MR 310 "TORCH" (1) Sec. 10 - Army and Navy Miscellaneous "TORCH" Messages.

3/16--31/43

DECLASSIFIED
From: Algiers
To: War USFOR

In reply cite: 794 March 31, 1943

Apparent discrepancy in tank figures between second weekly summary (Troopers reptd AGWAR USFOR from G-3 Section AFHQ 794 31st Mar) ref 8614 March 23 and third weekly summary ref 338 March 30 Signed Eisenhower. Cite FRGCT. Is due to fact that Allied figures represent serviceable tanks while Axis figures represent grand total.

no sig

Footnote: 338 is CM-IN-352 (1 Apr 43) OPD
8614 is CM-IN-14156 (26 Mar 43) CCS

Action: OPD

Information: G-2
CG AAF
Gen. Deane (CC/S)

CM-IN-759 (2 Apr 43) 0030Z vc
INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

SUPPLEMENTARY CORRECTION

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 0/369 March 31, 1943
Refers to SITREP 168

Omission in original message should read as follows:

In central Tunisia medium bombers attacked enemy landing ground Fuconnneri area and concentrations west of Gabes many fires seen.

No Sig

Footnote: Supplemental correction to CM-IN-16948 (3-31-43) OPD

Action: OPD
Information: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
Gen Deane (CC/S)
Adm King

CM-IN-556 (1 April 43) 1834Z as

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

From: Bern
To: MILID

In Reply Cite: 540, March 31, 1943

Orders received by Logistical Staff Italian German Forces Tunisia to put at disposition of Rommel by April 4th (repeated to ETOUSA) all available transports. This to me from 206 (Report date March 29th) He can not feel sure of information although he rates source A our MILID 426 our ETOUSA 18 and was last report this source.

Legge.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72
MAY 23 1974

FOOTNOTE: 426 is CM-IN-4147 (1/10/43) G-2

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD, CGAAF, LOG.

CM-IN-16941 (31 Mar 43) 2235Z mew

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Algiers
To: War-USFOR (Info)

No. 517

In reply cite: BOC 293 March 31, 1943

French State Adler was (to USFOR and AGWAR from Freedom) employee BNCI Morocco sent Switzerland because of racial laws. Reference our BOC 135. Your 3493 of March 9. Action AGWAR Combined Boards Treasury information USFOR British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower cite FAEB Glasser. BOC 293. Adler acted as intermediary for communications between BNCI Morocco and Vichy subsequent November 8. De La Neziere states he is satisfied BNCI has ceased using Adler this capacity and that he is no longer concerned about Adler. No information as to Adler's first name. Please send by airgram any information in your possession on BNCI likely to be of interest in connection with economic warfare work.

no sig

NOTE: BOC 135 is CH-OUT-11820 (23 Feb 43) CCS.
3493 is CH-OUT-2891 (9 Mar 43) SOS-Int.

ACTION: General Deane (CCS)  
INFORMATION: OPD, G-2 (Col Sands), ASF, CAD.

CH-IN-306 (1 Apr 43) 11492 ems

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Mar 31, 1943

U R G E N T

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 612 March 31, 1943

March 30 (to USFOR rptd AGWAR, Troopers, Fifth Army, Mideast, 18 Army Group, Hq, Liaison Gp AFHQ, Malta, Adv NWAAP from G-3 section AFHQ 612 31 QJ)
SITREP Part 2 number 188.

1. Naval. No reports.


ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CGAEP
CGGN
GEN DEANE (CC/S)
ADM KING

CM-IN-16954 (31 Mar 43) 2311Z new

No Sig

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JCS LETTER, 7-3-72
BY 3R DATE

COPY No. 54

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

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 0/354, March 31, 1943

(Part 1) Sitrep nmr 158 for 24 hours ending 0859 hours 30 Mar. (Troopers pass USFOR AGWAR Freedom Malta Personal for F M Viscount Gort Mideast 5th Army rptd Jacques 4th Group Bone Area for SOIS Eq L of C 4 ASC Nassif Tactical Bomber Group Adv NAAF 2 US Corps 1st Army from 18th Army Group 0/354 March 31 Too 0750 A) from AFHQ signed C in C. Part 1 begins. Section 1 8th Army. 10th Corps fdep tps in contact with enemy posns Wadi Akarit T Z 2157 - DJ Zemel El Beida T Z 5852 (0852). Concentration of 30th Corps continues. (A) 10th Corps. Patrols of 10th Corps in touch with enemy from the sea along the line of the Wadi Akarit to the DJ Zemel El Beida. 1st Arm Div and 8th Armd Bde have moved north of the road running west from Oudrei with 2 N Z Div following to the south. (Balma 30th Corps. 51st Div concentrated Teboulbou Area T Z 3428 4th Ind Div concentrated El M'Bou Area T Z 3124. 7th Arm Div Area 201 Gds Bde and 4th Lt Armd Bde concentrated approx 6 miles south Eboulbou. 5th Div clearing battlefield Mareth Area. Section 2. South east Algeria. Follows. Section 3. 2nd Corps little progress made due to believed enemy rear guard posn covered by mines. Most advanced elements on Gabes-Gafsa.

CM-IN 168840 (31-Ma

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JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SC DATE FEB 7 1974
COPY No. 54

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12355, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
Road as follows. 9th Inf Div. Y 3964 Y 3962 Y 3461 Y 3361, 1st Inf Div. Y 3467(3967) Y 3867 Y 3768 Y 4070 Y 4073. Leading tps Armoured Force reached Y 3776. In Maksassy Area 1st US Armored Div holds T 8907 T 8609 T 8615. 34th Inf Div holding O 821 O 8112 O 8310 O 8207 reported situation quiet their sector.

No Sig

* Being serviced.

WDCC

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION G-2
CGAAF
CGGN
GEN DEANE (CC/S)
ADM KING
LOG

CM-IN 16840 (31-March-43) 1800Z pb
Urgent

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 369, March 31, 1943

(Troopers Pass USFOR AGWAR Freedom Malta Personal for FM Viscount Gort Middle East 5th Army Rptd Jacques 242 Group Bone Area for Sois Eq L of C 12 ASC NAAF Tactical Bomber Gp AD C NAAF 2 US Corps First Army 9 Corps from 18 Army Group 0 369 March 31 2300 Z Part 1

No Sig

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2 CG AAF CGGN GEN. DEANE (CC/S)
ADM. KING LOG

CM-IN-104 (1 Apr 43) 0509Z cen

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Ninth Air Force Bomber Command reports 3 planes dropped 6,000 lbs of bombs each 1 from 50 feet on
Crotone Chemical Factory second jettisoned over Italy and third salvaged before crossing Valentina airstrip. Bomb hits in railroad yards warehouse small building and center of factory area. Six planes of 178th Squadron RAF had target mission ferry dock but all returned due solid overcast. Nineteen planes 12th Group dropped 22,200 lbs of bombs Sfax El Mdaou landing ground scoring direct hits on 4 enemy aircraft, 2 fires seen on airstrip. Six planes 57th Group acted as escort. 70th Group reports 109 sorties as bomber escort. All US activity above March 30th. 57th Fighter reports March 29th, 102 planes dropped 33,540 lbs of bombs during fighter bomber activities.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2
CGAAF
GEN DEANE (CC/S)
ADM KING
LOG

CM-IN 16841 (31-March-43) 1804Z pb

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11610, Sec. 3(D) and 5(D) or (E)
OSS Index, May 1, 1972
By SLR FEB 7 1974

SECRET
COPY No. 51

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

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In reply cite: AMSME 5382 March 31st, 1943

Patrols 10th Corps in contact with enemy positions along line of fortifications Wadi Akarit Z 2358 Diebel Zemlet El Beida Z 0047. First Armd Div north of road running west from Oudref with second New Zealand Div following to south. 17th Armd Div less 201 Guards Brig and 4th Lt Armd Brig concentrated approx 6 miles south Teboulbou Z 3629. 50th Div clearing battle field Marsah Area. (from Brereton RAF report no operations night 29th, 30th due to weather. Day 30th 3 Armed RCN failed to find good targets. Escorted Mitchells and Baltimores made 2 attacks Sfax El M'dou landing ground. Photo RCN shows 2 believed AR 210’s in flames 1 smoking. Intense Ack Ack shot down, 1 Baltimore target area. Fighters forward areas broke up attack by AR 210’s claim 1 ME 109 probable 1 damaged 1 ME 210 and 3 MC 202’s damaged during day without loss.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD CGAAF
CM-IN-16890 (31 Mar 43) 2019Z

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Algiers
To: War
In Reply Cite: 421 March 31, 1943.

Catroux called on me yesterday and without entering into the details of his conversation with Giraud which are still in the preliminary stages told me that he was most hopeful of an early and successful conclusion of his negotiations. Information ACWAR Combined Boards Cox Hull and UIFOR British Chiefs of Staff and Matthews American Embassy. Signed Eisenhower cite FHCIV Murphy. NAF 196. He was confident that the principles of unity which were outlined in Giraud's speech eliminated differences of principles between the High Command and the French National committee and created the basis of unity. Catroux agreed to the importance of giving priority to a recruiting agreement and will discuss with UIFOR the possibility of issuing a public joint statement calling on all Frenchmen abroad to remain at their posts pending the creation of a joint milicity and naval organization. I understand that the present program is that Catroux will complete the negotiations here and that De Gaulle will then proceed to North Africa to mark the formal conclusion of unity. In my opinion this is a hopeful sign as De Gaulle's public declarations have now committed him to an early visit to the postominate of which merely on the ground that Catroux and Giraud had not been able to agree would not be understood by French opinion.

ACTION: CC/S
INFORMATION: OPD General Strong Admiral King
General Arnold LOG

CM-IN-16874 (31 Mar 43) 1942Z med

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

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 354, March 31, 1943

Section 4. 1st Army. Intermittent rain and tracks still bad. (354) (A) 19 Corps. No Change. (B) 3 Corps. 1 Div. 1 CDY (1) 1G carried out raid 0630 hrs on ridge (J 5236). Raiding party not yet returned. 46 Div. 1 CDO and 2/4 Koyli were counter attacked from Southeast by force estimated less than 1 BN in area (J) 1970. Details not yet known but enemy reported held. Resistance area mine (J) 1974 reported weakening and 6 were approaching from west. One Sqn 46 Recon Regt with 1 Coy 8 A and SH in support entered Sedjefane (J) 522, 6 (227) At 1500 hrs followed by remainder 8 A and SH. Br (J) 2176 found Turbe demolished. One Para Bde holding DJ Ame (J) 1376. Goums now occupy DJ Elazein. (J) 1178. Moves. 136 Bde (J) 1465. 36 Bde (J) 1166. Section 5. Air. Follows. End of Part 1. Part 2 follows. Cite FHQCT.

No Sig

Confirmed as sent by originator.

Corrected copy of CM-IN-16840 (31 Mar 43) OPD

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2 CG AAF CGGN GEN. DEANE (CC/S)
ADM. KING

CM-IN-207 (1 Apr 43) 0820Z cen

COPY No. 54

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Algiers
To: War

In reply cite: 0/354 March 31, 1943

Insert at * as follows: Four Inf Div concentrated El M' Bou area (T) Z 3124. 7 Armd Div less 201 GDS Bge and 4 Lt Armd Bge concentrated approx six miles south Eboulbou.

no sig

FOOTNOTE: Supplementary copy of CM-IN-16840 (3/31/43) OPD

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
            CGAAR
            COGN
            GEN DEANE CC/S
            ADM KING

CM-IN-1 (1 Apr 43) 0011Z mew
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 563, March 31, 1943.

AGWAR for WDGBI Troopers pass USFOR 18 Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps ADV NAAF pass EAC and 12th AF MBS ABS Malta Malta Mideast ADV Ln Grp AFHQ 5 Army pass 1 Armd Corps and 6 Corps from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite RHGBI).

2. G 2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 30th March. 4 aircraft reported 1 flying as far west as Oran, remaining 3, one of which on Meteoro flight, active between Bone and Algiers. Number of aircraft probably on anti submarine patrol north of Sicily were engaged. Bombers. No reports bombing operations in Western Mediterranean. Transports. Reported arriving Tunis were about 80 German Transports. More than half landed in afternoon. Southern Sector enemy activity consisted of interception and defensive patrols north of Gabes and Sfax area by German and Italian fighters. ME 210's escorted by ME 109's attempted offensive sweep in afternoon over battle area but aircraft jettisoned bombs when intercepted by Allied fighters. Early morning recco of battle area made by escorted ME 109's and unidentified aircraft made midday recco (AGWAR Troopers 18th Army Group advance NAAF MBS ABS Malta Mideast advance Liaison Group AFHQ 5 Army from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower 563 date nil. TOO nil.) Of Allied left flank and Medenine rpd on several occasions German fighters were airborne to intercept Allied sweeps in Kairouan-Faid-Makmassy area. Northern Tunisia German fighters and ground attack aircraft made offensive sweeps
over Medjez El Bab and Sedjenane. Many attacks made on Allied road transport and armoured vehicles. Two German fighters destroyed several ME 109's and Macchi 202's damaged.

3. Naval. Two enemy MVS medium tonnage 4 DRS and aircraft escorts sighted 38 Degs 27 Mins north, 11 Degs 26 Mins east course 200 Degs speed 6 knots. In position 39 Degs 40 Mins north, 12 Degs 22 Mins east course 220 Degs speed 10 knots were 6 enemy MVS, 3 DRS, 2 EBS and 5 JU 88's. Torpedoed and sunk in vicinity Cape Tenesdi by submarine were 2 our MVS in convoy.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD CGAAF
CM-IN-21 (1 Apr 43) 0102Z mew
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: War

In reply cite: 498 March 31, 1943

INCOMING MESSAGE

regrouping. Little reaction Fondouk area. Resistance continues stubborn Maknassy area and likely to stiffen. Some indications withdrawal Guettar sector suggest possibly only temporary stand Wadi Akarit position.

no sig

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD CGAAF
CM-IN-16945 (31 Mar 43) 22442 mer

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SR DATE FEB 7 1974

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4 NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0825 March 31, 1943

From 18 Army Group. To Troopers USFOR (Troopers Pass) AGWAR Freedom Governor Malta - personal for FM Viscount Gort Middle East Fifth Army repeated Jacques (sent by SDR) 242 Group Bone Area for SOIS Hq L of C 12 ASC ABAF Tac Bomber Group Adv NAAF 2 US Corps First Army. (Part 1 SITREP no 158 for 24 hours ending 2359 hrs 30 March. March 31st TOO 0825 A.) From AFRQ signed C in C.

Part 1 continues. QM Section 5. Air.
Throughout the day enemy ground forces moving on the road El Guettar - Gabes and enemy landing ground were repeatedly and successfully attacked by medium and light bombers of the Central Tactical and Desert Forces. Western Desert Air Force. Night 28/30. No operations due to weather. Day 30. Light and medium bombers attacked Stax El Maou Lsg. Good results seen. Despite intense AA over forward areas fighters intercepted and probably destroyed 1 enemy aircraft and 4 damaged. No good army targets found all day, our losses 1 Baltimore destroyed by AA. In central Tunisia medium bombers attacked enemy landing ground * concentrations west of Gabes many fires seen. Fighter bombers and fighters attacked same concentrations destroying at least 12 Met and damaging many others. In north our bombers and offensive patrols operated against enemy troops Sedjane Area. Several Mets destroyed. Our fighters attacked defensive enemy fighter screen throughout front destroying 13 enemy aircraft probably destroying 7 and damaging 8 for loss of 6 aircraft and (end of continuation part 1. Cite CM-IN-16948 (31 March 1943)
WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0825 March 31, 1943

(messages) 3 pilots.

No Sig

* Being Serviced.

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2, CGAAF, CGGN, GEN DEANE (CC/S) ADM KING.

CM-IN-16948 (31 Mar 43) 23012 mew

DECLASIFIED
JCS LETTER 7-5-72
BY 5C DATE FEB 7 1974

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COPY No.
From: AFHQ, Algiers, G-3
To: -
Number 314, March 30, 1943

Second Part.

During 27 and 28th operations were greatly hampered by bad weather. Many attacks were made by Western Desert Air Forces on enemy vehicles and tanks. Particularly successful operations were carried out on the afternoon 26 Mar when for a period of 2 and a half hours bombers and fighter bombers continuously attacked enemy concentrations southwest of El Hamma.

5. Political.

Lemaigre - Dubreil has resigned as Delegate General for Inter Allied Affairs.

Rene Mayer has been designated as Head of Bureau of Communications. General Catroux arrived on Friday. There are definite signs of progress in the negotiations although General de Gaulle is not expected at once.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King

CH-IN-497 (1 Apr 43) 1807Z ems

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-6-72
BY SR
DATE FEB 7 1974

SEC
COPY No. 51

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Algiers
To: War
USFOR
No. 416
In Reply Cite: NAF 194 March 30 1943

As further evidence of the complete separation of the high command from the former Vichy Regime the Prefet of Algiers Temple who was appointed by Laval has been replaced by Muscatelli. Information AGWAR Combined Boards and Bull and USFOR British Chiefs and Matthews American Embassy of Staff, signed Eisenhower cite FECIV Murphy NAF 194. Inasmuch as Temple has cooperated with the Allies since the landing he has not been retired but given the position of Inspector General in Algeria. Muscatelli's appointment is a popular move. In his former capacity of Director of Public Security of the Algerian Government he was most helpful in facilitating the landing of the Allied Forces. He has a large following among the Democratic Pro-Allied Section of the Lomah population and is thoroughly familiar with Algerian questions. It will be recalled that he was among those recently released from prison where he had been held on unestablished charges in connection with Darlan's assassination.

Nosig

ACTION: CC/S
INFORMATION OPD
GEN STRONG
ADM KING
GEN ARNOLD
LOG

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 23 1974

CM-IN 16801 (3-31-43) 1638Z pb

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

In Reply Cite: #157, March 30, 1943

For 24 hours ending 2359 hours 29th March. (Part 1 SITREP number 157. Number 0 341 dated 30th March.

TOO 535 A. From 18 Army Group to
(1) Troopers
(2) USFOR (Troopers pass)
(3) AGWAR
(4) Freedom
(5) Governor Malta—personal for FM Viscount Gort
(6) Mideast
(7) Fifth Army
(8) Jacques
(9) 242 Group
(10) Bone Area for SOIS
(11) Hq L of C
(12) ASC
(13) NASAF
(14) Tactical Bomber Gp
(15) Adv NAAF for Col MacDonald A 2
(16) 2 US Corps
(17) First Army

From AFRQ signed C in C.

Part 1 begins.
Section 1. Eighth Army. To follow.
Section 2. South East Algeria. To follow.
Section 3. Two Corps. First and Ninth Div

CM-0N-16524 (31 Mar 43)
continued attack on positions making slight progress. First Arm Div was attacked by small forces during day. Last attack occurred at 1000 A and all were repulsed. 34th Inf Div continued consolidation of positions south of Fondouk. No further movement of units of 1st Arm Div.

Section 4. First Army G (A). 19th Corps. Welverty Div. Bn 2 RTA with DQR 1 recce regt directed on El Aia reached 0 5417. Bn 7 RTA at 0 6029 were counter attacked this morning by inf and 9 tks followed by 2nd wave of 12 tks. Enemy made slight penetration but posns were re-established by successful counter-attack. Sqn 51 RTA with inf coy moving round enemy left flank Bn 7 RTA remain in posn at 0 6235 Mathonej Div. No changes moves. A sqn 51 RT to 0 3676 (2/1 RT T) Akeraa. 5 Corps. 1st Div no change. 46 Div attack made further progress in mountainous country in spite of very heavy going and thick undergrowth limiting field of vision to a few feet. Main road heavily mined. Leading bns of 138 Bde in contact with enemy in area J 2072 and J 1871. One bn 36 bde occupied ridge J 1272 and 3 CFA occupied ridge J 1771. Bns one Para Bde now in areas J 0872 J 1072 and J 0870 and patrolling north and north east in area Dj Bw1 Harch J 1375. Goums on left flank reached J 1078. Total number of Pws taken since night 27/28 Mar is 785.

No Sig

Footnote: Corrected copy of CM-IN-16387 (3-30-43) OPD

Action: OPD

Information:

CG AAF
CGGN
Gen. Deane (CC/S)
Adm. King

CM-IN-16524 (31 Mar 43) 0212Z v

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

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 0/342, March 30, 1943

Part 1. SITREP No. 157 for 24 hours ending 2359 hours 29 Mar. To Troopers, USFOR Troopers, Pass AGWAR, Freedom, Governor Malta, Personal for FM Viscount Gort, Middle 5th Army (T), Jacques, 242nd Group Bone Area, for SOS Hq L of C 12, AEC NASAF Tactical Bomber Gp, Adv NAAF for Col McDonald A (2 US 37) Corps 1st Army, from 18th Army Group 0/342, 30th March 000 0743A, from APHQ, signed C of C. Part 1 continues:

Section 1. 8th Army forword troops, 30th Corps reached Gabes this afternoon. 10th Corps forward troops moved north of road Gabes Chapel MOMU and contacted enemy rear guard positions in Matouia Oudref Area (T) Z 24th (A). 30th Corps by 0900 A hours forward troops 51st Div reached Gabes without opposition. The remainder of 51st Div now concentrated south of the town. 4th Inf Div concentrated Area El M'Dou * (T) Z 32 (327). 50th Div concentrated Area Garath. 7th Arm Div Area Rentsia. (B) 10th Corps. Patrols 2nd NZ Div Cav and 8th Arm Bde moving North West and North from Gabes Area and Patrols 1st Arm Div moving North East from El Hamma made contact this afternoon with enemy positions around Matouia and Oudref at 1638 A hours. The North was reported clear of enemy. Further Patrols 1st Arm Div moving North from El Hamma, have reached area approx 2 miles South of Main Rja running West from Oudref.

CM-IN-16387 (30 Mar 43)
Section 2. South East Algiers, to follow
Section 5 Air weather deteriorates during day but
fighter bomber attacks maintained throughout day
on enemy retreating North of Gabes. Western Desert
Air Forces night 28/29 Medium and Heavy Bombers
attacked M E M Oudref-Sfax road with good results.
Day 29/30 295300 M E T Destroyed or damaged same
area by Kitty Bombers also destroyed 3 Aircraft and
damaged 12 on ground in combat 9 aircraft destroyed
5 damaged, 7 Pilots missing. Hurribombers success-
fully attacked troop concentrations Qeazzouna Area
Fighter Sweeps in Central and Northern Tunisia
destroyed 10 aircraft damaged 8. Our losses 2.

No Sig.

* Being Serviced.

Footnote: Corrected copy of SITREP number 157

Action: OPD

Information: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
Gen. Deane (CC/S)
Adm. King
LOG

CM-IN-16387 (30 Mar 43) 2129Z vc

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JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SK , DATE FEB 7 1974

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Algiers
To: WAR

In reply cite: No. 7645, March 30, 1943

Svc 478 to AGWAR 5 Army Dv NWAAF from Freedom
hereafter repeat our msg HALMA K 7645 gps 243 dated
301727Z.

(To USFOR information AGWAR Troopers 5th Army
Mideast 18 Army Gp HQ Liaison Gp AFRQ Malta Adv NWAAF
from G-3 Section AFRQ 337 - 30th secret signed Eisenhower
cite FSHCT) Sitrep number 157 March 29.

Part 2.

1. Naval. Dummy landing carried out according
to plan night 27/28 March at Sidi Mechrig J 0936.
Night 29/30 March our motor torpedo boats operated off
Sfax and destroyers operated in Gulf of Hammamet. One
of our submarines on patrol off North coast of Sicily
probably sank 10,000 ton Southbound tanker and 3,000
ton Eastbound tanker which was in tow.

2. Movements completed. First Bn First Armd
Regt arrived Tebessa from Oran coming under command
Two Corps. Movements commenced Gd 67th CA AA Regt
(less 1st and 3rd Bns) and 434th CA Bn Sep AA departed
Oran for Tebessa.

No Sig

Note: Pass copy to Major Briscoe, British Army Signals.

CM-IN-16732 (31 Mar 43)
SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 2 continued URGENT from Algiers to WAR Mar 30 1943

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGN
GENERAL DEANE (CC/S)
ADMIRAL KING
LOG

CM-IN-16732 (31 Mar 43) 1305Z med

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SK 1 DATE FEB 7 1974

COPY No. 54

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
From: Algiers  
To: WAR  

In Reply Cite: 309 March 30, 1943

Algiers area 4 long range enemy (Action Amear Troopers information 18th Army Group AD (NAAF MBS ABS Malta Adv Liaison Group AFEQ Mideast 5 Army from Freedom Algiers 30th.) Reported recc with three additional daytime between Bone and Bougie. Closely observed was shipping near Algiers and in harbour with west bound convoy shadowed between Bone and Bougie at dawn and until 1000Z. Also contacted afternoon shipping northwest of Bougie. Early morning south of Sicily 10 to 12 enemy bomber recc active of which at Bizerta afternoon several landed. This part 2 Air of G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400 Z 29 March. Over Western Mediterranean to Algiers also off eastern Tunisian coast respectively weather flights from Sicily. AGWAR for WDGBI Troopers pass USFOR 18th Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv NAAF pass EAC and 12th AF MBS ABS Malta mideast ADC Grp AFEQ 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps from G-2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite FRGBI. Of which 5 detected near convoy between Bone and Bougie from 700 to 800Z Torpedo bombers from Sardinia out twice. Bougie area evening about 13 bombers operated. While mine sweeper attacked off Bone by 1 bomber 0630Z other details operations lacking. Early afternoon 28 March between 60 and 80 Ju 52 enemy transport landed Tunis. Against our aircraft in Mareth area and north of Gabes German Italian fighters on defensive intercepting patrols operated throughout day. Making numerous small interception flights morning afternoon Paid Maknassy sectors were German fighters. Morning engaged by our aircraft near La Fauconneriel also near Sbeitla morning were Me 109s. On our troops near el Guetta early afternoon nine 109's and FW 190's made bombing ground strafing attacks. Centered northern Tunisia.
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers Page 2
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 309 March 30, 1943

Sedjenane sector enemy main effort where on road targets strafing dive bombing attacks were made. In Medjen Pichon area early morning fighter patrols flown. Part 3 Naval. Off north Sicilian coast 17 and 21 March returning from patrol BM submarine claims attacks on two tankers of which escorted by destroyers first was of 10000 tons and second, in tow, already damaged was of 3000 tons. Both considered sunk. Submarine dispositions western Med. German. Between Alboran and Greenwich Meridian 2. 2 within 60 miles Cape Tenes. Between Cape San Antonio Ibizia I damaged by Italian. No change.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-16581 (31 Mar 43), 0429Z con

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DECLASSIFIED
From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 245 March 30, 1943

French rearmament convoy DGS 6 1/2 ships manifests list tanks M 4 A 2. AGWAR cite SPLLA and FMGDS 51 J signed Eisenhower. Your cable 2737 specifies M 4 A 4. Which is correct?

No Sig.

Ref. 2737 CM-OUT-8070 (23 Feb 43) SOS-INTER

ACTION: ASF

INFORMATION: OPD
GEN. DEANE (CC/S)
MAB

CM-IN-16612 (31 Mar 43) 0541Z cen
From Algiers

To: WAR

In reply cite: No Nr. March 30th, 1943.

*Original position on 05846. Mathenet Div.
No change. (B) 5 corps. 1 div dense smoke J6820
between 1430 hrs 28 Mar and 0800 hrs 29 Mar. Patrols'
found FM J561389 occupied by enemy. Shots exchanged
no casualties. Otherwise no contact by patrols. 46
div northern sector Goums reached area mine Tabogna
J 2464 1000 hrs. 138 BDE. Fighting continues approx 3
and half miles south of mine J1974. Ione para BDE.
Road DJ Abiod - Sedjanane now clear of mines to Tamera
sta J 1074 Goums have reached area DJ Chaibib J1077
capturing 30 kw. Allebrs previously destroyed by enemy
now repaired. Road at J1358 heavily cratered by enemy
air 0960 LRPS. Moves. 38 BDENOW inarea J2743 13(9629)
BDE now in Beja. Section 5. Air. following yesterdays
intensive and most successful operations by the western
desert fighters against the retreating enemy T GT combined
air forces of the desert and cental fronts this
morning destroyed 7 aircrafts in bombing attacks on
landing grounds and 9 plus 2 probables in combat for
the loss of 3 planes. Lend of continuation part 1. CJGE
FHGCT.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF

N.N.G.JOURNAL NO.69 MAR 31, 1943
COPY No.
CM-IN-16653 (31 Mar 43) 0731Z

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

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 310, March 30, 1943.

Enemy withdrawal North and East from Djebel Abiod continues. (AGWAR for WDGBI Troopers pass USFOR I8 Army Group pass 1st Army and 2nd Corps advance NAAF pass EAC and 12th Air Force MBS ABS Malta MidEa
teast advance Liaison Group AFHC 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite WDGBI 310 undated n1) Little opposition except mining of roads. Continued centres of resistance Djebel Choucha J 17 and Djebel Tabouna J 26 prisoners this sector now about 800 Medjez shellied 29 March no enemy encountered Karachoumepangs 0 86. Small number enemy tanks possibly Italian at 0 6029 and 0 6227 slight penetration but subsequent withdrawal. Foregoing Northern Tunisia.

Part 1 and G 2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 29th March. Centre. High ground South of Fondouk abandoned Small Inf attacks only in Maknassy Sector. Enemy on defen
dive West of El Guettar. Part 2 will follow. South El Hamma evacuated night 28th March, Gabes morning 29 March, North enemy opposition coastal sector. Identifications. German. 1 Bn Mareth Line Barenthin J 0976. March Bn 34 South Fondouk Bn 1 04 B East Maknassy. Italian 744 Tunisian Bn South Fondouk. All by PSW General OG enemy on defensive all sectors continues block Maknassy and El Guettar exits to coast covering retirement main forces from south. No indication where next stand likely.

No Sig

Action: G-2
Information: OPD, CG AAF

CM-IN-16449 (30 Mar 43) 2333Z

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From: Algiers
To: War

In reply cite: 0351 March 30, 1943

Each 1st and 2nd RTA now in SP this force and are in area 05632 and 05229 respectively Two bns 9 RTA previously northeast of Ousseltia now returned to original position on 0 5846. Matheney Div no change (B) 5th Corps. One div dense smoke J 0820 between 1430 hrs 28 Mar and 0800 hrs 29 Mar. Patrols found FM J 561389 occupied by enemy. Shots exchanged no casualties otherwise no contact by patrols. 46 Div northern sector Goums reached area mine Tabogna J 2464 1000 hrs. 138th Bde. Fighting continues approx one and half miles south of mine J 1974. One Para Bde. Road Dj Abiod-Sedjianane now clear of mines to Tamera Sta J 1074 Goums have reached area Dj Chlaibih J 1077 capturing 30 PW. All BRS previously destroyed by enemy now repaired. Road at J 1358 heavily cratered by enemy air 0960 hrs. Moves. 38 Bde now in area J 2741, 9129 Bde now in Beja.

Section 5. Air. Following yesterday's intensive and most successful operations by the Western Desert Fighters against the retreating enemy the combined Air Forces of the Desert and Central fronts this morning destroyed seven aircraft in bombing attacks on landing grounds and nine plus two probable in combat for the loss of three planes. Cite FHGCT.
Priority

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 338 March 30, 1943

Djebel Taferma TY 04 in the North and are approaching
(to Troopers information AGWAR USFOR from G-3 AFRQ signed
Eisenhower cite FHGT 338 30 Mar nil. Second part third
and last part follows). Sabria YD 16 in the South.
Two US Corps. Operations were continued in Gafsa area.
One US Inf Div occupied defensive positions 15 miles
east of El Guettar 22 Mar. About 40 tanks of the 10
Panzer Div and 2 Armd Inf Bns attacked this position 23
Mar. Some of our gun positions were overrun but the
attack was repulsed with a loss of about 10(15)* tanks.
Enemy demonstrations have continued but the position has
been maintained. Attacking along the Gafsa-Mahares Road
on 21 Mar the 1 US Armd Div Captured Sened station.
Enemy holding Sened were by passed and the advance
continued towards Maknassy. Arriving 23 Mar at the pass
east of Maknassy at T 8810. The high ground north and
south of the pass has not yet been cleared although some
progress has been made. Our Arty fire has been directed
on Mezzouna airfield. In Sened area 1000 prisoners were
captured. The flank force formerly at Hadjeb El Aïoun
has moved to area 12 miles north of Gafsa. First Army.
There has been active patrolling on both sides but no
major engagement has been fought. On 25 Mar the 1 British
Inf Div relieved 78 Div in Medjez El Bab sector.

Location statement. Eighth Army with Hq at A 1272
consists of 10 Corps D 8890 and 30 Corps E 8693. 10 Corps
consists of 1 Br Armd Div Y9032 2 New Zealand Div Y 9501

(CM-IN-352 1 Apr 43)

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SC
DATE

FEB 7 1974

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
Page 2 from Algiers to War  In Reply Cite 338


Brig Army Group reserve consists of 9 Corp N 6767.

No Sig

*Service on Request

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King

CM-IN-352 (1 Apr 43) 1352Z ems  DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER: 7-5-72
BY SR DATE FEB 7 1974

SECRET

COPY No. 54

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/97
From Algiers
To: WAR

In reply cite: 338

Of operations 20 to 26 Mar 8th Army. (To
Troopers information AGWAR USFOR from G-3 AFBHQ signed
Eisenhower cite FEQCT 338 30 Mar Mil. 3rd weekly summary.
Para 1. Summary) 50 Div supported by 50 Royal Tank Regt
and heavy arty fire attacked enemy positions in Mareth line
night 20/21 Mar. Attack made to NW over Wadi Zigzaou.
Bridgehead secured by 50 Div on line TZ 6311-6111-6110-
6009. On night 21/22 enemy counter attacks succeeded largely
as result of our lack of forward AT guns and our troops were
forced to withdraw west of Wadi Zigzaou. 51 Div attacked
night 22/23 Mar but were held up after a short advance.
2 New Zealand Corps made flanking movement the morning
20 Mar(SW) of the Matmata-Toujane feature and by 24
Mar reached positions 15 miles SW of El Hamr Allan. To
counter this threat to communications of troops holding
Mareth positions the 21 Panzer Div moved into this
sector. Severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy
and over 2000 prisoners captured during this operation.
Because of failure of attack in the east it was decided.
To strengthen the attack on the left. Accordingly HQ 10
corps and 1 British Armd Div moved to Area 24 miles
west of Matmata and the 10 Corps HQ took over from 2
New Zealand Corps on 26 Mar. 10 Corps then consisted of
1 Armd Div. 2 New Zealand Div 8 Armd Brig L(M) force
and Free French flying column. At conclusion of period
covered by this report attack by this Corps is in progress.
SE (5E) Algerian forces. These forces operated throughout.
On South flank of 2 US Corps. They encountered strong
opposition from enemy at Djebel Rouana TY 15. Forward
patrols reached Western spur of Djebel Bou Jerral (TY 15)

(CM-IN-351 1 Apr 43)

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

From Algiers
To: WAR

In reply cite:

and point 608 of Djebel Asker 25 Mar. (1st part 2nd part follows) Camel Corps detachments patrolling north and south of Chott Djerid arrived at.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King

CM-IN-351 (1 Apr 43) 1352Z cms
INCOMING MESSAGE 30, 1943

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite AMSME 5352 Mar 30, 1943

New Zealand Div forward patrols entered Gabor shortly after 1100 hrs. GCT 29th. Isolated enemy posts reported still in this area. First Arm Div patrols approx 1 mile northeast and north of El Hamma Farming 29th. Enemy had evacuated town night before. Fifty First Div forward troops just southeast Teboutbod area Z 3428 at 1130 hrs GCT. Leading troops 4th Ind Div reached road junction Z 2602 by 1140 hrs GCT 29th. Steady progress of 30th Corps continues meeting no opposition. Axis air southern sector defensive patrols over Gabor, few offensive missions and close support land forces El Hamma area.


No Sig

Action: G-2

Information: OPD, CG AAF, Gen. Deane (CC/S), LOG
CM-IN-16243 (30 Mar 43) 1601Z  ce

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 5439, March 29, 1943

Along whole Corps front 30 Corps continued advance afternoon March 28th: by dark Mareth position in British hands. Aram and Mareth occupied by Egyptian Div before dark. Forward elements of 51 Div had reached line approximately 2 miles beyond Zarat - Mareth Road. For Marshall from Bereton. Forward troops 131 Brig reached Toujane with 201 Guards Brig in area east of Rentsik. By 1700 hrs GCT forward troops 4 Lnd Div also reached Toujane, Zeltene and Nettana, all of which were reported clear of enemy. March 28th advance toward Gabes by 2nd New Zealand Div with 8th Arm Div continued. Enemy losses heavy in prisoners and equipment. 1st Arm Div continuing to hold enemy forces to El Hamma Area. Heavy enemy movement north from Gabes reported. Day March 28th RAF reports Spitfires encountered formation JU 87's (88's) Sfax Area while reconnoitering enemy landing grounds. Three JU 87's, 1 ME 109 destroyed. Haze and sandstorms hindered bomber activities.

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11652, Sec. 5(E) and 6(D) or (E)

Action: G-2
By SLR
Date FEB 7 1974

Information: OPD, CG AAF

CM-IN-15893 (29 Mar 43) 2136Z vc
URGENT

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 5338, March 29, 1943.

Enemy in Mareth position reported thinned morning 28th. 51st Div forward troops occupied Arras 1000 hrs GCT, 5th Ind Brig occupied high ground E 4378 Techine and E 3584 without opposition taking some prisoners for Marshall from Brereton. Enemy resistance decreased to 10th Corps evening 27th and many prisoners taken. Morning of 28th advance by 8th Arm Div and 2nd New Zealand Div began towards Gabes. General movement of enemy transport to east reported. 8th Arm Div forward troops reached area Ghir Zouitina Z 1915 by 900 hrs GCT. 1 Arm Div concentrated in area just southwest El Amma area Z 0328 afternoon of 27th. Forward troops 131st Brig reached area E 4780 by 1750 hrs GCT 27th, taking some prisoners. 7th Ind Brig concentrating area E 3464 on 27th. Day 27th RAF reports 3 attacks by P 40 E's on MT between Mareth and El Hamma fronts which destroyed 4 MT 1 tank; 50 MT damaged by strafing. North of battle area Spifires thrice intercepted formations Ju 88's and Me 210's destroying 2 Ju 88's, one Me 210, damaging 3 Ju 18's and 4 Me 210's. RAF losses 3 aircraft. Total losses in 324 sorties supporting March 26 New Zealand attack 8 fighter pilots, 2 light bomber crews missing. Night 26/27 MT on roads Gabes area attacked and fires started by RAF bombers and Albacores. March 27 RAF losses 7 P 40 E pilots missing. Night March 27/28 weather stopped operations.

Action: G-2

Information: OPD, CG AAF

CM-IN-15877 (29 Mar 43) 21042 By SLR Date FEB 7 1974

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

COPY No. 96

For: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 5338, March 29, 1943

Enemy in Mareth position reported thinned morning 28th. 51st Div forward troops occupied Arras 1000 hrs GCT, 5th Ind Brig occupied high ground E 4378 Techine and E 3584 without opposition taking some prisoners for Marshall from Brereton. Enemy resistance decreased to 10th Corps evening 27th and many prisoners taken. Morning of 28th advance by 8th Arm Div and 2nd New Zealand Div began towards Gabes. General movement of enemy transport to east reported. 8th Arm Div forward troops reached area Ghir Zouitina Z 1915 by 900 hrs GCT. 1 Arm Div concentrated in area just southwest El Amma area Z 0328 afternoon of 27th. Forward troops 131st Brig reached area E 4780 by 1750 hrs GCT 27th, taking some prisoners. 7th Ind Brig concentrating area E 3464 on 27th. Day 27th RAF reports 3 attacks by P 40 E's on MT between Mareth and El Hamma fronts which destroyed 4 MT 1 tank; 50 MT damaged by strafing. North of battle area Spifires thrice intercepted formations Ju 88's and Me 210's destroying 2 Ju 88's, one Me 210, damaging 3 Ju 18's and 4 Me 210's. RAF losses 3 aircraft. Total losses in 324 sorties supporting March 26 New Zealand attack 8 fighter pilots, 2 light bomber crews missing. Night 26/27 MT on roads Gabes area attacked and fires started by RAF bombers and Albacores. March 27 RAF losses 7 P 40 E pilots missing. Night March 27/28 weather stopped operations.

Action: G-2

Information: OPD, CG AAF

CM-IN-15877 (29 Mar 43) 21042 By SLR Date FEB 7 1974

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

COPY No. 96
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR - USFOR

In Reply Cite: 71, March 29, 1943.

((AGWAR for WDBI USFOR pass' Troopers 18 Army
Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv NAAF pass EAC and
12th AF WSB ABS Malta Midast ADMC LN Grp ADFQ 5th
Army pass 1 Armd Corps and 6th Corps from G-2 Freedom
signed Eisenhower cite FHGBI 71 date nil)) Part 3.
Naval nothing to report. G 2 report for 24 hours ending
2400Z, 28th March. Part 2 Air. With 5 enemy Bomber
force reported between Algiers and 3 Dega west on
useless quest for shipping and 2 additional active be-
tween Bone-Algiers of which 1 contacted afternoon be-
tween Algiers and Bouie, 2 small convoys there was greater
activity Western Mediterranean. Of Balearnca Area and
south of Sicily usual recce. Nearly 28 March at least
18 JU 88's bombers operated Southern Tunisia with no
reports for night 28-29 March. Arrived Tunis of which
50 afternoon 27 March between 80 and 100 German trans-
port. With objective close support land forces El Hamma
Area, Stukas, JU 88's and Fighter Bombers on small
operations Southern Tunisia. In Gabes Area defensive
patrols by German Italian Fighters as well as in Maknassy-
Faid Area. Over battle area and Medenine thorough recce
by 2 ME 109's with Fighters escort as far as El Hamma.
In Sfax Area engaged by aircraft of WDAF were 2 ME 210's
and 10 JU 88's. Beja-Medjez El Bab Sector German Fighter
Patrols during day with road transport attacked after-
noon by ME 109's and FW 190's.

No Sig

Action : G-2
Information: OPD, CG AAF

DECLASSIFIED
UCS LETTER 7-8-74
BY FR
DATE

CM-IN-15891 (29 March 43) 31272 as

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

WDC
March 29, 1943
19142

URGENT

DECLASSIFIED
JCB LETTER, 7-5-73
BY SR
DATE FEB 7 1974

From: Algiers
To: AGWAR - USFOR

In reply cite: 0/330 March 29, 1943

Section 3. Two US Corps. Omakus Inf Div and
Nine US Inf Div this (2nd and last part 0/330)
morning started offensive operations to capture
high ground north and south road Oima-Oama
area Y 3563-T 4375. Enemy resistance was stub-
born. By the evening Nine US Inf Div on the south
of the road had partly succeeded in capturing its
objective and met advanced elements 47 were on
line Y 3560-Y 3580. To north of road nine US Inf
Div most advanced elements have reached line
Y 3588-Y 3873-Y 4079. Maknassy area no material
change. Advanced elements on line T 8085-T 8015.
Area Poilouk 0 8318. Advanced elements 34 Inf
Div on line 0 8205-O 8316. Active contact with
enemy on all fronts.

Section 4. First Army. (A): 19 Corps. Recon-
naissances in force with in each case one batta-
lion supported by Artillery carried out to 0 5531
O 6135 O 7244 and O 7153. Enemy encountered Atu
5531 but later forward elements reached 06048 (6026) and
took 23 prisoners. Battalion 6 RTA failed to take point
666 06888 owing strong resistance but company occupied
point 704 O 5164. Little enemy opposition met at
other points. (B) 5 Corps 1 Brit Inf Div no change.
46 Div. Beja Sector. 2 Hampshire patrol to point 380
J 3647 engaged enemy strength inflicting casualties.
Dj Abiod Sector. Morning 28 Mar limited attack
launched astride road Dj Abiod - Sedjenane with 36 BDE and

CM-IN-15940 (29 Mar 43)
COPY No.

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NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
From: Algiers  
To: AGWAR  

In Reply Cite: 0/330. March 29. 1943. Page 2  

138 BDE east of road and 1 Para BDE west of road. Attack progressed satisfactorily although hampered throughout the day by bad weather. By evening 138 BDE had reached area J 1870 J 1870 and had 1 Bn temporarily held up in area J 1971 forward units. 36 BDE had reached J 1570 one PZR BDE was moving north from area K 0562(0572) J 6570(0570) after successfully beating off enemy counter attacks. Over 500 prisoners taken mostly Italian. Attack continues.

Section 5. Air. Bad weather restricted bombing operations but fighters and fighter bombers continued to harass the enemy on both fronts. (A) Tunisian Air Forces offensive reconnaissances and fighter strafes Hurribombers made successful attack on tanks and guns NE Maknassy. (B) Western Desert Air Force. Fighter bomber attacks when (end of part 1. Part 2.) (921. Cite FGCT). weather permitted. Fighter sweep destroyed 3 JU 88's and 1 ME 109.

No Sig

Action: OPD

Information: G-2  
CG AAF  
LOG

CM-IN-15940 (29 Mar 43) 2330Z VC
SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

YQV5
Filed 29/221SA
AR

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR
USFOR

In reply cite: No. 0337, March 29, 1943

For period ending 1200 hours 29 March (from 18
Army Group number 0337 dated 29 March. TOO V 100 A,
to (1) Troopers (2) USFOR (Troopers pass) (3) AGWAR
(4) Freedom (5) Governor Malta personal for FM Viscount
Gort (6) Mideast (7) Fifth Army (8) rptd Jacques
(9) 242 Group (10) Bone Area for SOIS (11) HQ L of C
(12) 12 ASC (13) NASAF (14) Tactical Bomber Group
(15) Adv NAFA (for Col MacDonald F 2) (16) 2 US Corps
(10) First Army continuation of SITREP number 156)

Section 1. 8th Army. (A) Steady progress towards
Gables by 30 Corps continues. 2 NZ Div moving towards
Gables have encountered isolated enemy posts Southwest
of the town. Last night enemy evacuated El Hamma
which was occupied by troops of First Arm Div this
morning. (B) 30 Corps. Adv elements 51 Div were
reported just Southeast Taboulbon (T) Z 3428 (T)
Z3428 at 1130 A hrs by 1140 A hrs leading troops 4
Indian Div reached road junction AT Z3608. No opposition
encountered by 30 Corps. (C) 7th Corps. Two NZ Div
continued their advance. At 1100 A hrs our forward
troops were within approx 3000 yards of Gables and later
our patrols entered the town. Isolated enemy posts
reported still in this area. The enemy evacuated El
Hamma last night and this morning patrols First Arm
Div were on line approx 2 miles Northeast and North
of the town. Section 2. Southeast Algeria. MTR. Section
3. Two US Corps. First and Ninth Inf Div continued
attacks during morning. 5th and 36 Inf Bns reached objectives
at (Y) 4189 and (Y) 4187. 47 Inf reported on high ground
at (Y) 3763. 34 Inf Div reported holding high ground South
of Fondoun. Section 4. First Army. (A) 19 Corps.
Strong recce in Olseltia reached Dj Zouamanida (0) 6028 -

CM-IN-16229 (30 Mar 43)

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INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers
To: WAR
In reply cite: No. 0337, March 29, 1943

Bled Margueb (O) 6236-Rd Junc (O) 7244-El Stoum (O) 7254 (B) 5 Corps. 46 Div Dj Abiod Sector. 1 CDO in area Dj Chlucha (J) 1970 were attacked from East evening 28 March no details yet. Section 5. Air. Night 28/29. Bombing of enemy communications in Sfax-Sousse-Kairouan areas resumed in bad weather. Day 29 up to 1200 hours. Fighters strafed Met Gling North on roads from Gabes. Offensive fighter patrols Fuconneri Area destroyed 7 ME 109's and damaged 4. End of part 1. Cite FBGCT.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
GEN DEANE (CCS)
ADM KING
LOG

CM-IN-16229 (30 Mar 43) 1459Z mcs
From: Algiers
To: USFOR-War

In Reply Cite: 53, March 29, 1943

N. Tunisia

Diebel Abiod sector, lines Diebel Abiod-Tamer, Diebel Abiod-Sediane (especially areas Diebel Chourha J 1971 and Diebel Es Sedda J 0771) to our progress (to AGWAR for WDGBI USFOR pass
Troopers 10 Army Gp pass 1st Army and 2 Corps Adv MAAF pass EAC and 12 AF MBS ABS Matsu Mideast
Adv La Grp AFEB 5th Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6th Corps from Freedom 53 signed Eisenhower cite FRGBI)
Strong enemy resistance offered. Later area enemy counter attack was failure. Inactive after 1030Z enemy Arty. Captured were many PSW withstanding Inf resistance, of which 50 percent German total of about 800 taken. Sidi Nair area quiet but by deserter captured night 27-28 March indicated 2nd BN 47 Gr withdrawing pointing to perhaps further weakening enemy forces this sector. Retreat 1st BN 47 Gr covered in C-2 report 140, 28th March. Nothing to report Ouez Zarga, Medjaz and Bou Arada sectors. Driven from strong point at 0 6666, grade Dorsale sector, enemy still holding out vigorously high ground 0 6688. Encountered, Ousseltia Valley, at 0 7230, 0 7455 and 0 6028 enemy advance units. Suggested by identifications fresh enemy units this area believed arrived Tunisia lately.

Fendouk area nothing to report. Foregoing northern Tunisia PART I MAD C-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 28th March. Central Tunisia. Makhassy and El Guettar sectors we are confronted with determined resistance. From 7 6015 to Diebel, Bou Douaoua T 80 and from Y 4462 through Diebel Takdelt Y 47, Diebel El Mehbeltat Y 36, to road junction Y 4165 are hostile.

CM-IN-15930 (29 March 43) as

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COPY No.

310 Inch
forward positions. Southern Tunisia. With El Hamma still strongly held and with determined resistance right of desert flank (General area square Y 90) nevertheless enemy power this area reported weakening. Used chiefly for defense of Oued El Hamma and Oued El Merteba Z02 and (end of 1st cipher part. Part 2 follows) Z01 enemy armor.

No Sig.

Action: G-2
Information: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-15930 (29 March 43) 2259Z as

DECORATED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SK, DATE FEB 7 1974

U.S. JOURNAL NO. 28 MAR 28 1948

SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
From: Alger
To: UNR
In Rep: MAR

DECLASSED - 012356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/1944
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR—London USFOR
In Reply Cite: Unnumbered March 29, 1943

Organization this Bde (with 2 motorized Inf Regts and Arty BN) 3rd and last cipher part. With 1 regimental number unreported other apparently is 981 PS thought to be in command Colonel Kurt Thomas. On EL Hamma front identified by PSW this area are all 3 Inf Regts 164 Div plus 104 PZ Regt and 5 PZ Regt. Presence of 164 Div, 21 PZ Div confirmed by these identifications. Also located same general area 361 PZ Regt and 190 AR. Italian. By PSW north of Djebel Abiod 16 and 34 BNs 10 Bersaglieri. General comment, former reserves in north apparently still being withdrawn by enemy. In center our attacks south of the Dorsale demonstrated enemy planned strengthening himself by use of new units. Considered likely circumstances force enemy to use any elements already arrived before full reorganization could be accomplished. In south approaches to coastal plain from Maknas and El Guettar still obstructed with determined resistance on EL Hamma flank. Probably to accomplish evacuation Mareth garrison (apparently finally decided upon) is resistance EL Hamma flank. As to whether enemy's next stand will be Djebel Tebaga Fatmasa—Oued Akarat line no indications. Parts 2 and 3 will follow.

No Sig.

Action: G-2
Information: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-15936 (29 March 43) 23182 as

SECRET

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URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 53, March 29, 1943.

Majority PSW taken this flank German for 1st time and total taken here and (2nd part of 53 G 2 report) Mareth flanks now considered above 6000. In El Hamra area, 90 Light Div supporting 21 PZ Div and 164 Div. Likely also withdrawn to this front is Spezia Div. Toujane area no details at hand but believed Italian 21 Corps front weakening indicated by reported systematic cleaning up elements DC Pistola Div. Main Mareth Sector considerably weakened. From Arram and Mareth during day enemy withdrawn. From PGR Afrika FW substantiated weakening in progress and added that PGR Afrika proceeding to north of Gages by still unknown exact location Trieste and young Fascists Div. ((AGWAR for WDGBI USFOR pass Troopers 18th Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv NAFF pass EAC and 12th AF ABS ABS Malta MidEast Adv. Liaison AFHQ 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite FHGBI. Identifications. German. By PSW. Djebel Abiod - Tamara area 26 March, Marsch Bn 20 T 3) 2nd and 3rd Bns Bärenthin Regt and Witzig Bn. SI Nair Sector night 27-28 March 2nd Bn 47 IR by deserter who said this unit withdrawing same night from sector. To be also withdrawing now asserted by PSW from 1st and 2nd Ens. Area J 3740 night 27-28 March 3rd 755 IR. Comment. Again in front line probable 755 IR since checked area J 4239, March 26 was 3rd Bn. Area J 5836 by deserter night 27-28 March 2nd Coy 756 MTN Regt. Comment. Taken to substantiate area north of Medjex continued presence 1st Bn 756. Area O 6028, 28 March 1st Bn Afrika Schützen Regt 961. Comment. While PSW allege to be from "999" considered likely this is...
From: Algiers
To: WAR
In Reply Cite: 53, March 29, 1943

Afrika BDE 999 activated Antwerp early this year. By other sources in Feb elements last named unit designated for North Africa. Considered similar to that of (end of 2nd part. Part 3 follows) 90 Light Div.

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF

DECLASSIFIED
JCB LETTER, 7-9-72
BY SR DATE FEB 7 1974

CM-IN-15971 (30 Mar 43) 0105Z ved

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 0/330 - March 29, 1943

For 24 hours ending 2359 hours 28 March (number
330, dated 29 March) TOO 0800 AM from 18th Army Group
to (1) Troopers (Pass USFOR) (2) USFOR (3) GOR (4)
Freedom (5) Governor Malta-Personal for FM Viscount
Gort (6) MidEast (7) 5th Army rptd (8) Jacques (9)
242nd Group (10) Bone Area for SOIS (11) Hq L of C
(12) 12 ASC (13) NASAF (14) Tactical Bomber Group
(15) Adv NAAP (For Col MacDonald ATG ) (16) 2nd
US Corps (17) 1st Army. SITREP number 136 (556).
From AFRHQ, signed C in C.

Part 1.

Section 1. 8th Army.

(A). 30th Corps. During night 27/28
patrols found enemy had appreciably thinned out in
Mareth position. In the morning 30th Corps advanced
and by last light 50th Div had occupied Arous and
Mareth. Forward elements of 51st Div had reached a
line approx 2 miles beyond road Zarit-Mareth. Forward
Troops 131st Bde reached Toujane with 201st
Guards Bde area just East of Rentsia. At 1700 A
hours forward troops 4th Inf Div had reached Toujane
Zeitene and Matlata all of which were reported clear.

(B). 10th Corps. During night 27/28
enemy resistance decreased in front of 2nd NZ Div as
mopping up continued and general enemy MIB movement
to the East was reported in the morning 8th Arm Bde and
6th NZ Bde moved forward and BM 0900 A hours forward
Troops 8th Arm Bde had reached Area Hr Zouinitat
(21915). This move continued towards Gabes throughout
the day. Much equipment and prisoners collected.
Enemy tanks in area TZ1619. Were engaged with good results. 1st Armored Div concentrated in area just South West El Hamam and continued to contain enemy forces in this area throughout the day. El Hamam has been reinforced by enemy from the East.

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: USFOR London (Action)

In Reply Cite: 156, March 29, 1943.


Part 1. Naval. Enemy aircraft and U Boats active against convoy. One ship was torpedoed by aircraft and sank. Two ships were torpedoed 1 by aircraft and 1 by U boat; both ships have been beached. During 2 attacks on convoy by enemy aircraft off Phillippeville 7 enemy aircraft were shot down and 3 damaged by our aircraft. Destroyers carried out U boat hunt west of Oran. Results considered very promising. Algiers Harbour attacked by 8 enemy aircraft with circling torpedoes and bombs evening 26 Mar. One ship previously damaged and under repair received direct hit and is now total loss. Motor torpedo boats operated on intruder patrols from Bone nights 23/24 and 24/25 Mar.


ACTION: O&P
INFORMATION: G-2, CG AAF, CGGN, General Deane (CCS), Admiral King, Log.

CH-IN-1f821 (29 Mar 43) 1853Z ems

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

COPY No. 54
Algiers Harbour attacked on 26th March by 8 J.U. 88's at dusk in poor visibility. Aircraft approached very low and detected by R.D.F. Flew over harbour at about 200 feet from North Westward in two lines and dropped circling torpedoes and bombs in inner and outer harbour. Aircraft apparently carried two circling torpedoes and two bombs each.

Satisfactorily heavy fire was opened by light A/A and ships C R weapons. Three aircraft confirmed shot down and one probable. One of these may have fouled merchant ship balloon wire. P/W state unaware of presence of balloons.

Five torpedoes dropped outside the breakwaters. Of these two were blown up by rifle fire one exploded spontaneously, one ran onto the detached mole and has since been removed and one exploded against outer side of Eastern breakwater. Four torpedoes landed in port area two struck buildings and exploded two others landed ashore but failed to explode.

Bombs struck: unloaded EMPIRE STANDARD previously torpedoed in K.M.S. ten and broke her back.

Minor damage includes destruction of chart depot building. Damage to French Port Directors Building Naval Canteen the sinking of several French harbour craft and superficial damage to trawler HULL. Naval casualties two ratings killed one missing six wounded.

This attack emphasises the vital importance for the protection of shipping of an R.D.F. set capable of detecting very low flying aircraft. It is understood that type 2/73/lark V is now available and will meet the requirements. Request maximum allocation as soon as practicable. Efforts are also being made to obtain supply of U.S. type S.C.R. 582.

F.M. Plans
Admiral Plans M (2)
Air Marshall Cdr. Coleridge (8)
Gen. Macready H.I.
COMINCH (2) Lt. Col. Cook S.O.
MMB C.O.S. S.O.(O) Personal N.M.C.S.
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: WAR

INCOMING MESSAGE

In reply cite: 9888, March 28, 1943

3. Naval. Nothing to report. (To AGWAR WD-10.) USFOR pass Troopers 18 Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv MAAF pass EAC and 13th AF MAS ABS Malta Middle Adv Liaison Group AFHQ 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps from G 2 Freedom 9888 26 TR signed Eisenhower lower cite PAGBI) G 2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 27 March.

2. Air. Eastbound convoy contacted 0235Z shadowed by 4 enemy bomber recce between Djidjelli and Bougie during day. After torpedo bomber attack convoy watched for several hours by second aircraft afternoon. Between Oran and Gibraltar morning 2 further enemy recce reported of which 1 on weather flight. Gibraltar morning 2 JU 88's. Attacked by about 12 enemy bomber torpedo aircraft was eastbound convoy between Djidjelli and Bougie morning hit by torpedo 0900Z. Merchant vessel claimed destroyed by our fighters 7 enemy with others damaged. Operating over Southern Tunisia night March 27-28 between 15 and 20 JU 88's. With 8-6 engined planes arrived Tunis during day 26 March about 150 JU 52's. Little enemy activity southern Tunisia. Probably by ME 110's over area south of Metmata extensive mid morning recce performed. Intercepted Gabes area afternoon probably by offensive mission formation JU 88's. Active over Tebaga and El Hamma during day occasional small fighter patrols including Italian. Gabes area last light Spitfires engaged escorted offensive patrol. To small early morning fighter sweeps Mateur-Medjez El Bab sector northern Tunisia activity confined.

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD CG AAF

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

From: Algiers

To: War

In reply cite: 0/319, March 28, 1943

With Albacores attacked enemy motor transport concentrations on roads in Gabes area. In spite of poor visibility they caused several fires. Day 27. After early recce reporting much movement on Gabes-El Hamma road Kittybombers made 2 attacks on these targets. 1st attack found good targets and claimed 4 MT and 1 tank in flames after direct hit and 50 motor transport damaged. 2nd attack targets dispersed and intense Ack Ack encountered. A later Kittybomber attack on MT reported SW of Gabes found no targets and returned with bombs. Spitfires operating deep into enemy territory in the Sfax area intercepted an escorted formation of 8 ME 210's and claim one ME 210 destroyed and 2 others damaged. 2 Spitfires missing and 1 forced landed in our own lines. Spitfires also encountered 10 Ju 88's about to attack our land forces south of El Hamma. They destroyed 2 and damaged 3 and forced the remainder to jettison their bombs on their own troops. Tunisian Air Forces. In the north haze prevented combat interception patrols. Hurribombers attacked army targets Maknassy area. Offensive reconnaissance show little movement in front.

End of continuation Part 1, Nr 0/319. Part 2 follows. Cite FOGCT.

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2, CG AAF, CGGN, General Deane (CCS), Admiral King, Log.

CM-IN-15344 (28 Mar 43) 1933Z ems

DECORATED

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
Northern Sector no reports enemy offensive operation. (AGWAR USFOR repeated 18 Army Group Advance HAAF, MBS, ABS, Malta, Mideast, Advance Liaison Group AFHQ, 5 Army from G-2 Freedom. 9889. Began Eisenhower cite FGROI. AGWAR for WDGBI USFOR pass Troopers 18 Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv HAAF pass EAC and 12th AF MBS, ABS, Malta Mideast, Adv La 2 Grp AFHQ, 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps) Along ridge running northeast from J 2280 to Djebel El Asel J 2563, 27 March enemy Ba perhaps from Barenthin Regt reported in position. Stated unoccupied, night 26/27 March but with some enemy observed high ground 500 yards north of Chassart, Smidia J 5939, Chassain Teffaha J 5741 and Sidi Naceur. No reports Bou Arada-Djebel Mansour sector. Free from enemy Ousseltia Valley sector, Djebel Tounila O 8063 and Djebel Er Rihana O 7546. No other reports this sector. Foregoing Northern Tunisia part 1 land G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 27 March. Central Tunisia. With no opposition by enemy ground forces resistance our occupation Fondouk minimum, restricted to MG fire. Seen midday north Hadjeb El Aoua O 6510, four unidentified tanks 27 March. Possibly from 31 Tank Regt or from 136 Anti Tank Bn. This unit thought to be Northern Tunisia. Mainly defensive, digging in, enemy's dispositions Maknassy sector. Southern Tunisia. With armor believed moved eastwards across Oued El Merteba Z 01, El Hamma sector, enemy withdrew to about two miles south of El Hamma result our
War Department
Classified Message Center

Incoming Message

To: Incoming Center
In reply: 29 Mar 43

From: W. O. M. E. N.

Armored attack 26 March on principal highway from Gabes toward El Hamma 1330Z 27 March heavy movement seen by air recce.

No sig

Action: G-2

Information: OPD
             CG AAF

CM-IN-15482 (29 Mar 43) 0056Z

DECLASSIFIED
JCS Letter, 7-5-72
By SK, Date FEB 7 1974

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

Secret
Copy No. 26
URGENT

From Algiers
To: WAR

In reply cite: 9926, March 28th, 1943.


Action: OPD
Information: G-2
CG AAF
CGNM
Gen. Deane (CC/B)
Adm. King

CM-IN-15452 (20 Mar 43) 0013Z vc

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY , DATE
FEB 7 1974

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COPY No. 54

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94
BASEGRAM, ( ( ADMIRALTY REPT) C IN C LEVANT AFHA LONDON BAD WASHINGTON FOC GIBRALTAR V A MALTA F O H CONINCH.

1. HMS HOLCOMBE ATTACKED CONTACT IN POSITION 36-28 NORTH 67-24 WEST AT 1145/24. ALL AVAILABLE DESTROYERS FROM FORCE HOW AT MERS EL KEBIR PROCEEDED TO HUNT WITH AIR COOPERATION UNTIL 0745/25. NO FURTHER CONTACT WAS OBTAINED.

2. FRENCH TRAWLER SERGEANT GOUKE WAS SUNK BY U-BOAT AT 0320/26 60 MILES EAST OF ALBORAN ISLAND. 14 SURVIVORS.

3. PRINS WILHELM 3RD IN CONVOY KMS ELEVEN WAS TORPEDOED BY AIRCRAFT AT 0745/26 IN POSITION 37-46 NORTH 02-14 EAST. SHIP WAS TAKEN IN TOW BUT CAPSIZED AND SANK AT 0240/27.

4. CITY OF PERTH IN CONVOY MKS 15 TORPEDOED BY U-BOAT IN POSITION 35-47 NORTH 01-30 WEST AT 1844/26. SHIP HAS BEEN REACHED NEAR CAPE FEGALO WEATHER CONDITIONS PREVNTING TO WAGE TO ORAN. SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE PROCEED- (P.1 OF 3.)

SECRET

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

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1. ING.

5. HMS TARTAR AND QUANTOCK MADE FOUR ATTACKS ON U-BOAT IN 35-55 NORTH 41-41 WEST AT 1920/26 AFTER QUANTOCKS LAST ATTACK EXPLOSION HEARD AFTER PATTERN DETONATED AND CONTACT WAS LOST. LATER LARGE DIESEL OIL PATCH COVERED AREA HALF A MILE SQUARE.

6. ALGIERS HARBOUR ATTACKED BY 8 JU'S 88 WITH CIRCLING TORPEDOES AND BOMBS AT 1935/26. DETAILS ARE REPORTED IN BY 1750/28.

7. EMPORIE ROUXN IN CONVOY KMS 11 HIT BY AIRCRAFT TORPEDO IN POSITION 37-16 NORTH 0654 EAST AT 1005/27. SHIP HAS BEEN REACHED 18 MILES WEST OF PHILIPPEVILLE AND SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. CONVOY WAS AGAIN ATTACKED IN BY AIRCRAFT ABOUT NOON WITHOUT LOSS. THE 2 RAIDS 7 ENEMY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN BY FIGHTERS AND 3 DAMAGED.

(PAGE 2 OF 3.)

DECLASSIFIED
JCS MEMO 1-73
BY SR Date FEB 7 1974

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

FROM
RELEASED BY
DATE
TOR CODEROOM
DECODED BY
PARAPHRASED BY

ADDRESSES
FOR ACTION
INFORMATION

EXTENSION NUMBER

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PRIORITY
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DEFERRED

INDICATE BY ASTERISK ADDRESSES FOR WHICH MAIL DELIVERY IS SATISFACTORY.

1822A/28
NCR 3879

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TIME
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TEXT

ACTION

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8. MTBS FROM MONE OPERATED ON MERNHIDR PATROL BETWEEN GALITA AND MAINLAND ON NIGHTS 23/24 AND 24/25.

3 COPIES TO 26-G

SECRET

PAGE 3 OF 3

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

DECLASSIFIED
JCR Memo. 1-47-73
By SR, Date FEB 7 1974
ALGIERS HARBOR ATTACKED ON 26TH MARCH BY 8 JU 88'S AT DUSK IN POOR VISIBILITY. AIRCRAFT APPROACHED VERY LOW AND DETECTED BY RDF. FLEW OVER HARBOR AT ABOUT 200 FEET FROM NORTH WESTWARD IN 2 LINES AND DROPPED CIRCLING TORPEDOES AND BOMBS IN INNER AND OUTER HARBOR. AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY CARRIED 2 CIRCLING TORPEDOES AND 2 BOMBS EACH.

2. SATISFACTORILY HEAVY FIRE WAS OPENED BY LIGHT A/A AND SHIPS CR WEAPONS. 3 AIRCRAFT CONFIRMED SHOT DOWN AND ONE PROBABLE. ONE OF THESE MAY HAVE FOULED MERCHANT SHIP BALLOON WIRE. P/W STATE UNAWARE OF PRESENCE OF BALLOONS.

3. FIVE TORPEDOES DROPPED OUTSIDE THE BREAKWATERS. OF THESE TWO WERE BLOWN UP BY RIFLE FIRE ONE EXPLODED SPONTANEOUSLY, ONE RAN ON TO THE DETACHED MOLE AND HAS SINCE BEEN REMOVED AND ONE EXPLODED AGAINST OUTER SIDE OF EASTERN BREAKWATER.

4. TORPEDOES LANDED IN PORT AREA 2 STRUCK BUILDINGS AND EXPLODED 2 OTHERS LANDED ASHORE BUT FAILED TO EXPLODE.

4. BOMBS STRUCK UNLOADED EMPIRE STAN YARD PREVIOUSLY TORPEDOED IN KMS 16 AND BROKE HER BACK. DECLASSIFIED JCB MEMO, 1-17-73 BY SK | DATE FEB 7 1974
5. MINOR DAMAGE INCLUDES DESTRUCTION OF CHART DEPOT BUILDING. DAMAGE TO FRENCH PORT DIRECTORS BUILDING NAVAL CANTEEN.
THE SINKING OF SEVERAL FRENCH HARBOUR CRAFT AND SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE TO TRAWLER HULL. NAVAL CASUALTIES 2 RATINGS KILLED 1 MISSING 6 WOUNDED.

6. THIS ATTACK EMPHASISES THE VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHIPPING OF AN RDF SET CAPABLE OF DETECTING VERY LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT TYPE 273 MARK V IS NOW AVAILABLE AND WILL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS. REQUEST MAXIMUM ALLOCATION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. EFFORTS ARE ALSO BEING MADE TO OBTAIN SUPPLY OF U.S. TYPE BCR 582.
In Reply Cite: 0/319, March 28, 1943.

HQ L of C 12 ASC NASAF Tactical Bomber Group
ADV NAAF 2 US Corps First Army from 18 Army Group
0/319 Mar 28, 599 0745A) From AFHQ signed CINC. Part
1 continues. Section 1 Eighth Army. 7th Arm Div
continued to move forward towards area Bentaia and 4 Ind
Div kept up their pressure towards Houjana and Teccine.
On 10 Corps front severe fighting continued whilst
German posts were cleared up in area SW of El Hamma.
(A). 30 Corps. By 1750A hours leading troops 131 BDE
had reached Aisa (Y) E 4780. Forward troops of 5
103 BDE had reached (Y) E 3876 and (Y) E 3474 6
1740A hours. Some PW were taken. 7 Ind BDE concentrating
area (Y) E 3474 (Y) E 3464 (B). 10 Corps. During afternoon
the enemy moved from area DY 9919 into deep Wadi
running south from Oglat Merteba (T) E 0314 1st Arm Div
situated between road and Djebel in area (T) E 0358 2
NZ Div astride road area (T) Y 0919 and still encountering
stiff resistance on southern flank. Considerable enemy
movement was observed. During afternoon from east and
south south east towards El Hamma which appears to be
strongly held. Section 5, Pir. Following up enemy
ground movements after yesterday's battle the western
desert air Force continued to harass the enemy in the
Gabras area. Western Desert Air Forces. Night 26/27
((Second part follows)). 54 Wellingtons and 6 Halifaxes.

No Sig
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: ANSKE 5317, March 28, 1943

By 1515 hours GCT 26th the 5th Ind Brig had reached area E 3472. After being delayed by mines and enemy resistance on the 27th 4th Ind Div continued good progress by 1700 hours GCT with 8th Ind Brig towards Teine E 2887 from Southeast and 7th Ind Brig in Area E 26. Thirtieth Corps Patrols report enemy still holding Northern Sector positions 27th. 151st Brig E 6193 vice 201 guards Brig relieved. Night 26th, 27th, 2nd New Zealand Div captured commanding ground area York 9306, York 9305 later attacked Northeast astride El Hamma road between Djebel Tebaga. First Arm Div commenced thrust towards El Hamma early hours morning 27th after successful completion concentration area York 9912 night before. From Brereton. Enemy tanks reported withdrawing East of Wadi El Mortebe Area Z 1313. New Zealand mopping up 26th battlefield area meeting stiff enemy resistance on high ground.

No Sig.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD CG AAF

By SLR Date: FEB 7 1974

CM-IN-15201 (28 Mar 43) 1419Z

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

From: Algiers

To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0/318 March 28, 1943

Camel Platoon occupied Sabria (D) 1563 and Rhidma (Q) 1874. Number 0/318 to Troopers pass USFOR AGWAR Freedom Governor Malta-personal for FM Viscount Gort Mideast 5th Army rptd Jacques Moulares 24 (242) group Bone area for Sois Hq L of CS 12 ASC Nasaf Tactical Bomber Group for Colonel MacDonald A 22 United States Corps First Army from 18 Army Group dated 28 March TQO 0455 A. Part 1 Sitrep number 155 for 24 hours ending 2359 hours 27 March. From AFEQ signed CINC.

Part 1.

Section 1. 8th Army. Follows later.

Section 2. South east Algeria.

Section 3. 2 Corp. 34 Division continued attack and Enerbe Fondouk at 2100 A after encountering slight resistance. 1 Arm Division continued occupation of Makhnassy and maintained patrols. 62 FA Battalion moved from Gafsa to Makhnassy. 1 Infantry Division and 9 Infantry Division continued organization. Patrol activity in front of 1 Infantry Div continued although visibility restricted by dust.

Section 4. 1st Army. (A). 19 Corps. Velvert Div reconnaissance in force to Es Sauak Ridge (0) 7250 26 March was shelled on objective by enemy but made no contact with ground troops. Infantry patrol night 26/27 March crossed Oued Nerd astride Maktar-Pichon road and remain in positions Ras Edldhara (0) 5929. Mathinet Division patrols report (0) 7449.
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers
To: WAR
In Reply Cite: 0/318 March 28, 1943

Bir-Elmurni (0) 7753 (Ounteila Si Saad (0) 7756 unoccupied Dj Bou Dabeuss (0) 65 Dj El Queshtatia (0) 85 occupied by enemy. Goum patrol to Dj Touilla (0).
8036 made contact with Italians. (B), 5 Corps 1 Division patrols night 26/27 March found Smaida (J) 5939 Chassart Teffana (J) 5741 Carceur (J) 5437 Daprat (J) 4735 unoccupied but saw enemy on hills 500 yards north of Chassart. 46 Div. Patrols 26 March crossed river (J) 1567. No contact. Night 26/27 March successful small raid on enemy positions (J) 5151. Bn 128 8de pushed forward 27 March from area (J) 2254 to area (J) 2460 and report enemy possibly 1 Bn on line (J) 2260-(J) 2461 1 along ridge to Dj Assel (J) 2563.

End of Part 1. Part 2 follows. Section 5. Air. to follow cite FBECK.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFO: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
GENERAL DEANE (CC/S)
ADMIRAL KING
LOG

CM-IN-15263 (28 Mar 43) 1634Z med

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
By: 
DATE: FEB 7 1974

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

COPY No. 54
From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 4319, March 28, 1943.

Dusk evening 27th forward patrols 2nd Armd Brig Z 0025, 1st Armd Div Z 0424. Enemy tanks reported withdrawn north of them. New Zealand Div captured high ground Djebel Tebaga and clearing up area. Forty tanks suddenly appeared area Y 8508 routed by 8th Armn Div evening 27th. Previously reported concentration hull kws tanks Y 9613 believed 15th Armn Div. Enemy at Mareth Line positions showing nervousness. From Brereton Djebel Er Reintait E 5186 reported still occupied by enemy. Eighty of Pistoia Div surrendered when threatened only 3 shots fired. Heavy movement motor transport reported north and northwest March 26th from Squares Z 40 and 41 and exceptionally heavy same direction from El Hamma Z 03. Ground and air reports indicate partial enemy withdrawal Mareth Line suggested by fresh movements. Main enemy Mareth defenses still in position. Fourth Lgt Armn Div mopping up area in south.

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF
Log
By SLR
Date FEB 1974
General Deane (CCS)

CM-IN-15206 (28 Mar 43) 1426Z ems

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

Mar 28, 1943

SECRET

OPERATIONAL
PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 5330, March 28, 1943.

Tank runners 40th Tank Regt 1200 hrs GCT
27th reported as 21. 15th Arm Div moving towards
Gubes area Z 0815 March 27th 1200 hrs GCT. Indications
entire 164th Div was on high ground Djebel Tebaga as
right flank 21st Div. Div in plain. Special elements
identified left flank 21st Div. 5th Indian Brig moving
towards Toujane and Teshine report rest of Italian 21st
Corps this area moving northeast. Anti tank fortifications
east of Mareth Line reported vacated. From Brereton 9th
Air Force Bomber Command reports no operations March 27th.
12th, 79th no report yet received. Thirty nine planes of
57th Group dropped 5,760 lbs of bombs during fighter
bomber and strafing operation, report 40 transport de-
stroyed and 25 damaged, 1 tank damaged four 88 MM Ack Ack
gun crews shot up, 2 truck loads of men killed and many
other, 3 pilots missing. Operations report not received
from RAF.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2

CG AAF

CM-IN-15238 (28 Mar 43) 1513Z ems

SECRET

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

From: Algiers
To: War USFOR

In reply cite: 9663 March 27, 1943

(AWGR for WDGR USFOR pass Troopers 18
Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps Adv MAF
pass EAC and 12th AF MS ABS Malta Mideast Adv
Liaison Grp AFHQ 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and
2 Corps from G-2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite
FRENI. 9663 undated nil) Off Algerian Coast three
JU 88's eneemy recce of which one on
weather flight two others active Algiers area,
one at 0930Z other 1400Z. From Sicily four ad-
ditional reported, one off eastern Tunisian
coast one Gulf of Syrte. North of Delliys 2142Z
and chased to 30 miles northeast Cape Matifou
during night one enemy recce which later again
engaged by fighters and chased off Cape Corbelin.
Attacked shipping Algiers Harbour 16302 at least
six enemy bombers and circling torpedo bombers
observed. Reported shot down in harbour two with
one empty Allied ship struck. Returned probably
to Sardinia after this operation. Howver landed
in Majors before attack on Algiers started was
one. Landed Tunis morning 25 March between 80
and 7.00 German transport. Continuing slight and
decreasing during day enemy air activity Southern
Tunisia. While several small offensive sweeps
southwest of El Hamma and in El Guettar and Mak-
masseyy area accomplished by enemy fighters, main
activity was landing ground protection patrols
over Gabes and Tebaga by German Italian fighters.
Encountered over target were 15 ME 109's FW 190's

DECLASSIFIED
D.O. LETTER. 7-5-72
BY SK
DATE FEB 7 1974

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

COPY No.
MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT:

TUNISIA:

1. New Zealand division has "reached its objective" 15 miles S.W. of El Hamma. The British 1st Armored Division is also concentrated in this area, reinforcing the New Zealand column.

2. Division Headquarters and one infantry regiment of the 9th Division have been moved up to reinforce the 1st U.S. Division in the El Guettar region.

3. Cooperating with attack, 8th Army Western Desert Air Force caught large number of motor transport retreating northwards in concentrated bombing and strafing attacks whilst Northwest African Air Force assisted by pinning enemy air force to ground by heavy attacks on his landing grounds.

Very respectfully,

Chester Harmon,
Lt. Colonel, General Staff.

By Maj.

By W. J.

FEB 7 1943

SECRET
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(2) and 6(D) or (E)

OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

From: CAIBO

To: AGWAR

By SLR

Date: FEB 7 1974

In reply cite: ANSME 5298 March 27, 1943

Battalion of Pistoia Division reported
identified Djebel Melah March 24th, 51st
Division forward troops occupied area g 6004, Z
5904, 275403. 7th Armored Division patrols con-
tinue operations northwest and southwest
Medenine. Evening 25th, 5th Ind Inf Brig
reached Hallouf and leading troops 7th Ind
Inf Brig area 4456 delayed by mines. Night
21st, Twenty-second Naval Gunboat bombarded
Gabor. Later motor launches staging feint,
landing north of Gabor, drew some machine gun
fire. Additional small feint convoy sailed
towards Gabor, not sighted by enemy. (from
Brereton) Ninth Air Force Bomber Command reports
no operations March 26th. 26 planes of 12th
group dropped 57,025 pounds of bombs, 5,350
pounds of flares and fire bombs on Mareth area
and PKN points. Claim 1 direct hit in target
area, and fires in target area. 57th group
reports no operations. 79th group reports 96
planes dropped 11,520 pounds of bombs during
fighter bomber and strafing missions.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD, CG AAF, General Deane (CCS).

CM-IN-14630 (27 Mar 43) 1551Z
ems

SECRET

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

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

COPY No. 51
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

WDCC
March 27, 1943
2317Z

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: USFOR War

In reply cite: 9656 March 27, 1943

Part two SITREP number 154 March 26.

1. Naval. (added USFOR rptd AGWAR Troopers
5th Army Mideast 18th Army Group Hq, Liaison Group
AFHQ Malta Adv Northwest African Air Force for in-
formation from G-3 Section AFW 9656 26 Mar)
No reports. Signed Eisenhower. Cite FGCT.

Movements completed. Hq, Btry and 3rd Bn
213th CA AA Regt arrived Tergoma from Casablanca.
Movements commenced. 355th CA Bn Sep (AA) Search-
light departed Oran for Tergoma.

Action: OPD

Information:
G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
Gen. Deane (CC/S)
Adm. King

CM-IN-14865 (28 Mar 43) 0026Z vc

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COPY No. 54

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

In reply cite: 5307 March 27, 1943

Units of 164th Div opposing New Zealanders reported holding high ground area Y 6212. From Brereton British 1st Arm Div Southeast corner square Y 91 on 25th of March.

Action: OPD

Information: G-2
             CG AAF

CM-IN-14778 (27 Mar 43) 21352 vc

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER. 7-5-72
BY SK, DATE FEB 7 1974

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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

In reply cite: AMSME 5318  March 27, 1943

Coastal sector 30th Corps reports little activity. 4th Inf Div reports good progress towards Toujane taking many Italians prisoners. 10th Corps launched attack afternoon 26th with 1st Arm Div, 2nd New Zealand Div, 8th Arm Brig, L Force, and Fighting French Flying Column under command. Operations reported proceeding according to plan. (From Brereton) Day 26th RAF reports three formations bombers bombed enemy troops south of El Hamma followed by 20 squadrons fighter bombers bombing and strafing intensively same area two and one half hours until 1700 hrs GCT claiming 80 motor transport destroyed and 200 damaged. Concentrations enemy Inf also dispersed. Escort encountered one formation ME 109's claiming three damaged without loss. Losses for day not yet known. Right 25/26 135 sorties by light medium and heavy bombers same area caused many fires.

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(F) and 8(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 1, 1972

Action: OPD
Information: G-2

CG AAF
LOG

CM-IN-14760 (27 Mar 43) 2119Z VC M.I.B. JOURNAL NO 295 MAR 27 1943

COPY No. 26

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

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

From: Algiers
To: USFOR War

In Reply Cite 0316 Mar 27, 1943

Active patrolling by 30 Corps during last night. (Number 0 316 dated 27 March to nil from 18 Army Group to Troopers Pass USFOR AGWAR Freedom Governor Malta personal for FM V S Count Gor Mideast 5th Army rpdc Jacques Moularea 242 Group Bone area for SOIS Eq L of C 12 ASC NASAF tactical bomber group advance NAAF for Colonel MacDonald A 22 United States Corps 1st Arm. Part 1 SITREP number 154 for period ending 1800 hours 27 March. From APhQ signed CINC Part 1 continues. Section 1. 8th Army. South West El Hamma good progress has been made but violent fighting continues. (A). 30 Corps. Patrols of 30 Corps report enemy still holds this position in the northern sector. The relief of 201 guards brigade by 151 BDE took place without incident. Four Indian Division after being delayed by mines enemy resistance continue to make good progress with 5th Indian BDE moving towards Teghine (T) E 28 from the southeast and 7 Indian BDE in area (T) E 26. (B). 10 Corps. Last night the concentration 1 Armored Division in area (T) Y 9912 was successfully accomplished and a thrust towards El Hamma was started in early hours of morning. By (1145) 4 hours 2 Arm BDE was 2 miles from El Hamma. Enemy tanks are reported to be withdrawing to east of the Wadi El Aertetle (T) 01. Further southwest in area yesterdays battle field mopping up operations by 2 New Zealand Division in face of stiff enemy resistance are in progress on B high ground Zemlet El Madgel (T) Y 90 and Djebel Tebag. Section 2 south east Algeria.

CM-IN-14994 (26 Mar 43)
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Argent
To: USFOR War

In Reply Cite 0316 Mar 27, 1943

Follows in next SITREP. Section 3 2 Corps. 34 Infantry Division attacked eastwards at last light this morning and have reached area 10 miles southwest of Fondouk (0) S317 after encountering slight opposition. NTF in El Guettar and Maknassy area. (Rsp of Part I. Cite FBCT. Section 4 1st Army. Follows in next SITREP. Section 8. Air. Follows in next SITREP.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
GEN. DEANE (CC/B)
ADM. KING
LOG

CM-IN-14994 (28 Mar 43) 0505Z cen

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER 3-3-72
BY SK DATE FEB 7 1974

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COPY No. 54

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

From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite Y 7327 Mar 27, 1943

MARETH

Unoccupied Z 6008 anti tank ditch number of guns south of main road largely decreased and into position (second and last cipher part Freedom 9663) either side of road number of 88 MM guns have been placed. From Spezia Div secto some northwesterly movement reported. However 90 Light Div, pivoted whole defense line, apparently unmoved. Identifications. German by PSW.

Area J 4239, 26 March 11 Coy 755 IR. Comment. Presumably in reserve areas for about 3 weeks this first contact identification since 5 March with 755 ea. West of Medjez night 25-26 March, by deserter, 10 Coy 757 (Mtn) Regt. Comment. Night 12-13 March northeast Oued Zarga east identification 3rd Bn southwest El* Sig. Four Div plus 2nd Btry Africa Arty Regt 1 reported. Italian 1st QN 66 IR (Trieppe Div) Pisto Div area E 3374.

General comment. Perhaps enemy has decided to retire from Mareth position suggested by apparent weakening there plus reinforcement troops guarding southwestern approaches to Gabes by 15 PM Div 164 Light Div. To accomplish this enemy may endeavor maintain open corridor by strengthening defense of all approaches from southwest and west.

If foregoing correct assumption perhaps on line Djebel Tebaga Fatnassa Z 05 Oued Akrarit Z 25 main enemy body will attempt stand. Prepared positions already dug, to certain extent, line indicated. Parts 2 and 3 will follow.

No Sig

*Being Serviced.

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-15059 (25-02-60)

COPY No. 26
From: Algiers
To: WAR - London USFOR Information

In Reply Cite: 9571 March 27, 1943

It was officially announced last night [information AEWAF Washington USFOR London from Freedom 9571 27th March nil] that General Catroux had arrived in Algiers and that he was immediately received by General Giraud.

Information AEWAF Hull and Combined Chiefs of Staff USFOR British Chiefs of Staff and Ambassador Matthews signed Eisenhower's cite FNCIV Murphy. NAF 101. The announcement prominently published in the mornings local press together with a report of DeGaulle's broadcast from London stating that he would shortly proceed to North Africa and meet General Giraud, "A great soldier and a noble figure".

No Sig.

ACTION: CCS

INFORMATION: OPD
General Strong
Admiral King
General Arnold

CM-IN-15150 (28 Mar 43) 1257Z

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

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0/310, March 27, 1943.

(( To (1) Troopers (pass USFOR) (2) USFOR
(3) AGWAR (4) Freedom (5) Governor Malta - personal
for PM Viscount Gort (6) Mid east (7) 5th Army rptd
(8) Jacques Moularet (9) 242 Group (10) Bone Area for
SOI (11) HQ L of C (12) 12 ABC (13) NASAF (14) Tactical
Bomber Group (15) Adv NASAF (for Col MacDonald A 2 (16)
2nd US Corps (17) 1st Army. From, 18 Army Group number
O 310, TOO 1030A/27.) Part 1 SITREP No 154 for 24
hrs ending 2359 hrs 26 Mar. From AFHQ signed CINC.
Part 1 continues. Section 1. 8th Army. Little activity
on the Coastal Sector in 30 Corps front. Further to the
south west 4 Inf Div made good progress towards the
Tojane Area taking many Italian PW. In the area south
west of El Hamma an attack was launched this afternoon
by 10 corps with 1 Armd Div 2 NZ Div 8 Armd Bde L Force
and Free French Flying Column under command. Excellent
progress was made and operations are proceeding accord-
ing to plan. WD Air Force carried out continuous and
intensive bombing and strafing attacks on enemy forward
troops and gun positions throughout the operation. (A)
30 Corps. Activity in the Coastal Sector last night and
today was confined to patrol activity. 69 Bde relieved
131 Bde without incident. By 1100A hrs 5 Ind Bde forward
troops had occupied CPR ground area. (K) E 4275 ( (Y) E
4275). Bde were somewhat held up by extensive minefield
area (Y) E 4555. By 1615 A hrs 5 Ind Bde had reached
area (Y) E 3472. (B) 10 Corps. Last night 2 NZ Div
captured commanding ground in area (T) Y 9306 - (T) Y
9305. At 1600 A hrs 2 NZ Div with 8 Armd Bde under

(CM-IN-14716 27 Mar 43)
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0/310, March 27, 1943.

command attacked north east astride the El Hamma
9549-Z south of the Ajebel Tebaga.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King

CM-IN-14716 (27 Mar 43) 1942Z

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SR DATE FEB 7 1974
URGENT

SUPPLEMENTARY CORRECTION

From: Algiers
To: War
USFOR

In Reply Cite: 9662 March 27, 1943

This is correction of garbled portion of original message:

--West of Medjez night 25-26 March, by deserter, 10 Coy 756 Mtn Regt. Comment: Night 12-13 March northeast Cued Zarga last identification 3rd Bn. Southwest El Hamma, desert flank, 104 Pgr, 155 RR(AR) and 5 PZ Regt all elements 21 Pz Div. Same general area all 3 Inf Regts 154 Div plus 2nd Btry Africa Arty Regt 1 reported, Italian. First Bn 66 IR (Trieste Div). Pistocia Div area E 3374. General comment. Perhaps enemy has decided to retire from Mareth position suggested by apparent weakening there.

No Sig


ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF
General Deane (CCS)

CM-IN-15220 (28 Mar 43) 14482 ems
From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0/306, March 27, 1943.


(CM-IN-14612 27 Mar 43)
enemy gathering in Elgantas area. Day 26. For period of 2 1/2 hours bombers and fighter bombers bombed and straffed MT southwest of El Hamma. Enemy reported to be retreating towards noth. (End of part 1. (Part 2 follows. Cite FOBCT) Many vehicles in flames. Dusty conditions prevailed. 3 ME 109.)

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King
Log
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

CCWD
Mar 27
0927Z

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: USFOR

In Reply Cite SITREP 154 Mar 27, 1943


No Sig

CM-IN-14537 (27 Mar 43)

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-3-72

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INCOMING MESSAGE

Page 2 continued SITREP 154 March 27, 1943

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
GENERAL DEANE (CC/S)
ADMIRAL KING

CM-IN-14537 (27 Mar 43) 1153Z med
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: War - London USFOR

In Reply Cite: Z6629, March 27, 1943

(End of Part 1 my 0 310 pass as requested in 1st section Part 1). By last night 2 NZ Div had gained all objectives and were established astride road in approx area ((T) Y 9211). One Arm Div passed through 2 NZ Div and is concentrating area (T) Y 9912. End of continuation Part 1. Part 2 follows. Cite F/BGCT.

No Sig.

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION:
G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King

CM-IN-14613 (27 Mar 43) 1453Z ems

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SK, DATE FEB 7 1974

COPY No. 54
From: Algiers
To: WAR

In Reply Cite: 0297, March 26, 1943.

FM 18 Army Group to Troopers USFOR AGWAR

Freedom Governor Malta (personal for Viscount Gort)
Mideast 5th Army rptd Jacques Moulares 242 STBNJ SOIS
Bone Hq L of C 12 ASC NASAF Tactical Bomber Group
Adv NAAF (for Col McDonald AWL (2) US Corps 1st Army
No 0297. Part 1 SITREP No 153 for 24 hours to 2359
Section 1. 8th Army. (A). 30 Corps. 51 3 ZB advanced
last night occupied area Z6004 Z5904 Z5903. Patrols
7th Armd Div to North West and South West of Medenine.
The advance of 4th Ind Div continued and good progress
was made during the day. By evening Inf 5th Ind Bde
had reached Maifar and leading Tps of 7th Ind Bde
area Z 4556 where they were delayed by mines. (B).
Operations continued. Section 2. Southwest Algeria.
Patrols night 24/25 Mar reached Spur west of Djebel
Biert Adjebel Rouna and Point 680 Djebel Asker. Camel
tps moved towards Sabria. Section 3. 2nd Corps.
1st Inf Div. During the morning 1 light attack by
enemy was repulsed. Little enemy air activity over
the Div. (1) Armd Div continuing attack on the pass
T 8811. Much air activity over the Div. Section 4.
1st Army. (A). 19th Corps. Enemy patrol reached 07198
and 07199. Further advance stopped. Increased enemy
activity observed DJ Mansour 079. (B). 5th Corps.
3rd Inf Bde. Contacted enemy patrol area J 6014.
Believed 4 enemy killed 3 wounded. 3 PW taken. Own
casualties 1 killed 4 wounded. 46th Div. 7th Italian
PW taken in Dy Aboid Sector. 20th Corps all ranks
of 1 commando landed unopposed at Yhun 2 Mar. 1st Div

CM-IN-14152 (26 Mar 43)
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Algiers
To: War
In Reply To: 1200 hrs 25 Mar.

Walter took over command Medje Z Sector from 78th Div at 1200 hrs 25 Mar. Hq 78th Div closed Teflour 1200 hrs and reopened same time at N 6969. Section 5, Air. Follows later. End of Part 1. Part 2 follows cite FGHT.

No Sig

* Being serviced.

WDCC

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: CCS
G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
ADM. KING
LOG

CM-IN-14152 (26 Mar 43) 2037Z cen

DECLASSIFIED
JCS Letter, 7-8-72
BY SE, DATE FEB 7 1974

SECRET
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COPY No. 54
From: Algiers
To: WAR (action)
      USFOR (information)
No. 9360
In reply cite: No.BOC273, March 26, 1943

Initial stages and planning of operation of civilian relief in Tunisia by Tunisian Detachment is a military responsibility (action AGWAR Combined Boards information USFOR British Chiefs of Staff signed Eisenhower cite FHEB Murphy, BOC 273.) It is being directed by the Civil Affairs Section of this HQ. The North African Economic Board is included in that section as is the representative of OFRRO. These agencies act jointly in the Tunisian operation.

No Sig

ACTION: CCS

INFORMATION:
G-2 (Col Sands)
ASF
CAD

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 23 1974

CM-IN-14509 (27 Mar 43) 10562 mcs
From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 0298, March 26, 1943


CM-IN-14243 (27 Mar 43)
enemy air activity apparent including appearance of Italian Fighters. One ME 109 destroyed 1 ME 202 probably destroyed and 2 ME 109's damaged. In southern sector fighter sweeps and offensive Recce continued over enemy landing grounds. Hurri-bombers attacked M/T east of Guettar destroying several. Fighters ground straffed personnel and M T in same area and escorted bombers in attack on Tebega north Lis G (L/G). On BFN 100 (190) destroyed in combat. End of part 1. Part 2 follows. Cite PHGCT.

No Sig.

Corrected copy of CM-IN-14046 (26 Mar 43) OPD

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
Gen Deane (CC/S)
Admiral King

CM-IN-14243 (27 Mar 43) 0001Z bjm

DECLASSIFIED JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY , DATE FEB 7 1974

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DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date _4/3/94_
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: USFOR London (Action)
WAR (Informational)

In Reply Cite: 9416, March 26, 1943

March 25, (action USFOR information AGWAR Troopers 5th Army Mideast 18th Army Group Hq Liaison Group AFHQ Malta from G-3 section AFHQ 9416 26 March. Mil. Sitrep number 153, part 2) signed Eisenhower, cite FHGC.

Naval. During the night 21-22 March a naval gun-boat bombarded Gabes. The same night motor launches staged a faint landing north of Gabes and drew some fire. In addition a small faint convoy was sailed towards Gabes but was not sighted by the enemy.

Movements completed. 65 Armd Arty Bn arrived Tebessa from Casablanca completing move of 5th Armd Arty Gp to under command 2 Corps. 354th Ca Bn Sep AA searchlight arrived Telergma from Oran. Action USFOR, added AGWAR, Troopers, 5th Arty, Mideast, 18th Army Group Hq, Liaison Group AFHQ, Malta for information.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
General Deane (CCS)
Admiral King
Log
CM-IN-14208 (26 Mar 43) 2246Z ems
INCOMING MESSAGE

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

Operational Priority

In reply cite: AAMSME 5295

Latest dispositions Southeastern Tunisia:
March 21st, 8th Army main Bq E 7292, 30th Corps Bq E 7187.
10th Corps E 7683 7th Arm Div E 7291, 22nd Arm Brig
E 6991, 131st Mot Inf Brg E 6796, 4th Lt Arm Brg
E 6858, 1st Arm Div E 7856, 2nd Arm Brig E 7855,
7th Lorried Inf E 6586. March 24th, 69th Brg Z 8802,
151st Brg E 8896, 154th Brg Z 6709, 153rd Brg Z 6605,
152nd Brg Z 6801, March 25th, Bq 50th Div Z 8002.
4th Inf Div proceeding toward Toujane from Keddache.
In two columns, Djebel El Reintjia area E 5286 re-
ported still occupied by enemy. (From Breston). Northern Sector Mareth Line reported held by Italians
only. 15th Arm Div Bq dusk 25th area Z 2219 on way
to assist 21st Div revolt belief British Armor join-
ing New Zealand Corps.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD

CM-IN-14186 (26 Mar 43) 21382 cen

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OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

From: Cairo
To: AGWAR

In Reply Cite: AMSME 5294, March 26, 1943

Midnight 23rd 154th Inf Brig Z 6210 vice 69th Inf Brig Z 90 with 151st Brig area Bou
Chrara. One Thirty First Brig 201st Guards Brig and 4th Lt Armd Brig under command 7th Armd Div
patrolling front northwest to south of Medenine
in contact with enemy. Fourth Inf Div consisting
Div Troops 5th and 7th Inf Brigs moving towards
Kreidache. From Brereton. Action against enemy
positions southwest El Hamma continue. No change
on patrol lines. Eighth Armd Brig advanced about
2 miles on 24th, forward troops approx area
9009. L Force now area Zemlet El Madjel Y 9703 with
Kings Dragoon Guard patrols southeastern flank.
From Mannerini Group 72 officers 2,066 men captured,
57 guns and 40 HMG taken or destroyed. Twenty seven
officers 632 men captured Mareth area. Young
Fascists replaced 115th PGR of 15th PZ Div and
200th PGR of 90th Lt Div which have reverted to
div formations after counter attack dur night 24-25
Light Medium and Heavy bombers attacked enemy in
New Zealand Sector. Targets good and several large
fires started. Day 25th RAF bombers bombed Raizis
Junction west of Sfax. Bombers attacked success-
fully north landing ground Djebel Tabaga. Hurricane
tank dusters attacked 20 tanks claim direct hits on
9. Fighters destroyed 1 ME 210 south of El Hamma
and shot up enemy camps and motor transport Sfax
and Oudref areas. Fighters further claim 3 NC 202's
1 ME 109 destroyed 1 Ju 88 3 ME 109's damaged.
Three pilots missing. Bombers destroyed 1 ME 109.

(CM-IN-14219 26 Mar 43)

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From Brereton 9th Air Force Bomber Command reports no operations 25th. Fifteen planes of 12th Group dropped 45,450 lbs of bombs from 10 to 1100 feet on Mareth area. Fires observed. Fifty Seventh Group reports no operations. Seventy Ninth Group reports 22 sorties claim 2 Italian tanks hit. Delayed report 178th Squadron RAF 6 planes dropped 47,000 lbs of bombs from 12 to 18,500 feet on Messina observing burst at pin points in vicinity of Ferry.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF

DEPARTMENT
From: Cairo CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
To: AGWAR
In Reply...

INCOMING MESSAGE

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT

By SLR

Date
FEB 7 1974

CM-IN-14219 (26 Mar 43) 2320Z
ems

CLASSIFIED
E. O. 11652, Sec. 8(D) and 8(D) or (N)
OSD letter, May 1, 1972

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/1944

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
From: Algiers
To: USFOR (Action)
       WAR (Informational)

In Reply Cite: #9409, March 26, 1943

No gain by attack 1200Z 25 March. (To AGWAR
USFOR information 18th Army Group Advance NAAF MBS
ABS Malta Mideast Advance Liaison Group AFHQ 5 Army
from G-2 Freedom signed Eisenhower 9409 undated nil.)
Signs point 49 Engineer Bn 10 OMC Bn with elements
10 Pz Div (mentioned G-2 report 138 March 24) now
operating. Suggesting remnants Centauro Divn south
of Road Oued Hadfayd Area Y 35 are concentrations
there. Southern Tunisia. Southeast of El Hamma 21 Pd
Div still operating. Probably moving from Zarat to
northwest of Djebel Melab tactical recce suggests
15 Pz Div. AGWAR for WDQBI pass Troopers 18 Army
Group pass 1st Army and 2nd Corps Adv NAAF pass EAC
and 12th AF MBS ABS Malta Mideast Adv Ln Grp AFHQ
5th Army pass 1st Arm Corps and 6th Corps from G-2
Freedom signed Eisenhower cite WDQBI. Identifi-
cations German. Apparently normal but unconfirmed 7
Coy Hermann Goring Gr 25 Mar at J 5914. Area Fengdougk
Opin Area 81 Naar Filah T 99 with detached Coy near
Djebel Ouselat O 73 this unit formally. Maknassy Area
24-25 March by PSW 1st Bn 69 Pgr and 1st Bn 86 Pgr and
Kastab Ob. Southwest of Djebel Hamma by PW 104 Pgr
(21 Pz Div). Italian. Djebel Mansour Area O 79, 24

CM-IN-14285 (27 Mar 43)
March by deserters 3rd Bn 92 RI. Normal. General comment. To accomplish following indicated by disposition enemy forces: To block allied push from Maknassy toward coast. To reconstitute defensive line east of El Guettar. To counter, by concentration Armd elements, threat from southwest between Matmata-Tebaga Mtns. For this practically all mobile reserves from north withdrawn and defense main Mareth position left to static forces, Italian, supported by 90 light div with in reserve 2 further German Bns. Parts 2 and 3 will follow.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-14285 (27 Mar 43) 0229Z cen

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY SC DATE FEB 7 1974
URGENT

From: Algiers
To: War - USFOR London

In Reply Cite: 9408, March 26, 1943

Off Algerian coast 3 enemy bomber recce (action AGWAR USFOR information 18 Army Group ADV NAAF MBS ABS Malta MidEast Advance Liaison Group AFHQ 5th Army from G-2 Freedom signed Eisenhower 9408, 26th Mar. nil.) of which 1 shortly after noon contacted north of Oran last eastbound convoy while 2nd performed weather flight morning to Algiers and 3rd, afternoon, active as far as Oran. During night 2 additional shadowed convoy off Cape Tenez until dawn 26th March. Engaged a recce central Mediterranean several from Sicily also. Near convoy west of Algiers and also north same about 14 enemy bombers between 0400 and 0600Z 26th March, torpedoes. 0600Z merchant vessel by either submarine or aircraft. Over 100 JU 52's plus number 6 engined aircraft 24th March performed transport from Naples Sicily and Reggio to Tunis. G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 25th March. Reduced in size mainly offensive sweeps, patrols and bombing raids battle area southwest El Hamma enemy air activity Southern Tunisia. Intercepted by ours afternoon same area Maetour 210's escorted by ME 109's. Small in number not pressing attacks other patrols. Throughout day participated in by Italian were interception patrols Mareth-Gabes-Tetaga area. Afternoon Maknassy area sweeps by ME 109's and FW 190's. Over Sousse 1330Z encountered by our bombers fighters were 12 to 15 ME 109's and FW 190's. Over Souc El Area morning offensive sweep by 10 enemy fighters. Ours on offen-

DECLASSIFIED
JCS Letter 7-5-72
BY SEC
DATE FEB 7 1974
COPY No 26

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

From: Algiers
To: War - USFOR London
In Reply Cite: 9408, Mar 26, 1943

Enormous sweep Mateur-Sedjenane area of which 3 destroyed probably, encountered German fighters on defensive patrol over Tunis Bizerta at least 20. Foregoing part 2 Air (AGWAR for WDGBI USFOR pass troops 18 Army Group pass 1 Army and 2 Corps ADV NAAF pass EAC and 12th AF MBS ABS Malta Middle East Adv Ll Grp AFHQ 5 Army pass 1 Arm Corps and 6 Corps from G-2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite FHGBI. Part 3 Naval. Nothing to report.

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-14261 (27 Mar 43) 0106Z cen

SECRET

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-8-1972
BY SR, DATE FEB 7 1974

M. I. S. JOURNAL NO 31 MAR 27 1943

COPY No. 26

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94
SECRET
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

From: Algiers
To: USFOR (Action)
WARM (Information)

In Reply Cite: #9409, March 26, 1943

Unsuccessful early 25 March was attempted raid our
positions Djebel Abiod. (To AGWAR USFOR information 18
Army Group Advance NAFF ABS Malta MidEast Advance
Liaison Group AFHQ 5 Army from G-2 Freedom signed Eisen-
hower 9409 undated nil) Rest of northern sector
nothing to report. With patrols encountered at 0 7198
and 0 7199, observed Djebel Mansour Area 0 79 more
enemy activity. Ousseltia Valley quiet. Foregoing
Northern Tunisia G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z
25 March. Central Tunisia. Composed of inf same
Italian tanks morning Maknassy Sector small attack from
north believed in Meheri Zebbeus Area T 71. From
elements Centauro believed tanks probably detached
from Div main body (G-2 report 137 March 25). Driven
back with one tank in flames this attack Pd observed
Mezzouna-Maknassy Road with no attack, 10 tanks probably
German. With purpose blocking exit from Maknassy to
east information from PSW other sources suggest Ad Hoc
battle group mixed German Italian troops placed this
area. Following units compose this force. German. Kasta
OB 580 Recce Unit 501 Heavy Tank Bn First Bn 86 PGR
First Bn 69 PGR elements AR 929 Marsch Bn. Italian.
Elements 31 Tank Regt 5 Blackshirt Bn unspecified Ber-
saglieri and MG Units. Already general area were Kasta
OB 580 Recce Unit probably 29 Marsch Bn Italian units
in 50 Bde. From north have arrived, apart from elements
of Centauro all other units. Occupied now Maknassy- El Guettar Sectors almost all of 10 Pz Div thought remnant from northern sector (G-2 report 137 March 25) with nothing heard are 2nd Bn 754 IR and 2nd Bn 756 Mtn Regt. (First cipher part second and last follows). At 2100Z El Guettar Sector enemy attack 24 March (G-2 report 137 March 25 failed.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2

INFORMATION: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-14297 (27 Mar 43) 0313Z cen
WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING MESSAGE
March 26, 1943

From: G-2 Freedom
      Dated Eisenhower

To: Agwa Unfor
     Rptd. 18 Army Group - NAAF - MBS - ABF -
     MALTA - MIDEAST - ADVANCE LIAISON
     GROUP - AFHQ - 5 ARMY

Number 9166

No reports enemy ground operations. His reaction to our deep patrolling slight. Apparently
related to troop movements reinforcements noted central Tunisia is evidence from PSW that reliefs have
occurred and perhaps altogether withdrawn certain units
in FREBEL ABIOD Sector. Free of Enemy TOUKABUR
Sector LEA SIDI NACEUR Jig 5437 and SIDI MDAKINE Jig
5337. QUSSELTIA Valley region quiet. No enemy
patrolling reported. Foregoing Northern Tunisia part 1
land G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400 Z 24 March.
Central Tunisia. Observed by air races over 200
vehicles with 6 mile length southbound from FONDOSK
OBOE 81 to Sidi Naceur Allah T 99. Considered
reinforcements to MAKNASSEY-Leppd Quna Area T 70-U 00
late afternoon activity FAID Area, perhaps REL E D*
same column. High ground East of MAKNASSEY enemy
resistance persists. SEHR daytime MEHERI ZEBREIS T
71 about 10 probably Italian tanks. Afternoon moving
on Road MEZZOUNA-MAKNASSEY further 20 German tanks,
thought moving southward these, perhaps from 501 heavy
tank to which unit believed have participated action
BADDEB EL AIOUN. (See G 2 report 136 March 24).
Claimed destroyed by our ground forces 4 medium tanks
with 2 additional damaged. During day on DJEBEL BERDA
YOKE 23 ELTLETTAR Sector small enemy Inf attacks.
Seen same locality but without action day time total
of about 40 AFVs.

*Missing group.

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
FEB 7 1974

CM-IN-14023 (26 Mar 43)

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DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 12335, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94

COPY No. 51
On road at YOKE 6577 moving northwest 1700 perhaps 150 MT. Detected. Later west direction EL AYACHA YOKE 5174 this column turned. Early recommencement defense DJEBEL and Sector Yoke 37 shown by ground indications. With nothing specifically known launched at 200 Z strong enemy attacked reported. Representing chiefly remains Centauro sector north of DJEBEL SIF EL LABAM YOKE 45 enemy tanks Inf reported. 15 immobile enemy tanks claimed observed.

Part two follows.

Action: G-2
Information: OPD
CG AAF
Gen Deane (CC/S)
URGENT
SUPPLEMENTARY COPY

From: Algiers
To: AGWAR - London USFOR

In Reply Cite: 0297 March 26, 1943

The following is omitted portion of the above message:

Three PW taken. Own casualties 1 killed 4 wounded. 46 Div. 7 Italian PW taken in Dy Aboid Sector. 20 Corps all ranks of 1 Cammando landed unopposed at J 0936 night 24/25 March. One Div. took over command Medje Z sector from 78 Div at 1200 Hrs 25 March.

WDCC

NOTE: Supplementary copy of CM-IN-14152 (26 Mar 43)
OPD.

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2, CG AAF, CGGN,
General Deane (CCS),
Admiral King.

CM-IN-14639 (27 Mar 43) 1629Z ems

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-3-72
BY SK DATE FEB 7 1974

SECRET
COPY No. 54

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

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

March 26, 1943

From: G-3 Section AFHQ
To: War Office (Pass to HM Ambassador Madrid for US)
No. 9419 March 26, 1943

Summary of operations 22 to 24 March. Linrep 32.

1. Eighth Army. In the Mareth Area. A strong counter attack during the afternoon 22 March. The attacks continued throughout the night. When it became apparent that most of our bridgehead positions had been penetrated the majority of our troops were withdrawn East of Wadi Zigzaou. Fighting continued throughout 23 March. On the night of 23/24 March the remainder of our troops were withdrawn across the Wadi. 24 March was a quiet day in this sector. On the New Zealand front South West of El Hamma fierce fighting continued throughout 22 and 23 March. On 24 March our armored Forces advanced about 2 miles. Patrols have reached the foothills of the Djebel Tebaga range.

2. Two Corps. On 22 March US Infantry Forces consolidated their positions East and South East of El Guettar and US Armored Troops attacked and occupied the high ground 6 miles East of Maknassey. On 23 March the enemy launched 2 attacks with Armor and Infantry from the South East against our Forces East of El Guettar. The first attack was held during the morning after some slight penetration of our lines and 10 enemy tanks were destroyed. The second attack during the evening was also stopped but was preceded by intensive dive bombing which caused considerable material damage to our forces. Fighting continues in the area East of Maknassey. During evening 24 March the enemy again attacked our positions South East of El Guettar.

3. Results of operations in South Tunisia. The combined pressure of the attacks of Eighth Army and the eastward (thrust?) Mec of the American Forces from Gafsa have forced the enemy to commit a great part of his reserves. The enemy's
Western flank now (?) on the last possible defensive line on which he can block our approach to his communications from the North to the Mareth line.

4. Naval. Two of our submarines have returned from successful patrols. One Submarine sank 5,000 ton enemy merchant vessel and probably hit 2 more ships with torpedoes. Another submarine sank an enemy case petrol ship off Palermo. During the night 21/22 March a Naval gunboat bombarded Gabes. The same light motor launches stages a feint landing North of Gabes and drew some fire. In addition a small feint convoy was sailed towards Gabes but was not sighted by the enemy. During night 22/23 March motor torpedo boats operating from Bone located 4 enemy vessels. Believed Siebel Ferries. Estimated ship hit by torpedo and 1 probably damaged by gunfire. Personnel convoy arrived Algiers with the loss of one ship.

Air. The air offensive of both the Tunisian Air Forces and the Western Desert Air Forces in support of our land Forces has been maintained in strength both day and night throughout the period tank buster squadrons of the Western Desert Air Forces have had considerable success. Enemy landing grounds near Gabes were attacked on many occasions, Palermo, Bizerta and Ferryville were heavily bombed and enemy shipping between Tunisia and Sicily has also attacked with success. Subsequent photographs show that the raids on Palermo and Ferryville caused very extensive material damage.

6. Political. Jules Abadie appointed secretary of Interior to replace Rigault. Couve De Murville has replaced Bergeret as Secretary General. Both men capable and from our point of view desirable. The shortage of top grade loyal personnel, so apparent in weeks following landing, is gradually being supplied by arrivals, largely from France, although not adequate to fill the demands. General Giraud is improving the character and efficiency of the Government and further constructive changes are expected.
March 27, 1943

Following message has been sent to both Algiers and Casablanca and for attention of General Clark.

On March 24 the French Consul stated that the French naval units in Casablanca currently maintained radio communication with Vichy. He apparently referred to Admiral Michelier. He made this statement in my presence and that of the Netherlands Consul. The French Consul did not give other details but made his statement most earnestly and remarked that we should know about this.

CHILDs
American Charge d'Affaires
ad interim

Action: G-2
Information: OPD
CG AAF
LOG
In Reply Cite: 9419, March 26, 1943

From: Algiers
To: War - USFOR

In Reply Cite: 9419, March 26, 1943


1. 8th Army. In the Mareth Area thorgde fy singled a strong counter attack during the afternoon 22 March but the attacks continued throughout the night nd when it became apparent that most of our bridgehead positions had been penetrated the majority of our troops were withdrawn east of Wadi Zigzaou. Fighting continued throughout 23 March and on night of 23/24 March the remainder of our troops were withdrawn across the Wadi. 24 March was a quiet day in this sector. On the New Zealand front south west of El Hamma fierce fighting continued throughout 22 and 23 March. On 24 March our armored forces advanced about 2 miles. Patrols have reached the foot hills of the Djgke Yebaga range (Signed Eisenhower cite FHCT. Action Troopers Pass to HM Ambassador Madrid for US Ambassador Madrid, Resident Minister Aghimota, Britmilat Ankara WEJGLOQ O Chakmak Defender Wellington for Yuttick.

2. 2nd Corps. 22 March US Infantry Forces consolidated their positions east and south east of El Guettar and US Armored Forces attacked and occupied the high ground 6 miles east of Maknassy. On 23 March the enemy launched 2 attacks with armor and Infantry from the
INCOMING MESSAGE

Page two:

From: Algiers
To: WAR - USFOR
In Reply Cite: 9419, March 26, 1943

the south east against our Forces east of El Guettar. The first attack was held during the morning after some slight penetration of our lines and 10 enemy tanks were destroyed. The second attack during the evening was also stopped but was preceded by intensive dive bombing which caused considerable material damage to our forces. Fighting continues in the area east of Maknassy. (Part two following.). During evening 24 March the enemy again attacked our positions south east of El Guettar.

3. Results of operations in south Tunisia. The combined pressure of the attacks of 8th Army and the eastward advances of the American Forces from Gafsa have forced the enemy to commit a great part of his reserves.

No Sig

ACTION: ODF

INFORMATION: CCS
G-2
CG AAF
CGGN
ADM. KING

CM-IN-14981 (28 Mar 43) 0430Z cen

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY , DATE
FEB 7 1974

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

From: Algiers
To: WAR-USFOR

In reply cite: 9166, March 25, 1943

No reports enemy ground operations. (AGWAR USFOR rptd 18 Army Group NAFA MBS ABS Malta Mideast Advance Liaison Group AFRQ 5 Army from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower 9166 undated nil). His reaction to our deep patrolling slight. Apparently related to troop movements reinforcements noted Central Tunisia is evidence from PSW that reliefs have occurred and perhaps altogether withdrawn certain units in Djebel Abiod sector. Free of enemy Touka Ur sector Lea Sidi Naceur J 5437 and Sidimakrine J 5237. Ousseltia Valley region quiet. No enemy patrolling reported. Foregoing Northern Tunisia part 1 land G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z 24 March. Central Tunisia. Observed by air recce over 200 CP vehicles with 6 mile length southbound from Fondouk O 81 to Sidi Naceur Allah T 99. Considered reinforcements to Maknassey-Mepdd Ouna Area T 70-U 00 late afternoon activity Faid area, perhaps rel qth same column. High ground east of Maknassey enemy resistance persists. Seen daytime Meheri Zebbeus T 71 about 10 probably Italian tanks. Afternoon moving on road Mezzouna-Maknassey further 20 German tanks. Thought moving southwards these, perhaps from 501 heavy tank TK which unit believed to have participated action Hadjeb El Aioun. (See G-2 report 134 March 24). Claimed destroyed by our ground forces 4 medium tanks with 2 additional damaged. During day on Djebel Berda Y 23 El Guettar sector small enemy Inf attacks. Seen same locality but without action daytime total of about 40 AFVS. On road at Y 6577 moving northwest 1700 Z perhaps 150 MT detected. Later west direction El Ayacha Y 5174 this column turned. Early recommencement offensive Djebel Anak sector Y 37 shown by ground indications. With
From: Algiers
To: WAR - USFOR

In reply cite: 9166, March 25, 1943

Nothing specifically known launched at 2100Z strong enemy attacked reported. Representing chiefly remains Centauro sector north of Djebel Sif Il Laham Y 45 enemy tanks Inf reported. 15 immobile enemy tanks claimed observed (*) action.

(*) Omission being serviced.

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD CGAAF

CM-IN-13735 (26 Mar 43) 0253Z new

DECLASSIFIED
JCS LETTER, 7-5-72
BY [Signature] DATE FEB 7 1974

M. L. B. JOURNAL NO. 29 MAR 26 1943
SECRET COPY No. 26

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 4/13/94
From: Algiers
To: WAR-USFOR London

In Reply Cite: 9166 March 25, 1943

Twenty three March of which destroyed by Sappers 6. (9166 undated nil most secret.) Positions Djebel Bou Jerra Y 15 and Djebel El Asker Y 14 still occupied by enemy. Southern Tunisia. Increasing Elshamma-Djebel Melab sector enemy resistance. Here by rechecked figures from Mannerini group 72 officers 2086 men captured. Taken or destroyed also 57 guns 40 heavy machine guns. Mareth Line Oued Zigzaou sector first positions reoccupied by enemy. Gone back to formations elements 15 PZ Div (115 PGR) and 90 Light Div (200 PGR) which engaged in counter attack. By units Young Fascists Div these replaced. Recheck shows 27 officers 632 men taken this front. AGWAR for WDGBI USFOR pass Troopers 18 Army Group pass One Army and 2 Corps NAAF pass EAC and 12th Air Force MBS ABS Malta Mid-east Adv Ln Group AFHQ 5 Army pass One Armed Corps and 6 Corps from G 2 Freedom signed Eisenhower cite FHGBI. Identifications. German. By PSW north of Debelaiboid T 3 Bn. Comment. Returned to line to replace Mtn Inf Bn PSW therefore stated this unit (G 2 report 135 March 23) perhaps 2nd Bn 756 Mtn Regt earlier this sector. Earlier spotted same area 2nd Bn 754 IR (G 2 report 131 March 19) additional description enemy installations failed locate present whereabouts. To have rejoined about 20 March its
Div PSW stated 1st Bn 69 PGR which also had been located same area as 2nd Bn 756 Mtn Regt and 2nd Bn 754 IR (G 2 report 130 March 18). Perhaps transferred as reinforcements other sectors all 3 Bns. Related to such disposition perhaps traffic Fondouk area. In support of Arm units perhaps 501 Heavy Tank Bn Mezzoune area already operating, is 1st Bn 69 PGR according to PSW. Confirmed by PSW taken 24 March at J 6309 is identification 9 Coy Hermann Goering Gr on road east of Maknassey from PW 3rd Coy 1st Bn 69 PGR Italian. Sixteen and 63 Bersaglieri Bns from 20 PSW captured J 0277 Cap Negro area 23 March and by additional group 123 taken at hill J 0669 night 23-24 March. That 10 Bersaglieri Regt northern sector of front confirmed by these identifications. In Meheri Zebbeus area T 71, 15 En 31 Tank Regt form PW. Comment. Perhaps detached to strengthen its defense elements Centauro Div. Sened Village Y 4890 2nd Bn 92 RI by PSW. Comment. Under command 50 Bde known this unit placed. Miscellaneous Italian units area Sened and Maknassey administered by 50 Bde. General comment. In order to strengthen exposed sectors of center enemy now to certain degree forced to weaken line extreme north. Occupied Central and Southern Tunisia all his mobile and Armd reserves. To stop in Central Tunisia severs his coastal communications and to diverge dual threat to rear main Mareth position, now gathering strength from west and southwest enemies main effort at present. To this end his arm forces split. Considered probable Mareth Line to be held in any event even if, for protection open flank between Matmata and Tebaga Mtns weakening enemy forces main position necessary.

Parts 2 and 3 will follow.

No Sig

Action: G-2

Information: OPD

CG AAF

CM-IN-13769 (26 Mar 43) 0431Z ce
From: Algiers
To: War

In Reply Cite: 9166 March 25, 1943

15 immobile enemy tanks claimed observed result action.

No Sig

Note: This is correction 2nd page, end of message.

Supplementary copy of CM-IN-13735 (3-26-43)G-2

ACTION: G-2
INFORMATION: OPD
CG AAF

CM-IN-13877 (26 Mar 43) 0910Z f1v