold eight seven one two eight six First South African eight eight six two eight six. Balance of line southward no change, follows eight eight East Grid to Himeimat. Twenty Sixth Australian Brigade night October twenty fifth dash twenty sixth attacked due north and by dawn had advanced two kilometers to objectives, inflicting substantial German casualties. Fifty First Div successfully attacked Kasturium Point eight six eight two nine four but unable to take ridge at eight six seven two nine five. Because of this resistance a contemplated push westward by First Armored Div was postponed. Expected action by Twenty Second Armored BDE at Numassib was taken over by Fourth Lt Armored
which took position at eight eight zero two six zero, exerting pressure from south while Fiftieth Div moved down from north. Twenty Second Armored located at eight eight five two five three. End up to twelve hundred hours twenty sixth.

Maxwell
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: MILID
No 3658 October 27, 1942

Fifty five Spitfire sorties flown against one two zero Axis fighter and fighter bombers Malta day two six. Takali cratered slight damage military stores, three MK nine destroyed one probable.

GAF activity increased scale Egypt two six, fifteen GAF aircraft destroyed ten probable eight damaged. GAF using FW two hundreds to ferry supplies Africa.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 AIR
Info. Copies: OPD
               CG AAF

CH-IN-11504 (10/27/42) 1239Z

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/20/44
Australian Northern Sector Egypt night twenty-fifth twenty-sixth successfully attacked Axis capturing important position west edge Tel El Eisa inflicting numerous casualties, thanks to capture marked map by British patrol. Axis resistance six miles west Tel El Makh Khab not yet overcome morning twenty-sixth but British in control other localities that area and patrols active. One hundred Axis tanks attacked British Armor afternoon twenty-fifth. Engagement undecisive and Axis withdrew leaving some tanks. Successful British attack Southern Sector made on Dair El Munassib. Reorganization and mopping up continue.

Madagascar British advanced troops thirty five miles North Pianarantsoca evening twenty-fifth meeting little opposition except frequent road blocks and occasional sniping. Large scale demolition located five miles further south, probably requiring several days clearing.

Re Egypt War Office estimates crust broken in north and all original objectives captured, though additional minefields exist requiring infantry action before armored forces can execute breakthrough. Associated actions air activity having toxic effect British Troops.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 EA
Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAP, LOG.

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/64

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Paraphrase

Tel egram no. 1599
Dated: 10-26-42, 6 p.m.
From: Vichy
Rec'd: 10-29-42, 9:28 a.m.

Following for Military Intelligence Service:

Axis forces on the Desert Front are estimated by official circles as follows: 7 German divisions of which there are 2 infantry, 1 parachute, 2 armored, 2 motorized; 17 Italian divisions as follows: 2 armored 11 infantry, 1 air borne infantry, 3 motorized; 1500 aircraft, 700 of which are German and are in Africa, Crete and Greece; 1000 tanks.

Following from an excellent source:

"SS" elements have arrived at Mulhouse and Strasbourg and a mountain division, unidentified, has arrived near Dolz. New tanks from Germany have been received by the (*) armored division.

TUCK

(*) Omission being serviced.

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CG AAF

CM-IN-12698 (10-30-42) 1134Z

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AMHE 2123, October 26, 1943

Through twelve hundred hours October twenty five desert front situation: during the night the Thirty Corps completed mopping up of area behind its lines while the Tenth Corps completed passage of minefield gaps; South Gap between eight seven one two nine one dash eight seven seven two nine three and eight seven one two nine zero dash eight seven seven two nine two, North Gap eight seven zero two nine five dash eight seven seven two nine five and eight seven zero two nine seven dash eight seven seven two nine seven. Enemy night bombers and heavy caliber artillery fire caused some difficulty to Twenty Fourth Armored Bde. Seven motor Brigade followed and one hundred thirty third bde took over positions on Miteiriya Ridge at zero nine three zero hours freeing eight and ninth Armored Bdes for further action. Brief but inconclusive engagement between Second Armored Bde and Axis tanks. (For Marshall from Maxwell) Southern Sector at two two three zero hours twenty fourth, Bridgehead established over minefield eight eight zero two five four dash eight eight zero two five eight by one hundred thirty first infantry bde which penetrated four hundred yards beyond. By zero three zero zero hours Twenty Second Armored Bde started passage of this gap but suffered tank casualties from anti tank screen and thirty German tanks firing hull down. At zero eight zero zero hours this attempt discontinued and twenty Second Armored Bde moved Northward toward Munassib. Westward movement of enemy motor transport from Munassib area continues. Two Free French Bde moved...
to eight eight nine two six six. Total one four five five Axis prisoners taken. No report own losses but character of fighting indicates they have been heavy. Axis positions marked by absence of any new grouping or efforts toward reconcentration as yet.

Maxwell
RE MY 231785. SPRINGS IN TUNIS REPORTS FROM RELIABLE LOCAL DEUXIEME BUREAU SOURCE THAT BUREAU IN FRANCE ESTIMATES GERMANS ARE INCREASING THEIR AFRICA CORPS BY 4 OR 5 DIVISIONS OF WHICH 1 IS ARMORED TO A TOTAL OF 8 OR 9. INCREASED AFRICA CORPS WILL COMPRISSE 1 MOTORIZED 2 OR 3 ARMORED AND 5 INFANTRY DIVISIONS.

BUREAU IN FRANCE ESTIMATES THAT ITALIANS SINCE AUGUST 1 HAVE TRANSPORTED 8 NEW DIVISIONS TO LIBYA. TOTAL INCLUDING 1 ORGANIZED LOCALLY IS 17 COMPRISING 3 MOTORIZED 2 ARMORED 5 AUTO TRANSPORTABLE 1 RAPIDE AND 6 INFANTRY. ACCORDING TO SOURCES AND OTHER PREVIOUS INFORMATION THESE ESTIMATES OF BUREAU IN FRANCE SEEM HIGH. SOURCE STATES THAT THERE ARE STILL NO AVIATION OR TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON TUNISIAN

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

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
FRONTIER IF THIS OCCURS WE SHALL RECEIVE IMMEDIATE WARNING.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Oct 26, 1942
16372

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Amame 2125, October 26, 1942.

Forward thirtieth corps positions unchanged since twelve hundred hours twenty fifth.

Tenth corps: during afternoon twenty fifth enemy tanks attacked second New Zealand div, area eight seven seven two nine three, also forty Axis tanks attacked second arm bde eight six nine two nine four but broke off with tank losses. Second arm bde and seventh motorized bde advanced toward Kidney Ridge eight six seven two nine five but forced to withdraw, planned further attack night twenty fifth dash twenty sixth. Second New Zealand div holding on Anaziya Ridge with eighth arm bde and one hundred thirty third inf bde in reserve. Action Northern Sector very fluid, minor tank engagements with inconclusive results centering general area eight six eight two nine five.

For Marshall from Maxwell thirteenth corps: fourth lt arm bde moved north towards point eight eight zero two five nine. Developments point to attack Munassib area while forty fourth div holding positions over minefields north of Himeimat.

Allied air attacks continued on recent scale over enemy forward and battle areas. Enemy air attacks increased particularly over central area occupied by fourth Indian div. Enemy losses seven destroyed four probable eight damaged. British losses one missing. USAAF active over battle area, shot down four out of the seven of enemy aircraft destroyed. Total allied sorties six.
No. Amsmee 21125, October 26, 1942 From: Cairo Page TWO

hundred sixty.

Escorted enemy shipping off Tobruk attacked by RAF: one merchant ship hit, exploded; one destroyer on fire; four axis escorting aircraft destroyed. Attack also made on JU fifty two transport planes escorted by me one hundred ten. One JU fifty two destroyed, six same damaged, one British fighter missing. Indications are that enemy motor fuel supply will be exhausted by October twenty eighth and aviation fuel twenty ninth. Axis air transport has been given first priority rating on motor fuel and second on aviation fuel. Enemy tanker now reported southward bound and designated as prime target for allied air attack. Concludes report to twenty four hundred hours twenty fifth.

Maxwell

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CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-11277 (10/26/42) 1946Z law

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44.
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. Ammu 2124 October 26, 1942

In support of Eighth Army, twenty-five bombers of Twelfth Bombardment Group made fifty-four sorties on October twenty-four dropping one hundred and eight thousand pounds gp bombs. Many direct hits observed on tanks, motor vehicles and gun replacement. For Arnold from Brereton. Enemy fighter opposition light; antiaircraft heavy; several our aircraft holed. Pilot wounded when antiaircraft burst holed aircraft knocked one engine out forced down behind our lines. As bomber escort fighters and fighter bombers Fifty Seventh Group made one zero eight sorties. Hits on tanks and motor vehicles. Only two minor engagements with enemy fighters without observed results except one our aircraft slightly damaged.

Maxwell

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CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-11275 (10/26/42) 2217Z ce

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
From: London
To: MILID

Number 3651, October 26, 1942

During day two five GAF made five attacks
Malta: most bombs Jettisoned some on Luqa and
Hal far no serious damage, one six zero Axis
fighter and fighter bombers six five Spitfire
sorties, one Me nine destroyed one probable
two destroyed AA, one Spitfire lost one Beaufighter,
destroyed on ground.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: OPD
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CM-IN-11096 (10/26/42) 1208Z

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From: London
To: Washington DC
No. 3652 'Oct 26, 1942

Axis counter attack extreme north Egypt repelled twenty-fifth and British mopped up final objective. Axis Air and Artillery delayed passage British Armor thru gaps but passage eventually completed. One British Armored Brigade engaged German tanks five miles West Tel El Marh Khad. No major Armored battle to zero six zero zero hours twenty-sixth. In South British Armored formation negotiated gaps in Axis minefield but anti tank gunfire, thirty German tanks hull down and Artillery held up further advance.

Madagascar British forward troops reached forty one miles North Flanarantsoa night twenty-fourth. Road blocks frequent.

Hughes.

Action Copy: G-2 -- E
Info. Copies: OPD
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LOG
CM-IN-11137 (10/26/42) 14592 cen

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AMSME 2099, October 25, 1942

Delay in starting the battle at El Alamein was due to delay in gaining all out air superiority. Time of attack was left to The Commanding General and Air Chief Marshal Tedder. Intensified air operations have continued for three days longer than expected. Attack started at twenty two hundred hours twenty three October. (To Arnold from Brereton) enemy aircraft to reinforce this theatre are immediately available in Sicily and Greece and can operate against it from Crete. RAF will make all out attempt to maintain air superiority during course of action.

Maxwell
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

BC 18
filed 25/1515Z

CCWD
October 25, 1942
1431Z

PRIORITY

E.O. 11802, Sec. 500 and 571 or 567
OSD Letter, May 5, 1972

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No AMSHE 2116 October 25, 1942

At sixteen twenty-five hours October twenty fourth, the 11th Armored Division operating on Mitteiriya Ridge. Seventeen fifty-five hours, the 9th Australian Division was counter attacked on its left, repulsed by defensive fire while fifty first Division completed mopping up and advanced to the final objective.

(From a Maxwell letter for Marshall) Central Sector: one fifty first Brigade reported considerable motor transport movement at dusk east to west along Alinda track from point eight seven six two six four.

In the South, the 13th Corps continued clearing operations in enemy minefields area eight eight two two five six. Allied air operations concentrated on close ground support of attacking forces with targets gun emplacements motor transport tanks, particularly those near mine field gaps while British armor penetrating these. Strong antiaircraft fire encountered early in the day but diminished later while tendency of enemy to concentrate improved Allied air targets. Near Himeimat fighter bomber support of French attack hit eighteen enemy tanks, three on fire.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/04
Enemy air activity was entirely defensive and of a limited degree. Axis aircraft losses one destroyed one damaged against own losses eleven aircraft but four pilots and two crews safe. Total nine hundred fifty three sorties, Allied losses chiefly result of antiaircraft fire. USAAF participated in all operations. Five missions with fifty four sorties by the twelfth Bombardment Group. Fifty seven pursuit group one hundred eight sorties supporting bombers and fighter bombers in attacks on enemy transport and tanks. Some damage to planes by antiaircraft fire, no casualties one B twenty five five plane force landed behind own lines.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: OPD

INFO COPIES: G-2, CG AAF, LOG

CM-IN- 10613 (10-25-42) 1718Z eob

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/44
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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANMSN 2109 October 25, 1942

Summary of British Desert offensive up to fifteen hundred hours October twenty fourth. An intensive artillery bombardment for twenty minutes by eight hundred guns firing four hundred rounds each preceded the attack at twenty two hundred-hours night of October twenty third. The First Armored Div on the right and Tenth Armored Div on the left moved westward from their positions South of Alamein Station. The mine fields were successfully cleared and by zero three three zero hours twenty fourth first objectives were reached. Infantry attacks were made due westward by Ninth Australian Fifty first Highland Second New Zealand and First South African Divs. By zero five three zero hours the objectives of these attacks were reached except for the first South African and Fifty first Divs which were held up by strong points. The Fifty first met strong opposition from the One six four Div marked by bitter hand to hand fighting and heavy casualties on both sides. At zero six three zero hours Second New Zealand Div reported through enemy positions and deployed beyond. By ten hundred hours thirtieth Corps line approximately eight six seven two nine nine, eight six eight two nine six, eight six nine two nine three, eight seven two nine one, eight seven six two eight eight, eight seven six two eight five. The First and Tenth Armored Divisions penetrated beyond enemy defenses and reported at areas eight six three two nine seven and eight six five two eight eight respectively.

In the Central Sector pressure was exerted at all points with Fourth Indian Division penetrating first enemy mine field along Koweitat Ridge to point eight seven six two seven nine and encountering heavy defensive fire. At zero three three zero hours in the southern Sector the First Fighting French Brigade penetrated

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

By JS, NARS Date: FEB 20 1973

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COPY No.

300 NORTH AFRICA
From Cairo to AGWAR  Page 2  
No. AMSHE 2109  October 25, 1942

mine field south of Himeimat and reached eight seven six two four nine by zero five twenty five hours. Seventh Armored Division delayed by machine gun and anti tank positions met strong resistance from enemy protected by mine fields area eight zero two five four dash eight eight zero two five eight. Fighting French Brigade was strongly counterattacked and withdrew to position area eight six two four eight where actions continue. No changes in enemy positions are reported and his armor remains in two principle groups with fifteenth Panzer and Littorio Divisions at eight six zero three zero zero, threatened by first and Tenth Armored Divisions while twenty first Panzer and Ariste Divisions are grouped west of Gebelkalah. Light British naval forces made a diversionary shore raid near Matruh, met with heavy Axis air attack without damage. Striking absence of any enemy air action against attacking ground forces. Approximately five hundred Italian and two hundred fifty German prisoners taken. Characteristic attitude sullen and depressed. Main observations of early phase: One, the element of surprise was fully realized by the by the elaborate methods use to achieve this purpose. Axis had expected the attack in the south and was unable to anticipate the Northern thrust due to extensive camouflagge methods and virtual denial of enemy air reconnaissance during the last five days; Second, the complete complete penetration of enemy defenses by the First and Tenth Armored Divisions exceeded every expectation and probably due to the use of new tank equipment skillfully employed by well trained crews and supported by heavy infantry attack; three, the northern main thrust was well supported by strong attack all along the line; four, the main British Armor is well located to keep the Axis armor separated; fifth, improvement was shown...
From Cairo to AGWAR  Page 3
No. AMSER 2109 October 25, 1942

In clearing enemy mine fields due partially to preliminary lifting operations of past two weeks and also to improved methods; sixth, the initial phase involved no major encounter between armored forces.

For Marshall from Maxwell because of unfavorable weather conditions over Bengazi, Tobruk, and Crete during past week heavy and medium bomber attacks on these areas have been badly handicapped with result that Axis has probably been able to bring in some supplies. Estimated Axis tank strength before attack German two hundred seventy five Italian two hundred ninety medium and fifteen light. Enemy motor transport and fuel situation appears critical with desperate efforts to replenish supply of 30th. Estimated he now had three days supplies at normal operational rate of consumption.

Maxwell
From: London
To: MILID

No. 3647, Oct 25, 1942

Day two four Malta: One two four Axis Fighter Sorties some with bombs, no serious damage to Aerodromes, one Axis Fighter destroyed one probably destroyed one ME nine destroyed A A, one Spitfire destroyed two Spitfire one Beaufighter damaged on ground, height and cloud cover used by GAF.

Egypt two three GAF activity defensive only.

Hughes

ACTION COPY: G-2 - FHR
INFOO COPIES: OPD, CG AAF, LOG

CM-IN- 10734 (10-25-42) 1229Z eob

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64

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COPY No.
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3649 October 25, 1942

British forces attacking Northern Sector supported by tanks captured first objective zero three three zero hours twenty fourth, final objective zero five three zero hours. Other armored formations meanwhile advancing behind attackers and portion thereof starting pass through enemy minefield gaps created by initial advance by zero six three zero hours. British line one zero zero zero hours: point three and one half miles west of Tel el Misa dash point four and one half miles southwest of Tel el Misa dash point five miles west southwest of Tel el Makh Khad dash thence roughly southeast passing south to Danyet el Miteiriya to point one mile southeast Deir el Dhib. At one zero zero zero hours part armored forces engaged with forty five Axis tanks in area west southwest Tel el Misa.

Central Sector: British on Ruweisat Ridge raided West Wards to point six two (one mile south east Deir el Shein)

Southern Sector: British advanced penetrating Axis minefields several places, armored elements passing through gaps. Advanced elements reached three miles West Qaret el Himeimat by zero five two five hours twenty fourth. Axis machine guns and AT positions located in foremost minefields delayed other British this sector, and second Axis minefield presented difficulties. British who had advanced West Qaret el Himeimat heavily counter attacked by Axis
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London to Milid Page 2
No. 3649 October 25, 1942

 tanks early twenty fourth and forced to withdraw. British continued mopping up between first and sec-
ond Axis minefields during morning.

War Office reports no apparent regrouping Axis forces to meet attack. One sixty fourth German and Trento
Divisions in area main British effort.

Madagascar British forward troops reached thirty five miles South Ambositra evening twenty third en-
countering some French resistance there. Road blocks delaying advance.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2-117
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-10783 (10/25/42) 1511Z

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By RT, NARA, Date ___/___/99

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INCOMING MESSAGE

October 24, 1942

From: EDDY (ALUSNA TANGIERS)
For Action: OPHAV, ALUSNA, London
Number 231705 NCR 3926
(To OPHAV and ALUSNA London)

Following summary dated October 12 of Axis forces under Rommel comes from both good and doubtful sources Doolittle and in general agree with ideas of French Staff Tunis. Afrika Corps comprises 15th Armored Division under Nehring, and 90th Motorized Division and since June-July 99th Motorized and 104 or 164 Infantry Division Italians previously had the 20th Armored Corps which was 113 Armored Orpavia Division, Motorized 101 Trenting, 102 Trieste, 17th Orpavia Infantry Division and 25th or Bologna Infantry Division there have been reinforced by new Armored Littorio Division. 21st Motorized, Parma, Pistoia, and Sabratha Infantry Divisions.

Estimated total of 1000 tanks of which 700 are reinforced mark 4.

It is said that new American 57 MM anti tank gun pierces best armor at 1890 to 2000 meters.

EDDY

This is our No. 2486 with changes.

Navy Distribution:

16...Action 10/11.. 20G...COMINCH...NAVIAD...200P... File. F-3 Action 16-F...16C...16.. 16-L...16-J...
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CM-IN-11436 (10-27-42) 05042 Crane

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OSD letter, May 5, 1972

by JS, NARA Dec 7 1972 9-9-73

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/64

COPY No. 27
From: Embassy London  
To: Milid  
No. 3645 October 24, 1942  

Malta day two three: seventy five spitfire sorties flown against one seven one Axis fighters, bombs dropped near Takali airfield on Malta, one spitfire lost, one EC-9 mine-destroyed; three damaged two destroyed by AA par in Egypt RAF daily sorties estimated as follows: fifty convoy escort one hundred offensive fighters twenty five defensive bombers.

Hughes  

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Info. Copies: OPD  
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E.O. 11652, Sec. (2) and (5) or (6)  
OSS letter, May 3, 1972  

M.I. 8, JOURNAL NO. 51  
OCT 25 1942  

COPY No.  

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FROM: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Ammze 2090, October 24, 1942

Eighth Army concentrations for attack were completed by dawn October twenty third. An armored concentration was made on the road from El Alamein station southward to two eight zero North grid. For Marshall from Maxwell New Zealand Division moved forward to same area. Main armor concentration was made east of Himeimat. First attack at two two zero zero hours October twentythird in the Northern Sector preceded by twenty minute intense artillery fire and second attack now proceeding against Himeimat. During the day twentythird air attacks on enemy forward areas were intensified. Total four hundred thirty nine fighter Sorties made by Allied aircraft. Clear cut allied air superiority over forward enemy area, with Axis aircraft pinned to a defensive role, preceded the attack. Present aim of attack is to keep Axis armor separated, with Himeimat an immediate objective. British dispositions for attack being sent.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: OPD

INFO. COPIES: G-2

CM-IN-10418 (10/24/42) 2030Z CE
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwa

No. Annex 2060 Oct 24, 1942

The intensive air attacks against enemy forward positions and supply lines continued on October twenty second. During the night twenty first dash twenty second British medium bombers concentrated on landing grounds and tent areas around Daba and Fuka. Numerous bomb bursts among dispersed aircraft and ground installations. At the same time combined United States and British heavy bombers attacked Macrae Airport in Crete. Seven fires started and much black smoke resulted.

For Marshall from Maxwell during the day combined medium bombers with fighter escorts attacked Axis forward landing grounds Gough Motor Transport and camp locations. Thirty ME one hundred mines attacked formation, one shot down by escort. Two direct hits, near misses on grounded aircraft seen, observation difficult on account of cloud.

Further in the rear RAP straffed road communications between Matruh and Sollum, fuel and transport trucks blown up and other vehicles left burning.

Enemy air operations continued on a purely defensive basis. Days results: enemy aircraft six destroyed, six probable, three damaged; British losses six missing, one United States fighter forced down behind own lines, one twenty five missing, one twenty five damaged, landed safely.

Above completes fourth day of intensive air attacks on enemy forward and rear positions.

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INFO COPIES: G-2, CG AAF, LOG

Maxwell

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By RT, NARA, Date 3/2/64
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Following summary dated OCT 12 of Axis Forces under Rommel. Comes from both good and doubtful sources DoLittle and in general agrees with ideas of French Staff Tunks. Afrika Corps comprises 15th Armored Division, 21st Armored Division under Nehring, and 19th Motorized Division and since June - July 99th Motorized and 164 or 164 Infantry Division.

Italians previously had the 26th Armored Corps which has 113 Armored Corps which was 113 Armored or Ariete Division, Motorized 1/1 Trentino, 1/2 Trieste, 17th or Pavia Infantry Division and 25th or Bologna Infantry Division have been reinforced by New Armored Littorio Division, 21st Motorized, Parmachapistola, and Sab혹 infantry Infantry Divisions estimated total of 1000 tanks of which 700 are (continued on page 2)

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300 North Africa

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/14/84
REINFORCED MARK 4.

IT IS SAID THAT NEW AMERICAN 57 MM ANTI TANK GUN PIERCES BEST ARMOR AT 1800 TO 2000 METERS. EDDY.

ACTION: 16....
COMINCH...19/11....29G...NAVIADE...290P....FILE.
INCOMING MESSAGE
1942.

FROM EDDY (ALUSNA TANGIERS)

FOR ACTION OPMAY
ALUSNA LONDON

231705 NCR 3926

(To OPMAY and ALUSNA London)

Following summary dated Oct. 12 of Axis Forces under Rommel comes from both good and doubtful sources Doolittle* and in general agrees with ideas of French Staff Tunis. Afrika Corps comprises 15th Armored Division, 21st Armored Division under Nehring, and 90th Motorized Division and since June-July 99th Motorized and 104 or 164 Infantry Division. Italians previously had the 20th Armored Corps which was 113 Armored Orattle Division, Motorized 101 Trentino, 102 Trieste, 17th Orpavia Infantry Division and 25th or Bologna Infantry Division there have been reinforced by new Armored Littorio Division, 21st Motorized, Parma, Pistoia, and Sabratha Infantry Divisions. Estimated total of 1000 tanks of which 700 are reinforced Mark 4. It is said that new American 57 mm anti tank gun pierces best armor at 1800 to 2000 meters. EDDY.

* as received.

This is our No. 2488 with changes

NAVY DISTRIBUTION:

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CM-IN-10381 (10/24/42) 19112 cen

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/1944
Enemy landing grounds attacked at eleven twenty five hours twenty two October by six B-24s  
dash twenty fives from each of eight two, eight three and four three four squadrons of twelve bomb-
ardsment group escorted by twenty four fighters of 
two three nine wing. Thirty two thousand pound 
GP bombs drooped from three thousand feet. Direct hits 
observed on two aircraft, several near Misra on 
dispersed aircraft. For Arnold from Berenun. Thirty ME 
one zero nine fighters attacked formation one 
being shot down by fighter escort. One B dash twenty 
five missing from eight three squadron, one B dash twenty 
five motor shot out but landed safely by Lieutemant 
Nathan Cox, pilot who suffered severe leg injury. 
Our fighter and fighter bomber aircraft made thirty 
seven sorties, one plane forced down behind our lines 
but pilot safe. From Dimat David and Saint Jean 
eighteen B dash twenty four aircraft departed to 
Bombay bomb shipping Senghaki Harbor. All planes 
reached target area but overcast precluded attack.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CO AAF
LOG

CM-IN-10219 (10/24/42) 0830Z law
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid

No. 3635, October 23, 1942

Axis Egypt continuing fortification Northern Sector and showing no indications offensive intentions near future.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 5-2 6
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-09906 (10/23/42) 1755Z ce

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11635, Sec. 2(11) and 9(3) or (5)
GFD Letter, May 4, 1972

By JF, Mand Date: FEB 26, 1973

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3634, October 23, 1942

Axis continued use of high flying formations in attacks on Malta Day two two, German and Italian fighters escorted fighter bombers advantage taken of cloud cover in attacks on Luqa Takali Hal Far Airdromes. In five raids one six five Axis sixty eight Spitfire Sorties flown, three Axis fighters destroyed one probable destroyed eight damaged no Spitfire lost, one ME nine destroyed AA, Luqa Takali temporarily unserviceable.

GAF offensive Egypt day two one: isolated attacks on RAF forward landing grounds and some attacks on British southern sector.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: OPD

CH-IN-09854 (10/23/42) 1419Z ce
URGENT

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSHE 2076, October 23, 1942

British offensive started two two zero zero hours for Marshall from Maxwell October twenty third Western Desert.

Maxwell
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AMEM 0051, October 22, 1942

The following communiques was issued by United States Army Headquarters Cairo at fourteen hundred hour October twenty two "Fighter and medium bombardment aircraft of the Desert Air Task Force of the United States Army Middle East Air Force was again active over the battle area Wednesday. Medium bombers operating jointly with fighters of the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force attacked enemy landing grounds and tent areas. Many hits were observed among tents and fires were started at both the tent areas and the landing grounds" for Surles for your information only.

Maxwell

Action Copy: BPR
Info. Copies: ODP
G-2
CG AAF

CM-IN-08680 (10/23/42) 0358Z law
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR, Washington, D. C.

No. Am002 2052, October 23, 1942

Departing for Benghazi zero seven zero zero hours twenty one October eighteen B-17e dash twenty four D planes of nine eight bombardment group reached target area but unable locate target due to complete overcast. Bombs totalling twelve thousand pounds dropped by six planes of eight three Squadron of Twelve Bombardment Group on landing ground twenty one at twelve thirty hours, one large fire and smoke observed no direct hits observed. For Arnold from Brereton. Six airplanes of eight two Squadron and six of Four Three Four Squadron dropped twenty four thousand pounds of bombs on enemy tent area along coast, many hits among tents. Heavy anti aircraft encountered Sergeant Jacob T Saba 37051896 wounded left shoulder by anti aircraft. Three No one zero nines attacked without damaging our aircraft. Mission carried out jointly with thirty six fighter aircraft from two three nine wing. Our fighters carried out thirty nine operational sorties, no damage observed. No damage to our aircraft.
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Ager

No. Memo 3022 Oct 22, 1943

The following communiqué was issued at 1400 hours, October 21 by United States Army Headquarters, Cairo, for Surtal "Medium bombers of the United States Army Air Force, Desert Air Task Force, operating in the middle east, stepped up the tempo of attack against the enemy land and ground installations yesterday in a series of attacks coordinated with aircraft of the Royal Air Force direct hits were scored on ground aircraft on runways and in tent area. 3 enemy fighter aircraft which were about to take off from one airbase were demolished by direct hits. The planes were seen to turn over and crash in flames. Two other enemy fighters of 28 which attacked our bombers over an enemy landing ground were shot down, 1 Junker 88 was destroyed on the ground at this airbase. Many fires were started in the vicinity of revetments. All of our aircraft returned safely from the day's operations." This is only for your information.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: BPS
INFO COPIES: OPD, G-2, CG AAF

CM-IN- 09356 (10-22-43) 1432% eob
From: MA London
To: Milid

No. 3631, October 22, 1942.

Egypt: Trieste Division has withdrawn to El Daba Area and seventeenth Pavia Infantry Division replaces Trieste Division in tenth Corps. Tripoli Spenzia Air Landing Unit now in Egypt but lacks equipment, its eight thousand personnel having flown across Mediterranean and equipment coming by transport. Axis supply position still bad, especially regarding motor transport, fuel and ammunition.

Russian Marines raided in Motouki Gulf night October seventeen dash eighteen, results unknown. Believed Germans may attack Leningrad when ground frozen enough to support tank operations. War Office source.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 EA

Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF Log

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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMNE 2046 Oct 22 1942

Prisoner of war information indicates that on occasions between Sidi Barrani and Matruh JU eighty-seven planes are seen towing gliders. This ties in with aircraft observation reported our number two thousand four south of Crete. This type of warfare may well appear in any impending action.

From Maxwell for Marshall Trieste Division moved to Dêbe Aria at point eight four three one two.

During past thirty six hours four Axis supply ships have been sunk off North African coast by aircraft and submarine action. One ship reported as six thousand ton Laden tanker.

Following enemy location changes reliably reported: Italian, seventh Lupi De Toscana Division moved from Catanzaro to Savona about end of August. Possibly for training before overseas departure but no confirmation of this. Italian Division thirty six Forlì from Thessaly Greece to Northern Attica. Some indications that Forlì and Eleventh Brennero Division, now Southeast of Attica, may be preparing for overseas departure.

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Oct 23 1942
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INFORMATION
E.O. 11652, Sec 3(A) and 8(D) or (E)
-OSD action May 2 1973

FEB 20 1973

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date

50 NORTH AFRICA
From: Cairo to AGWAR no AMSME 2046 Oct 22 1942 page 2

At Molai Airport in Crete there is reported heavier transport activity than since invasion of Crete. Estimates run to five hundred German troops per day arriving in that area from the north.

Maxwell

Footnote: No. 2004 (CM-IN-08905 10-21-42) OPD
Action Copy: G-2 Air
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF LOG

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E.O. 11905, Sec. (B) and (G) or (G)
OSS letter, May 4, 1972
By JS, NARA Date FEB 9 1973

CM-IN-09733 (10-23-42) 0717 Z MVS

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 1/2/70
Ground activity desert front still confined to normal patrolling and some enemy motor transport movement observed general area eight seven eight two six two. Night of twentieth twenty first RAF bombed dock installations Tobruk. Also continued air attacks on enemy forward landing grounds. This continued during the day with moderate success due to over cast. Enemy fighter opposition was strong. Enemy aircraft one destroyed, two probable, eight damaged. Against two British fighter missing.

The enemy air activity defensive except one fighter bomber attack on our landing grounds and scattered sorties over Southern Sector where two British armored cars hit. Result of straffing roads near Mattrah eight enemy trucks destroyed some with fuel cargoes.

USAAF attempted raid Benghazi with eighteen B twenty four aircraft, unable locate target due to complete overcast. From Maxwell to Marshall bombed forward enemy landing grounds large fire observed, no direct hits. Also bombed enemy tent area along coast. Many hits among tents. Heavy enemy anti aircraft encountered. Three ME one hundred attacked. One wounded by anti aircraft fire, no damage to planes. US fighters made thirty nine operational sorties, no damage observed or damage to our aircraft.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AEMHE 2035, October 22, 1942

At naught nine fifteen hours twentieth October
six B dash twenty fives of Eighty Two Squadron six B dash
twenty fives of Eighty Three Squadron of Twelve Bombardment
Group attacked enemy landing ground eighteen from nine
cousand five hundred feet dropping twenty four thousand
pound instantaneous fuse bombs. Direct hits observed on
three fighter aircraft which were about to take off, they
were seen to turn over and crash. HIts among revet-
ments, four fires one with very black smoke observed. No
casualties, two planes slightly damaged. For Arnold from
Gretnon. Operation carried out jointly with two three two
wing and two three nine wing. At twelve twenty five hours
six B dash twenty fives from eighty two squadron and six
B dash twenty fives from four three four squadron attacked
landing grounds seventeen and eighteen from eight thousand
five hundred feet dropping twenty two thousand pound
instantaneous fuse GP bombs. Two direct hits on revetments,
direct hits destroyed junkers eight eight many near mines
dispersing aircraft and revetments. Eight B dash twenty
dash attacked by twenty two NZ one zero nines over
landing ground eighteen our gunners shot down two. Six
our aircraft slightly damaged, no casualties. Overcast
prevented location target for five B dash seventeen E
planes which sought attack shipping Tobruk. One returned
with bombs engine trouble, one jettisoned returned oxygen
trouble, three bombed Bardia Road result not observed.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPO
Info. Copies: G-2
Log

CM-IN-09613 (10-23-42) 0146Z

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/64

COPY No. 28

NORTH AFRICA
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3627, October 22nd, 1942.

Day twenty one Malta: GAF carried out six attacks involving One Ninety Fighter sorties some with bombs one fighter destroyed one probably destroyed, fifty six Spitfire sorties no loss: cloud cover used by GAF large number HE mines forced to jettison bombs, no serious damage to Takali and Luqa airdromes.

Hughes
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AEME 1996, October 21, 1942

On October 20 at 1400 hours the following communiqué was issued by United States Army Headquarters Cairo for the United States Army Middle East Air Force were active Monday October 19. Heavy bomber attacks on Tobruk Harbor direct hits were claimed on at least 2 large merchant vessels light and ineffective anti aircraft fire was encountered. Our medium bombardment aircraft operating in conjunction with medium bomber of the RAF and escorted by R.A.F. fighter aircraft attacked an enemy landing ground 3 direct hits on grounded enemy aircraft were observed as well as numerous near misses in the tent area 1 very large fire and several smaller fires were observed as our bombers left the target area. All of our aircraft returned safely from both of the above missions. This is only for your information.

Maxwell

Action Copy: BPE
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

CM IN-09165 (10/22/42) 0145Z can
From: London  
To: Mild  
No: 3821 Oct 21, 1942

British patrol activity night eighteenth nineteenth Egypt disclosed one Northern area clear mines, Southern area penetrated several miles. Nineteenth quiet.

British moving south Ambositra captured several positions including Ivato nineteenth plus one hundred thirtyfour Europeans three hundred fiftythree Malagache considerable materiel.

Hughes
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 2011, October 21, 1942

Quiet ground phase continues on the Western Desert through October twentieth. Slight enemy motor transport movement noted in Northern Sector. Stuka dive bombing attack repulsed by South African antiaircraft fire. For Marshall from Maxwell Allied air pressure over forward Axis areas continues, on Fuka and Daba landing grounds especially. For the second consecutive day this activity has been on an increased scale. The enemy air has been confined to a defensive role except for one small fighter bomber Sortie on British forward landing ground. Dispersed Axis aircraft, supply points, rail and road transportation are particular targets. Enemy fighter resistance is sharper. Axis losses in aircraft sixteen destroyed, one probable, five damaged. British loss eleven fighters, one medium bomber. British medium bombers attacked Tobruk report probable hit and near misses. U.S. aircraft attempted attack on Tobruk, weather prevented location of target, three aircraft bombed Bardia Road without observed results.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

CM-IN-09230 (10/22/42) 0449Z 1 law
by JS, MARC Dec.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/44.
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3620, October 21, 1942

GAF activity Malta day twenty: High flying formations of fighters used, three attacks made by seventy ME nines some carrying bombs cloud cover used in attacks on Takali and Luqa aerodromes, Luqa temporarily unserviceable from bombs on runway no serious damage, twenty six Spitfire Sorties flown one Spit damaged interceptions difficult due cloud cover and height of Axis fighters.

Hughes

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

CM-IN-08915 (10/21/42) 1244Z ce
There is no report on ground activity desert front October nineteenth other than customary patrolling.

For Marshall from Maxwell in the air there was a stepped up attack on enemy forward positions in the Daba and Fuka areas. This started during the night October eighteenth dash nineteenth and included as targets supply train, blown up, and five cars burning, also enemy landing grounds and air force facilities. Fires were started and bombs seen to fall among aircraft and tents. There were also fighter bomber attacks on Axis gun positions, motor transport and tents in the Northern and Central Sectors. Further in the rear British air attacks were directed against rail and road transportation around Matruh with damage to locomotive, freight cars, fuel truck and troops in trucks. Five enemy planes probably destroyed two damaged: one British plane missing enemy air operations defensive.

Communications schooner set on fire south of Crete and in the same area thirty two of fifty two planes, few tow gliders, were encountered. One enemy plane destroyed one damaged one British plane damaged.

Five B twenty four American bombers attacked Tobruk Harbor. Two merchant ships, one over six thousand tons received direct hits. Very light anti aircraft fire was encountered and a single attack by ME one hundred nine was unsuccessful. All planes returned safely. There were no casualties none damaged.

Maxwell
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANME 1994, October 20th, 1942.

Attack on enemy landing ground made by five B-24s of Eighty Three Squadron and six B-24s of Four Three Four Squadron Twelfth Bombardment Group October nineteen in combined operation with twelve Baltimore bombers of Two Three Two Wing RAF. Our aircraft dropped twenty seven hundred and fifty pound gp bombs from altitude eight thousand five hundred feet. Several small fires were set on very large fire observed as a result three direct hits on aircraft several near misses in tent area. All aircraft returned safely no casualties. For Arnold from Brereton. Shipping Tobruk Harbor attacked by five B twenty D aircraft Ninety Eight Bombardment Group. Direct hits observed on at least two merchant vessels one of which believed over six thousand tons. Very light anti-aircraft opposition encountered one NE one zero nine approached formation fired cannon shots but out of range. All aircraft returned safely no casualties.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG
CM-IN-08797 (10/21/42) 0610Z
Night eighteen: twenty bombers attacked Malta from great height little damage one Ju eighty eight damaged. Malta day nineteen: axis aircraft made nine attacks consisting of two twenty-six fighter sorties mostly ME nines some with bombs and forty bomber sorties, one twenty four Spitfire sorties flown, two Ju eighty eight damaged one fighter probably destroyed three damaged, one Spit damaged, attacks made from great height little damaged resulted.

Air Chief Marshal Freeman to be executive for Map, Medhurst replaces Freeman, Inglis replaces Medhurst.

Hughes
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

AMFHM 1981, October 19, 1942

There are no operations by American or British Air Forces, or ground activity to report on desert front October eighteenth. For Marshall from Maxwell reference your AMFHM one three three five following summary enemy air activities Malta and Egypt: six days ending October sixteenth has seen very heavy and continuous air attacks on Malta. The enemy have carried out between two hundred and three hundred sorties daily consisting of eight to twelve JU eighty eights escorted by fifty to one hundred fighters ME one hundred nine and MC two hundred two. Results as follows: enemy casualties: ninety two destroyed, thirty five probable, one hundred nine damaged. British: Fifteen destroyed, forty damaged. To carry out this air blitz the enemy have moved about seventy aircraft from North Africa and Crete to Sicily. Due to this fact plus rains near the front which rendered their forward airfields useless, enemy air activity on western desert has been on a reduced scale consisting chiefly of small fighter patrols, fighter bomber raids and regular recce of the Delta area. Our Air Forces have taken advantage of the situation and bombed and strafed forward area continuously inflicting severe damage on airfields, aircraft, dispersed motor transport, camps, gun emplacements and supply trains. Regular reports enemy air activity will be furnished as requested.

Maxwell

WD 1335 is CM-OUT-05418 (10/17/42) G-2
Action Copy: OGD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG
CM-IN-08564 (10/20/42) 18397 cen

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/64
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3607, October 19th, 1942

In five attacks on Malta day eighteen
Axis flew two six four sorties, ninety two
spitfire sorties attempted interception, two
me nine destroyed one probable three damaged,
two spits destroyed. All attacks made from
high altitude which made interceptions difficult,
little damage from bombs. In Malta raids Axis
again decreasing percentage of bombers to
fighters, some me nine bombers used.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 An.
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
LOG

CH-IN-06103 (10/19/42) 1548Z cc

N. L. G. JOURNAL NO. 98 OCT 1942
COPY No. 26

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

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NORTH AFRICA
Activity on the Egyptian Front October seventeenth was limited to, from Maxwell for Marshall, normal British patrols in the Northern Sector and some Air Reconnaissance over Battle Area by both sides.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-3
CG AAF

CM-IN-07821 (10-18-42) 2009Z O.K.
From: London
To: Nilid

No. 3604 October 18, 1942

Land Egypt nothing but patrols.

Air activities restricted by weather but Tobruk and Daba landing ground and enemy motor transport bombed night fifteenth and day sixteenth.

Attacks on Malta continued day sixteenth but only slight military damage. Enemy lost seven probably six more and fourteen damaged. Brit lost seven fighters.

Madagascar operations continue. Roads repaired and some progress Southward. Brit took over three hundred prisoners at Antsirabe.

Hughes

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

CM-IN-07683 (10/18/42) 1349Z ce

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64
We have learned from a source, considered reliable, that the Germans are being urged to move into North Africa prior to such action by the Anglo-Saxons by some French Collaborationist politicians in Paris.

The Germans expected to effect the removal of oil refineries equipment remaining in the occupied area. It has been stated by the Germans that this equipment is essential for they are building a large refinery in the Ukraine. Rather than deliver the equipment to the Germans the French directors of the oil companies would prefer its destruction by bombing.

Tuck
From: Cairo
To: Agwa

No. Amsr 1938 Oct 17, 1942

A study of the present situation on the Alamein Front brings out the following considerations, which will affect the type and length of the expected battle: Both sides have had three months in which to prepare their present positions, and to consolidate them in depth. Two or probably three defensive positions exist on both sides. Because of the terrain the Axis position is the stronger, defensively, of the two. Both positions are dominated by the central ridge running nearly east and west. The normal type of desert action is not to be expected here, as a war of movement is impossible until one or the other is driven out of his entrenchments. Wire and mine fields are extensively used by both sides. Artillery and antitank guns are more numerous that would be expected from the units engaged. For Marshall from Maxwell both sides have secure flanks, which further restricts the war of movement. The allies have made landings from the sea, and this has made the Axis aware of their north flank. Certain troops are disposed to the rear because of this threat. The Axis has attempted a sea borne attack on a small scale, but this threat is not serious enough to be a concern of Eighth Army: other units in rear would meet it. The south flank is not so secure to either side; the Allies have driven Armored Cars in the Qatara depression, and have sent desert Motorized Forces completely around it. These facts have contributed to the keeping of Axis Forces, mostly Italian, in the rear, which could be used to advantage at the front. The presence of Allied Force in the Kufra Oasis also immobilizes small Axis forces in Jalo and Benghazi and Siva. The amount of ammunition needed for an attack or defense is...
much greater than for a war of movement, and here the Allies are expected to have an advantage. The Axis Forces show signs of shortages, and may be very short if the initial phase lasts for several days. The Allies have short lines of supply; those of the Axis are much longer, include a water route made costly by submarine and air attacks, and depend upon motor transport, which is probably not available in sufficient quantity. It is likely that the Axis Force will be very short of many essential items of supply, even including food and water, if the battle last a long time, because of their transportation problems. Weather may well be a factor. During October there is a possibility of short but heavy rain fall along a coastal strip of the desert forty miles deep. After the first of November the probability of rainfall is increased. Desert mud and pools formed from large shedding areas have proven complete obstacles to wheel or tracked equipment and may represent major tactical problems. The initial phase of the expected battle will make heavy demands on the Air Forces available to each side. Here again the Allies have an advantage, both in numbers of aircraft, and in supplies needed to make them effective. Shortage of aviation fuel may be a decisive factor in keeping the Axis planes on the ground, and here the Axis can be reinforced quickly from other fronts by aircraft, but not by aviation supplies. But planes of certain types can operate over the battle front from Crete, and may do so if needed and available. In numbers the Allied Forces have a decided advantage, but their troops are not of equal value. They vary from the well trained Australian and New Zealanders, with high morale, to the experienced South Africans, whose morale approaches demoralization. In between are the troops from the United Kingdom, who have a good morale but are not generally experienced in desert warfare. The Axis Forces are also not composed of troops of equal value. The Germans are expected to bear the brunt of the fighting, and the Allied Forces seem to expect the Italians to surrender at the first opportunity. However, in the recent engagement between the forty fourth Division and the Italians, with some German troops present, the Folgore Division fought well. It is probable that the amount of armor present, and the skill with which it is used, will have considerable effect on the results of the coming
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo To: Agver No. Amman 1938 Oct 17, 1942

Battle. The same may be said of artillery. In both, the Allies have an advantage, and it is this advantage which will probably decide the battle. Judging by the most recent meetings of the two forces, the Allies have learned how to use these weapons, or, at least, how not to use them, and maybe expected to make the most of their superiority. Changes in British High Command and well down the line are expected to show results profiting from past experience. From the above it may be predicted that the coming battle will be hard fought at the beginning; that there will be considerable losses on both sides; that an initial phase of trench warfare may last for as much as two weeks; that an Allied break through will be secured: That the retreat of the Axis Forces will be disastrous for the Italians, and only partially successful for the Germans; That the Allied Forces will secure Benghazi in about one month after the start of the battle: And that destruction of the Axis Forces will depend upon the skill with which the phases of the battle are handled by the unit commanders of the forward elements, and the ability of these units to keep the supply problems, incident to rapid movement, under reasonable control.

Maxwell 130AM

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2, CGAARL,LOG

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

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E.O. 11382, Sec. B(3) and D(3) or (2)
OSD letter, May 3, 1973
By JS, MARSD

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INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

From: New Delhi
To: AGWAR

No. Aquila 6041 E Amisca Aquila 8 843 E Oct 17, 1942

Operations from Dinjan October fourteenth (to AGWAR from Bissell information copy Amisca) two Pforties on reconnaissance mission over Bhamo nine seven degrees one four minutes; two four degrees one six minutes Myitkyina two five degrees two three minutes Ciloy nine seven degrees two four minutes area expended six zero zero rounds fifty caliber ammunition on enemy barracks at Lonkin nine six degrees two two minutes; two five degrees three seven minutes results unobserved. Heavy AA fire encountered over Myitkyina.

No sig

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SGS

CM-IN-07231 (10/17/42) 1323Z ce

M.I.S. JOURNAL No. 128 OCT 17 1942

COPY No. 27

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No, AMSME 1910 October 17, 1942

Axis tank strength now estimated German two hundred fifty, Italian two hundred eighty five, plus fifteen light. Effectiveness of heavy bomber attacks on shipping shown by results now known that out of three shipments of ten tanks each one ship beached off Corfu, one ship sunk, one ship partly sunk Benghazii Harbor. For Marshall from Maxwell rumors and prisoner of war stories persist concerning Rommel's absence and possible relief from North African Command. Also evidence that General Bastick in Rome since October first. Enemy intentions along these lines thought to be for confusion. Speculation as to saving either Commander from Onus of withdrawal or unsuccessful action though attractive, is not now supported by facts.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
            CG AAF
            LOG

CN-IN-07273 (10/17/42) 16232 ce

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
From: Cairo
To: War
No. ANSME 1937 Oct 17, 1942

Due to violent dust storm over entire Egyptian front Cairo and Delta areas, October sixteen, there was no Ground or air activity. For Marshall from Maxwell combined American and British heavy bomber attack was attempted against two merchant ships recently arrived Benghazi during enemy air attacks on Malta. All aircraft except eight from First Provisional Group forced to turn back by weather. Planes dropped bombs over target area but observation of results impossible.

Maxwell

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

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64
From: London
To: Milid

No. 3594 Oct 17, 1942

On land Egypt enemy building defensive works northern sector and active patrols whole front.

Brit air continues attacks from Malta and Egypt on enemy shipping, Tobruk, camps and motor transport and railway at Sidi El Rahman.

Enemy air activity Egypt moderate scale.

Against Malta enemy made five attacks day fifteenth totaling two hundred fifty sorties. Malta fighters made one hundred ten sorties same day destroying fourteen probably destroyed four and damaged thirteen. Brit lost four destroyed nine damaged. Night fifteenth and morning sixteenth two enemy aircraft destroyed three probably and four damaged for loss of three spitfires destroyed and two damaged.

As result recent operations against Malta enemy using greatly increased fighter protection for bombers also using bomb carrying ME one zero nines.

Signed Hughes

END GERS

ACTION COPY: G-2

INFO COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG
CN-IN-07223 (10/17/42) 1301Z

DECIMAL JOURNAL NO. 111 OCT 17 1942

COPY No. 28

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BRIT aircraft from Egypt attacked enemy shipping north of Benghazi and Tobruk harbor night thirteenth and day fourteenth with estimated success. Same time enemy motor transport Sollum area also heavily bombed.

Enemy fighter bombers active over Southern Sector battle area and Kufra landing ground also bombed.

Axis air attacks on Malta continue despite severe losses and in latest attacks fighter protection averages five per bomber. Evident Axis have large accumulation shipping probably with reinforcements for Rommel ready move North Africa and feel must neutralize Malta air base before can move.

Believed here Rommel back Egypt.

No land activity Egypt.

In Madagascar Brit overcame French resistance just north of Ambotra night thirteenth and have entered town where situation reported quiet.

On Russ front nothing to report north of Stalingrad. At Stalingrad Germs apparently thrown everything into attempt quick capture. South of Stalingrad Germs not believed making progress they claim and these claims believed purpose of diverting public attention from lack complete success Stalingrad. Now freezing in Finland and northern and southern sectors Russia deep in mud.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AM001 1919, October 16, 1942.

There was no particular ground or air action on Desert Front on October fifteenth. For Marshall from Maxwell American air action nothing to report.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

CM-IN-06880 (10-16-42) 1854Z

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 11/3/44

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COPY No. 23
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSHK 1896, Oct 15, 1942

October fourteenth six B seventeen bombers from US Air Force started for Tobruk. One plane returned because of mechanical trouble, two planes forced to make attack along shore road at lower altitude because failure oxygen equipment, claimed direct hit on enemy tank on way to front. Three aircraft over Tobruk Harbor claim one hit on merchant ship and several near misses. No Axis air interception and ineffective anti air craft fire. No damage or casualties. For Marshall from Maxwell British and Axis Fighter Patrols continued over battle area. Axis Fighter Bombers attacked southern Sector and rear landing ground. Thirteen casualties, one British car destroyed. Two enemy aircraft destroyed. Lull in Ground activity continues.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: 0-2
CG AAF
LOG

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11,852, Sec. 5(D) and 5(T) or (K)
OSR letter, May 3, 1972
By JS, NARA Dec 2, 1973

CM-IN-06468 (10/15/42) 22517
COPY No. 26

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/14/64
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1901, October 15, 1942

Shipping Tobruk Harbor attacked at thirteen forty hours October thirteen three B-seventeen E aircraft of First Provisional Group. Altitude of attack twenty four thousand feet weather clear used twelve GP one thousand bombs setting point one two. For Arnold from Brereton. Observed two direct hits large merchant vessel one direct hit demolished lighter moored along- side merchant vessel. Antiaircraft fire encountered light ineffective. One Macchi fighter intercepted: was probably destroyed. One of our aircraft slightly damaged. Engine trouble forced one aircraft return oxygen trouble forced two. Of returning aircraft one bombed motor convoy ten miles east of Sollum with one direct hit one salvaged bombs one returned with bombs.

Maxwell
From: Embassy London
To: MILID
No. 3577 October 15, 1942

Egypt land patrolling continues. During night twelfth Brit bombed Tobruk Harbor and day thirteenth fighters shot down four enemy for loss one.

Recent renewal air attacks on Malta probably due fact Brit aircraft from Malta causing heavy damage Axis shipping to North Africa and also Raiding Wop coastal objectives and Axis trying neutralize air base Not much luck doing so and Axis losses heavy. Axis now using three fighters protect each bomber sent Malta.

In Egypt all indications Axis land forces going more on defensive and adding depth to Minefields and wire. Axis also building railway south and southeast from el Daba toward Qattara depression also indication defensive plan.

Believed Axis organizing new Wop Division vicinity Tripoli which may indicate must expect reinforcements if any from Wops.

In Madagascar Brit air again attacked airdrome at Ihoisy.

In Enzizia Germs have moved some heavy artillery to Leningrad front but Brit Believe now too late for sustained attack there. No information Stalingrad other than in Pres. Now snowing in Caucausus which may eliminate Germ activity there but enemy has made some progress against both Grozni and Tuapse.

action copy: G-2
info. copies: OPP, CG AAF, Log
CM-IN-06374 (10-15-42) 1942

Hughes.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CORRECTED COPY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Amsee 1871 October 14, 1942

Four planes of sixty five Fighter Squadron and eight planes of sixty four Fighter Squadron acting as top cover for light bombers saw twelve Stukas escorted by twenty HE one zero nines. For Arnold from Brereton. They forced Stukas to turn back ten miles south of El Alamein and Jettison bombs enemy fighters were then attacked. Flight lasted twenty minutes at eighteen thousand feet. First Lieutenant G D Mobs shot down one HE one zero nine and Second Lieutenant A D Jakqua shot down one and damaged another. Both enemy losses confirmed. First Lieutenant R N Nichols failed to return, missing in action.

Maxwell

Note: Corrected copy of CM-IN-06387 (10-15-42) SOS-TAG.

Action Copy: CG AAF

Info. Copies: GPD

SOS-TAG

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(A) and 6(1) or (E)
OSS letter, May 5, 1972
By JB, NARA Dec 8, 1973

CM-IN-08895 (10-16-42) 1940Z ems
INCOMING MESSAGE

October 15, 1942

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No AMENK 1881 October 14, 1942

October thirteenth active clearing of mines area eight seven six two nine one dash eight seven seven two nine two by South African patrols. For Marshall from Maxwell considerable MT movement behind enemy northern lines noted by first South African Div. Also reported in south in squares eight seven seven two five one and eight seven three two five one behind Himeimat. Heavily escorted Stuka raid intercepted by combined USAF and RAF fighters. Result, two Stukas and one ME one hundred nine destroyed, two Stukas probable, two Stukas two Me one hundred nine and one Macchi two hundred two damaged. British lost one aircraft, two damaged but landed at base. Afternoon American fighter patrol damaged one ME one hundred nine. The increased enemy motor transport activity has not been sufficient to justify a firm conclusion. It is probably some reshuffling of units and a further indication of the enemies state of alert, as recently indicated by an increase of his air patrolling of the battle area and his use of scattered fighter bomber attacks Tral sector. This enemy attitude is further evidenced by clear efforts on his part to save ammunition while at the same time responding with some Artillery fire to any observed movements in British lines in the Central and Northern sectors.

Maxwell

Action Copy: GPD
Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, Log

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/44
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Ammex 1884 Oct 14, 1942

This is in reply to Ammex one two two five reference our Ammex one seven two six the number of American manufactured medium tanks in hands of British Mideast Forces as of October six is five two two medium tanks in operation, two three zero repairable medium tanks in operation, two three zero repairable medium tanks in workshops, one zero zero Howitzers one zero five M M on S P mount M seven. From Gruber to SPMM on hand are four six six extra tracks single. No medium tanks in hands of American troops. All medium tanks are American manufacture.

Maxwell

Note: 1225 is CM-OUT-03457 (10-11-42) G-2.
1726 is CM-IN-2647 (10-7-42) SOS-TAG.

Action Copy: G-2 E.A.
Info. Copies: OPD
SOS-TAG

CM-IN-06252 (10-15-42) 1329f ems

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4-1-44.
From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR  
No. AMSHE 1864, October 14, 1942

Monday twelve fifteen hours shipping Tobruk
Harbor attacked by six B-24 dash seventeen aircraft of First
Provisional Bombardment Group seventh airplane returned
to base without reaching target due to mechanical trouble.
For Arnold from Brereton. Twenty four GP one thousand
pound bombs setting point one two used from altitude
twenty three thousand feet. One probable hit numerous
near misses on medium merchant vessel. Heavy fairly
accurate antiaircraft fire encountered with two our
aircraft slightly damaged no injuries personnel. One
ME one one zero one JU eight eight observed did not attack.

Maxwell

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

CM-IN-03969 (10/15/42) 0042Z ce

The making of an exact copy of this message is forbidden
From: London

To: MILID

No 3572 October 14, 1942

Brit Air Egypt continues activity against enemy convoys southbound and got hit on Wop destroyer night eleventh. Also mined Tobruk Harbor.

Day twelfth bombed Tobruk hitting large merchant ship. Same date fighters attacked and damaged enemy railway train Capuzzo also destroyed number freight cars, four petrol trucks and two enemy aircraft.

Nothing to report on land.

Brit troops Madagascar cleared enemy position eight miles north of Ambositra and bombed aircraft hangars at Ihosy.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE
Oct 13, 1942
CCWD
13382

From: London
To: MILID
No.: 3568 October 13, 1942

Night tenth Tymbaki Airdrome Crete bombed by Brit.

Day eleventh Brit fighters patrolled forward area Egypt without opposition. Brit intercepted enemy fighter bombers in Amiriya area destroying one. Brit bombed Axis ship off Sidi Barrani also motor transport Sollum area. Brit heavy bombers attacked southbound convoy two merchant ships two destroyers southwest of Crete hit one merchant ship.

Madagascar last report Brit Force then twelve miles north of Ambositra.

Hughes.

ACTION COPY: G-2 M.E.B.

INFO COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG
CM-IN-05455 (10/13/42) 19572

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/44

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
500 NORTH AFRICA

COPY No. 28
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. AMSNE 1861 Oct 13, 1942

Desert front remains quiet with no ground activity and only limited air action. Axis has moved P&Via Div from Matrih to point eight six eight two six eight. Young Fascist Div now identified at Siwa Oasis. For Marshall from Maxwell British air attacks continue on enemy forward areas and concentrate on scattered units of motor transport and fuel trucks. Seven American B seventeen bombers attacked Tobruk Harbor. Report probable hit and several near misses on ship. Moderate volume but accurate anti aircraft fire, two aircraft slightly damaged, no casualties, all planes returned.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2

LOG

CH-IN-05648 (10/14/1942) cen 01/27/1943

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/64

360 NORTH AFRICA
INCOMING MESSAGE

October 12, 1942

From: London
To: MILID

No 3562 October 12, 1942

Four enemy aircraft destroyed and fires started at Fuka landing grounds Egypt by night raid early morning. Day tenth Bengazi bombed but weather stopped attack.

On land only patrols.

In Madagascar Brit troops arrived thirty seven miles south of Antsirabe enroute Ambositra.

Brit made following changes to Jap order battle:
- Manchuria decrease from twenty six to twenty four divisions.
- North China increase from eight to nine divisions.
- Central China increase from ten to eleven divisions.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 AE

Info. Copies: OPD

CG AAF Log

CM-IN-04926 (10-12-42) 1301Z ems
From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR  

No. AMSHE 1842, October 12th, 1942.

There is no material change on the desert front. On the ground usual patrolling continues and enemy responds with artillery fire to any movement northern and central sector. For Marshall from Maxwell air activity on normal level. Enemy made fighter bomber attack on Amirya, no damage reported, and returning was intercepted for probable loss of one ME one hundred nine against no loss own aircraft. Customary fighter sweeps over battle area and moderate bombing effort by enemy on central and southern sectors. British continues air attacks on forward enemy areas, supply siding at Sollum hit, one truck and one tank truck hit. Also set fire to schooner of Buggbug. U S Air Force made successful attack with seventeen B twenty four bombers on two ships thirty miles south of western end Crete. One ship hit twice, observed on fire and sinking. Near misses on second ship. Shot down two ME one hundred ten and one JU eighty eight. All returned safely, some damage to planes, no casualties.

Maxwell
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1640, October 12, 1942

Shipping in Benghazi Harbor attacked on tenth October at twelve thirty two hours from altitude twenty six thousand feet by five B dash twenty four D airplanes from three four four Squadron and four B dash twenty four D airplanes from three four three Squadron departed Saint Jean at zero six four zero hours. For Arnold from Breton, Four five one thousand pound GP bombs setting point one two used. One near miss observed on motor vessel moored next to "George". Fifteen bombs dropped on buildings and installations in center of dock area. Weather over target overcast with scattered cumulus clouds twenty thousand feet. Antiaircraft fire heavy accurate; damage received negligible. Two ME one zero nine attacked but driven off without inflicting damage. One our aircraft returned Heliopolis one returned Fayid seven to Saint Jean.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD, G-2, LOG

CM-IN-05232 (10/13/42) 0704E eb

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/44
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

CCMD
Oct 12 1942
2200Z

MINISTERS
E.O. 11662, Sec. 2(a) and (g) or (q)

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSME 1839 Oct 12 1942

Convoy two large merchant vessels three destroyers thirty miles south of Western end Crete attacked by eight E dash twenty four D airplaner of Ninety Eight Bombardment Group and nine E dash twenty four airplances First Provisional Bombardment Group at eighteen twenty three hours eleven October from altitude twelve thousand feet. For Arnold from Brereton. Eight five one thousand pound gp bombs setting point one two used. Ninety Eight Group element led attack observed explosion on stern of one merchant vessel. While on bombing run formation attacked by three KE one one zero fighters shot down one damaged another. Several KE one zero mines observed below formation failed to attack. Element First Provisional Group attacked five minutes later scored one direct hit on large merchant vessel numerous near Minios second merchant vessel. Attacked by six enemy aircraft: shot down one KE one one zero one JU sight eight. Heavy but inaccurate AA fire encountered. Slight damage one our aircraft none to personnel.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OGD G-3 LOG

CM-1N-05187 (10/13/42) 0400Z con

COPY No.
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

NO AMSME 1828 October 11, 1942.

Quiet phase continues Egyptian front October tenth. Patrols active at night clearing mines in general area south of point twenty two at eight seven seven two nine five, night of ninth dash tenth. Other sectors no ground activity.

For Marshall from Maxwell air action over forward areas has subsided to normal level but centers around Daba. One bomb caused large explosion near station, also three hits claimed on enemy aircraft on landing ground. Two British fighters shot down by anti aircraft fire at Daba.

Axis moderately pressing air attacks by fighter bombers against Central Sector. Also using fighter patrols over Daba particularly.

Return to normal air activity, after sharp increase on ninth, establishes latter as a strong effort to take full advantage of adverse enemy forward landing ground conditions, result of weather, and not as early phase of sustained air attack.

United States Air Force again attacked Benghazi Harbor using nine B twenty four aircraft. Forty five dozen one thousand pound bombs were dropped at twelve thirty hours, tenth. Near misses on vessel and fifteen hits observed on dock area. Again encountered strong and accurate anti aircraft fire, negligible damage, all planes returned, no casualties.

Maxwell

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

CM-IN-04818 (10/12/42) 0255Z eb

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64

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COPY No.

200 NORTH AFRICA
From: Am Embassy London
To: MILID
No. 3559 Oct 11, 1942

All quiet on land Egypt.

During Ninth Air Operations constant and widespread. Enemy aircraft on ground Daba Area attacked six times and enemy train with ammunition and guns destroyed. Motor transport and Benghazi also attacked. In above operations Brit lost one bomber and thirteen fighters. Enemy losses twenty destroyed twenty-nine damaged or destroyed.

From Madagascar and Russia nothing to report.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 ari

Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF

CH-IN-04539 (10-11-42) 1436Z omn

MIS Jo. 77
10/11/42

500 NORTH AFRICA

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
From: Cairo
To: Agvar

No. Ammsg 1811 Oct 10, 1942

October ninth desert front no ground activity. Following changes in British positions: Eighty Arm Div five two four eight seven four, one hundred thirty third BDE five one nine eight five three, first rifle BDE eight nine zero two six seven, one hundred eighteenth and one hundred twenty fourth Royal Tank Regiments four three five eight nine zero. Axis dispositions unchanged. For Marshall from Maxwell air action involved joint RAF and USAF attacks attacks on forward enemy areas. Sharp increase in our air attacks totalling four hundred one fighter and one hundred sixty bomber sorties. Low level attacks on Dyba Landing Ground with Axis loss eight destroyed eighteen damaged on Ground. Air cover and fighter escort accounted for ten destroyed, five probable and six damaged in air. Eleven fighters missing for days operation. Air Reconnaissance also located twenty truck ammunition train near Mischief, bombed, one truck blown up, resulting in probable destruction of complete train. At noon October ninth USAF attacked Benghazi Harbor with twelve B twenty-four planes. Hits scored on mole and near missiles on vessels. Results largely unobserved because of very heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Total one gunner killed and three wounded. Two air craft damaged, all returned. One me one hundred nine shot down.

Action Copy: G-2

Maxwell

Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF
QUOTING LOCAL AGENT EGYPT HAS BEEN SAVED. DURING PAST 2 MONTHS ALLIES HAVE BEEN SINKING 70 PERCENT OF AXIS SHIPPING CARRYING SUPPLIES TO AFRICA. PROBABLY REASON FOR ROMMELS BEING IN GERMANY IS THAT THEY FORSEE SERIOUS REVERSES IN AFRICA AND ROMMELS REPUTATION MUST BE GUARDED FOR SAKE NATIONAL PRESTIGE. TUAPSE IS NOW THREATENED. UNQUOTE. IN OTHER CIRCLES IT IS RUMORED ROMMEL WILL BE GIVEN IMPORTANT POST IN GOVERNMENT.
From: London  
To: Milid  

No. 3556 Oct 10 1942  

Air activity only Egypt.  

Night seventh heavy bombers twice raided Suda Bay Crete, Tobruk and enemy merchant ship also attacked but results unobserved.  

Air operations day eighth confined to machine gunning enemy motor transport southern sector account bad weather.  

Hughes  

Action Copy: 0-2 Felt  

Info. Copies: OPD  
CG AAF  

CM-IN-04144 (10-10-42) 1433Z  
ems  

FEB 2 0 1973  
O.M. 41391, Sec. 3.4 or 3.4  
O.S.O. letter, May 4, 1973  
Oct 10 1942  

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/44
From: An Embassy London  
To: Milid  
No. 3550 Oct 9, 1942  

Active patrols along whole front Egypt.  

Enemy strong point captured by Brit night sixth in Ruweisat Ridge Area was reoccupied by enemy.  

Brit bombers attacked Maleme Air Drome Crete night sixth starting fires and destroying aircraft on ground.  

Day seventh Brit fighters very active against enemy troops and motor transport and troops.  

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 Air Branch  
Info. Copies: OPD  
CG AAF  
LOG  

CM-IN-03772 (10/9/42) 1951Z cen

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(5) and E(5) or (X)  
OSS letter, May 6, 1973  
by JS, NASR Feb. 20, 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER  
1608z

INCOMING MESSAGE

N. A. JOURNAL NO. 178 OCT 9 1942

500 NORTH AFRICA
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANHME 1775, October 9, 1942

Aside from continued patrol and moderate air activity over forward enemy areas no activity to report. Enemy air still confined to rear areas by unserviceable forward field conditions. For Marshall from Maxwell following changes of British positions: fifty Div to four two six eight one, Seventh Arm Div to four three eight eight seven five, one hundred fifty fourth BDE to four six seven eight six five, tenth Arm Div to five zero seven eight eight five, Tenth Corps Man to four six two nine one one, Second NZ Div to four seven five eight six two, Sixty Ninth BDE to eight eight six two seven two.

Maxwell
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

Number AMSME 1773, October 8, 1942

Night patrolling continues actively on desert front especially on Northern and Central Sectors. Australian and Greek night parties have had several small but sharp encounters with enemy. October seventh Axis forward landing fields had not improved from bad weather conditions. British continued air attacks, primary targets being motor transport and fuel locations. Only one of eleven attacks found enemy fighter opposition but met substantial anti aircraft fire. British loss: one fighter missing, two damaged. From Maxwell for Marshall seventh October at dusk U S Air Force heavy bombers attacked Suda Bay. Tanker, believed loaded with fuel to relieve Crete shortage, was target. Five hits and seven near misses claimed, tanker believed destroyed. Same time USN twenty four bombers attempted raid on Benghazi Harbor but failed to locate port on account of weather. Searched for two hours and returned after dark, dropped bombs along coast where targets suspected by lights showing.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-03693 (10/9/42) 1647Z

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From: London
To: Milid
No. 3545 Oct 8 1942

Night fifth Egyp Brit patrols very active whole front, one patrol killed entire garrison thirty of enemy strong point Ruweisat Ridge Area.

Day sixth quiet on land.

Tobruk bombed night fifth, Sixth enemy Mt. patrol and supply dumps in battle area and seaplane base at Bomba also Benghazi Harbor successfully attacked.

Reports show enemy still disposing troops and preparing defences in depth. Evidence second defensive line being prepared about ten miles west present line.

Believed Axis supply situation has improved in spite Brit efforts. Reported now has one months petrol.

Brit recently captured several poles serving with Germs.

Week ending sixth only three Axis merchant ships reached Tobruk totaling thirteen thousand tons. Same week Brit sunk twenty-one thousand tons shipping en route.

Action Copy: 0-2-8

Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF, LOG.

Hughes

CM-IN-3178 (10/8/42) 14042 law

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44
Following summarizes recent United States Air Force actions at Matarino Bay: dusk October first, nine B twenty four D aircraft from ninety eighth bombardment group attacked a large merchant ship from an altitude of eighteen thousand feet. Two direct hits and numerous near misses claimed by crew. German and Italian fighters vigorously opposed the attack. One enemy aircraft damaged, all of our planes returned to base. Photo reconnaissance showed that cargo from damaged ship was being transferred to another merchantman alongside. October fourth a second attack was made on both ships. Seventeen B twenty four aircraft from same group took part. Eighty five bombs of one thousand pounds each were dropped. Forty five near misses but no direct hits reported. Four ME one hundred nine and one Macchi two hundred two enemy planes attacked our formation, damage to one of our planes and slight injuries to three gunners. Axis anti aircraft fire of moderate intensity damaged rudder of one plane. For Marshall from Maxwell our aircraft shot down three ME one hundred nine and one Macchi two hundred two, seen to strike the water. Due to unfavorable weather returning one of our aircraft became lost and crashed in mountains near own base. All of this crew were lost.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD 0-2 LOG

N.A. B. JOURNAL No. 31 OCT 9-1942
COPY No. 39

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/44
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. AMSME 1751 Oct 7, 1942

B-24 dash twenty four D aircraft of the First Provisional Group followed a convoy into Benghazi Harbor and attacked with thirty one thousand pound bombs at dusk October six. For Arnold and Surls from Brereton. Bombing from twenty three thousand feet near misses were claimed on the merchant vessel and hits in harbor facilities. Two additional aircraft did not reach target as they were forced to return on account engine trouble and one of these bombed Bardia with unobserved results. The aircraft over the target were attacked by three one zero aines. One aircraft forced to land on airstrome in friendly territory due to damage. The aircraft landed safely but one soldier seriously wounded two others not so seriously wounded. One combat crew abandoned aircraft due to bad weather and parachuted safely. To recapitulate total losses one aircraft three crew members casualties.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD G-2 BFR Log
CM-IN-3235 (10/8/42) 16592 law

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E.O. 11652, Sec. (B) Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/14/64

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COPY No. 40
From: Ankara
To: Milid

No. 276 Oct 7 1942

Humanian sources states the increased reconnaissance over Cyprus due to Germans fear of British attack on Crete from Cyprus.

Jadwin

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF

CH-IN-3176 (10/8/42) 1324Z law
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1752, October 7, 1942

The aircraft that was reported missing from the operation referred to in AMSME one seven zero three crashed into a mountain in bad weather. For Arnold and Surles from Brereton. This means four out of five enemy pursuit were shot down with no losses by enemy action.

Maxwell

Note: 1703 was CM-IN-3239 (10/6/42) CG AAF.

Action Copy: CG AAF

Info. Copies: OPD
G-2
BPR

CM-IN-3166 (10/8/42) 1247Z law

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From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

AMSME 1754, October 7, 1942

Night October five dash six raid on point sixty two at eight seven seven two seven nine, killed twenty five dash thirty enemy garrison. No prisoners taken. Own loss fifteen missing, some wounded. No other ground activity. Enemy air inactive because of wet landing grounds forward area. British capitalized opportunity by low level attacks on motor transport, railroad and small fuel dumps near front. One direct hit on railroad near Galal, twenty dash thirty motor transport destroyed, fire at fuel dump near Daba. Three Baltimores hit by antiaircraft fire near Daba, two lost and one crash landed behind own lines. For Marshall from Maxwell US Air Force attacked Benghasi shipping October sixth. Formation met strong enemy fighter opposition and heavy, accurate antiaircraft fire. Two aircraft forced down, back of own lines, fire. On plane unaccounted for. Indications Axis becoming most sensitive to attacks on rear communications and concentrating fighter cover in these areas.

Maxwell

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

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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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From: London
To: MILID
No. 3540, October 7, 1942

Land Egypt patrols only and bad weather night fourth day fifth interfered air operations.

Madagascar nothing to report.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 - B, E.
Info. Copies: OPD

CM-IN-2735 (10/7/42) 1346Z law
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSMK 1730, October 6, 1942

Enemy positions on desert front have changed as follows: Littorio at eight six two two nine seven next to fifteen Panzer, Ariete at eight five eight two five seven close to twenty one Panzer, two hundred eighty eight Beseke unit eight four nine three zero zero motor transport immediately south, main body Ramcke group at eight seven six two seven zero with balance at eight seven two two six zero, Kiel Group at eight seven zero two four four, concentration of one thousand motor transport area eight five zero two six five. These changes reflect an Axis consolidation of a defensive position in depth. Combined concentrations of all armor, German and Italian, offers closer control. In conjunction with poor showing of ninety I and Italian armor early part of September, and recent Axis radio declarations about Rommel's genius as well as German Italian brotherhood in arms in Libya, also close intermingling of Axis Infantry units on front line, these changes represent the ultimate attempt to establish full German command in the desert and hope for most effective use of available Axis forces. For Marshall from Maxwell no ground activity October 5 and unlimited air action on account of rain and wet ground. General lull continues, also British preparations. Estimate marked increase in activities in near future.
From: Am Embassy Ldn
To: Mild
No. 3535 Oct 6, 1942

Egypt northern sector night third patrols active. Day fourth quiet entire front.

Malta aircraft made Torpedo attack southbound Merchant Ship seven thousand tons west of Corfu night third without success. All air operations fourth restricted by bad weather.

Present situation along Humassib Depression following Brit attack on thirtieth is that Brit have held on to about three miles of northern end of eastern rim but have failed to secure balance eastern rim.

No changes dispositions Axis Troops since our last report.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: OPD

CM-IN-2427 (10/6/42) 1936 Z 13d

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE
Oct 5, 1942
0600 Z

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Amman 1716 Oct 5, 1942

British casualties Munassib engagement September thirty reported as sixty killed, two hundred wounded and missing. All virtually from two Infantry Companies which came under heavy enemy fire while attempting passage of Minefield. For Marshall from Maxwell October fourth nothing to report from Desert front beyond normal patrolling. Air activity again curtailed by weather small scale fighter patrols over battle area.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 - B.E.
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-2320 (10-6-42) 1251Z

M.I. B. JOURNAL NO. 118 OCT 6-1942

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date
4/17/94
Up to twenty four: zero zero local time September thirty units of this Air Force had dropped on enemy installations and sea communications three million one hundred and sixty one thousand five hundred pounds of bombs of which nine hundred and sixty nine thousand were dropped during September. Heavy bombardment has carried out seventy seven missions to include five hundred and ninety one individual airplane sorties while medium bombardment operated on thirteen missions to include one hundred and forty three individual sorties. For Arnold from Brereton, estimated thirty seven vessels including war vessels tankers troop carriers and freighters sunk destroyed or badly damaged from direct hits or very near misses with several more probably damaged from near misses. Exclusive of warships tonnage of vessels attacked varied from two to five zero zero to ten thousand tons. Attacks made with unobserved results probably have accounted for others. In addition lighters and other small harbor vessels have been destroyed or damaged: harbor and dock facilities have repeatedly been attacked with many fires and explosions and terrific damage and destruction to port facilities. Estimated that Tobruk tonnage capacity alone has been reduced some ninety per cent. Continuing attacks by heavy bombardment not only are against the North African Ports of Tobruk and Benghazi and enemy sealanes of the Mediterranean but repeatedly extend to ports and harbors in Crete and Greece such as Suda and Navarino Bay. Medium bombardment and fighter aircraft have been used in direct support operations on the Western Desert destroying and damaging numerous
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo To Agno No. Amsue 1585 Oct 5, 1942 Page 2

a aircraft on the ground motor transport tanks workshops and other enemy installations. These units have operated in conjunction with RAF with our fighter aircraft making three hundred and twenty three individual airplane sorties. Our bombardment during these operations have destroyed six enemy airplanes with seven probably destroyed and eight damaged. The number destroyed or damaged in attacks on enemy landing grounds is unknown but fires explosions and direct hits indicate that it is a considerable quantity. The maximum number of missions that any one combat crew has participated in is twenty one for a total of two hundred and twenty four hours of operational flying time. During these operations our losses have been as follows. By enemy airplane attack two B dash twenty four two P dash forty F. By antiaircraft one B dash twenty four two B dash twenty five. Missing in action one B dash twenty four and four B dash twenty five with the four B dash twenty five probably shot down by night fighters. Interned four B dash twenty four. Damaged and crashed in friendly territory result of enemy action two B dash twenty four. Nine combat losses five B dash twenty four mix B dash twenty five and eight P dash forty F. In addition one B dash twenty five shot down by RAF night fighter. Such of the above data as desired is available for release except the number of sorties. This summary covers one hundred and ten days of operations.

Total U.S. losses (10th Air Force)

B-14 - 16
B-25 - 12
P-40F - 10

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD

BPR
LOG

CM-IN-2104 (10/5/42) 2218Z cen

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/44

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COPY No. 39
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

Number AMSME 1703, October 5, 1942

Seventeen B twenty four aircraft of the Ninetyeight Bombardment Group for the second time within forty eight hours attacked Axis shipping in Navarrino Bay during daylight hours. From Breton to Arnold and Surles. Eighty five one thousand pound bombs were dropped at two merchant vessels and whereas no direct hits were scored forty five near misses were claimed. Anti aircraft fire which was of medium intensity and inaccurate damaged rudder surface of one aircraft. Formation attacked by four Messerschmitt one zero nines and one Macchi two zero two which damaged one aircraft. It has been confirmed that three Messerschmitt one zero nines and one Macchi two zero two were destroyed by our aircraft. From the above operation one of our aircraft failed to return.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD

G-2
BPR
Log

CM-IN-2329 (10-6-42) 1331Z ems

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/94
From: London
To: Milid

No 3526 Oct. 5, 1942

Since last report enemy artillery has been aggressive northern sector Egypt. Night second enemy platoon occupied small ground elevation west edge El Ruweisat.

In southern sector enemy raided Brit forward position north edge Deir El Munassib capturing one prisoner. Enemy working parties busy southwest of Deir El Daisis and enemy also occupied two small elevations same area.

Night second Brit fighters attacked motor transport in south. On third USA liberators attacked shipping Greek harbor Navarino but no hits claimed. Liberators intercepted and one lost. Four enemy destroyed.

One enemy reconnaiss plane damaged over Delta.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD

CM-IN-1929 (10-5-42) 14282
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: HQWAR

No. AM8896, October 4, 1942

Patrolling continues activity in northern sector desert front. In central position Munassib area Axis extremely sensitive to movement in British lines, shelling at slightest provocation. Air activity limited October third by dust conditions. One hundred fifty second BDE took over from twenty fourth Australian BDE. From Maxwell for Marshall German tank strength now estimated two hundred twenty five medium, Italian two hundred fifty five medium and fifteen light, total four hundred sixty five.

Maxwell

25 M Tanks

15 25 M Tanks

15 5 M Tanks

Total 495 Tanks (Axis)

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-1797 (10/5/42) 0412Z ce

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44
From: Am Embassy London
To: Milid
No. 3524 Oct 4, 1942

Northern sector Egypt enemy working parties busy between Teuel Elisa and north west edge Sanyet El Miteirya. Brit Patrol recaptured Breda Gin this locality.

In southern sector Brit patrols found several enemy Platoons in positions four miles northeast of Deir Alinda and several infantry companies on south edge of Deir El Munassie.

Evident enemy expects attack or more heavy raids.

Night first Brit bombers attacked convoy of five thousand merchant ship and three thousand ton tanker escorted by three destroyers moving south toward Derna. Got hit on tanker and left burning. Near miss merchant ship.

Brit light bombers attacked Sidi Haneish landing ground.

Day second Brit fighters destroyed five Germ fighters over battle zone and one recon plane off Alexandria.

Enemy made five fighter bomber attacks and one dive bombing attack on troops forward area. This is considerably more enemy offensive air action than recently normal.

Hughes

ACTION COPY: G-2 BE
INFO. COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG

CM-IN-1556 (10/4/42) 2001Z

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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Ammo 1692 Oct 3, 1942

No special activity on desert front. Patrons continue activity on northern and central sectors. Enemy air patrolling of Battle Area on increased scale. From Maxwell, for Marshall October second in three engagements total of six Axis aircraft destroyed, one probable; British one plane destroyed.

Maxwell

ACTION: OPD
INFO. COPIES: G-2, CGAAF, LOG

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(b) and 5(b) or 5(c) and 5(d)

By JS, NARA Dec. FEB 20 1973

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

COPY No. 27

200 NORTH AFRICA

ICA 13
filed 4/0305Z
VJ

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
Oct 4, 1942
1623Z

DECLASSIFIED BY
NARA OCT 4 1942

SECRET

12356

SEC 3.3 or SEC 3.4

NLR 101

RT

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

LCR 1
FILED 1120Z/3
BVC

CCWD
October 3, 1942
1236 Z

From: London
To: MILID

No. 3515, October 3, 1942

Latest official reports received from Egypt only cover day first October and show that in Northern Sector operations confined patrol and artillery activity and that in Southern Sector Brit Brigade which attacked on thirtieth was able to consolidate positions Munnasib area while Brit artillery continued harassing enemy. An enemy counter attack was repulsed and situation now is that Brit occupy Eastern part and enemy Western part of Munnasib Depression which means that Brit made gain about two miles also straightened their line and have better observation.

Tobruk Harbor bombed night thirtieth and torpedo aircraft attacked six thousand ton enemy merchant ship southbound but result not reported. On first Brit fighters intercepted large Germ dive bomber formation near Kalakh and forced enemy Jettison bombs over own troop positions. Six enemy destroyed plus five probabilities without Brit loss. On first three Germ dive bombers made unsuccessful attack Alexandria Harbor.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 $E
Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF, LOG.

CM-IN-1123 (10/3/42) 1302Z

COPY No. 28

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/44

300 NORTH AFRICA
Desert front October first marked consolidation of position by one hundred thirty first Brigade. Further reports of engagement show that German troops from thirty third Recc Unit were mingled with Trieste Units for stiffening effect which now seems characteristic of entire front. One hundred thirty First Bde attack was considerably delayed by clearing of minefield and booby traps which had been heavily located by enemy. Primary lesson from engagement is necessity of well organized methods of minefield clearance which have always marked Axis Operations when attacking. American Officer Observer directly in rear reports large number British wounded, casualties will be reported soon as available. Northern Sector, artillery exchanges with direct hit on enemy small ammunition dump, exploded. Armored car patrols active to points eight seven eight two eight seven nine two eight seven seven. Position changes: one hundred sixty first Indian eight one two seven five, fifth Indian four two nine eight nine zero, one hundred thirty second Bde eight nine zero two six eight. For Maxwell from Maxwell by Air RAF continued attacks on Tobruk, night September thirtieth dash October first, on harbor ships one hit two near misses, two fires dock area. Late afternoon first, fighters intercepted eighteen JU eight sevens with twenty ME one hundred mines covering over Central Sector Battle Area. Forced enemy to jettison bombs on own troops, Kalakh Area eight six eight two five eight, six JU eighty seven destroy, four JU eighty
Incoming Message

No. AMSMK 1681, October 2, 1942.

Seven and one NK one hundred nine probable, one JU eighty seven and one NK one hundred nine damaged. Own losses (1) D October first United States Air Force heavy bomber attack Navarino Harbor, two direct hits with one thousand pound bombs on medium supply ship.

Maxwell

(*) Groups missing—being serviced.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copy: G-2 CG AAF Log

CM-IN-1354 (10/4/42) 0110Z MS

M. I. S. Journal No. 9 Oct. 4, 1942

Copy No. 27

The making of an exact copy of this message is forbidden
Desert front October first marked by consolidation of position by one hundred thirty first brigade. Further reports of engagement show that German troops from Thirty Third Recon Unit were mingled with Trieste units for stiffening effect which now seems characteristic of entire front. One hundred thirty first BDE attack was considerably delayed by clearing of minefield and booby traps which has been heavily located by enemy. Primary lesson from engagement well organized methods of minefield clearance which has always marked Axis operations when attacking. American officer observer directly in rear reports large number British wounded, casualties will be reported soon as available. Northern Sector, artillery exchanges with direct hit on enemy small ammunition dump, exploded. Armored car patrols active to points eight seven eight two eight two and eight seven nine two eight seven. Position changes: one hundred sixty first Indian eight eight one two seven five, fifty Indian four two nine eight nine zero, one hundred thirty second BDE eight nine zero two six eight. For Marshall from Maxwell by Air RAP continued attacks on Tobruk, night September thirtieth dash October first, on harbor ships one hit two near misses, two fires dock area. Late afternoon first, fighters intercepted eighteen JU eight sevens with twenty ME one hundred nines covering over Central Sector battle area. Forced enemy to jettison bombs on own troops, Kalakh area eight six eight two five eight, six JU eighty sevens destroyed, four JU eighty sevens and one ME one hundred nine probable, one JU eighty seven and one ME one hundred nine damaged. Own losses none. October first United States Air Force heavy bomber attack Navarino Harbor, two direct hits with one thousand pound bombs on medium supply ship.
From: Cairo
To: Agvar
No. Amene 1623 Oct 1, 1942

Suda and Canea Bay Harbor and dock facilities were again attacked by heavy bombers of the United States Middle East Air Forces dropping many tons of bombs. For Arnold from Brereton. All crews observed explosions followed by fires in both bays with particularly large fires noticeable in Suda Bay. Enemy aircraft approached our bombers but failed to close with anti aircraft and search light activity ineffective. Cooperating with the RAF our fighter aircraft carried out operations over the battle area. Two of our fighter aircraft were slightly damaged but from these operations all returned to their bases safely. All above operations on twentynine September.

Maxwell

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

CM-IN-0353 (10/1/42) 21032 ce

SECRET
M.R.8. JOURNAL NO. 212 OCT 1=1942

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64

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300 NORTH AFRICA
Normal patrols continued Egypt until daylight thirtieth when Brit Infantry Brigade with strong artillery support launched attack on two Battalion front against enemy positions in Munassib area with object straightening Brit line and securing high ground. Right Battalion gained and consolidated its objective but left Battalion failed to gain objective. Latest report dated night thirtieth said attack continues. Axis opposition was stiff and considerable Brit casualties reported. Axis claims two hundred Brit prisoners taken. Not reported whether Brit tanks used in attack but War Office thinks not.

Brit bombers attacked Tobruk and landing ground Sidi Haneish night twenty ninth and enemy transport and gun positions day thirtieth.

Signed Hughes
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSWX 1847, October 1, 1942

Night September twenty ninth-thirty the one three one Brigade moved to point eight eight eight two six eight and at zero five one five hours thirty-sixth attacked enemy locations Munassib area. Two Regiments, five and seven Q's, attacked with six Regiment in reserve. Seven Regiments of Artillery supported attacks. APEA eight eight two, two six three captured, Axis counterattack repulsed, action continuing toward consolidation of point on. Air attack involved support of Ground Forces at Munassib and battle area patrols. Tobruk bombed with bursts observed in harbor area. Axis again made day dive bomb attack on central sector using estimated ten Stukas. Enemy fighter patrols more active over battle area from Maxwell for Marshall September twenty ninth United States heavy bombers attacked harbor and docks at Suda Bay and Canea. Fires and explosions observed especially heavy at Suda Bay.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 11/2/42

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 11/2/42

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COPY No. 28
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: London
To: Milid
No. 3506 Oct 1 1942

Brit patrols unusually active Egypt. Night twenty eighth recovered Brit antitank gun and carrier from enemy Northern Sector.

Makta aircraft made near Miss large merchant ship and scored torpedo hit on WOP destroyer off Cape Spartivento Italy twenty ninth. Harbor Tobruk and landing ground DABA bombed also fighters attacked enemy transport West of Matruh and shot down one Storch Command plane.

During past week Axis troops remained disposed in depth with all Armored Divisions in support on flanks.

Reported that Brit land raids on Tobruk and Jalo have made WOPS very nervous.

Axis tank strength now reported as two hundred twenty each WOP and some all runners.

Mideast estimate Axis supply follows: transport fuel eighteen days present; rate use fourteen days.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11632, Sec. 2(c) and 5(d) or (e)
OSD letter, May 2, 1973
By JS
HASS Dec.

M.I. B. JOURNAL No. 149 Oct 1 - 1942

COPY No. 28
operations rate. Germ Air Force petrol eight
days current use five days if operations. WOPS
very short aviation petrol. Ammunition supply
improved. Rations eighteen days.

Replacements personnel by air reduced
to three hundred daily total. Information that Axis
wish replace personnel who have been too long
in Egypt.

Press reports Hitlers speech thirtieth say
Rommel present.

Signed Hughes
From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR  
No. ANMMR 1624 October 1, 1942

September twenty ninth British Night Ground Patrols continued activity along entire front. One small patrol remained thirty six hours area eight eight three two six three, saw no enemy activity on northern edge of depression. One hundred motor transport seen moving west at point eight eight zero two six two. For Marshall from Maxwell air activity normal. Central Sector four small enemy Fighter Bomber attacks and one attack by nine Stukas with fighter cover. No damage reported.

Maxwell

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

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

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From: London
To: Milid
No. 3502, September 30, 1942

Land patrols continue Egypt.

Night twentyseventh Brit torpedo aircraft from Malta and Egypt attacked two five thousand ton merchant ships in convoy southbound West of Crete but results unobserved. Tobruk Harbor mined and bombed same night when large explosion caused. Boston bombed landing ground Sidi Haneish about twentyfive miles East Matruh. Two Germs destroyed in air day twentyeighth.

Hughes

ACTION COPY: G-2

INFO COPIES: OPD, CG AAF, LOG

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E.O. 11850, Sec. 3(B) and 6(D) or (II)
OGD letter. May 20, 1973

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Amsme 1607 Sept 29, 1942

Review of enemy supply position in North Africa follows: estimated that a minimum of fifty thousand cargo tons of supplies, fuel, ammunition and replacement equipment is currently required per month. For month of August estimated one hundred thousand gross registered tons of shipping, including coastal, entered North African Axis Ports. Of this seventy thousand gross registered tons were probably from Southern European Ports, and the balance coastal. The net cargo tons of Axis supplies are thought not to exceed sixty thousand. Therefore in August Rommel was holding even or very slightly improving his supply situation. Recent ship arrivals in Benghazi and Tobruk show that enemy fuel problem has been somewhat relieved, so that the shortage of last month is not so acute. Axis continues to use bombers for transporting fuel from Crete to Africa, which confirms pressure for fuel, motor and aviation. This in part explains the reason for the small enemy bombing effort, as numerically his capability far exceeds the effort he has made. For month of August total of eighty thousand gross registered tons enemy shipping sunk and fourteen thousand tons damaged. By air forty percent sunk, forty two percent damaged, balance by submarine and surface action. Of the total tonnage sunk seventy
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo To: Agwar No. Amman 1607, Sept 29

three thousand four hundred tons were southbound laden ships. For first half of September eighteen thousand gross registered tons enemy shipping sunk, six thousand tons damaged. By air forty five percent sunk and all of damaged shipping. For Marshall from Maxwell normal patrol activity continues on desert front. Following change in locations: Axis, Trieste eight seven seven two six three; British, twenty three armored BDE four three eight eight nine eight.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 - B. E.
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAP
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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(11) and 5(11) or (3)
OSD letter, May 2, 1972
By JS, NARA Date: 3/25/1973

M.1.8, JOURNAL No. 107 SEP 30 1942

COPY No.

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From: London
To: MILID

Number 3491, September 28, 1942

Egypt patrols continue.

Brit bombed and mined Tobruk Harbor also attacked enemy landing grounds night twenty-fifth. Day twentieth RAF attacked enemy troops and transport and destroyed two, probably one other and damaged one Germ aircraft in air. One JU eighty-eight shot down over Gulf of Suez. Brit lost one.

Night twentieth sixth enemy bombed airdrome near Cairo causing damage by blast.

Axis now have both Wop armored divisions and one motorized in forward positions south flank with Germ Twenty-first Panzer in support. Other Wop motorized division forward on north flank with Fifteenth Germ Panzer in support.

Greek brigade has joined British on Egypt front.

Hughes

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

CM-IN-12293 (9/28/42) 1817Z cen

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/44
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

German
45,000 - men
80 - field guns (up to 105 mm)
60 - medium guns
450 - AT guns (incl. 88 mm)
Tanks
500 - medium

Italian
40,000 - men
240 - field guns
50 - medium guns
450 - AT guns
Tanks
medium - 210
light - 20
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Aume 1589, September 28, 1942

As of September twenty five following
estimate of Axis strengths in North Africa:
men, German forty five thousand, Italian forty
thousand; field guns, up to and including one
hundred five MM, German eighty, Italian two
hundred forty; medium guns German sixty, Ita-
lian fifty; anti tank guns, including eighty
eight MM, German and Italian each four hundred
fifty; tanks, German medium two hundred, Ita-
lian medium two hundred ten also twenty light.
Believed that enemy daily reinforcement from
European ports averages four hundred of which
three hundred twenty five are German troops.
These are fairly evenly distributed among for-
ward units. Overall Axis strength estimated
from seventy five to eighty percent of normal
in men and about fifty percent in tanks; artill-
ery and anti tank guns about normal. There is
no further indication of the location of German
twenty second Infantry Division last reported
to be in Greece and considered potential rein-
forcements for Crete or North Africa. No evi-
dence of arrivals of units from this division in
Africa. Morale of Axis troops in front line units
appears low. Allowing for inclusion of Polish
conscripts in number of German deserters there
is still evidence that desert hardships, limited

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300 NORTH AFRICA

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/44
rations and water as well as thwarted efforts toward quick advance into Delta, last July or after recent abortive offensive, has lowered German soldiers' spirits and further affected Italian morale. Evidence of this is in captured enemy documents discussing means of reducing desertion, use of separate passwords for Italian and German troops, and appearance as well as statements of prisoners. No emphasis of enemy morale factor intended beyond a conservative analysis of front line evidence. Sickness has been a real factor, especially dysentery, and recent captured documents state dysentery cases must be treated by forward units and not evacuated to rear, under present conditions of motor transport shortage. September twenty seven, normal patrol activity at front. Air attack at Hanush landing ground and Tobruk fuel storage. Explosions and moderate fire observed. For Marshall from Maxwell five Azim planes attacked Burg El Arab, no effect, one plane force landed.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD

Log

CM-IN-12593 (9-29-42) 0917X ems

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No Amman 1565

Night September twenty five dash twenty six enemy air raid on Enfira Oasis by total eight J U eighty eight and K E lll planes. Three Bombs, one Hudson destroyed; two Blenheims damaged. Also destroyed spare equipment, technical stores, armory, some ammunition, hangar and living quarters damaged. No casualties. Night of September twenty six dash twenty seven Heliopolis airport bombed by eight or nine J U eighty eight aircraft.

This is correction of message previously sent you.

CCWD

Makes correction in CM-IN-12151 (9/28/42) OPD

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

CM-IN-12261 (9/28/42) 1424Z cen
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSME 1565, September 27, 1942.

Eight September twenty five dash twenty six enemy air raid on Kufra Oasis by total eight J U eighty eight and N E III planes. Three Bomays, one Hudson destroyed; two Blenheims also destroyed spare equipment, technical stores, armory, some ammunition, hangar and living quarters damaged. No casualties. Night of September twenty six dash twenty seven Heliopolis airport bombed by eight or nine J U eighty eight aircraft. Six low level attacks, slight damage to buildings and power line. One enemy plane brought down by antiaircraft fire, crashed near Elshabah Bridge. Desert Front no special ground activity. Continued air attacks on Fuka and Maneish landing grounds. Air engagement over Battle Area ME one hundred nine planes two destroyed, one probable, one damaged. British loss two, damaged one, pilots safe. For Marshall from Maxwell. Enemy fighter patrols more active over Battle Area, Central Sector twelve J U eighty seven made dive bomb attack under fighter protection, one gun damaged, four men wounded.

Maxwell

(*) Group missing being serviced

Action Copy: OPD

CM-1M-12151 (9-26-42) 0401Z 8em

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300 North Africa
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

LCG 3
Filed 27/1140Z

From: London
To: Milid

No. 3490 September 27, 1942

Normal patrols only activity land Egypt.

R.A.F. bombed enemy landing around Sidi Han- eish and transport coastal sector night twenty fourth.

Unconfirmed reports again received that Rom- mel in Germany.

Hughes

ACTION: G-2

INFO COPIES: OPD, CG AAF, LOG,
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSGK 1557, September 26, 1942

Now possible to form broad estimate of results of raids at Tobruk, Bengasi, Barce and Gialo from September thirteen and culminating in heavy bomber attack Tobruk September twenty second. Individually these raids were not successful and at best inflicted moderate physical damage on enemy at appreciable cost in men, motor transport and Naval ships. Only exceptions to this were land raid on Barce September fourteen where twenty planes were destroyed and twelve damaged and air attack on Bengasi September twenty second. However the combined results of these attacks on communication far in the enemy rear has been substantial. Axis radio comments exhibit apprehension through exaggeration of forces involved and victorious results of defending forces. Physically this is also shown by Axis continuing to hold forces in the rear including the Pistoia Division and two battalions of San Marco Marines at Tobruk while Raviia Division remains near Hafrahu. At the front the same disposition in depth is shown by present position of ninety LT and by the first separation of Axis armour strength in desert operations so as to provide well distributed defensive protection back of entire front. Further confirmation of enemy sensitiveness to activity in rear is provided by movement on September twenty five of three reconnaissance unit from eight five five two nine eight to Silwa Oasis. Little activity on front.
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMBNE 1557, September 26, 1942

Customary patrolling, shelling and observation of enemy working parties in Central Sector. Air operations include third successive night bombing of landing ground at Sidi Hameish and rail supply line at Bagush. Battle area fighter patrols on very limited scale.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-11918 (9/27/42) 1800Z cen
From: Am Embassy London
To: Milid
No. 3484 Sept 26, 1942

Nothing reported land Egypt.

RAF destroyed two aircraft on ground Matruh night twenty-third. Hit enemy tanker North Tobruk twenty-fourth and bombed transport coastal road and south of Matruh.

Hughes

ACTION: G-2
INFO. COPIES: OPD, CGAAF
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Assmne 1539 September 25, 1942

Reconnaissance of Benghazi Harbor confirms serious damage to enemy by U.S. heavy bomber attack late afternoon September twenty second reported in our one four eight six. One merchant ship eight thousand ton hit and completely blew up, apparently loaded with ammunition and fuel. Also one small merchant ship hit, partially sunken vessel used as a loading pier and several hits on Mole. For Marshall from Maxwell. Present estimated North African air strengths in fighters German one hundred sixty, Italian three hundred eighty, total five hundred forty against allied five hundred ninety; medium, light, torpedo, and five bombers combined German one hundred twenty five, Italian twenty five, total one hundred fifty against three hundred twenty allied; heavy bomber German one hundred ninety two, Italian eight, total two hundred against allied ninety three. Believed Axis serviceability fifty percent compared to allied sixty percent. More comprehensive estimate of effective results of recent air, land and sea attacks on Axis supply routes being prepared and forwarded soon as completed.

Maxwell

FOOTNOTE: No. 1486 is CM-IN-10300 (9-24-42) OPD.

ACTION: OPD

INFO. COPIES: G-2, CGAAB, LOG

CM-IN-11468 (9-26-42) 1623Z f.jg

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/1944
SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

LCR 1
Filed 1140/25
ecn

CCWD
Sept 25, 1942
11442

From: London
To: Milid

No. 3470 September 25, 1942

Slight exchanges artillery fire Egypt and patrols continue.

Photos show one eight thousand ton ship destroyed and another badly damaged as result USA aircraft Tobruk twenty second.

Malta aircraft attacked six thousand ton tanker escorted by three destroyers west of Antipaxos Island twenty second explosion followed hit on tanker.

Tobruk harbor and Matruh airfield bombed night twenty second also transport near Fuka.

Single enemy aircraft bombed Amiriya and Burg El Arab areas night twenty third without damage.

Hughes

Action Copy: G-2 Air Branch
Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF LOG

CM-IN-10687 (9/25/42) 1328Z

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

#Ansome 1498, September 24, 1942

With eighty five thousand pounds of bombs B dash twenty four airplanes of the United States Middle East air forces attacked the port and shipping facilities in Bengazi during daylight hours of Sept twenty second. Fires and explosions were seen on the docks and moles with one very large fire. Direct hits are claimed on large merchant vessel followed by fire and large explosion causing a very large volume of black smoke. For Arnold from Brereton. Several near misses on other vessels with very near misses on one. Anti aircraft fire was heavy but inaccurate with minor enemy aircraft activity which did not close with our bombers. All aircraft at their bases landed safely.

Marwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD
G-2
Log

CM-IN-11108 (9-25-42) 2157Z  ems

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Cairo
To: Agwar Washington, DC

No. Amame 1512, September 24th, 1942

There are several changes in British dispositions as follows: Two New Zealand Division four nine two eight seven one; five New Zealand BDE four eight eight nine two; six New Zealand BDE four seven one eight eight eight; seven Mote BDE five one three eight five one; twenty six and twenty Australian BDES exchanged positions; also exchanged are Greek and one three two Brigades. No changes in Axis location. New Zealand and seven Motor BDE shifts part of present active training program.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD
             CG AAF
             LOG

CM-IN-10920 (9/25/42) 1445Z ce
COMBINED AIR AND NAVAL LANDING FORCE RAID ON TOBRUK NIGHT 13TH/14TH. BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN FLEET LOST ONE ACK ACK CRUISER AND 2 DESTROYERS. MTBS STILL RETURNING PORT. FURTHER DETAILS INCOMPLETE.
From: London
To: MILID

No 3464 September 24, 1942

Land activity normal Egypt.


Enemy information Egypt follows:

- Tanks Germ two hundred Wop same all runners.
- Motor fuel supply estimated fourteen days present rate use. Ammunition fourteen days except some types antitank. Rations twenty two days.
- Reinforcements consist replacements only rate about four hundred day by air both Germ and Wop. No evidence new formations.

The Brit long range raiding party mentioned our thirty four thirteen has returned to base after having successfully raided airfields Bengazi and Barce night thirteenth destroying over thirty aircraft on ground, inflicted number casualties on personnel and transport at above places also raided Jalo Oasis which was occupied by Wop Recon Unit and drove out and inflicted many casualties on garrison.

Hughes
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
AMSME #1483, September 23, 1942

Axis methods of clearing minefields during advance night of August thirty-thirtyone observed as follows: At night party of three or four men worked with spades picking up mines to form a narrow gap. Immediately back of each man was a tank or armored car covering him with its guns. No attempt to clear mines until after moon rose. After dawn, and following artillery preparation on eastern edge of minefield at areas selected for break through, armored cars or tanks spaced at fifty yards advanced on four hundred yard front. In front of each vehicle were men picking up mines. Between the vehicles infantry advanced in line across minefield at about three yard interval with bayonet fixed. Enemy advance was on a wide front, selecting routes where opposition was weakest.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
CGGS
CM-IN-10316 (0/24/42) 0921 Z

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(B) and 3(D) or (Q)
OSD letter, May 2, 1972
By JS, NARA Declassification 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/64
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

ASMBH #1486, September 23, 1942

No further ground developments on desert front. At dusk twenty second US Air Force heavy bomber attack on Benghazi Harbor caused large fires. Oil storage or tanker believed hit, indicated by heavy smoke cover which remained for three hours and was so dense it interfered with later RAF heavy bomber attack on same objective.

Maxwell
From: London
To: Milid

No. 3460, September 23, 1942.

Egyptian land patrols active.

RAF attacked Tobruk Harbor night twentieth and enemy aircraft on ground and transport near Daba twentyfirst but results not observed. Two Germ aircraft destroyed in air without Brit loss.

Axis troops redistributed as follows: North flank forward positions Germ one sixty fourth Division less Infantry and WOP Motorized Division. Central positions WOP Infantry and Germ parachute troops used as infantry. South flank other WOP Motorized Division, Reconnaissance Unit Germ ninetieth and Wop parachute Troops. Anti tank dash aircraft guns along entire line.

In support North flank are Germ fifteenth Armored and Wop one thirtysix Armored Divisions. Support South flank Germ twentyfirst Armored and Wop one thirtythird Armored Divisions.

In reserve just South of Daba Germ ninetieth Division less Recon Unit. Further west near Coast is Wop seventeenth Division.

Above redistribution and fact that Rommel has been digging, emplacing and mining forward positions probably additional evidence Axis expects attack and is combining defence in depth with mobility his armored forces also protecting against landings on coast in his rear.

Hughes

ACTION COPY: G-2
INFO. COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Ammex 1469, September 22, 1942

There have been no changes in the desert front positions and ground activity is confined to normal patrols and artillery exchanges. By air Tobruk was attacked night September twenty-twenty one with several fires started: day twenty-one September installations at El Daba were attacked and road traffic straffed. Enemy and own fighter sweeps over battle area limited and uneventful.

For Marshall despite earlier signs of possible British movement about this time present indications, and continued presence of units training in rear area and near Wadi Natrun, previously reported, point to maintaining present positions for some time longer. The Axis have been able to somewhat improve their supply position, no recent signs of new enemy air or ground units in North Africa. Balancing the chance of Rommel securing air reinforcements from Russian front in near future it appears the British are electing to further train a powerful ground force and fully develop the effective use of all equipment on hand for an all out offensive at a later date.

Maxwell

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

COPY No. 27

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Embassy London
To: Milid
No. 3445 Sept 21, 1942

Egypt only patrols.

Tobruk bombed night eighteenth and fires started on piers. Air activity generally on reduced scale.

Crain

Action Copy: G-2 airm
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF

CM-IN-9245 (9-21-42) 2109Z ews
Further details of combined operations on Tobruk and Benghasi night September thirteen-fourteen now available. For Marshall. Small land force, including anti aircraft and coast defense gunners, Royal engineers and long range desert patrol groups based on Kufra, captured enemy gun positions at entrance to Marsa Umm Es Sciosa on southern shore of Tobruk Harbor entrance. This area controlled from aught one five to aught six aught hours September fourteen. U.S. Air Force and R.A.F. had previously carried out heavy bombing of targets on north shore of harbor where several large fires were started. The Sebbors forces comprising one company of Infantry with Artillery and Engineer detachments were timed to support the land forces but were not on schedule due to misunderstood recognition signal and dispersion of motor torpedo boat convoy in darkness. Coast defense batteries attacked MT boats which did not land parties, returned to Alexandria in small groups, four out of eighteen lost. Two MT boats did land about twenty men who joined the land force which was able to do some damage before presumed overwhelmed by enemy. At aught one four five hours fourteen September landing parties from destroyers Sikh and Zulu landed on north shore of Tobruk Harbor at Mayes Breira, followed at aught four aught aught by main force comprising one Battalion of Royal Marines with attached troops. Strong enemy opposition and no further news of this operation but some success assumed by definite reports of loud explosions from scattered demolitions. Sikh
heavily shelled by coast defense guns and disabled. Zulu attempted towing which was discontinued at daybreak: Sikh sunk off Tobruk and Zulu sunk by J U eight seven attack while returning to Alexandria. Casualties thirty eight officers and four hundred and nineteen men missing plus personnel from Sikh believed prisoners of war according enemy claims. Same night strong raiding party by land attacked Benghazi and was repulsed. September fifteen this force was attacked heavily from air and lost much motor transport. Small raiding party attacked barge landing ground and claim twenty enemy aircraft destroyed twelve damaged. Benghazi party now believed near Gialo but no later contact. Axis reports claim parachutists used; essential no publicity so that possible escape and return of parties from land forces shall not be jeopardised. Operations generally considered not successful. Extremely quiet conditions continue on desert front.

Marwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2

CH-IN-9498 (9/22/42) 1154Z law
From: London
To: MILID
No. 3439, September 20, 1942

On land patrolling only Egypt.

Malta bombers set fire enemy merchant vessel off Tunisian coast seventeenth.

Tobruk harbor bombed night seventeenth.

Day eighteenth Brit bombers hit two merchant vessels in convoy north of Tobruk and Brit fighters destroyed two damaged two enemy aircraft over battle area and lost one hurricane.

Grain

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: GPO
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-8912 (9/20/42) 2300Z ce
From: Cairo
To: Agvar

No. ANSER 1245 September 20, 1942

Complete lull on Egyptian front. For Marshall
no changes in enemy or own dispositions.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
            CG AAF
            LOG

CH-IN-8894 (9/20/42) 22272 ce

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AMSKE 1413 Sept 19, 1942

Desert front no activity or changes in dispositions... For Marshall enemy indications still point to consolidating defensive position. German Units well distributed among Italian with strong likelihood that Italian morale has been weakened considerably by unsuccessful result of recent Axis attack.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: 0-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-8765 (9/20/42) 1909Z

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From: London
To: Milid

No 3433 Sept 19th, 1942

Situation Egypt unchanged activity limited patrols land and usual air operations.

Enemy laying minefield front their positions southern sector A.

Crain

Action Copy: 0-2
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-8437 (0/19/42) 2130Z

M.I. 8, JOURNAL NO. 241 SEP 19 1942

COPY No. 300 NORTH AFRICA

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/94
From: Madrid
To: Milid We DC
No. 282, Sept. 18, 1942

In North Africa 15th and 21st German Armored Divisions 1 Motorized Division 1 Infantry Division probably 164th. Reference your No. 72. 2 Italian Armored Divisions 5 Infantry Divisions total effective strength 120 to 140 thousand, 500 to 600 tanks.

Dusenberg

72 is CM-OUT-0487 (9/2/42) G-2

Action Copy: G-2 C.E.
Info. Copies: OPD

CM-IN-8089 (9/19/42) 0300Z cen

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44
From: Embassy, London

To: MILID

No. 3427, September 18, 1942.

Both sides continue patrols Egypt. Enemy armored cars reconnoitering on southern flank sixteenth.

Brit air hit at least one ship in Suda Bay; Crete fourteenth. Tobruk bombed night fifteenth. Two ships hit Benghazi sixteenth. Over battle area enemy lost one probably one more and seven damaged and Brit lost one fighter during sixteenth.

War Office still without details Tobruk raid.

Grain.

ACTION COPY: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-7875 (9/18/42) 1841Z law

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

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

COPY No. 30

NORTH AFRICA

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From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

Number AMSME 1383, September 17, 1942

No special activity Desert Front for Marshall above normal motor transport movement to the rear of enemy lines but no special significance attached now. Enemy air reconnaissance increased. Air action sixteenth enemy two destroyed seven damaged British loss one. British position changes Twenty Three Armored Division four Your one eight seven eight. Ten Armored Division moved to rear at five naught eight five seven with Eighth Armored Brigade nearby at five naught naught eight five naught.

Eighth Armored Division with One Three Three Infantry Brigade and Twenty Four Armored Brigade in area ten miles southwest of Wadi Natrun for training and receiving new equipment.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2 CG AAF

CM-IN-7911 (9/18/42) 1958Z cen
INCOMING MESSAGE

FROM: Cairo
TO: Agwar

No. Annex 1384 Sept 17, 1942

During period Sept one to eleven definitely confirmed total of fifty four German Tanks destroyed seven anti tank eighty eight guns destroyed or captured. For Marshall concerning effective German system of tank recovery which has constituted a major part of their desert operations following information from Prisoner of war: The squadron has a repair section of one non commissioned officer and four men on ten ton halftrack vehicle automatically approaches any stationary tank. Two to seven eighteen ton tractors only and two tractors with transporters per battalion. Tractor crew composed of one non commissioned officer and eight men. Tank towed by tractor by two metal pull bars. Can be loaded to transporter in ten minutes. German tanks go to forward area on own tracks except mark for special which is brought up on transporter. Present estimated German tank strength one five naught runners, one nine naught total; Italian one five naught runners two five naught total, also twenty light tanks.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2 CG AAF LOG
CM-IN-7929 (9/18/42) 2038Z cen

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94
Seventeen airplanes of First Provisional Group and Ninety Eight Bombardment Group successfully attacked shipping in Benghazi Harbor at fourteen hundred hours September sixteen. For Arnold and Burles from Brereton. Opposed by only one ME one zero nine and very light anti aircraft fire our bombers claim hits on a medium vessel and a large vessel the latter just starting to unload its cargo. In addition hits were scored on two wrecks that are used as piers for unloading. Both vessels were observed afire as the formation left vicinity. Aircraft bombed from twenty three thousand feet altitude and evidently caught Italians during their Chianti hour. All aircraft returned safely.

No sig

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD

CM-IN-7840 (9/18/42) 17012 law

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/6/84

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COPY No. 42
From: An Embassy London

To: Milid

No. 3420, Sept 17, 1943

Brit patrols remain active Egyptian front. During fifteenth enemy transport concentrated in north were shelled.

Brit offensive fighter patrols over battle zone continue. On fifteenth one enemy fighter destroyed five probably and two damaged. Brit lost six fighters.

Germ nineteenth light division has withdrawn to area immediately south of Daba on coast. Possibly this may be for rest but also possible Gers expect further Brit commando landings on coast.

Learned from captured document that agreement reached between Axis that policy of sandwiching German units between WOPS extended to include battalions. Previously WOPS would only agree to Germ brigades being inserted between their brigades in front line and in attack.
Considerable evidence that Axis now developing and readjusting their defense in depth which they have not previously had. This may be due experience gained Rommel's recent move when he found Brit defense had great depth also some opinion War Office that Rommel expects British attack soon.

No evidence further reinforcements in sight for Rommel. Twenty Second Germ Division reported still Greece.

Axis supply situation forward zone recently improved and Rommel believed to have now twentyone days operational supplies.

Crain
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Assme 1360, Sept 16, 1942

Although the activity at the desert front continues on a limited basis of patrol, harassing artillery fire and air action there are signs of preparation for greater movement in the near future. The Axis forces have regrouped slightly with the fifteenth Armored Division northward at eight five nine three zero one and Trieste moved to eight eight two two six four where the bulk of enemy strength remains collected generally about the ninetieth light and twenty first Armored. The antitank battalion of thirty third Recce unit has taken position to the rear at eight four nine two seven two. On the British side a mine field has been laid from point eight six two six three to eight eight two four zero behind which there are reconnaissance units of forty Fourth Division at four two four eight seven zero, K R R C, at four two four eight six five with a composite force of Free French Brigade strength with a squadron of tanks at four two four eight six zero.

The fourth South African Armored Car Brigade just south holding the flank at eight six eight two four three. The northward movement of the enemy fifteenth Panzer indicated further defensive attitude to shorter line of desert track communication, coverage to supply...
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Amsme 1360, Sept 16, 1942

route at Sidi El Rahman and sensitiveness to artillery fire from Australians during past few days. It also coincides with group of about one thousand motor transport moving northwest yesterday in rear of enemy lines. No further details concerning recent Tobruk and Benghasi raids.

MAXWELL

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

M.I. S. JOURNAL NO. 202 SEP 17 1942

CM-IN-7335 (9/17/42) 2127Z cen
FROM: Cairo
TO: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1324, September 16, 1942

GSI now attempting to evaluate rumor reference AMSME seven nine eight. Newspapers seems to be its source for Kroner from Milattache.

Maxwell

798 in CM-OUT- 4580 (9/13/42) G-2

ACTION COPY: G-2 - /
INFO COPIES: OPD

M.I. S. JOURNAL NO. 171 SEPTEMBER 1942

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

300 North Africa

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From: Ankara
To: MILID

No. 260, September 15, 1942

British Military Attache has no confirmation reference Rommel's illness but in receipt of guidance telegram from London suggesting he go slowly on rumor as it might be an Axis plant to cover up failure of Rommel's last attack. Request reply to my no. 255.

Jadwin

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

255 is CM-IN-4066 (9/10/42) G-2

CM-IN-6842 (9/16/42) 1948Z cen

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 136 SEP 16 1942

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 11/10/94

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North Africa

From: Cairo
To: Agvar

#3Mess 1092, September 15, 1942

Right of September thirteen dash fourteen combined operations raids were launched against Benghazi and Tobruk. In both cases mission was to destroy harbor facilities, shipping and vital supplies and to cripple bases. Actions planned as raids, forces to hold for twenty four hours and withdraw. Ground, Navy and Air Forces involved. No reports received from Benghazi except those of bombing attacks. Morning air reconnaissance indicated customary unloading of ships which means failure of attack or possible delay of ground force. Tobruk action follows: Ground Force of approximately two hundred fifty strength approached by desert and attacked north shore of harbor. Coordinated air and Navy attack was attempted on north shore, with plan to destroy all facilities while converging to meet Ground Force at end of harbor. One cruiser, two destroyers, one submarine and eighteen torpedo E boats participated. Submarine landed its raiding party but Axis air attacks sank both destroyers. Escorting cruiser which was on way back was ordered to return to assistance of destroyers and was sunk by air attack. A number of E boats rescued many from crews and they are now returning single, but hampered by fog, exact count now known. Success signal received from Ground Force but extent of damage and fate of participants not known. Four B dash twenty five United States bombers failed to return. Pistols Division located on shore west of Tobruk. Enemy defense

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 6/15/1944

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 6/15/1944
force, anti aircraft fire and coast artillery considerably heavier than anticipated. British ground force attacking Benghazi much larger than that at Tobruk but all details of action lacking. This action summarized as a bold gamble by British to prevent Rommel from receiving supplies for a period of two weeks. Results known so far indicate failure at Tobruk and most doubtful at Benghazi. No unusual activity on desert front.

Maxwell

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Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-6906 (9/16/42) 2138Z ce

BY: JG, MAIN DUTY FEB 20 1973

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Amman 1318, September 15, 1942

Shipping and dock facilities in Suda Bay were attacked during daylight hours Sept fourteen with direct hits claimed on one surface vessel which was later observed burning and possible hits on another. For Arnold from Brereton. Bombs were seen to explode on the docks but results were unobserved. No enemy aircraft were encountered however heavy but inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was received. All of our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info, Copies: OPD
          G-2
          LOG

CM-IN-7126 (9/17/42) 1222Z law

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/84

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41
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR Wa DC

No. Amsne 1299, Sept. 14, 1942

During the hours of darkness on Sept thirteen
dash fourteen heavy and medium bombers of the United
States Middle East Air Forces conducted extensive
bombardment attacks on Bengazi Tobruk and vital enemy
landing grounds dropping hundred fifty eight thousand
pounds of bombs. For Arnold and Surles from Brereton.
Shipping and dock facilities were attacked in Bengazi
while at Tobruk efforts were concentrated on Port
and enemy installations. Several fires and explosions
were caused at both places with one violent explosion
and large fire at Tobruk. Several fires were started
by our medium bombers on enemy landing grounds and hits
were observed among dispersed enemy aircraft. No night
fighters were engaged but heavy anti aircraft and search
light activity was encountered during all attacks. From
these operations four of our medium bombers are missing.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD G-2 BPR
CM-IN-6377 (9/15/42) 21500

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/44

300 North Africa THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3403 Sept 14, 1942

Report Bommel illness referred to your eighteen ninetyseven received here from Ankara several days ago but not confirmed.

McClure

ACTION: G-2BE
INFO. COPIES: OPD, CGAFA, LOG

CM-IN-5941 (9-14-42) 1953Z
Patrol and enemy working parties continue desert front. Night patrol from forty fourth division located forty two Durellectt enemy vehicles at eight seven eight two six eight, including several German Tanks. Air curtailed by dust conditions. Afternoon twelfth enemy formation of twenty JD eight seven and twenty fighters engaged over El Maghra eight eight five two three zero. Enemy two destroyed, seven probable, nine damaged. British loss none. Axis position changes: Bologna eight seven two two seven two, Trieste eight six eight two seven zero, Folgore eight seven zero two six two. British recent changes: two New Zealand Division resting at four six four nine one two; Seventh Armored Division to four eight seven zero, Tenth Armored Division four four zero eight seven seven, Eighth Armored Brigade four three two eight two, Twenty Second Armored four two seven eight one with twenty third at four two four eight five, Forty Fourth Division in line at Udea eight four two seven five and including following brigades one thirty first at four two seven eight three, one thirty second to eight seven nine two seven one, one thirty third at four five one eight nine six also one fifty first at eight eight two two six nine. Greek brigade at eight eight five two seven one. Fifty First Division in area four four three eight eight eight.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo  Page 2
To: Agvar

No. Anmna 1293 Sept 14, 1942

One fifty Second Brigade four three five eight eight four, one fifty third at four four two eight nine zero, one fifty fourth brigade to four four five eight eight seven. Fifth Indian Division replaced by Fourth Indian Division in area eight nine one two eight zero. Indian Brigades are five at eight eight one two seven five, seven to eight eight seven two seven nine, one sixty first at eight eight four two seven nine. Eleventh Hussars moved to four four eight eight six nine, one eighteenth and one twenty fourth Royal Tank Regiments four five zero eight six one.

Maxwell

ACTION: OPD
INFO. COPIES: G-2, CGAAF, LOG

CM-IN-5969 (9-14-42) 2021Z

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
From: Am Embassy LDN
To: Millid
No. 3396 Sept 14, 1942

Tonight twelfth Egypt only patrols northern and
southern sectors and some exchange artillery fire central.

Tonight eleventh Tobruk bombed and Matruh Harbor mined.
During twelfth Brit fighters intercepted Germ Dive Bomber
formation destroyed one probably six more and damaged six.

McClure

Action Copy: G-2  -/3, E
Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-5846  (9/14/42)  1604 Z

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From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSNE 1985 September 13, 1942

Lull continues on desert front. Patrol work and some shelling of enemy working parties continues. For Marshall Axis supply position believed somewhat improved with recent arrival of three ships, fourth lost. A new German fighter group was identified yesterday at front. Assumed to represent twenty seven fighter planes. Effect felt in stepped up enemy air activity. British front tank strength now stands at five nine five serviceable. This includes one four nine Grants and ten Shermans. Related but unconfirmed information may indicate British attack in about two weeks, will advise further.

Maxwell

ACTION COPY: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2 CG AAF LOG

CM-IN-5595 (9-14-42) 0150Z

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/1974
From: London
To: Milid
No. 3393 September 13, 1942

Land activity Egypt patrols only.
Tobruk bombed night tenth starting fires.
During eleventh three enemy two Brit fighters destroyed in action.

McClure

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

CH-IN-5466 (9/13/42) 2059Z

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From London
To Milid
No 3387 Sept 12, 1942

Several clashes between patrols along Egyptian front and Brit artillery in south fired on enemy infantry and working parties otherwise quiet tonight eleventh.

Brit raided Tobruk and Axis merchant ship torpedoed fifty miles from Derna.

McClure

ACTION COPY: G-2 B.E.
INFO. COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG
From London
To Milid
No 3384 Sept 11, 1942

Only land activity Egypt tenth except usual patrols was small engagement between few roving Axis tanks and Brit artillery in extreme south.

Brit air made attacks various groups enemy transport and bombed Tobruk.

McClure

ACTION COPY: G-2 BC
INFO. COPY: OPD CG AAF

CM-IN-4998 (9/12/42) 1949Z

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 126 SEP 12 1942
COPY No. 30

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

The making of an exact copy of this message is forbidden

300 North Africa
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. ANSF 1241 September 10, 1942

Jetties and dock area Tobruk Harbor were bombed nineteen thirty hours local time September nine by B dash twenty fours of First Provisional Group. Bursts observed but damaged difficult to estimate because of haze and slight amount of cloud (For Arnold from Brereton) forty five thousand pounds of bombs dropped from twenty three thousand feet. Anti aircraft fire was extremely heavy. Enemy plane observed but no action resulted. All airplanes returned to bases.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
Log

CM-IN-4583 (9/11/42) 2156Z
M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 118 SEP 11 1942

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INCOMING MESSAGE

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40 BC
Filed 0355/11th

CCWD
Sept 11, 1942
0421Z

By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44
From: Amcan Embassy London
To: Nilid
No. 3380 Sept 10, 1942

Only patrol activity both sides Egypt night seventh day eighth and ninth.

Considerable amount enemy transport behind their forward lines southern sector.

Enemy have established strong points along their forward positions front of original Brit Minefields southern sector.

Night seventh Brit aircraft from Malta and Egypt attacked southbound convoy north of Darnass and hit two merchant ships and one destroyer. Tobruk also bombed. Day eighth Brit fighters intercepted large formation Ger Dive Bombers with Fighter Escort. Destroyed three plus four probable and damaged five for loss one fighter. Enemy transport moving Mattruh to Sollum bombed and heavily damaged.

Latest estimate Axis Tank Strength German one hundred eighty WOP one hundred thirty all runners with total one hundred more under repair.

Now definitely known German parachutist used as Infantry in attack on Ruweisat Ridge on thirty-first August.
From: American Embassy London
To: Hi lid
No. 3380 Sept 10, 1942

WOPsixteenth, Plataia, division known to be in Libya but still unlocated. No further news of Germ twenty-second Air Landing Division last reported Greece enroute Rome.

Mc Clure

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

CM-IN-4110 (9/10/42) 2227Z

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

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

COPY No. 32
From: Cairo  
To: AGWAR

No. AMSKE 1208, September 9, 1942.

At twenty three hundred hours Sept eighth no change in enemy or British dispositions on Alamein Front. Twenty two tanks of twenty one Panzer Division have been counted along screen in Southern Sector with twenty six more in reserve at eight seven five two five five. Fifty First Highland Division, recently arrived, moving up from Delta and will replace Second New Zealand Division, to be placed in reserve for rest vicinity Burg El Arab. Fourth Indian Division which has been resting on Cyprus moving up to replace Fifth Indian Division, also due for rest. Air activity confined principally to Fighter Sweeps.

Maxwell

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

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/54

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
INCOMING MESSAGE

From London
To Milid
No 3374 Sept 9, 1942

Night sixth in Egypt enemy transport movement in southern sector increased. In northern and central sectors only Brit activity was patrolling.

Up to night fight in southeast sector operations confined to artillery fire and patrolling.

Brit aid continues attacks enemy troops and transport and during seventh shot down five enemy fighters and damaged three for loss of one fighter. Tobruk Harbor and landing ground Daha bombed and aircraft from Malta torpedoed enemy merchant ship - seven thousand tons in southbound convoy day sixth.

Be sure read Churchills statement to House of Commons tonight.

McClure

ACTION COPY: G-2

INFO. COPY: OPD CG AAF LOG

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E.O. 11683, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/64

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
CORRECTED COPY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1199, September 8, 1942.

At dusk on September seven B dash twenty four aircraft of the First Provisional Group bombed a convoy of three medium Merchant Vessels and ten Escort Vessels enroute to Tobrouk. One direct hit and two near misses claimed on one medium vessel. For Arnold and Surles from Brereton. The formation was attacked by two Ju eighty eight and four men suffered slight face wounds from glass. There was no damage to our aircraft. Twenty B dash twenty four aircraft of the Ninety Eighth Bombardment Group given mission of destroying the same convoy. Darkness forced employment into search formation and only two aircraft attacked the convoy claiming one possible hit and one near miss on a tanker. Other aircraft proceeded to secondary target and shipping and facilities in Suda Bay were attacked resulting in large fires and explosions. A large ship was observed burning along jetty and it has not been determined whether this was the effect of RAF or American Air Force bombs. Aircraft which attacked Airdrome in vicinity of Suda Bay reported starting a fire believed to be fuel storage that could be seen from sixty miles. This formation encountered only inaccurate anti aircraft fire during the attack and all aircraft returned to their Bases safely.

Maxwell

FOOTNOTE: Corrected copy of CM-IN-3639 (9-9-42).

ACTION: OPD

INFO. COPIES: G-2, C GAAF, BPR

CM-IN-3734 (9-9-42) 23333Z
At dusk on September seven B dash twenty four aircraft of the First Provisional Group bombed a convoy of three medium merchant vessels and ten escort vessels enroute to Tobruk. One direct hit and two near misses claimed on one medium vessel. For Arnold and Burles from Breston. The formation was attacked by two JU eighty eight and four men suffered slight face wounds from glass. There was no damage to our aircraft. Twenty B dash twenty four aircraft of the Ninety Eighth Bombardment Group given mission of destroying the same convoy. Darkness forced employment noyo search formation and only two aircraft attacked the convoy claiming one possible hit and one near miss on the tanker. Other aircraft proceeded to secondary target and shipping and facilities in Suda Bay were attacked resulting in large fires and explosions. A large ship was observed burning along Jetty and it has not been determined whether this was the effect of RAF or American Air Force bombs. Aircraft which attacked airdrome in vicinity of Suda Bay reported starting a fire believed to be fuel storage that could be seen from sixty miles. This formation encountered only inaccurate anti aircraft fire during the attack and all aircraft returned to their bases safely.

Maxwell

ACTION: OPD

INFO. COPIES: G-2, CGAAF, BPR, LOG

CM-IN-3639 (9-9-42) 2010Z
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. AmmE 1194 September 8, 1942

During day of Sept seventeenth one six one Indian Brigade took over front of fifth Division with ninth Indian Brigade in reserve. For Marshall, New Zealand Division engaged in patrol and light artillery action without change in positions. Seventh armored Division continued patrol activity on southern flank. Air activity limited to fighter sweeps with no light bombers in action. At nineteen hundred hours enemy dispositions remain unchanged with tanks from twenty first Panzer Division along eight hundred eighty four grid and anti tank guns slightly withdrawn. Line runs generally between strong points at Beir EL Mufassil and Qarar EL Himeimat. No major offensive by either side expected in near future. Estimates enemy armor destroyed or abandoned remain at eighty German mediums with no confirmation until completion of physical count by chassis numbers.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2
Info. Copies: OPD
Log

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/44

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
from: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Ammle 1193, Sept 8, 1942

In the face of heavy anti aircraft fire an attack by 8 dash twenty four D airplanes ninety eight group was pressed home on Candia Crate Harbor installations during daylight Sept six. For Arnold from Breston direct hit on power station reported together with several fires on docks and warehouses. No enemy aircraft. Fifty one thousand pound bombs dropped in target area. All airplanes returned.

MAXWELL

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: 6-2
CG AAF Log

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11662, Sec. 3(D) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 2, 1972
by JS, NARA Dec. FEB 20 1973

CH-IN-3250 (9-8-42) 2112 Z
Reports received from Egypt up to night seventh show German Africa Corps then back in positions held prior to recent battle. However enemy still holds about twelve miles of British Minefields thru which Rommel made his advance also holds triangular area extending about six miles east of minefields. Brit attacking this triangle from north, east and south with light armored forces and encountering considerable opposition from artillery and antitank guns and MOP tanks and Motorized Infantry.

Still no indication next move from either side.

Brit now report eighty enemy tanks definitely destroyed to night seventh plus twenty more possibles. Brit had total fiftytwo put out action but claim majority can be restored.

Night sixth Tobruk and Heraklion bombed.

Day sixth enemy air activity moderate scale but included two dive bombing and two fighter bomber attacks.

Brit air activity battle area consisted interception and bombing enemy tanks and transport.

Enemy lost five aircraft Brit twelve fighters with five pilots safe.

Mc Clure
Four United States tank crews just returned from desert front where they took part in heavy fighting on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning while operating Grant tanks with twenty Second Armored Brigade. Action was in area around four three three eight seven four. One officer and nine men (*) crews. At beginning of attack orders to British tanks were to hold fire and let enemy tanks go by, while attacking soft (*) was excellent. Believe Stukas bombed too high and did no damage. Complain that sights on both thirty seven MM and seventy five MM will not take it in combat and are jarred out of adjustment by recoil shock and shells striking armour. Complain that seventy five MM turret can not swing three six naught degrees so tank has a blind side. Would give up the thirty seven MM gun to get complete swing for bigger gun. All have high regard for equipment otherwise, and speak well of German N dash three special.

(*) Omissions being serviced.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, CGGN, SOS-TAG.

CM-IN-2937 (9/8/42) 0229Z
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Anname 1161 September 7, 1942

From desert front where they took part in heavy fighting on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning while operating Grant tanks with twenty second Armored Brigade four United States tank crews just returned. Nine men and one Officer of US crews wounded, the Officer and two men hospitalized. Action was WB area around four three eight seven four. Knocked out total of thirteen German medium tanks four crews claim, five of total of five the remainder out of action abandoned by crews. British tanks at beginning of attack were ordered to hold fire and let enemy tanks go by, while attacking soft skinned supply and troop vehicles but enemy turned toward British tanks and opened fire. Battle became general and Germans were driven back but British tanks did not follow and avoided eighty eight MM and other anti tank gun traps. Our men think no tactical errors made by Allies and have high morale. Believe excellent air support given to tanks by British. Stukas did no damage believe bombed too high. Complain that sights on both seventy five MM and thirty seven MM are jarred out of adjustment by shells striking armor and recoil shock and will not take it in combat. Complain tank has blind side because
seventy five MM Turret cannot swing three hundred sixty degrees. To get complete swing for bigger gun would give up the thirty seven MM gun. Otherwise all have high regard for equipment and speak well of German M-three special.

Maxwell

Note: Corrected copy of CM-IN-2927 (9/8/42) OPD.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
SOS-TAG
CGGN
Leg

CM-IN-3484 (9/9/42) 1133Z
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1180 September 7, 1942

As of eight hundred hours September seventh there had been no change in enemy or British dispositions since nineteen hundred hours September sixth. Patrol and artillery activity against enemy anti-tank screens continued but observation was difficult due to mirage. Two reports believed reliable from prisoners indicate General Von Bismarck, Commander Twenty First Panzer, was killed in recent action.

Maxwell

ACTION: G-206
INFO, COPIES: OPD, CGAFF, LOG

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/4/1944

COPY No. 31
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. Ammee 1179, September 7th, 1942.

Axis Forces have practically completed an orderly withdrawal to its former position. Losses in equipment and motor transport have not been as heavy as expected. Tank losses estimated at not more than seventy German and Italian left on the battlefield. British Patrol followed closely upon withdrawing Axis Forces. It is not believed that a counter attack is planned. General Officer Commanding eighth Army has stated belief that Axis Forces will withdraw to Matruh Line in order to shorten his line of communications. British position appears secure, from Milattache for Kroner this report is from Moore who has just returned from desert.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF, LOG

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/8/44
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AMSME 1165, September 7, 1942

Very little change in situation western desert September sixth. Elements of ninety light dug in at Deir El Munassir eight eight two two six two. Anti tank screen runs from there south to Daret El Himemat eight eight naught two five naught, lightly held by elements of twenty one Panzer and strongly covered by anti tank guns. Elements of British four Light Armored Brigade approached Daret El Himemat at sixteen hundred thirty hours and were turned back by anti tank guns. One five two brigade has moved up from Delta and occupies fortified area at nine naught three four five four.

Maxwell

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

CM-IN-2713 (9/7/42) 1828Z
In 1942, during the fifth enemy continued withdrawal southern sector Egypt being continually followed and harassed day and night by Brit Light Armored formations, Artillery and Air. Brit advance this sector about 7 miles which places Brit forward troops about 3 miles east of a line drawn from Deir El Munassib south to Qaret El Hameimat between which original Axis advance was made. No change in situation north of Deir El Munassib.

Forty-two enemy tanks known completely destroyed first 2 days. Rommel advance but exact figures since then not yet reported.

Brit up to last night had fifty-two tanks of which thirty were grants knocked out but say that greater part these will be restored to service.

WOP sabotage party of thirty landed on coast behind Brit lines in attempt destroy coastal railway and actually placed explosives on track but although 1 train ran over them did not explode whereupon WOPS surrendered.

RAF have maintained great assistance in battle zone although enemy has increased his air efforts against them.

Action Copy: G-2 E3.

McClure
From: Cairo
To: AMWAR
No. ANSWE 1158, September 6, 1942

At dark September 5th enemy was continuing withdrawal of southern forces. British Light Armor continued pressure from east and south. Twenty First Panzer had joined Fifteenth Panzer at 868258 with Ninety Light near 878283. Axis anti tank screen with about forty medium tanks along 882 northing and 232 easting grid. 3 squadrons of British Eleventh Hussars engaged in patrol action in vicinity of 850250. Estimate continuation of pressure by British in south with no major offensive until force has been strengthened by additional tanks now unloading. Maxwell has talked with Montgomery commanding Eighth Army within past twenty four hours and it is agreed that immediate threat to Delta Area is removed.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, LCG

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 125 SEP 6 1942

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
No. AMSN 1127, September 5, 1942.

Part one: Night September third dash fourth New Zealand Division launched attack due South against flank of withdrawing Axis Forces. By morning they had advanced about four miles to two sixty five North Grid. At least one hundred fifty prisoners taken from Rescia and Trieste Division. Enemy Forces reacted strongly and formed to meet this threat. The Fifteenth Armored Division took over rear guard position along eight ninety Easting Grid while the Ninetieth Light, elements and armor of Twenty First Division, two Eighty Eighth Force and Ramecke Group, supported by Ariote on left and Littorio on right, formed for attack. Two morning attacks were made Northward against New Zealanders in area eight eight three two six eight. Both attacks repulsed. At fifteen hundred hours same enemy Force launched a more vigorous counterattack which was also repulsed by nineteen hundred hours. Latest reports New Zealanders holding ground and Axis Forces being crowded toward gaps in minefields by Tenth Armored Division and Seventh Motor Brigade moving in from East. Deir El Ragil cleared and enemy forces now west of line eight ninety two. Part Two: The enemy Motor Transport have cleared the minefield, and are out of the battle area. Undetermined quantity of derelict vehicles on various parts of battle field. Number expected to be large and Rommel cannot now put his array on wheels in case further withdrawal is necessary. A minimum of eighty German tanks has been confirmed in British hands, half of them destroyed. Own tank losses comparatively light and now known that eighteen mediums were put out of action first and second day of battle, during enemy attack.
on Twenty Second Brigade, when American crews participated. This engagement was severe and believed represents only appreciable commitment of our medium armoured strength. Part Three: Air and artillery attacks being continuously pressed against enemy armor and transport. For the first time in several weeks, no cargo vessels are known to be moving South from Italy or Greece with supplies. A convoy is being assembled at Tarento and Brindisi, probably because the sending of single vessels with escorts has not paid. It is expected this convoy will be heavily escorted, as it is now vital for Rommel to receive gasoline, transport and other supplies. American heavy bombers have taken over this mission and are waiting. All RAF planes in Middle East are assisting in desert battle. Malta has assumed the offensive since arrival of its last cargo, and will take part. It now makes daily fighter sweeps over Sicily and has torpedo planes for attacks on shipping along Greek Coast.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, LOG

CM-IN-1970 (9/5/42) 1756Z
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AM5E 1131    September 5, 1942

Desert front evening of 4th positions of engaged units as follows: enemy Trieste and Littorio 88265, Twenty First Armored Division and Ninetieth Light 88266, Breccia and Ariete 878265, Fifteenth Armored Division 867257.
British, Twenty Third Armored Brigade 890270, Twenty Second Armored Brigade 424877, Tenth Armored Division 428878, Seventh Armored Brigade 425878, Seventh Motor Brigade 425870, 2 Rifle Brigade 425868, Fourth Light Armored 425563, Twelfth Light 885246, Eleventh Hussars 880250.
One Thirty Second and One Fifty First Regiments moved in with Fifth New Zealand to reinforce their position. Morning of 5th the Ninetieth Light began moving out of position and withdrawing westward. Fifteenth Armored Division has moved out to Area 867257 and is estimated to have fifty three runners. Probably strength of Twenty First Armored Division forty seven runners. Twenty Second Armored Brigade, Tenth Armored Division, Seventh Armored Division and Seventh Motor Brigade continue pushing enemy westward over minefield gaps. Now estimated Eighth Army loss in tank strength total ninety, including twenty four grants.
Attack by air and artillery still continues against Axis tanks and transports.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/44

COPY No. 31
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Amsme 1739 Sept 5, 1942

As of twelve hundred hours September fifth Panzer had moved to point 868258 and Italian twentieth Corps just north at 868260. Marshall from Maxwell. Ninetieth Light at 880263 with twenty first Panzer on its right at 885260. Anti tank screen along two hundred sixty east Grid. British Seventh and Tenth Armored Divisions continuing pressure from north and East with patrols from Eleventh Hussars and Twelfth Lancers roughly along two hundred forty seventh east Grid. Fifth New Zealand and One Hundred Thirty Second Brigades hold line facing south along two hundred sixty fifth east Grid from eight hundred eighty to eight hundred eighty eight northing Grids. No evidence of Italian Armor in south sector east of eight hundred seventy northing Grid.

No Sig

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF

CM-IN-2118 (9/5/42) 2314Z M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 183 SEP 5 1942
COPY NO. 29
From: AmEmbassy London England
To: MILID

No. 3355, Sept 5, 1942

German Africa Corps continued move gradually west during third in Egypt. Their patrols were active and British and German Artillery exchanged fire in Southern Sector.

British Forces in South opposing Rommel's advance made slight advance during night third.

During fourth enemy continued his withdrawal which was continuously attacked by British light armored troops. Enemy counter attacked twice both of which repulsed.

Night Second British light bombers bombed enemy concentrations in Central Sector while American Mitchells bombed landing grounds El Alamein and our heavies bombed Tobruk. During day Third American and British light bombers escorted by Fighters made eleven attacks on enemy concentrations central sector with success. Sorties for the day two hundred two light bombers five hundred seventy four Fighters. Aircraft casualties: German three destroyed ten probables and eight damaged. Brit lost five fighters.

Enemy Fighter Bombers attacked British forward Troops but enemy fighters chiefly employed against allied bombers.
Also on Third enemy southbound convoy of three Merchant vessels and four destroyers attacked south of Crete by American Liberators but effect bombing not observed. That night Brit torpedo Wallingtons attacked same convoy. One merchant vessel was sunk another set fire. Following morning only one ship escorted by destroyers could be located and one Destroyer was hit three times and set fire. One tanker also located but already on fire.

Comment: Apparent from all information received here that Rommel hoped to again lure Brit Main Tank Forces into pitched battle as previously when he could operate on them with superior Gera Tanks and antitank guns. Brit not yet fallen for this and their tactics consist whistling down his flanks and motor transport with light fast armored units, shooting up his tanks with twenty five pounder Field guns and seventy five millimeter tank guns from safe distance and also using light bomber and fighter bomber aircraft as mobile Artillery.

Unofficial estimate German Tank losses to date thirtynine.

McClure
American Air Forces in Middle East continued their intensive support of the Eighth Army on September 4 with one hundred four thousand pounds of bombs. An enemy convoy of three merchantman with accompanying destroyers was attacked in the Mediterranean by our heavy bombers cooperating with the RAF and the Royal Navy. For Arnold and Surtees from Brereton. Our crews carried their bombardment on in the face of enemy airplanes and anti aircraft attacks. It is reported that two of the merchantman were sunk with a third left blazing and near Misses on one destroyer. Our medium-bomber airplanes operating over the battle area attacked enemy motor transport eight American crews and fighter airplanes in conjunction with RAF furnishing protective cover. Direct hits and many near Misses were obtained destroying and damaging numerous vehicles. Enemy landing (1-*) grounds were attacked by four B dash twenty five with many hits in the target area. Several near Misses observed amongst parked airplanes and several fires were started. During the course of these operations 1 ME 109 and 1 ME 110 are reported as having been shot down. One of our fighter aircraft was destroyed but the pilot is reported as having been recovered and is safe.

Maxwell

(1-*) Group omitted correction to follow.

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44
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(Page 2)

CONFIDENTIAL

September 5, 1942

No. 1107

Action Copy: CG AAF

Info. Copies: OPD
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BPR
Log

CM-IN-2054 (9/5/42) 2117Z

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

NARA, Date 4/22/94
To: Agwar

No. Amman 1107 Sept 4, 1942

American Air Forces in Middle East continued their intensive support of the Eighth Army on September fourth with one hundred four thousand pounds of bombs. An air convoy of three merchantmen with accompanying destroyers was attacked in the Mediterranean by our heavy bombers cooperating with the RAF and the Royal Navy. For Arnold and Sumes from Breteon. Our crews carried their bombardment on in the face of enemy airplanes and anti-aircraft attacks. It is reported that two of the Merchantmen were sunk with a third left blazing and near Misses on one destroyer. Our medium bomber airplanes operating over the battle area attacked enemy motor transport with American crews and fighter airplanes in conjunction with RAF furnishing protective cover. Direct hits and many near Misses were obtained destroying and damaging numerous vehicles. Enemy landing (*-1)
The target area. Several near Misses observed amongst parked airplanes and several fires were started. During the course of these operations one ME one zero nine and one ME one zero were reported as having been shot down. One of our fighter aircraft was destroyed but the pilot is reported as having been recovered and is safe.

(*-1) Group omitted correction to follow

Action Copy: CG AAF

M. I. S. JOURNAL NO. 123 SEP 4 1942

Maxwell

DECLASSIFIED
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

No. AMSME 1105 Sept 4 1942

Enemy withdrawal westward to starting line continuing. Constant harassing of movement by British Artillery and light armor also joint air action on heavy scale with ideal targets. No engagement or commitment of British heavy armor reported.

Maxwell

Action Copy: OPD
Info. Copies: G-2
CG AAF
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By RT, NARA, Date 4/4/44

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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RC22
1330/4
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CCWD
Sept 4 1942
1146Z

300 North Africa
From: London

To: MILID

No. 3347, September 4, 1942

During second main body of Germ Armored Forces which advanced in Egypt remained in the area southwest of Alem El Halfa with its flanks protected by armored car screen. Brit Forces facing enemy on north, east and south also remained in their battle positions without being attacked. However enemy transport was continuously engaged by Brit artillery and light armored forces and by air and sixty motor trucks destroyed.

On third Germ Forces withdrew from above area to one about nine miles further south and slightly westward. There was still no armored engagement but Brit continued harassing tactics of previous day.

Comment on above: Rommel's comparative inactivity and his withdrawal on third puzzle War Office but another maneuver expected immediately although impossible to forecast.

During above two day period Brit and Allied Air activity intense day and night on every possible target but Axis counter air also increased. There is
no doubt that Brit present tactics of using fighter bombers and light bombers as highly mobile long range artillery against enemy troops, tanks and transport is paying higher dividends than previous Brit air tactics.

McClure

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CM-IN-1591 (9-5-42) 0007 Z

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(B) and 5(D) or (E)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By JS, NARS Date FEB 9 0 1973

M.L.S. JOURNAL No. 758 SEP 4 1942

COPY No. 31

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
Desert front September third. About twelve hundred hours Axis tank concentration began withdraw southward and by close of day were in area four two six eight seven naught, four three two eight six five, and four two six eight six five. Enemy patrol line four two three eight seven seven, four three one eight seven five, four three one eight six five then southwest along ridge to HINTEMA. Ground activity comparatively quiet except for harassing of enemy tanks and motor transport especially by seventh motor brigade northeast of Deit El Ragil. Present British Strategy is to withhold main Armor and use light tanks, artillery and air against enemy groups described as perfect air targets. British claim ninety German tanks out of action including thirty three dynamited. Italian medium tank strength down to one hundred twenty. All claims however are preliminary and subject to further check. No let up in combined air attack on battle targets, enemy forward area and supply line. During
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Amsae 1116 Sept 4, 1942

Day two hundred medium bomber sorties made southern sector alone. Total combined sorties for day eight ninety seven against Axis two twenty eight. US aircraft made ninety eight sorties, dropped one hundred and four thousand pounds of bombs. Results excellent both by observation and from acute sensitiveness demonstrated by Axis vehicles at approach of bombers. Enemy air activity has been confined to fighter attempts to prevent air bombing attacks and failed to include attacks by J U eighty seven aircraft. At sea results include two ships sunk, one on fire by combined air and naval action.

Maxwell

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

CM-IN-1566 (9-4-42) 2245 Z
M.I.8. JOURNAL NO. 144 SEP 4 1942

COPY No. 31
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE HAS LEARNED THAT SINCE AUG 19 FRENCH GOVERNOR AT DJIBOUTI AND ASST GOV QUOTE HAVE SIGNED NO ORDERS UNQUOTE, A STATUS SIMILAR TO RESIGNATION. BRITISH INTELLIGENCE HERE BELIEVES PRESSURE HAD BEEN PUT ON GOVERNOR TO ALLOW ENEMY SUBS TO USE DJIBOUTI AS BASE BUT THAT GOVERNOR RESIGNED RATHER THAN EXPOSE DJIBOUTI TO DEFINITE ALLIED REPRISALS. THIS TIMES WITH INFO IN MY DIS 281435 AND 62110. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WITH CLOSE OF MONSOON SEASON ABOUT MID SEPT ENEMY SUB ACTIVITY IN GULF OF ADEN AND RED SEA WILL INCREASE.

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16 ACTION
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020850

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

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

020850
From: Embassy London
To: Military Washington DC
No. 3344 September 3, 1942

General situation in Egypt on land not materially changed on second. Main enemy armored forces withdrew slightly to south of Alam El Bueib. Large enemy Mt concentration is in same area and both being continually harassed by Brit light armored forces and by air. No repeat no close range tank conflicts had taken place to last night and Brit apparently have decided to spar with Rommel and wait for an opening rather than attempt to slug with him as in past.

Alam El Bueib now occupied by Brit forty-fourth Division plus Brit twenty-third Tank Brigade but have not been in action yet.

Germ Ninetieth Division has made no repeat no further attempt advance. There are some indications two Wop armored and one Wop motorized divisions may follow two Germ armored divisions same route.

Since night thirty first Brit air has heavily almost continuously attacked enemy Mt, landing grounds, tanks and harbors and traffic on coast road. During this period ten enemy aircraft were destroyed eight probably destroyed and sixteen damaged. Brit lost eleven fighters and three bombers.

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 12/1/67

300 NORTH AFRICA
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COPY No. 31

CLASSIFIED
Briit now estimate total Germ tanks in present advance two hundred ten and motor transport five hundred. Also estimate Axis total strength as follows: Personnel ninety thousand. Field and medium guns five forty. Germ tanks two thirty Italian two twenty total (FAAEF 555) four fifty. Of the tanks twentyfive are mark two balance about equally mark three and four and of latter two types about half armed with long barrelled fiftyfive or seventy-five millimeter guns.

Wop morale still believeed low and replacements received are second rate troops. However Wops armored and motorized divisions now better equipped with artillery and antitank guns than previously. The four Wop Parachute Battalions now being used as infantry in front line bear name of Cacliatori D'Africa.

Sixtieth Wop division believed wiped out and remainder personnel used replacements.

McClure.
PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: Agwar

#Amuse 1098, September 3, 1942

Noon September three no enemy forces seen north of eight seven naught northing grid and east of four two five. Axis had withdrawn fifteen and twenty one armored divisions to general area four two nine eight six seven at twelve hundred hours. For Marshall three columns totaling three thousand enemy vehicles moving westward at eight seven naught easterly between two five naught and two six naught grids. Every indication enemy now withdrawing to original jump off positions.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 13E
Info. Copies: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-1103 (9-3-42) 2139 Z

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 134 SEP 3 1942

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Cairo
To: Agwar Washington DC

No. Ansm 1097, September 3rd, 1942

Desert Front September two no armored or major engagement. For Marshall continuous harassing of enemy tank concentrations and motor transport by artillery and air. Night September one dash two continuous air attacks around El Baba. September two air straffing of barges at Sidi Barrani, transport on road, and motor transport concentrations general area four three eight seven two three one thousand enemy vehicles reported grouped at last light. Total air sorties United States Air Force and Royal Air Force eight naught four, Axis sorties three eight seven. Claimed losses Axis nineteen destroyed, five probable, one damaged, against ten British Planes missing. Four Hussars attacked three hundred enemy motor transport at eight nine two five three, sixty destroyed.

Maxwell

Action Copy: ODP
Info. Copies: G-2 CG AAF LOG

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11404, Sec. 3(D) and 4(D) or (F)
OSD Letter, May 4, 1973
by JS
NARA Date: FEB 20 1973

CH-IN-1542 (9/4/42) 2206Z
M.I. G. Journal No. 145 Sep 4 1942
COPY No. 31

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Ams 1089 Sept 3, 1942

Units of the Middle East United States Army Air Forces using Medium Bombers and Fighter Aircraft and in conjunction with the RAF successfully attacked concentrated enemy transport destroying damaging and firing many vehicles during the hours of daylight September second. For Arnold and Surles from Brereton. Our heavy bombers carrying on their offensive against vital harbor installation attacked the dock facilities at Tobruk causing fires and explosions. Moderate antiaircraft fire and enemy aircraft were encountered. All of our aircraft returned to their base airdromes.

Maxwell

Action Copy: CG AAF
Info. Copies: OPD

G-2
HPR
LOG

CN-IN-1574 (9-4-42) 2324 Z

L.G. JOURNAL NO. 148 SEP 4 1942

COPY No. 43

350 North Africa
THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: American Embassy London  
To: WILID  
No. 3333, September 2, 1942.

Enemy armored columns which attacked Egypt thirty first turned northward on first and latest reports received London six AM date showed head main enemy armored column had reached Alem El Bueib but had made progress only by avoiding Brit strongpoints and concentrations and had been held wherever they had made direct attacks.

Judging from all reports received Brit had not repeat not yet committed any their armored forces except Fourth Light Armored Brigade and Twenty Second Armored Brigade in opposition also enemy had not repeat not increased his original attacking force.

Germ Ninetieth Division which attacked further north on thirty first has not repeat not resumed advance.

Brit troops are attacking tail of enemy armored force from south and enemy concentrations by Brit air.

In northern Sector no enemy activity but Brit made raid capturing one hundred Germs.

All air operations restricted thirty first by dust. On first eight enemy aircraft destroyed by AA fire and seven in combat for loss three British.

Brit report they have eight hundred tanks now for ward area of which one hundred sixty Grants. No reports tank casualties yet received.

Action Copy: G-2

Info. Copies: OPD, CG AAF, LOG.

M. J. S. JOURNAL NO. 135 SEP 2 1942
From Cairo  
To: AGWAR  

No. Ammno 1053, September 2nd, 1942.

During the hours of daylight and darkness August thirty first American aircraft of United States Army Air Force Middle East were quite active in direct support of the eighth army and in attacking harbor and dock facilities at Tobruk. Medium bombers of the twelfth bombardment group with one squadron operating against enemy motor transport in daylite and three squadrons operating against enemy landing grounds and in cooperation with the RAF successfully attacked destroying and damaging several motor transport setting some on fire and starting numerous fires on enemy landing grounds with observed hits amongst parked aircraft. For Arnold and Searles from Breerton. Fighter aircraft of the seventh fighter group participated successfully in fighter sweeps and escort missions over the battle area in conjunction with RAF. The harbor and dock facilities at Tobruk were attacked by heavy bombardment aircraft of two squadrons of the ninety eighth bombardment group (*) were unobserved however bombs were seen to hit in the targets area. Anti aircraft and searchlight activity moderately active but relatively inaccurate during the hours of darkness. American fighter and medium bombardment aircraft are now giving direct support to the eighth army with our heavy bombers continuing their repeated successful attacks against the enemy North African Ports Mediterranean shipping and Ports of Debarkation.

Maxwell

* Omission, Being Serviced.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, BPR, LOG

CM-IN-0663 (9/3/42) 1620Z

M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 98 SEP 2 1942

COPY No. 31

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR
No. AMSME 1079 September 2, 1942

Egyptian front action September first follows: During morning Axis made two attacks by twenty first and fifteenth armor against twenty second Armored Division area four two eight eight seven nine. Attacks repulsed and a group of thirty to fifty enemy tanks established themselves in covered positions south of four three eight eight three. Eighth Armored Division moved west with right flank in contact with forty fourth Division. Above group of enemy tanks pocketed between twenty second Armored Division, forty fourth Division and eighth Armored Division. Artillery and air attacks made against pocketed tanks and against motor transport concentration further south. At thirteen hundred motor transport concentration, estimated fifteen hundred vehicles, facing southwest with head at four three naught eight six five engaged by fourth light armored brigade and rear at four three seven eight seven two attacked by seventh motor brigade. Forty Axis vehicles destroyed. Main concentration of about one hundred fifty Axis tanks on area four three naught eight seven five appeared to form for attack about seventeen hundred hours but attack did not materialize. Dust storms subsided yesterday morning and joint United States and Royal Air Force action was effective against supply transport and Axis aircraft. Two enemy two ton fuel trucks destroyed. Enemy aircraft losses ten destroyed, sixteen probable, three damaged. British losses eleven airplanes, four parachuted. United States lost one B
twenty five, some parachuted, and one P forty missing. Air attacks continued on large scale against supply lines, front line areas andiegured Axis tank concentration, night September first to second. Positions at twenty four hundred hours September one follow for Marshall from Maxwell Axis forces; one sixty four division eight six two nine three, ninety eight seven seven two six seven to eight eight four two six seven, Ariete and Trieste eight eight four two six two, Dak eight eight two five four Littorio four two six eight five nine, three three and three Recce units eight nine naught two four six, one five and twenty one Armoured Division concentrated area four three two eight seven six. British positions: four light Armoured Brigade four three three six two, seven Motor Brigade four four naught eight seven one, ten Armored Division Four four three seven eight eight eight, eight Armored Brigade four three seven eight seven eight, twenty two Armored Brigade four two eight eight seven nine, twenty three Armored Brigade eight nine two two seven naught, seven Armored Division four six five eight six seven. No change of other positions.

MAXWELL

Action Copy: G-2 B E

Info. Copies: OPD
CG AAF
Log

CM-IN-1080 (9/3/42) 2022Z

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 8(R) and R(D) or (K)
ORD letter, May 3, 1972

By JS, NARA Date: FEB 20 1973

M.I. S. JOURNAL NO. 117 SEP 3 1942

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12355, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/1/44
From: Cairo
To: Agwar

No. Ammo. 1080  Sept 2, 1942

Estimate of present desert situation must include following essential differences as compared to Axis offensive at El Alamein last May for Marshall from Maxwell a restricted zone of movement exists on the southern flank, not over fifteen miles wide. Axis forces have felt the shortage of supplies, especially in fuel and lubricating oil. Enemy has been much slower in concentrating forces and moving forward, thereby losing element of surprise. German and Italian units estimated at overall strength not to exceed seventy per cent of May strength. British were able to make a clear diagnosis of enemy plan of attack and have profited by past experience, particularly in tendency to rush into trap of eighty eight MM gun fire. Interpretation of enemy movements so far indicates primary plan was to proceed on a close in envelopment and attract the British Armor into an attack, destruction of tanks by anti-tank gun fire and then destruction of British Infantry by armor. British have not accommodated.

Maxwell

Action Copy:  G-2 BE


CM-IN-1135 (9/3/42)  2250Z

DECLASSIFIED

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

OSD letter, May 5, 1973

By JS, March 3

M.I. 8 JOURNAL NO. 146 Sep 3 1942

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
United States Army Air Force heavy, and medium bombers and fighter aircraft were very active in support of the Eighth Army and attacked enemy shipping during daylight hours September first. For Arnold and Burles from Eremeton. Several motor transport were destroyed and damaged and fighter sweeps and escorts conducted over the battle area. An enemy convoy in the Mediterranean was intercepted and a direct hit is claimed on one merchantman with near misses on other vessels. Shipping in Candia Harbour and dock facilities were likewise bombed with hits claimed on four surface vessels with a probable hit on a fifth. Anti aircraft fire was heavy and accurate and enemy aircraft were encountered. From all these operations one medium bomber and one fighter are missing.

Maxwell
From Cairo
To AGWAR
No ANSMIE 1072 Sept 2, 1942

Axis attack has followed our own estimates of developments and also along lines fully expected by British staff. They believe main thrusts will be against high ground held by forty fourth division at point one two two located four three three eight eight four and point one two at four four Aog eight eight six. Still too early to draw this conclusion since enemy has given no clear indication of his intentions. German fifteen and twenty first armored divisions paused three hours afternoon thirty first waiting for attack by British armor. Profiting by past experiences British were not prematurely pulled into range of eighty eight MM guns believed located within forward elements. On morning of first local but effective attacks launched by Australians westward at eight seven naught three naught naught, fifth Indians at eight eight four two eight five, and southward by New Zealanders at eight eight two six nine. Sixty fourth and sixty sixth US Fighter Squadrons, and selected aircraft from medium bomber group have participated in front line action. They include fighter sweeps over lines, and bomber attacks on Southern Sector and concentration of enemy motor transport with excellent results. Air activity has been restricted by sand storms. British claim thirty first morning thirty enemy tanks destroyed and damaged, afternoon forty nine destroyed and damaged. Own loss fifteen tanks damaged most recoverable.

Maxwell

underline word garbled, will service on request. Code Sect.

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

DECLASSIFIED
EO. 11632, Sec. 33E and K(2) or (3)
OSD letter, May 3, 1972
By JS, NARA Date FEB 20 1973

CM-IN-0817 (9-3-42) 0032 Z
M.I.S. JOURNAL NO. 164 31 2 1942

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/44

COPY No.

300 NORTH AFRICA
Cairo
To: AFWAR

No AMSME 1053 September 1, 1942

During the hours of daylight and darkness August thirty first American Aircraft of United States Army Air Force Middle East were quite active in direct support of the Eighth Army and in attacking harbor and dock facilities at Tobruk. Medium bombers of the Twelfth Bombardment Group with one squadron operating against enemy motor transport in daylight and three squadrons operating against enemy landing grounds and in cooperation with the RAF successfully attacked destroying and damaging several motor transport setting some on fire and starting numerous fires on enemy landing grounds with observed hits amongst parked aircraft. For Arnold and Searles from Brereton. Fighter aircraft of the Seventh Fighter Group participated successfully in fighter sweeps and escort missions over the battle area in conjunction with RAF. The harbor and dock facilities at Tobruk were attacked by heavy bombardment aircraft of two squadrons of the Ninety Eighth Bombardment Group. Due to broken low overcast results were unobserved however bombs were seen to hit in the targets area. Anti aircraft and searchlight activity moderately active but relatively inaccurate during the hours of darkness. American fighter and medium bombardment aircraft are now giving support to the Eighth Army with our heavy bombers continuing their repeated successful attacks against the enemy North African ports Mediterranean shipping and ports of debarkation.

Maxwell

Note: Corrected copy of CM-IN-0663 (9/2/42) OPD.

Action Copy: OPD

Info. Copies: G-2, CG AAF, BPR.
From: Cairo
To: Agwar
No. Amser 1062 Sept 1, 1942

Positions of enemy attacking forces twenty four hundred hours thirty first follows: Ninetieth light, Ariete and Trieste grouped and stationary in general area eight eight naught two ours thirty first follows: Ninetieth light, Ariete and Trieste grouped and stationary in general area eight eight naught two six five. Fifteenth Armored Division four two eight eight seven eight; twenty first Armored Division four three two eight six nine and four three five eight six six; force two eighty eight area four three two eight six naught; Littorio advancing along track vicinity of Qaret Zughailin eight eight five two four eight. One eighty fifth Regiment of Folgore on Taqa Plateau. Late thirty first fifteenth Armored Division was in contact with British twenty second Armored Brigade. Axis attacked with one hundred tanks and turned back. About forty Axis tanks in contact fourth light Armored Brigade in area four three naught eight six naught. No engagement by British main Armored Forces. By agreement with British Middle East Headquarters there is no publicity to joint operations except that enemy has attacked and operations are proceeding.

Maxwell

Action Copy: G-2 BE
Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF

RC 34
filed 2/0154Z
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INCOMING MESSAGE

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M.I. 8, JOURNAL NO. 18 SEP 33942
COPY No. 300 NORTH AFRICA

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DECLASIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/64.
From: American Embassy London
To: MILID
No. 3326, September 1, 1942.

Rommel started present operation Egypt about two
thirty first by move of estimated one hundred eighty
tanks of fifteenth and twenty-first Germ armored divisions
from their then positions near Deir El Marra to positions
facing Brit left flank and attacked with two columns, one
column with one hundred tanks about halfway between Deir
El Qattara and Magh Abu Dweis and second column with
eighty tanks about half way between first column and
Abu Dweis. Same time Germ Ninetieth Division attacked
due east along north edge Deir El Qattara. Simultaneous
weak infantry attack also made against Brit El Alamein
Sector which was repulsed with enemy losses.

Enemy attacks in south penetrated Brit minefields
and northern column then engaged by Brit Twenty Second
Armored Brigade and southern column by Fourth Light Armored
Brigade. At seventeen hours thirty first foremost enemy
tanks had halted few miles east of Qaret El Khadin and
Ninetieth Germ Division had reached Bab El Qattara and
this is last information reaching War Office.

Comment: War Office says not yet certain whether
this offensive on major scale but consider Rommel’s
immediate objective is El Buweisat ridge now held by
Brit Forty Fourth Infantry Division.

Present estimate tank strength is German two
hundred thirty two WOPS two hundred forty three all
over six tons. Brit have in Egypt last report nine
hundred thirty four serviceable most of which are light
type.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

From Embassy Ldn to MILID no. 3326, Sept. 1, Page #2

Present Axis order battle front line with exception Germans now attacking following from north to south: One hundred second WOP motorized; One German parachute battalion, twenty fifth WOP Infantry, one Germ chute battalion, twenty seventh Infantry, WOP one thirty second Armored, WOP one hundred first motorized, WOP one hundred thirty third Armored, four battalions WOP parachute troops used as infantry. Somewhere in rear areas but unlocated are WOP seventeenth, sixtieth and sixteenth Infantry Divisions and one Germ parachute brigade less two battalions.

McClure.

Action Copy: G-2 BE

Info. Copies: OPD CG AAF Log

CM-IN-0425 (9/1/42) 2242Z

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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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