

MR 310, Sec. 2 -- ARMY-NAVY TORCH SUMMARIES

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December, 1942

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

[REDACTED]

T O R C H

1700 December 26 to 0700 December 27
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 634

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 87,200

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S. 26,000

British 41,500

French 19,700

87,200

Allied Planes 484
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Fighters 310

Night Fighters 32

Light and Medium Bombers 99

Heavy Bombers 43

484

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Situation Report No. 57, December 24, gives the following information:

EASTERN TASK FORCE

Patrols on the south flank of the 6th Armored Division were hampered due to weather and made no contact.

The 2nd Coldstream Guards and 1 Battalion 18th Regimental Combat Team occupied Djebel El Ahmera, located 6 miles north northeast of Medjez El Bab. The top of the hill is still held by the enemy.

Patrols failed to locate the 5th Northhamptons in the area of Heïdous, 12 miles east of Tebourba.

Damage was done to 38 tons of smoke generator fuel during the fire on the north quay of Bone.

LOCATIONS

- 38th Infantry Brigade, less 1 Battalion, south of Teboursouk.
- 18th Regimental Combat Team, less 1 Battalion, east of Teboursouk.
- 26th Armored Brigade 8 miles southwest of Goubellat.
- Advance Headquarters 6th Armored Division at Ain Touna, 15 miles southwest of Medjez El Bab.
- Rear Headquarters 6th Armored Division at Thibar, 13 miles south of Beja.
- 6th Inniskillings Fusiliers at Goubellat.
- 1st Battalion 13th Armored Regiment, and 2nd Battalion 6th Armored Infantry south of Medjez El Bab.
- 1st Guards Brigade, less 1 Battalion, and 1 battalion of the 18th Regimental Combat Team at Medjez El Bab.
- Northhamptons 3 miles northeast of Heïdous.
- Rear Headquarters V Corps at Chemtou, 40 miles west southwest of Beja.

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Advance Headquarters V Corps at Souk El Khemis, 15 miles southwest of Beja.

Combat Command "B", less 2 battalions, 1st and 2nd Parachute Battalions, 2nd Hampshires, 5th Field Artillery Battalion, in the area between Souk El Khemis and Beja.

1st Surrey at Oued Zarga, 15 miles east southeast of Beja.

Headquarters 78th Division at Beja.

Headquarters 11th Brigade, 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 175th Field Artillery Battalion east of Beja.

56th Reconnaissance Regiment at Aine Sellam, 16 miles west of Tebourba.

1st Parachute Brigade, less 2 battalions, and 1st Commando, 8 miles northeast of Beja.

2nd Lancashire Fusiliers at Sidi Neir, 15 miles west of Tebourba.

36th Brigade, less 1 battalion, and 6th Commando at El Aouana, 33 miles northwest of Tebourba.

CENTER TASK FORCE

One battery of 432nd, Coast Artillery, Antiaircraft, Automatic Weapons, is enroute from Oran to Biskra by motor.

AIR

There were no air operations over the forward area due to weather. In the Oran area there were routine patrols. Transport aircraft flew courier missions. Enemy plane dropped 3 bombs on Biskra, 120 miles southeast of Bougie, December 23. Slight damage to 3 aircraft. Twelve (12) night fighter sorties, 3 reconnaissance sorties and 78 fighter sorties were flown by the RAF.

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GENERAL

General Giraud has been selected to succeed Darlan as High Commissioner.

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

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JW

T O R C H

0700 December 26 to 1700 December 26

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 49,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S. 7,300

British 22,300

French 19,700

49,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 267

Unknown

Fighters 143

Night Fighters 10

Light & Medium Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

267

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G-2 Report, December 24. Wet weather continued to restrict activities. Two (2) enemy companies with machine guns are holding part of the hill mass Djebel El Ahmera (9 miles north of Medjex El Bab).

The 1st Battalion 92nd Infantry Regiment (Italian) has been identified at Djebel Ekirine (11 miles southeast of Pont Du Fahs) and the 2nd Battalion at Djebel Chakeur (20 miles northwest of Kairouan).

The 5th and 6th Companies 754th Infantry Regiment has been identified as being in Tunisia. A prisoner reports that all infantry battalions of the 10th Panzer Division are in Tunisia.

In southern Tunisia, the enemy has left Sabira (southwest of Gabes).

NAVAL

One motor vessel escorted by 3 E-Boats sighted east of Sardinia.

Submarines in north Africa area 27 to 31.

AIR

December 23. Twenty (20) JU-88's based on Sicily were over Tunisia. The sea area between the Spanish coast and Sicily was reconnoitered by JU-88's from Sicily. Forty-three (43) JU-52's arrived at Tunis and left within an hour.

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T O R C H

1900 December 25 to 0700 December 26
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300
U. S. 2,300
British 22,300
French 19,700
44,300

Estimated strength
of 39,000

Allied Planes 267
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Fighters 145
Night Fighters 10
Light & Medium Bombers 68
Heavy Bombers 44
267

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GROUND

Nothing reported.

AIR

Nothing reported.

NAVAL

A supplemental report estimates that in addition to the Italian submarines mentioned in the report ending 1900 December 25, there are 10 Italian submarines patrolling the African coast from Algiers to Bizerte.

~~SECRET~~
T O R C H

0700 December 25 to 1900 December 25

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724

British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated strength
of 39,000

AJR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated strength
of 39,000

U. S. 2,300

British 22,300

French 19,700

Total 44,300

Allied Planes 267
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Fighters 143

Night Fighters 10

Light and Medium
Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

Total 267

~~SECRET~~
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GROUND

Heavy intermittent rainfall began in the afternoon of December 22 and continuing has slowed up operations. It is reported that the enemy lost ground at Djebel el Ahmera and was cleared from Grich el Oued by the 3rd Grenadier Guards with little opposition in local actions.

The situation is confused at Djebel Fkirine, the French reporting strong resistance to their attack. The French also report having checked a southward movement of enemy columns in the area Djebel Chirich and having repulsed attacks by mixed German and Italian forces on Djebel Chakeur and Djebel Hannikat and Pichon from the East.

The road junctions to the northeast and east of Pichon and Sidi Nasr Allah are held by the enemy.

The 6th Anniskillen Fusiliers report patrols without contact with the enemy to 6 miles southeast of Goubellat but made contact at a distance of 4 miles to the east of Goubellat at Djemal.

Djebel el Ahmer, 6 miles northeast of Medjex el Bab has been taken by the 2nd Coldstream Guards.

Sabotage may have been the cause of a railway accident between Air Fekroun and Armandy Ourkis resulting in the explosion of 12 gasoline and ammunition cars.

The jetty at Philippeville and the airdrome at Djidjelli were bombed without damage.

AIR

There have been a number of reconnaissance flights by JU-38's along the Algerian coast and in the Biskra area, and one attack on Biskra reported.

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The JU-88's appear to have come from Sicilian bases.

Our air activities have been somewhat hampered due to conditions of airfields at Canrobert, Djidelli and Philippeville. An attack by 17 B-17's on Tunis and Bizerte was unsuccessful due to heavy cloud covering over the target. Various sorties and patrols have been made during which 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 2 damaged. One Beau-fighter crew was killed, 3 Spitfires were damaged and 1 B-17 and 3 P-38's are missing as a result of these various operations.

NAVAL

One German submarine has been sighted in the Western Mediterranean at approximately 38 degrees north, 5 degrees east. One west of Cape Tenex. Estimated 4 submarines between Cape Tenex and 5 degrees east.

It is estimated that the following Italian submarines are operating in the Western Mediterranean: 2 west of Algiers, 1 in the western approaches to the Straits, and 1 off Casablanca.

It is estimated that there are 4 or 5 patrolling or moving to the southwest between 38 degrees and 40 degrees north and 14 degrees to 16 degrees west; that there are 3 or 4 from 40 degrees north, 20 degrees west of the Azores.

SITREP 56	CM-IN-10863 (12-25-42)
G-2 Reports	CM-IN-10851 (12-25-42)
	CM-IN-10910 (12-25-42)

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T O R C H

1900 December 24 to 0700 December 25
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British

600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated strength
of 39,000

U. S. 2,300

British 22,300

French 19,700

Total 44,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 267

Unknown

Fighters 145

Night Fighters 10

Light and Medium Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

Total 267

DECLASSIFIED

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GROUND

In vicinity Ksar Tyr (11 miles southeast of Medjez El Bab) and area east and southeast of Medjez El Bab, there is much enemy activity. Medjez El Bab was again shelled during the morning.

Unconfirmed but very probable identification reported 2nd Company 69th Panzer Regiment north of Medjez El Bab.

An unsuccessful enemy raid was made east of Goubellat.

There are some indications of a southward movement of enemy columns from Djebel Chirich (30 miles southwest of Pont Du Fahs) and Djebibina (23 miles southeast of Pont Du Fahs) areas, with much activity near Djebel Chirich.

French apparently still hold Pichon with much fighting going on, and report contact continues on general line Ousseltia (15 miles northwest of Pichon) - Pichon - Sidi Nasr Allah (21 miles southeast of Pichon).

Prisoners taken in Djebel Chirich area night of December 21-22 are reported probably from 104th Lorried Infantry Regiment.

AIR

Sicilian based JU-88's followed eastbound Allied convoy during early morning and made a reconnaissance of southern basin. Northern basin also covered.

Reconnaissance was made over Bone by enemy planes.

Allied motor transports in Pichon and Pont Du Fahs area attacked.

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[REDACTED]

Nine (9) JU-52's departed Reggio and 5 departed Trapani enroute to Tunis.

NAVAL

Visual reconnaissance on December 20 indicates presence of 7 F-Boats and 4 E-Boats in Pantellaria.

Enemy aircraft torpedoed SS Cameronian northeast of Bougie.

Fourteen (14) Italian submarines are operating in Oran - Bougie - Bizerte area.

There is a slight decrease in German submarine activity.

~~SECRET~~

T O R C H

0700 December 24 to 1900 December 24
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength of
39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600 Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength of
U. S.	2,300	39,000
British	22,300	
French	19,700	
	<hr/>	
	44,300	

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 267 Unknown

Fighters 145

Night Fighters 10

Light & Medium Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

267

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Situation Report #55

NAVAL

Seven mines exploded by mine sweeping trawler in sweep at Bone December 21. Torpedo aircraft attacked convoy KMF 5 enroute to Bone December 21-22. Personnel ship Cameronia torpedoed 30 miles northeast Bougie, now arrived Bougie. Liner, Duchess of Bedford, enroute to Algiers transferred troops from Strathallan.

GROUND

Eastern Task Force.

The Sixth Inniskillings Fusiliers are located in the area Goubellat with the 2nd battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, on the high ground 4 miles north of Goubellat. There was considerable enemy activity near Ksar Tyr during the night of December 21-22 which continued during the next day. Medjez El Bab was shelled for ten minutes. The enemy occupy the area Dj El Asoud and the high ground near Dj Ez Zarouline 9 miles southeast of Mateur. Our patrols were ambushed near Dj El Ang and the station De Mettarhenri with one officer and seven enlisted men captured at the latter. French forces are still in contact with the enemy at Pichon..

AIR

Due to bad weather B-17 aircraft returned to bases without dropping bombs and medium bomber missions were cancelled. Six P-40 sorties, in which two enemy aircraft attacking allied motor convoy, were destroyed; a train between Soussse and Kairouan was shot up and 4 trucks between Sfax and Faïd were destroyed. Reconnaissance flight over Bizerte and Tunis met antiaircraft fire at 28,000 feet. RAF in sorties on December 21 destroyed 3 enemy planes and probably 2 others; one spit fire missing.

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

[REDACTED]

T O R O H

1900 December 23 to 0700 December 24
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	153,724	Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	600	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength of 39,000
U. S.	2,300	
British	22,300	
French	<u>19,500</u>	
	44,300	

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis)	267	Unknown
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Fighters	145
Night Fighters	10
Light & Medium Bombers	69
Heavy Bombers	<u>44</u>
	267

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[REDACTED]

NAVAL

Further information on the sinking of the liner Strathellan in Convoy EM-5 indicates it was taken in tow by a destroyer, but later abandoned due to fire; that there were 1167 persons landed by destroyer at Oran with 200 women known to be safe; that all U. S. personnel were safe and unhurt, including 31 nurses and 5 WAAC officers.

Landing craft tanks are transporting from Bone to La Calle and the landing craft transport carry is in operation from Bone to Tabarka.

GROUND

Ground situation has changed very little. Our forces made extensive patrols along the entire line and some casualties were suffered on both sides. On the 21st, the Coldstream Guards occupied the high ground 5 miles north of Medjez El Bab. There was some enemy artillery activity the evening and morning of 20-21 December in the area southwest of Mateur.

The 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and Company "C" of the 13th Armored, arrived Souk El Arba from the Center Task Force.

The French, in operations against high ground southeast of Pont Du Fahs, captured 30 Italians and found the area well defended by armored cars.

AIR

Twelve (12) B-17's to bomb Gabes-Sfax, abandoned mission due to cloud cover over target. Two (2) enemy aircraft were destroyed

[REDACTED]

and one probably destroyed over Tebessa and Youks Les Bains, by P-38's. About 13 trucks with trailers, and one tank were destroyed by P-40's twenty miles southwest of Kairouan. Two (2) enemy aircraft were also destroyed in Souk El Arba - Medjes El Bab area; one Spitfire crash-landed with pilot safe.

The 12th Air Force, during the week ending December 18, flew 225 missions for total of 1,150 sorties. Bombers dropped 550 tons of high explosives. Twenty-three (23) enemy aircraft were destroyed and 4 probables; our losses - 1 B-17, 3 B-26's, 5 P-38's and 1 P-40; 1 B-25 and 1 P-4 are missing.

During period November 8 to December 18, 93 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 22 probably destroyed and 38 damaged; also 55-60 destroyed on the ground. Our losses for the same period are 53, with an additional 2 missing.

Wellingtons Malta attacked Tunis and La Goulette, dropping two 4,000 pound, 22 500 pound and 50 250 pound bombs. Direct hits on one or two ships in the main basin caused large secondary explosions. One 4,000 pounder burst among buildings in Tunis marshalling yards and the other on the edge of the canal. A fire started in the oil storage depot at La Goulette. Albacores attacked an enemy convoy off west tip of Sicily, scoring torpedo hit on merchant vessel followed by large mushroom of smoke and steam, and a torpedo hit on an escort vessel which produced a large volume of white smoke. The fire was noted in the position one our later. Malta Beaufighters dropped metal spikes on Cosimo and Gela airdromes

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in south Sicily, and shot up a goods train east of Gela.

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

T O R C H

0700 December 23 to December 23 1900
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 110,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S. 2,300

British 22,300

French 19,500

Total 44,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 267

Unknown

Fighters 145

Night Fighters 10

Light & Medium

Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

Total 267

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Enemy Air reconnaissance.

Eight JU-88's based on Sicily carried out reconnaissance over southern half of the Western Basin on December 21st.

On morning of 21st December an Allied convoy was shadowed by one enemy aircraft northwest of Oran. East bound convoy shadowed from 0925 Z December 21 to 0200 Z December 22 northwest of Algiers.

Enemy Fighter activity.

During December 21st in the Souk El Arba region at least five ME-109's were active.

One enemy fighter attempted to engage Allied reconnaissance aircraft over Sfax.

Enemy Bomber activity.

Evening of the 21st December five bombers based on Sicily were active. At 1430 Z, December 21st, at least three JU-88's attacked Tebessa and Youks les Bains.

Enemy Air Transport.

Twelve JU-52's probably landed in Tunis, December 21st.

NAVY

No change in condition of naval units at Toulon on December 21st according to photo reconnaissance.

Marseilles still congested with merchant tonnage but total has decreased by five M/V's since December 12th.

From Etang de Berre two tankers and 12 M/V's have departed since November 30th.

An intercepting destroyer force sank a 2,000 ton M/V off Djerba Island December 21st.

U/B sighted 36° 52' N, 0° 34' W at 0031 Z December 22nd.

Sighted by aircraft in Sicilian Channel - 2 enemy destroyers,
1 M/V, 1 unknown, on westerly course at 2045 Z December 21st.

Attacks on Shipping.

Stratbatten torpedoed 70' north of Oran at 0131 Z, December 21st,
sank at 0300Z December 21st 20' north of Oran.

U/B Dispositions.

No new dispositions.

LAND

Nothing new to report.

[REDACTED]

T O R C H

1900 December 22 to December 23 0700
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,734
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British

600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S. 2,300

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Planes (Allied) 267
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Fighters 145

Night Fighters 10

Light & Medium

Bombers 69

Heavy Bombers 44

267

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

The December 19 report concerning the report on Sousse, is corrected as follows:

Fifteen (15) aircraft of the 98th Bombardment Group reached the target area and dropped 74 American bombs of 1,000 pounds each. Hits were observed on commercial and phosphate moles, and other bomb bursts were seen in and around the harbor area.

Two (2) aircraft returned early due to mechanical trouble.

Six (6) Liberators of the 160th Squadron followed with a night raid on Sousse and dropped 35 British 1,000 pound bombs, with hits on the commercial quay and north of the quay.

One aircraft saw a smoking vessel at the smoking quay, but no visible fire was observed.

Our Consul at Tangier has been reliably informed that members of the Italian Armistice Commission have been assured by the Spaniards that they will be permitted to proceed to Italy via Spain. Two members of the German Armistice Commission are reported to be at liberty and are establishing a propaganda organization in Tangier.

On the night of December 20-21, Wellingtons bombed Tunis and La Goulet docks, dropping one bomb of 4,000 pounds, 28 of 500 pounds, and 41 250 pound bombs. Large fires were started in marshalling yards at Tunis and near the barracks at La Goulet Island. Other hits were made in the area of the docks, but clouds obscured the results.

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T O R C H

0700 December 22 to 1900 December 22
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S. 2,300

British 22,300

French 19,500

Total 44,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 267

Unknown

Fighters 145
Night Fighters 10
Light & Medium Bombers 69
Heavy Bombers 44
Total 267

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

LAND

Slight enemy artillery activity area west Mateur afternoon.

Third Company 86th German Infantry Regt. identified at Qued Keber Dam by patrol O 8192. Eight wheeled armored cars contacted area Oum El Abouab O 7882. Air reconnaissance reports 30 tanks vicinity point O 9394.

Following estimate enemy strengths have been reported: 1 company Germans area J7017, J7317 and two companies area O-8794. One or two companies Italian 92nd Infantry Regt area Djebel Fkirine O-9288, O-8081.

Enemy counter-attack Pichon after French reoccupation repulsed nineteenth December. Fifth Company Italian 92nd Infantry Regt identified from prisoners captured heights 25 kilometers north of Pichon. Estimated two battalions 92nd Infantry Regt occupy forward positions of the Superga Division Sector - Pont Du Fahs, Djebibina-Kairouan. Estimated strength Italians remaining Maknassy one hundred.

AIR

Normal German patrol activity. One JU-88 shot down by fighters. Tebessa bombed by at least one aircraft.

Eleven JU-52's from Naples and one from Palermo landed Tunis 1005Z. Three FW200 left Sicily for Castel Benito between 1800Z and 1900Z. During afternoon eleven JU-88 returned to Sicily from Castel Benito.

NAVY

Hudson aircraft attack U/B 39° 45' north 5° 13' east 1256Z. Normal enemy submarine patrols west basin with decrease west of Gibraltar. Several U/B patrolling north of Azores.

SOUTH FLANK

6th Armored Division patrols located 100 Italians 92nd Infantry Regt 15 miles southwest Pont Du Fahs. Enemy Infantry 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest Pont Du Fahs. Raid by about two platoons 6 miles southeast Goubellat December 20th.

CENTER

78th Division contacted enemy ten miles north northwest Medjez El Bab and nine miles southwest Mateur December 19th. Slight enemy artillery and air activity 36th Brigade area December 20th.

TROOP LOCATIONS

Parachute Brigade 6 miles northeast Beja.

In the center, guards brigade at Medjez El Bab. 78th Division with 11 Brigade east and northeast of Beja. 36th Brigade along Mateur--Djebel Abiod road with leading elements 12 miles west of Mateur.

Co. A (Light) 70 tank battalion is enroute from EAF by road and rail to Tebessa for employment with French. 107 CA (AA) Bn arrived by motor from CTE.

AIR

Three alerts Tebessa - no damage.

Anti-submarine patrols resulted one sighting and one attack.

Night December 17-18 - Malta Wellingtons attacked Tunis with 3 tons bombs and La Grulette with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Large fires and explosions resulted.

December 18th. Bisleys attacked Bizerta docks with 12 tons bombs. 320,000 leaflets over Gabes, Sfax, Tunis and Bizerta.

Night, December 18-19 - 15 Wellingtons dropped 16 tons of bombs on Tunis. Damage to railroad yards, phosphate quays, fuel depots and electric railroad depot.

Albacore bombed Sousse with hits on north side of harbor.

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T O R C H

1900 December 21 to 0700 December 22
(All messages paraphrased)

HRZ

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U. S.	2,500
British	22,300
French	19,500
Total	<u>44,300</u>

Allied Planes 267
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Fighters	145
Night Fighters	10
Light & Medium Bombers	68
Heavy Bombers	44
Total	<u>267</u>

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~~SECRET~~

UNITED KINGDOM

Shortly after noon of December 20, 1942, 21 B-24's and 80 B-17's were dispatched to attack the Aircraft Depot at Romilly Sur Marne (68 miles southeast of Paris). 12 B-24's and 59 B-17's attacked target from 20,000 to 24,000 feet altitude with excellent results.

Forty-five (45) enemy fighters destroyed, 26 probably destroyed and 5 damaged. Six (6) B-17's failed to return, and 2 crashed on landing.

NORTH AFRICA

Naval - Malta Submarine Flotilla reports:

- 3 Merchant vessels torpedoed 12-14-42
- 1 merchant vessel torpedoed 12-15-42
- 1 merchant vessel probably torpedoed 12-17-42
- 1 destroyer torpedoed 12-17-42.

Our Fleet sustained losses as follows:

- 3 merchant vessels damaged by human or limpet torpedoes 12-11-42.
- 1 destroyer sunk, date unknown.
- 1 French Naval Trawler torpedoed off Casablanca on unknown date.

Air - On December 19, air activity was greatly limited due to bad weather. Twelve (12) DB-7's successfully attacked the railroad yards at Sfax, and normal patrol and reconnaissance sorties were flown.

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Ground - East Front

Normal patrolling continued on December 19, with a slight increase to the north on the front of the 36th Brigade.

An enemy concentration was reported at St. De Pavillier, on the railroad 20 miles southwest of Kairouan.

On December 18, the French were driven from Pichon.

On December 19, they retook the town.

Counterattack, Pichon, by Germans on December 20, was repulsed.

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T O R C H

0700 December 21 to 1900 December 21

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in-Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength of
39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 600

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength of
39,000

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles Tunis) 267

Unknown

Fighters 145

Night Fighters 10

Light & Medium 68

Bombers

Heavy Bombers 44

Total 267

DECLASSIFIED

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From Tangier (Edwards) unconfirmed rumors reported of extensive German military activities and massing of troops French Spanish Pyrenees frontier.

Strong force B-17's and B-24's attacked aircraft depot Romilly Sur Seine. Many hits on target. Strong fighter opposition with many enemy fighter losses. Six B-17's failed to return and two crash landed in England.

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

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T O R C H

1900 December 20 to 0700 December 21
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	153,724	Estimated Strength of	
British " " " " "	140,000		39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	600	Unknown
-------------------	-----	---------

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength of	
U. S.	2,500		39,000
British	22,300		
French	<u>19,500</u>		
Total	44,300		

Allied Planes (within 200 miles Tunis)	267	Unknown
---	-----	---------

Fighters	145
Night Fighters	10
Light and Medium Bombers	68
Heavy Bombers	<u>44</u>
Total	267

DECLASSIFIED

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TUNISIA

In First Army sector, enemy astride road 6 miles southeast of Goubellat. Enemy infantry and tanks reported on road 5 miles east of Goubellat.

Enemy patrol ambushed approximately 8 miles east of Medjez El Bab.

The crossroad 8 miles southeast of Medjez El Bab reported clear of enemy; mortar fire from point to southeast.

Twenty-one (21) enemy vehicles seen in area road junction 9 miles northeast of Medjez El Bab.

Enemy patrol contacted 10 miles west of Mateur.

Medjez El Bab shelled without damage.

SPAIN

Spanish Naval mobilization will double present strength of 12,000, including Marines. Reserve and retired officers and non-commissioned personnel up to age of 60 called up. All motor vehicles registered.

Rumor that Germans use small submarine supply base at Rios near Vigo. Reliable source informs that 10th Panzer observed Marseilles heading south.

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T O R C H

0700 December 20 to 1900 December 20
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U.S. Strength Landed or in Port	153,724	Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U.S. and British	530	Unknown
------------------	-----	---------

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength
		of 39,000
U. S.	2,500	
British	22,300	
French	19,500	
Total	44,300	

Allied Planes	261	
(within 200 miles of Tunis)		Unknown

Fighters	123
Night Fighters	4
Light and Medium	
Bombers	87
Heavy Bombers	47
	<u>261</u>

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WESTERN TASK FORCE

Nothing reported.

CENTER TASK FORCE

NOTHING REPORTED.

EASTERN TASK FORCE

Land - First Army Sector: During the night of December 17-18 all was quiet in front of the Sixth Armored Division. The enemy was reported to be astride the road southeast of Goubellat, during the day and five miles east of Goubellat there were enemy tanks and infantry on the road.

The Seventy-eighth Division reported that in the center the cross roads eight miles to the southeast of Medjex el Bab were clear of the enemy. At a road junction nine miles northeast of Medjex el Bab twenty-one enemy vehicles were reported. The bridge at Medjex el Bab was bombed and shelled without damage.

The Sixth Brigade reported that there was activity by enemy patrols during the night of December 17-18, ten miles southeast of Mateur.

It was reported that the French in Pichon are withdrawing and that thirty Germans and Italians in five armored cars have arrived from Kairouan.

NAVY

Nothing reported.

AIR

An attack was made on Sousse by five B-26's and six B-25's.. Direct hits on the railroad station, 2000 feet of railroad track and freight train

[REDACTED]

buildings were reported. Four ships in the harbor and land batteries put up quarter mile box barrage, causing loss of two B-26's.

Shipping and harbor at Bizerte were attacked by thirty-six B-17's with forty-four tons of bombs at altitude of 23,000 feet. Hits were reported on light cruiser and on target. Two or three fighters out of fifteen attacking planes were destroyed and four were damaged. Our planes suffered minor damage from antiaircraft fire. At Testour one B-17 was shot down by enemy aircraft and one crash landing near Le Kef without casualty.

At Mateur an attack was made by twelve DB-7's and twelve tons of bombs were dropped on railroad yards and planes on ground, many being destroyed. Our planes suffered no losses.

P-38 sorties were made south of Tunis damaging four trucks, shooting down one enemy aircraft over Gabes and north of Sfax causing damage to a locomotive. During the night of December 17-18, thirty-two troop carrier sorties were made. Eight Bisleys were dispatched the same night, one being lost on take-off and five by enemy action.

One P-40 was destroyed at Thelepte by enemy bombs.

Fifteen sorties were made by Beaufighters over Sarcouf, Bone, and Djedjelli, one enemy aircraft being destroyed.

Three PRU Spitfires were intercepted, one being damaged and two being destroyed.

Tunis was successfully bombed by twenty-seven Wellingtons from Malta.

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T O R C H

0700 December 19 to 1900 December 19
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U.S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U.S. and British 530

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength
of 39,000

U.S. 2,500
British 22,300
French 19,500
Total 44,300

Allied Planes within range of
Tunis area

Unknown

Fighters 123
Night Fighters 4
Light and 87
Medium Bombers
Heavy Bombers 47
Total 261

DECLASSIFIED

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EASTERN TASK FORCE

1. Sixth Armored Division reports increased enemy activity on its south flank on all roads from Pont du Fahs tending to confirm previous French report that 30 tanks and 800 men arrived in that area during 15-16 December.
2. On road 4-1/2 miles NE of Goubellat, an unreported number of enemy armored cars were reported.
3. Dressed as Americans, two Germans approached J 7315. They were fired on and one was hit. Infantry with mortar approached same position.
4. One hundred infantrymen and two scout cars were engaged vicinity of road junction three miles NW Ksar Tyr (J 73), withdrew.
5. Standing patrols and reserve of 6th Armored Division now called N I C force.
6. First Guard Brigade patrolled line E and NE of Medjes el Bab, 6 to 7 miles from the town night 16-17 December. No contact.
7. One truck and one half track of combat command B recovered.
8. One enemy mortar position 78th Division front 3 miles E of Grich el Oyed (J 63) eliminated.
9. CP's:
 - 5th Corps, 1-1/2 miles N of Souk el Khemis.
 - 78th Division, 1 mile SE Beja.
10. Thirty Italians captured by American patrol at Maknassy, night of December 16-17.

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CENTRAL TASK FORCE

1. Company C, 13th Light Armored Regiment enroute by rail and motor Oran to Souk el Arba.
2. 601st Tank Destroyer Bn enroute by motor.

AIR

1. Twelve DB-7's and 12 P-38's bombed Gabes. Antiaircraft moderate. Attacked by six enemy fighters. No results reported or claimed.
2. Eighteen B-17's bombed Tunis. Docks and shipping hit. All planes returned. Three enemy aircraft destroyed, three damaged.
3. Eighteen B-17's bombed Bizerte. Docks and shipping hit. All planes returned.
4. Twelve DB-7's bombed an enemy airdrome 8 miles NE of Djedeidf. All planes returned.
5. B-17's destroyed 8 enemy aircraft and damaged 2 over Tunis and Bizerte, December 15th.
6. December 15th, B-26's attacked El Aouina airdrome and destroyed 6 to 10 enemy planes on the ground and damaged an undetermined number.
7. Four P-38's shot down one out of six attacking enemy planes with no losses to themselves. Also sighted large vessel escorted by destroyers.

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T O R C H

1900 December 18 to 0700 December 19
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	153,724	Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	of 39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	530	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength
U. S.	2,500	of 39,000
British	22,300	
French	19,500	
TOTAL	44,300	

Allied Planes within range of Tunis area	Unknown
---	---------

Fighters	123
Night Fighters	4
Light and	87
Medium Bombers	
Heavy Bombers	47
TOTAL	261

DECLASSIFIED

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EASTERN TASK FORCE

A reserve consisting of one squadron of tanks, an infantry company, a platoon of artillery and an armored car detachment are stationed at De Djelida (west of Bou Arada), and armored patrols are operating from this force (Darby Yeomanry) about 12 miles southwest of Pont Du Fahs and about 6 miles southeast of Goubellat.

An enemy armored car patrol from Pont Du Fahs occupied Bou Arada afternoon of 13-15-42. One enemy car was destroyed.

A standing patrol from the 6th Armored Division, consisting of half a squadron of tanks, one infantry company, two 25-pounder guns and two antiaircraft guns, is established at crossroads 6 miles south of Bou Arada and three (3) miles east of Goubellat.

An enemy mine field near crossroad 8 miles northwest of Pont Du Fahs was destroyed.

An enemy strongpoint 4 miles north of Grich El Oued consists of two companies and eight tanks. The high ground east of Meidou is clear of enemy.

The 36th Brigade on the North Flank dispatched two patrols to B Rhata and two to the Mateur area. A detachment of the 6th Commandos hold a road junction at Ket Zilia (About 40 miles from Bizerte and 3 miles from the Beach).

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[REDACTED]

The 56th Reconnaissance Regiment is at a road junction
6 miles northwest of Beja.

AIR MALTA December 17.

Seventeen (17) Beaufighters and Spitfires destroyed
2 torpedo-carrying JU-88's east of Malta. Four (4) Spit-
fires met 6 southbound JU-52's, destroyed 3 and probably
destroyed one. Lampedusa was bombed and strafed. Two (2)
enemy planes were destroyed and 4 severely damaged.

Seven (7) B-17's and 7 B-26's bombed El Aouina airdrome.
One B-26 was shot down by antiaircraft fire. Twelve (12)
B-17's bombed Bizerte, and encountered intense antiaircraft
fire. Nine Beaufighter sorties were made over the Bone area
and 50 sorties, December 14, over Bizerte-Tunis-Pont Du Fahs-
Tebourba area.

The RAF destroyed 2 enemy aircraft. One Bisley crashed
on take-off and killed the crew. Two (2) others crash-landed
but crews are safe. Three (3) P-38's sighted five (5) enemy
ships off Tunisian coast escorted by 7 planes. One enemy
plane was destroyed and bombs were dropped on one ship.
Results unobserved.

DB-7's bombed railroad junction east of Mateur. An air-
craft raid was made on Massicault with hits obtained on town
and armored dispersal area.

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NAVAL

HM Submarine P-46 sank two medium sized MIV's south-bound from Tunisia.

British submarine fired 4 torpedoes at two merchant vessels escorted by three destroyers south of Naples. Merchant vessels believed to have been sunk. (12-5-42)

British submarine sank an Italian submarine south of Sardinia. (12-6-42)

The merchant ship Edencoral, in a convoy, blew up 30 miles northwest of Oran.

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

T O R C H

0700 December 18 to 1900 December 18
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 153,724
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated
Strength of
39,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 530

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated
Strength of
39,000

U. S. 2,500
British 22,300
French 19,500
44,300

Allied Planes within
range of Tunis Area

Unknown

Fighters 123
Night Fighters 4
Light and Med.
Bombers 87
Heavy Bombers 47
Total:- 261

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[REDACTED]

LAND - First Army

1. No enemy ground offensive action reported, except patrolling. Defensive works continue.
2. New strong point in area J6240 garrisoned by two companies and eight tanks (estimated).
3. Axis mine field destroyed by our ground troops in the vicinity of J7814.

SOUTHERN SECTOR

1. No change in ground situation.
2. The rest of the Italian 91st Infantry Regiment (from which part of Kairouan garrison was taken) is believed to be in the Sousse-Sfax area.
3. At Maknassy thirty Italians, captured by American patrol night of 16-17 Dec., identified as from 8th Bersaglieri Regiment.
4. French report that Gabes further reinforced.

AIR

1. Five JU 88's reconnoitered sea area between Sicily and 2°E between 0700 and 1430Z, Dec. 16.
2. Long-range bombers (JU 88's) were active from Sicily. Eight attacked targets in Bone area between 1800 - 1900, 16 Dec.; seven bombed targets in Libya between 0500 - 0600, 16 Dec.; six active over Libya 1800 - 1900.
3. Fighter activity principally in convoy escort; several

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ME 110's and one JU 88 sighted about 20 miles E. of Cuni Island at 1200Z.

4. Transports. 7 JU 52's landed at Tunis at 1200Z. 35 JU 52's departed from Castel Vetrano for Tripoli at 1630Z.

SEA

Submarines.

1. Five vicinity Algiers - Gibraltar area.
2. Four Algiers - Bone area.
3. Four Bone - Sardinia - Bizerte area.
4. Two between Gibraltar and 9°W.
5. One sighted by air 50 miles SW Cape Palos.

Photo Reconnaissance, Dec. 15.

1. Sousse - 10 E-boats, 1 torpedo boat (probably 1 small tanker).
2. Sfax - 7 landing boats or barges self-propelled, and two small merchant vessels.

(CM-IN-7695, 12-18-42)

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[REDACTED]

T O R C H

1900 December 17 to 0700 December 18
(All messages paraphrased)

WRB

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U.S. Strength Landed on in Port 178,800
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated
Strength of
36,500

AIR STRENGTH

U.S. and British 576

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

U.S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Estimated
Strength of
36,500

Allied Planes 181
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

DECLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nine B-24-Ds destroyed round house and repair depot at SFAX, December 15th. Light anti-aircraft encountered.

AIR - Malta Intelligence Summary

Photos December 15th Tunis show severe damage to warships at electric railway depot warehouses, buildings on north and south quays and west of main basin, warehouses on phosphates quay and other minor points throughout dock area.

La Goulette: One M/V 23,000 Tons capsized and burning beside destroyed oiling jetty. One M/V 45,000 Tons damaged and low in water. Severe damage Shell Oil Depot, barracks north of harbor, ship repairing yards and railway goods station and other buildings in dock area.

Nights 15th and 16th December Wellingtons bombed Tunis and La Goulette continuously from 1730 to 0256. At La Goulette many small fires with secondary explosives. Tunis fires and explosions started in buildings and railway marshalling goods. Tunis end of canal appeared partially blocked by sand and debris from large explosion. Moderate heavy and light flak encountered.

December 16th Beaufighters destroy one large German aircraft Southeast of Malta and one SM82 east of Tripoli.

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T O R C H

0700 December 17 to 1900 December 17

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. STRENGTH LANDED OR IN PORT 178,000

BRITISH " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

Estimated Strength of
36,500

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 576

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

Estimated Strength of
36,500

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Allied Planes
within 200 miles of Tunis

181

Unknown

DECLASSIFIED

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Situation Report No. 48 dated December 15, 1942

EASTERN TASK FORCE

1. On the south flank 6th Armored Division patrols on the night of December 14-15 reported small enemy detachments 8 miles east of Medjez El Bab. An enemy armed patrol was observed in the same general area during vigorous daylight patrolling. No other contact reported.
2. The first Guard Brigade in the center reported 40 vehicles $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Medjez El Bab. This target was bombed at 1215Z and the pilots reported locating only 8 vehicles.
3. The 78th Division reported enemy positions and motor transport at the road junction 12 miles north of Medjez El Bab. There was no other contact.
4. On the north flank there is no change in the situation of the 36th Brigade.
5. The following units are enroute to the Eastern Task Force:
 - a. 18th regimental combat team by motor from Algiers.
 - b. 1st battalion, 36th FA by rail and motor from Oran.

AIR

1. Seven B-17's bombed El Aouina airdrome, encountering heavy anti-aircraft fire. All air craft returned.
2. Seven B-26's also bombed El Aouina with 10 tons of bombs. All hit on the airdrome and dispersal areas. One plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.
3. Twelve B-17's bombed the docks and shipping at Bizerte, encountering intense anti-aircraft fire. Smoke pots were used along the target area.
4. Nine Beaufighter sorties were made over the area on the night of

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

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December 13-14.

5. Fifty Beaufighter sorties were made on December 14 over Bizerte-
(rest of message being serviced).

G-2 Report for the 24 hour period ending midnight December 15, 1942.

LAND

First Army Sector.

1. Enemy activity limited to patrolling and construction of defensive works. Little movement was seen. Defensive work continues in areas previously reported and also immediately east and southeast of Mateur.
2. Enemy detachment and motor transport were reported at J5555; also 40 enemy vehicles were in the area near J 6042 during the day.
3. Infantry also reported near Goubellat.
4. An air reconnaissance reported many tank tracks and 4 tanks wouth-east of Djedeida at J 8358 in the southern sector.
5. At Bobengry offensive action was reported.
6. Part of the Kairouan garrison from the 91st Italian infantry regiment and some medium tanks were reported at El Aouina which is reported being used as a detraining and transhipment point.
7. An unconfirmed report indicated the enemy are attempting to change the construction of 3 former French GQC defensive lines at Mareth-Medenine and one near the border to prevent ingress into Tripolitania from the north and west.
8. Estimated enemy strength:
 - a. Combat troops in the Tunis-Bizerte area - 17,000 Germans
4,500 Italians.

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b. Remainder in Tunisia: 2,500 Germans
7,000 Italians
2,500 German Air Force
5,500 Service Troops

39,000 Total

AIR

1. About six JU-88's were on security patrol of the northern half of the western Mediterranean throughout the day.
2. About nine JU-88's bombed targets in the Bone area. Eight ME-109's and four FW 190's fighters were seen in the Bizerte-Tunis area during the day.
3. Two JU-52 transports started for Sebala.
4. Nine JU-52 transports landed in Tunis from Reggio while 28 of the same craft landed there from Naples.
5. Seventeen JU-52 transports left Sicily for Castel Benito.

SEA

1. Nothing to report on the French fleet.
2. U Boats
 - a. No sightings in the western Mediterranean. Probable dispositions include 2 off Algeria, 2 between Algeria and Bone, and 3 at the western approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar.

Summary of air activity follows:

1. During the week ending December 11, allied air forces flew 154 missions, totalling 540 sorties. Activity throughout were seriously

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hampered by heavy rains which turned our forward airfields into veritable seas of mud.

2. Nine bombing missions were flown and a total of 141,200 lbs of HE were dropped.

3. Enemy losses:

a. Seven aircraft were destroyed (2 were destroyed in air activity).

b. Four aircraft probably destroyed and 8 aircraft damaged.

4. Our losses for the same period as a result of enemy action were:

a. 5 aircraft destroyed (2 pilots saved).

b. 8 aircraft missing.

5. a. December 5th - Sixteen B-17's escorted by sixteen P-38's, bombed the docks and shipping at Tunis with excellent results. 37½ tons of HE were dropped and hits were observed on docks, sheds, railway yards and on a cargo ship. Clouds of smoke resulting from this raid were seen 50 miles away.

b. On the same day eight B-25's escorted by six P-38's dropped 8½ tons of HE on the Sidi Ahmed airdrome. One B-25 was lost from the intense, accurate light and heavy flak about the airport as a result of this operation.

c. Later in the day 9 Bostons, accompanied by twenty P-38's, dropped 6½ tons of HE on the same airdrome. On this mission our fighter escort destroyed 2 aircraft.

d. Six Bostons attacked a tank concentration near Akerma, dropping 5½ tons of HE.

6. a. December 6th - Seven Bostons, accompanied by eleven P-38's, bombed an important bridge near El Bathan.

b. Thirteen B-17's, accompanied by eleven P-38's were dispatched

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against the docks and shipping at Bizerte.

c. A total of 12 Bostons on 3 separate missions and accompanied by fighter escort was dispatched against Tebourba, a railroad bridge near La Hencha and a railroad station at Sousse.

d. Despite bad weather the missions to El Bathan were completed with fair results believed obtained.

7. December 11th - An additional bombing mission was flown in poor weather against a bridge north of La Hencha. Six B-25's with an escort of P-38's dropped 9½ tons of HE and hits were observed on the railroad near the north end of the bridge.

8. Results of our encounters with enemy by our fighters on reconnaissance and patrolling missions were:

Probably destroyed:	4 ME 109's
Damaged:	4 ME 109's 3 ME 110's or 210's 1 JU-88
Our losses:	4 P-38's 1 P-40
Missing:	1 B-25 7 P-38's

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*map Room
White Room*

T O R C H

1900 December 16 to 0700 December 17
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	Estimated Strength	
British " " " " "	140,000	of	36,500

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	576	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	Estimated Strength	
U. S.	2,500	of	36,500
British	22,300		
French	19,500		
	<u>44,300</u>		

Allied Planes within 200 miles of Tunis	181	Unknown
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G-2 Report for December 14 reports the following:

LAND

No enemy offensive activity the night of December 13-14, with the exception of active patrolling near Bou Arada, Goubellat and points J-7233, J-7234 and J-6243.

It is reported the enemy has received reinforcements, including artillery, in area J-4075.

Photographic reconnaissance indicates enemy strong points at points J-751567, J-745577, J-729579, J-742561 and J-722544. Weapon pits are numerous in the areas near the strong points, and there is an almost continuous line between J-873527 and J-905463. Probable strong points also the points J-879508, J-899480 and J-895466. All defensive positions indicate strong defense to the approaches to Tunis.

No offensive action reported from Krichem garrison, although considerable transport including some horse-drawn is reported on the Sfax - Faïd road.

French report an estimated strength of 2 companies of enemy at Maknassy, with Germans moving in on the morning December 14.

AIR

Usual reconnaissance of the sea area was made by 5 aircraft.

Long-range bombers bombed Bone at dawn.

[REDACTED]

Bomber estimated efforted in this theater - 25 sorties for the period with 4 JU-88's operating between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and 10 JU-88's bombing unknown target during first half of night.

On defensive patrol 5 ME-109's and 4 FW-190's in the Tunis area, and 12 ME-109's in Bizerte area were reported as of 10:30 a.m.

American Fighters attacked enemy aircraft believed to be 109's on Gabes airdrome.

NAYY

No reported important changes in the French or Italian Fleets.

The Fleet Air Arm torpedoed 2 motor vessels at Ferryville during the early morning.

Three (3) submarines sighted by aircraft; one northwest of Oran, one northwest of Tenez and one east of Cape Palos - 2 of them attacked by aircraft.

HMS Argonaut torpedoed 40' northeast of Bone. One ship in a convoy between Nemours and Oran torpedoed by submarine. Estimate 10 submarines are operating between the west coast of Sardinia and Gibraltar, and 6 between Cape De Gata - Cape Trek Forcas - Cape Palos - Cape Tenez.

IDENTIFICATIONS

557th Gruppo (mech) AntiTank Artillery of Centauro Division was in Mateur area November 26. Battalion had 3

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batteries each of 6 75MM antitank guns mounted in light 3-man tanks. Prisoner believed that a light tank battalion from this division arrived with him in Bizerte on November 17, and possibly an infantry battalion.

Prisoners from 4th Flak Ersatz Abteilung 52 in area J-5664 on December 11.

A report from Cairo states that the British confirm that Rommel is receiving aviation gasoline over land, using Sousse, Sfax and Gabes as ports of debarkation.

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*map Room
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T O R C H

0700 December 16 to 1900 December 16
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 576

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

36,500 Estimated Strength

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Allied Planes 181
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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Situation Report No. 47 - December 15, 1942.

AIR ACTION

1. Seventeen B-17's attacked Tunis docks and shipping; direct hit was reported on one vessel and all aircraft returned.
2. Beaufighters destroyed 5 enemy planes over Bone on the night of December 13th.
3. Six enemy planes made an ineffective dawn attack on Bone on December 13th.
4. Fourteen anti-submarine sorties were flown over the area Philippeville - Bone - Algiers on December 13th, however no submarines were sighted.
5. Sixteen P-38's bombing, strafing and reconnaissance sorties, with all aircraft returning, were flown with the following results:
 - a. One locomotive shot up near the station at De Kerker.
 - b. Another locomotive shot up near La Hencha.
 - c. Seven Italian trucks were destroyed near Chaaba.
6. Air sweeps of sixteen P-40 sorties destroyed one enemy plane on Gabes air field while one plane is missing from anti-aircraft fire.
7. Twelve B-24's attacked Bizerte harbor and shipping with 30 ton AF bombs from 22,000 feet. Hits were observed on the docks and the planes were attacked by 12 enemy craft of which 4 were destroyed and several were damaged. All of our planes returned.
8. Photo sorties made over Bizerte report 24 smoke pots giving off white smoke cloud.
9. Twenty-eight fighter sorties were made from Souk El Arba on December 13th. No enemy aircraft were encountered.
10. Nine DB-7's attacked the Sfax railway yards with 8½ tons of bombs

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from 6,000 feet, with 14 bursts in the yard. Direct hits were scored on two gasoline tank cars and two fires were visible for 40 miles. Anti-aircraft fire was ineffective and no enemy aircraft were encountered. A second attack by nine DB's with $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs hit building along the track. All planes returned.

Situation Report No. 46 - December 14, 1942.

NAVAL ACTION

1. Six swordfish attacked with torpedoes two ex-French merchant ships in Nazi hands at Bizerte, scoring 2 hits on one ship which blew up. All aircraft returned.
2. Bone harbor was raided on the night of December 12-13 without serious damage.
3. Force Q from Bone made a sweep over the Bizerte-Marittimo channel on the night of December 13-14; one cruiser was torpedoed off Bone and is now proceeding to Algiers. No other results.
4. A sloop overhauled and rammed a submarine which made 2 unsuccessful attacks on a convoy off Bougie. Depth bombs were dropped over the bubbles.
5. A sloop grounded in the Algerian harbor, as a result of a recent storm, has been refloated.

EASTERN TASK FORCE

1. There was no enemy activity on the night of December 13-14.
2. During the day patrols were in contact with enemy 3,000 yards east of Bou-Arada - east of Goubellat - at road junction $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Medjez El Bab - and at the road junction 6 miles northeast of Medjez El Bab.
3. Headquarters of the 36th Brigade was shelled during the morning by an approximately 4 inch gun.

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4. The 6th Commando burned an Arab village as reprisal for shooting a French forestry official.
5. Aerial reconnaissance reports no enemy movement in the area Tebourba-Djedeida-St. Cryprien-Massicaukt.
6. The following troop locations are reported:
 - a. The 6th Armored Division on the south flank is grouped around Teboursouk. The 38th Brigade and the advance headquarters of the 6th Armored Division are 2 miles southeast of Teboursouk.
 - b. The Guards Brigade is at Medjez El Bab.
 - c. The 11th Brigade is east of Beja.
 - d. The parachute brigade is 9 miles northeast of Beja on a lateral road between the Mateur-Beja road and the Djebel Abiod-Beja road.
 - e. The 36th Brigade is along the Mateur-Djebel Abiod road.
 - f. The 6th Commandos are 22 miles west of Mateur.
 - g. Combat Command B is assembled just east of Souk El Khemis.

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T O R C H

1800 December 15 to 0700 December 16
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

WAB

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated
Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 576 Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	44,300	36,500 Estimated Strength
U. S.	2,500	
British	22,300	
French	19,500	
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	44,300	

Allied Planes 181 Unknown
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Allied Tanks 204 Unknown

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NAVAL

Only minor change in Italian and Tunisian ports shown by photo reconnaissance. Submarine rammed and probably sunk off Bougie by HMS Enchantress. Merchant vessel, southwest Trapani, torpedoed by fleet air arm. Merchant vessel, North Sousse, torpedoed and left aground by British submarine. No major changes in submarine disposition in Western Mediterranean nor western approaches to Gibraltar.

GROUND

Eastern Task Force

5th Armored Division: Vigorous patrolling - no contact. Road junction 6 miles south of Bou Arada - crossroads 3 miles east of Goubellat and crossroads $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Medjex El Bab clear.

78th Division: Patrols report area west of Grich El Cued (4 miles northeast of Medjex El Bab) clear. Twenty (20) enemy vehicles in convoy north of Medjex El Bab shelled and dispersed. Medjex El Bab lightly shelled.

Combat Command "B": Deficiencies in major equipment due to combat and bogging down during withdrawal night 10-11 December as follows:

50 medium tanks
84 light tanks
98 half tracks (M-2)
146 half tracks (M-3)

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66 2½ ton trucks
78 ½ ton trucks
72 1-ton trailers
13 105MM guns (SP)
22 75MM guns (SP)
18 37MM guns (SP)
35 37MM guns (towed)

AIR

Our action: One hundred eighty-five (185) RAF Fighter sorties on patrol and bomber escort mission - no casualties claimed or suffered.

Twelve (12) anti-submarine sorties - 1 sighting, 1 attack.

Bridge north of Sfax bombed by 5 B-26's. All returned.
Direct hits reported.

Sousse harbor attacked by 6 B-25's dropping 6½ tons of bombs. Harbor and docks attacked by 15 B-17's with 37½ tons of bombs. One ship hit. No encounters. Heavy inaccurate anti-aircraft fire. All returned.

Bizerte docks and harbor attacked by 11 B-17's dropping 22½ tons of bombs. Four (4) planes damaged by anti-aircraft fire. One plane missing. Bizerte also attacked by 19 B-24's dropping 37 tons of bombs. Hits observed on docks. Heavy anti-aircraft fire encountered. Enemy attacked with planes,

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severely damaging 1 B-20.

Thirteen (13) reconnaissance sorties in area Feriana, Sbeitla, Sidi Bou Zid, Sousse and Gabes. Schooner near Sousse strafed, 5 vehicles destroyed. All returned.

Seventy-six (76) sorties by transport aircraft ferrying freight.

Enemy action: Reconnaissance over harbors and shipping lane Algiers - Bone. Security patrol in Gulf of Lyons. No aircraft in battle area. Three (3) air forces in Sbeitla area during day. Four (4) ME-110's and several ME-109's in Gabes vicinity early afternoon.

Four (4) ME-109's in defensive patrol against attacking American bombers at Bizerte.

About 30 JU-52's landed in Tripoli late afternoon. About 6 ME-110's landed after convoy escort.

Bone bombed night 12-13 December.

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T O R C H

0700 December 15 to 1900 December 15

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed on in Port 178,000

British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 576

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

36,500 Estimated Strength

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500
44,300

ALLIED PLANES 181
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

Allied Tanks 204

Unknown

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NAVAL

IN-bound motor vessel loaded with vehicles torpedoed off Sousse. Vessel was beached. Two F boats are present in Sfax. French coaster with cargo of coal from Algiers was sunk off Cape Carboq. December 9th. Night of December 11 and 12, ships in Algiers Bay were subjected to torpedo attacks with one ship sunk and three damaged. A destroyer was torpedoed and sunk 60 miles west of Oran December 11th. Survivors were picked up.

AIR

Tunis and La Goulette docks were bombed with 49 tons of HE by Wellingtons and a very successful attack on night of December 13-14. Explosions followed with large fire observed on 6,000 ton motor vessel in entrance to canal at La Goulette. Other fires on large ship in La Goulette basin and on small vessel south of canal entrance. Fires in area south of Tunis main docks. In patrol of Sousse Sfax railway 2 Beaufighters shot up a stationary train north of Mahdia and dropped 250 lb. bombs on railway between Sfax and El Adem. Two Junkers 88 were destroyed by fighter planes southeast of Lampedusa.

No enemy sighted in fighter sweeps and patrols by RAF over ports and airdromes on December 11th. Beaufighters on night of December 11-12 destroyed two of twelve enemy aircraft attacking Bone. Enroute to Sousse on December 12th nine B-26 aircraft encountered severe icing before reaching target causing 2 planes to crash killing crew of one. Seventeen B-17 dropped 42 tons of bombs on Tunis docks. All aircraft returned. In eight P-38 reconnaissance sorties, 7 enemy vehicles and 1 enemy plane were destroyed.

LAND

First Army Sector:

Little movement or enemy activity.

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Southern Sector:

Reported but unconfirmed report of German infiltration into Hadjeb El Aioun. Only enemy aerial offensive action reported in Djebel Krechem area. Maklassy reported occupied night of December 13-14 by unestimated enemy forces. Enemy half-tracks contacted 5 miles southwest of Furna. Our armored units contacted enemy armored cars 12 miles southwest of Pont Du Fahs. Bou Arada and Medjez were shelled and enemy motor convoy broken up by shelling north of Medjez El Bab. Prisoners state last attack had limited objective, capture Medjez. No offensive action Kebili Garrison reported. Enemy aerial reconnaissance of Aougourt reported by French indicates possible enemy apprehension of security of southern flank. El Hama is said to be occupied by an Italian Motorized Squadron. Chott Djerid still impassible. Continuation of enemy traffic from Sousse to Sfax and Gabes. No new enemy identification. Two main groups apparently form advance enemy elements. One north of Medjez-Tebourba road consisting of approximately a company of the 190th Panzer with possible addition of 15 tanks, infantry battalion, 4 gun field artillery battery, and some armored cars. Second group south of and on road Medjez-Massicault consists approximately of a battalion 86 Lorried Infantry Regiment, 12 gun Field Artillery battalion, and a reconnaissance company. No enemy reported to be west of Krubine Grich El Oued.

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T O R C H

1900 December 14 to 0700 December 15
(all messages paraphrased)

WAB

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000

British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated
Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 578

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

36,500 Estimated
Strength

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis) 181

Unknown

Allied Tanks 204

Unknown

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REVIEW NO. 25 reports that a decision was made on December 2 to cease offensive action on the ground in order to accumulate the means necessary to make any decisive advance. The minimum objective that seems desirable for a concerted all-out push with what we have is the capture of Tunis and the crowding back of the hostile force into the fortress at Bizerte. During the interim, reinforcements and logistical preparations were to go forward and then calculated at a week, two things were contemplated.

1. The ground forces were authorized to contract their lines in order to save troops and to refit units that were so badly depleted in personnel and equipment that their offensive value was gone.

2. At the same time, the greatest possible scale of bombing was to go forward in an effort to cut the hostile supply lines and to weaken the enemy both in supplies and morale.

It was also hoped that new air fields could be found in forward areas which could be improved as far as possible, and where there could be placed sufficient supplies to sustain an all-out effort for a period of a few days. It was then felt that the target date could be obtained unless enemy action became too powerful or the weather became impossible. In fact, both situations developed.

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On December 1 our forward troops became engaged in bitter defensive fighting, particularly in the area of Tebourba and to the west. Anderson's plan was to withdraw farther than was originally intended. His purpose was to hold positions that would insure our use of the road running north from Baja and protect the communications center at Medjes El Bab. While the enemy attacks continued on a somewhat reduced scale, they were in general beaten off, and enemy losses were apparently equal to ours.

On the evening of December 10, the withdrawal finally took place with only a minimum of interference by the enemy. It was during this movement and due to causes not yet determined that the equipment of at least one battalion of United States troops in Combat Command "B" became mired and had to be abandoned. The details as to the extent of the material losses in that Command are not yet available, but all reports indicate that they are serious. Losses in other positions of Anderson's forces were negligible, and his original plan is being carried out.

Replacements are now arriving at the front. It is expected that both the 78th Division and the 6th Armored Division will be at nearly full strength by December 19.

The condition of Combat Command "B" is apparently so

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serious that the Commanders have recommended that it be removed from the battle and replaced by the 18th Infantry Combat Team which has already been brought forward as far as Algiers. This team can actually start forward on the morning of the 15th, but until that time all motors will be in use transporting supplies to a new airfield for heavy bombers that is being opened at Biskra. In the meantime, it is intended to reorganize and regroup Combat Command "B" and send up some tank replacements to go with 6 anti-tank guns by robbing the Oran Force still further. The latest report indicates that there are available for Combat Command "B" in tank runners 21 Germans, 22 Grants and an unknown number of light (runners). Allowing several days for refitting, resting and reorganization, Combat Command "B" should have sufficient power to give satisfactory support to the United States 18th Infantry.

Some reinforcements of French Infantry are also going into the area, which will give us some additional security in the rough country to the south of the main battle area. One battalion of French troops is also scheduled to go to the left of the British Force.

The weather has prevented effecting bombing operations due to an almost complete cloud cover over every profitable

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target and also because of the bogging down of our bombers at the airdromes. A group of United States Liberators which were brought from England several days ago, has thus far been unable to operate.

Eighteen B-17's took off today to bomb either Tunis or Bizerte, depending upon the weather; while a small number of medium bombers took off to operate against Sousse, the results of that operation have not yet been reported.

Yesterday 6 medium bombers attempted to destroy the bridge about 18 miles north of Gabes, and initial reports indicate that one span of the bridge may have been destroyed. This information has not been confirmed. An arrangement has been made with Tedder to keep a maximum number of heavy bombers operating against the Bizerte-Tunis area. This arrangement includes a temporary exchange of our Liberator Group and some of Brereton's B-17's which can operate from Biakra, and the Liberators from just east of Benghazi. This arrangement places the primary target within the range of all the planes.

The Commanders' estimate of the enemy strength is that his ground forces, except for tanks, have not been materially increased lately. It was reported by Anderson that the enemy employed at least 80 Mark III and IV tanks on December 10. These tanks are markedly superior to anything we have except

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the Germans or possibly the Grants. It has been stated that our Crusader tanks, while carrying a good gun, are helpless against German tanks in country where cover and concealment is impossible.

Except for anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, the enemy has shown no artillery and it is hoped that the artillery being collected will take care of the enemy tanks.

An effort is being made to form a United States Battalion of 155MM guns which we desire to bring in as a surprise for the big push.

The infantry brought here by the enemy is not his best according to all reports. In several instances, small groups have surrendered voluntarily and generally the men appear to have been thrown together without too much training. Their morale is rather low, while on the other hand the morale of the Panzers and air units seems of the highest.

December 30 has been set as the target date. In spite of all difficulties, some improvement has been effected in the logistical situation. However, due to the precarious nature of the supply lines we cannot possibly undertake an offensive of several days without sufficient reserve supplies being accumulated at the railheads. Instructions have been issued to assure perfection of signal communications in the Air Force and in liaison between ground and air commanders. It is hoped that such coordination will be possible as will insure

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the maximum tactical effort with the means available.

Everything possible is being done to raise the morale and efficiency of the French contingents which are completely lacking in any equipment that permits them to operate in territory where they are exposed to armor. While there is not much we can do along this line because of our own urgent needs, it would be a tremendous morale and material advantage if we had immediately available anti-tank and light flak equipment to supply even one regiment. It would be helpful if it could be reported to Giraud that this equipment and a minimum of motor transport is being shipped at once.

Twelve of the best French Pilots have already been absorbed to fly P-40's so as to create an Esprit de Corps and increase their determination to fight.

Situation Report No. 43, dated December 12, 1942.

EASTERN TASK FORCE

In the engagement reported in Situation Report No. 41, the Blade Force destroyed an enemy infantry detachment moving south from Mateur, killing 100 and taking 53 prisoners. Our losses were 26 killed and 3 wounded.

In the Blade withdrawal, 3 carriers and one 6-pounder were lost. Components of the Blade Force have now reverted to normal formations.

Combat Command "B" has been withdrawn to Corps Reserve from the main position where it was relieved by the 11th Brigade.

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The Parachute Brigade has completed occupation of the new position.

The 2nd Battalion of the Lancastershire Fusiliers is now part of the Sidi Nsir (approximately 20 miles southwest of Mateur) garrison.

On the night of 11-12-December, the 6th Armored Division had patrols in the area east of the line Bou Arada (35 miles southeast of Beja) - Goubellat (10 miles south southeast of Medjez El Bab).

At 1130 Z the 78th Division made contact with three columns, each of about 25 vehicles consisting of tanks and infantry, advancing on Medjez El Bab from the direction of Tunis. No assault was made on the town, but attempts were made to infiltrate north and south of the town. The 78th Division reported all quiet at 1700 Z.

Tank Destroyer units in the area of the 36th Brigade, 8th Commandos, captured two machine gun posts during the night December 11-12.

Our Air Force successfully strafed enemy motor vehicles on the road Tunis - Medjez El Bab and the road St. Cyprien (10 miles southeast of Djedeida) - Massicault (9 miles south of Djedeida) despite anti-aircraft fire of accompanying tanks.

WESTERN TASK FORCE

Company "C" of the 41st Armored Infantry moved on December 5 by road from Sale to the vicinity of Souk El Arba Du Rharb

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north of the Sebou River.

G-2 Report for December 13, shows the following information in addition to that covered by the Situation Report.

LAND

1st Army Sector: Pont Du Fahs was reported occupied on December 12 by an enemy force of 10 tanks, some artillery and armored cars.

Additional Italian reinforcements are reported to have landed at Goulette on December 12, wearing a blue badge with a silver stripe. They may be from the 55th or 56th Infantry Regiments of the 32nd Infantry Division.

Aerial reconnaissance during the morning revealed no movement on the roads east and southeast of Kebili (50 miles west of Gabes) where there was reported an estimated enemy strength of 500.

Reports continue to come in concerning the disembarkation of reinforcements at Sousse, with movement south toward Sfax.

Documents and other identifications found on December 11 in the area near Djebel Abiod (35 miles west of Mateur) suggests the presence of the 1st Italian Parachute Battalion estimated at 15 officers and 237 men. There is no indication of their present whereabouts.

AIR

German air operations included a reconnaissance of the Philippeville harbor, light bombing of Sbeitla (100 south southeast

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of Soussse) and Gafsa (120 miles southwest of Sfax) and an attack by night bombers on Bone.

NAVAL

Aircraft sighted two merchant vessels approaching Soussse from the north. Two merchant vessels, two destroyers and four escort vessels were observed north of Capri, steering south.

Anti-submarine defense included the following: one 40 miles south of Cape Da Gata; one north of Alboran Island and one near the western approaches to Gibraltar.

Two were attacked by aircraft without results in one case, and not estimated in the other.

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*map Room
white house*

T O R C H

0700 December 14 to 1900 December 14
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 578

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 44,300

36,500 Estimated Strength

U. S. 2,500

British 22,300

French 19,500

44,300

Allies Planes 181
(within 200 miles
of Tunis)

Unknown

Tanks 204

Unknown

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Situation Report No. 42 dated December 11, 1942.

1. A French Tunisian Division numbering about 7,000 is in the zone of the First Army in vicinity of Medjex El Bab — Souk El Khemis — Souk El Arba — Le Kef.

2. Part of the Tunisian Division, consisting of mechanized cavalry and infantry, is on the south flank of the First Army.

3. An Algerian Division is south of the Tunisian Division. It consists of the following:

Infantry - 4,000
Cavalry - 1,000
Engineers, signals and services
Total - 6,000 combat troops

4. The Constantine Division is south of the Algerian Division and consists of approximately 5,000 combatant troops located in the general area of Sbeitla — Kasserine — Tebessa.

5. South of the Constantine Division is the zone Aures — Nemantchka with headquarters at Khenchela. 1500 cavalry are in this zone.

6. USA forces in central Tunisia: Faïd - 3rd Battalion, 26th Infantry; Company B, 701 TD Battalion; Platoon of Company C, 105th CA Battalion AA; Company E of the 503rd Parachute Infantry.

A telegram was received by the high commissioner from Governor General Boisson at Dakar which states that he has given instructions for the immediate release and return to British Colonies of all English and United Nations internees. It is requested that competent allied authority be advised so that this information can be sent to Great Britain to permit application of the reciprocal measures agreed on. It is also asked that information be

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furnished regarding the measure taken for the release of French internees contemplated upon on the agreement of Governor General Boisson.

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1900 December 13 to 0700 December 14
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	36,500 Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	578	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	34,500	36,500 Estimated Strength
U. S.	3,300	
British	22,300	
French	9,200	
	<hr/>	
	34,800	

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis)	181	Unknown
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AIRCRAFT LOCATION

Feriana	18 Fighters	Algiers (including Blida and Maison Blanche)	60 Fighters 12 Night Fighters 20 Bombers (M) 18 Bombers (H) 13 Reconnaissance 7 Troop Carriers
Youks Les Bains	18 Fighters 7 Bombers (L)		
Souk El Arba	37 Fighters 4 Night Fighters 9 Bombers (Rcn)	Oran (including La Senia, Tafaroui, Nouvion, Relixane)	65 Fighters 10 Bombers (M) 29 Bombers (H) 42 Troop Carriers
Bone	30 Fighters 6 Bombers (Rcn)		
Carbobert	32 Bombers (L)	Oudja	20 Reconnaissance
Phillippeville	10 Fighters	Casablanca	58 Fighters 20 Bombers (L) 1 Bomber (M) 22 Troop Carriers
Djidjelli	10 Fighters		

TANKS

1st Battalion Armored Regiment	29 (L)
1st Battalion Armored 13th Regiment (-) Company at Oran.	33 (L)
2nd Battalion 13th Armored Regiment	22 (M)
Detachment 2nd Battalion 67th Armored Regiment	21 (M) 4 Replacement (L) at Beja
6th Armored Division 165th Lancers	50
6th Armored Division 721st Lancers	45

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NAVAL

Shipping attacks by bombers at dawn 11 December off Bone, Phillippeville and Bougie, with no known damage. About 12 submarines operating between 6°E and Gibraltar, and about 5 between 11°W and Gibraltar.

AIR

Six (6) of our B-25's attacked bridge north of Sfax with 7 tons of bombs, scoring direct hits on a railway and near-misses on bridge. For aircraft strength and location, see pages 1 and 2.

Enemy air reports not yet received, but it appears there was some activity by torpedo bombers from Sardinia, and long-range bombers from Sicily.

GROUND

Our forces withdrew during the night 10-11 December and the day of the 11th. They were covered by the Blade Force which was due to withdraw the night of 11-12. The new line is reported to run from the vicinity of Testour north and slightly west, to a point some 20 miles northeast of Beja; with a strong patrol at a road junction halfway between Mateur and Medjex El Bab. The 36th and the Blade Force evidently remained in position, and the Guards Brigade and 2 French Battalions are holding Medjex El Bab. Combat Command "B" had some difficulty withdrawing trucks and half-tracks due to mistake in order by one unit. The Blade Force repelled an enemy attack south of Mateur and the Guards Brigade repelled an attack of infantry and armor from the east toward Medjex El Bab, with the

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enemy losing 2 tanks destroyed and 2 damaged.

The enemy reinforced Kairouan during the night 10-11 with 300 Italians and some light or medium tanks. Kebili garrison previously estimated between two and three hundred, is now reported reinforced by an enemy motorized battalion. The following enemy units have been reported: 1st to 4th Companies of Lorried Infantry Regiment 86; elements of the German 358th Infantry Regiment in the Sfax-Faid area; 4th Panzer Brigade; 7th Panzer Regiment with 1st and 2nd Battalions. At least one German battalion reported equipped with machine gun Model 42. Statement from prisoner indicates presence of limited numbers of 88MM anti-tank guns on self-propelled mounting, armored front and sides and open rear.

MISCELLANEOUS

There are improving weather conditions in the area, with Chott Djerid still reported impassable due to rains. This shallow salt marsh lake is east of Kebili.

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T O R C H

1900 December 12 to 0700 December 13
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

WLF

ALLIES

AXIS

U.S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000 36,500 Estimated Strength

British " " " " " 140,000

318,000

AIR STRENGTH

U.S. and British Unknown Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 34,800 36,500 Estimated Strength

U.S. 3,300

British 23,300

French 9,200

34,800

Allied Planes 181 Unknown
(Within 200 Miles of Tunis)

NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION TO REPORT

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T O R C H

0700 December 12 to 1900 December 12

(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000

British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

36,500 Estimated Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British

Unknown

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 34,800

36,500 Estimated Strength

U. S. 3,300

British 22,300

French 9,200

34,800

Allied Planes
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

181

Unknown

NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION TO REPORT.

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T O R C H

1900 December 11 to 0700 December 12
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

15,000 Estimated Strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British Unknown

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 30,800

15,000 Estimated Strength

U. S. 3,300

British 18,300

French 9,200

30,800

Allied Planes 181
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

Unknown

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FORCE

0700 December 11 to 1900 December 11
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	175,000	15,000 Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	Unknown	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	34,800	
U. S.	3,300	
British	22,300	36,500 Estimated Strength
French	<u>9,200</u>	
	34,800	

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis)	161	Unknown
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T O R C H

1900 December 10 to 0700 December 11
(all messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	16,000 Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	140,000	36,500

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	Unknown	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	30,800	
U. S.	3,300	16,000 Estimated Strength
British	18,300	36,500
French	9,200	
	<u>30,800</u>	

Allied Planes (Within 200 miles of Tunis)	181	Unknown
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Situation Report No. 39, December 10

ALGIERS

Naval

Bone: Two motor torpedo boats arrived December 8. Sweep northward executed by Force Q, returning daylight December 9. No results.

Algiers: Sloop aground in bad weather December 9. Aerial torpedo sunk Corvette December 9, in daylight raid on shipping in bay.

Eastern Task Force: Patrolling activity only by both sides. Heavy rains make ground off roads and trails unfit for wheels or tracks.

Air - December 8:

Operation forward areas, and serviceability forward air-dromes limited due to adverse weather.

Bone: Eighteen sorties flown -- nine for shipping protection and nine antisubmarines. No evidences.

Algiers - December 9: Convoy escorted and ten sorties for shipping protection flown. Spitfires attacked three enemy aircraft which sank Corvette in bay. Clouds made possible enemy escape.

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T O R C H

0700 December 10 to 1900 December 10
(All messages paraphrased)

WRB

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	15,000	Estimated Strength
British " " " " "	110,000		

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	Unknown	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	30,800	15,000	Estimated Strength
--------------------------	--------	--------	--------------------

U. S. 3,300

British 18,300

French 9,200

30,800

Allied Planes (Within 200 miles of Tunis)	161	Unknown
--	-----	---------

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A report from Lisboa on December 9th states that an excellent source has indicated that orders have been issued in Spain to complete the mobilization of the classes of 1938 to 1941 inclusive by December 29th. The class of 43 is already in barracks. Only reliable subjects will be activated as Reds and doubtful elements remain immobilized. Reserve officers have received the usual warning instructions. The air force contingent of the above classes has already been incorporated making the effectives thus called up about 450,000 in addition to the 250,000 and 200,000 in Morocco for a total strength of 900,000 by the end of the year. This force will lack equipment, clothing and artillery. The above figures have been checked with the British who have estimated the figure to be 800,000. Those industries capable of producing war material have been told to be ready by December 29th. In this connection my attention has been called to a new factory at Ripollgerona which is producing chemicals and explosives of a secret nature. A Turkish diplomat here from Ankara reliably reports a Bulgarian Army of 900,000 is receiving equipment and instructions from the Germans in antiaircraft and antitank fire, parachutes and land mine laying. The Germans are said to have five divisions in southern Greece.

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FORCH

1900 December 9 to 0700 December 10
(All messages paraphrased)

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STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

WAL

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000 15,000 Estimated Strength
British " " " " " 140,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British Unknown Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	30,800	15,000 Estimated Strength
U. S.	3,300	
British	18,300	
French	<u>9,200</u>	
	30,800	

Allied Planes (Within 200 miles of Tunis) 181 Unknown

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U. S. AIRCRAFT STATUS REPORT MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 1-8.

TYPE	A TOTAL ON HAND	B READY FOR COMBAT	C READY FOR COMBAT IN 1 WEEK	D NOT READY FOR COMBAT IN 1 WEEK	E NEW ARRIVALS	F OTHER GAINS SALV. ETC	G LOSSES BY ENEMY ACTION	H LOSSES DUE TO ACCIDENT
P-38*	84	51	11	14			5	
Spitfire	88	74	8	6	4		2	1
P-40	90	67	13	10			1	1
F-4	19	12	7		12			
DB-7	12	6	3	3				
A-20B	52	27	25		42			
B-25C	20	18	2		10			1
B-26	15	12	2	1				1
B-7 JanF	61	47	12	2				1
B-24A	23	22	1			24	1	
Mosquito	2		2		1			
C-47 C-53	143	114	20	9				
<u>TOTALS</u>	609	450	106	45	69	24	9	5

* There is an error here for P-38's. The sum of columns B+C+D should equal A. In this case it does not. Figures given are taken from Cable 248 of December 9.

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TUNISIA: No serious activity during period midnight December 7th to 8th.

Position of our forces as follows:

- (1) Combat Command B holding a line covering Medjes el Bab and El Guessa.
- (2) 11th Brigade holding a line North of Medjes el Bab.
- (3) Blade Force at B Melah.
- (4) 1st Guard Brigade at Oued Zarga.
- (5) 36th Brigade 15 miles east of Mateur.
- (6) 6th Armored Division (less detachments) 4 mile southwest of Beja.
- (7) 18th RCT arrived at Algiers from Oran.

Enemy has withdrawn behind the line Pont Du Fahs - Massicault. Enemy troops located as follows:

- (1) Tanks and armored cars covering a line of occupied pill boxes south of Lake Sedjoui. Tanks marked with "10" and "Africa Korps."
- (2) Detachments at Chouigi, Massicault and Pont Du Fahs.
- (3) 400 Italians at Kairouan.
- (4) 15th Italian Motorized Cavalry reported at Gabes.
- (5) 91st Italian Infantry Regiment reported at Sousse.
- (6) Reinforcement continues to arrive at Sfax from north and at Gabes from south.

Little air activity due to poor weather.

On December 7th 55 ground support sorties were flown from Souk El Arba, 50 patrols over Bone, 23 anti-submarine patrols from Algiers. Reports state main street of Bizerte used as fighter runway.

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NAVAL: Navy fleet of 3 battleships which left Naples on December 7th still not located. No change in remnants of French fleet at Toulon.

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T O R C H

0700 December 9 to 1900 December 9
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	15,000 estimated strength
British " " " " "	140,000	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	614 Planes	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength	29,000	15,000 estimated strength
U. S.	3,300	
British	18,300	
French	9,200	
	<u>30,800</u>	
Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis)	181	Unknown

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G-2 Report, December 7.

ALGIERS

a. Ground.

In the northern sector although there was intense patrol activity, the situation is quiet. After counterattack of December 6th El Guessa was abandoned by the enemy without a fight. As a result of possible heavy infantry losses, the enemy appears to have withdrawn within a defensive perimeter. On the afternoon of December 7th, contact was reported at Hir Meherga. Twelve miles southeast of Mateur a strong antitank post was reported. Ain El Asker is clear. Only slight activity around Tebourba, and roads south and southeast from Mateur or Djedeida are without movement according to report from air observers. French patrols on December 6th in areas Ousseltia and Pont Du Fals report them unoccupied by enemy. Indications are enemy intends to collect armored and motorized units in vicinity south of Medjerd River. A semicircular line of resistance Onela-Mornaghia-Zaghouan is reported being established by enemy. Also one to cover northwest approaches to Gousse. Southern sector is also quiet. A reconnaissance was made on December 7th by 30 German cyclists from El Hamman towards Kebili. Patrols of French reported on December 6th that Fondouk El Okbi and Pichon are unoccupied by the enemy. The garrison of Djebel Krechem was reported to contain 400 men with enemy detachment reported at Bordj El Aouim of two hundred men. Presence of 7th Pansar Regiment in Northern sector is indicated by

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documents found. Prisoner captured at Pont Du Fahs December 3rd identified 4th German Motorcycle Battalion. Italian 101st Antitank Battalion in Mateur area. San Marco Bactagpon Italian Marines are at LA Goulette.

b. Air.

At Gabes it is reported that an unknown number of planes are landing daily from the south.

c. Naval.

No change in French Fleet. A visual reconnaissance of the Italian Fleet in Naples area on December 7th shows the three Littorio battleships have left. Three destroyers course north sighted 40 miles northeast of Pantellaria. Four merchant ships in harbor of Tunis. About 10 U/B's six degrees east of Gibraltar.

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T O R C H

1900 December 8 to 0700 December 9
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000

15,000 estimated strength

British " " " " " 140,000

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 614 Planes

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 29,000

15,000 estimated strength

U. S. 3,300

British 18,300

French 7,400

29,000

Allied Planes
(within 200 miles of Tunis)

181

Unknown

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Situation Report No. 36, 7 December

TUNISIA

Combat Command "B" in possession of El Guesa (approximately 10 miles southwest of Tebourba). 11th Brigade established in vicinity of Medjex El Bab, west of Medjerda River. Patrol activity during day. Enemy apparently has withdrawn within his defenses. On the south flank, contact was made with the enemy at Bir Mcherga (approximately 25 miles due south of Djedeida). The town of El Asker (5 miles north of Bir Mcherga) is clear. On the north flank, a strong antitank post reported on Mateur--Beja road, located approximately 10 miles southwest of Mateur. No movement on roads south and southeast from Mateur and from Djedeida reported by aircraft returning from attack on Djedeida. In the Tebourba area, only slight activity reported. Two attacks by supporting fighters and bombers on Djedeida railway station, Tebourba and El Bathan, with apparent success.

ALGIERS

18th Infantry Regiment with 431st Coast Artillery Battalion (AA) to arrive Algiers by motor from Oran, 8 December.

G-2 REPORT (Part 3 Air) DECEMBER 8

In addition to usual sea reconnaissance, 10 JU-88's from Sardinia carried out armed reconnaissance of sea area as far west as Bougie. 10 more aircraft identified operating from Sicily to westward during afternoon, and 5 more after dusk. In Bizerte area, U. S. aircraft met no enemy fighters.

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Situation Report No. 37, 8 December

TUNISIA

Blade Force, reported 15 miles north of Medjer El Bab, has recovered 5 tanks. 78th Division confirms 20 enemy tanks knocked out December 6. Liaison report from French GHQ states 2 more French Infantry Battalions to support 78th Division. One battalion there; all are from the Tunis division. French troops have occupied Pichon (40 miles due north of Faid).

AIR December 6.

Continuous patrols over shipping in Algiers and Bone area. 1 enemy destroyed. In 8 sweeps over battle area, 2 enemy destroyed, 3 probably, and 4 damaged. U. S. losses - 5 planes. On night December 6-7, Beaufighters destroyed 5 enemy planes over Bone. On 7 December 7, low-flying DB-7's bombed target in Tebourba - El Bathan area; tanks were also machine-gunned. Four (4) bombing missions over Bizerte forced to return due to weather. P-40's were in action for the first time in Tunisia area. One P-40 missing. Aircraft on reconnaissance over Sfax destroyed two (2) enemy planes. One B-17, on photo reconnaissance, attacked by 3 enemy planes. One enemy plane probably destroyed, and one damaged. No damage to B-17. Another photo reconnaissance unit plane attacked by FW-190. One engine damaged.

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T O R C H

0700 December 8 to 1900 December 8
(All messages paraphrased)

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STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 178,000
British " " " " " 140,000

AXIS

15,000 estimated strength

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 614 Planes

Unknown

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 29,000

U. S. 3,300

15,000 estimated strength

British 18,300

French 7,400

29,000

Allied Planes
(within 200 miles of Tunis) 181

Unknown

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[REDACTED]

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Situation Report No. 35.

ALGIERS

Counterattack and regaining of high ground, El Guessa, reported by Eastern Task Force liaison officer. Location of Combat Command B forward patrols is unknown. 6th Armored Division is relieving Blade Force. 5th Corps reports situation in hand with enemy withdrawing from battle area. Some Germans are still south of El Guessa. Due to good air support of Combat Command B, no serious bombing attacks have been encountered for two days.

FAID

Numerous enemy bombings in morning. Eighteen vehicular casualties to date.

AIR

Docks at Bizerte were attacked on the night of December 4-5 by 13 Bisleys. North of Quay a large fire was observed. Antiaircraft fires encountered were moderately accurate; one aircraft is missing. Djedeida airdrome experienced two low flying attacks; one enemy plane destroyed in combat, one probable, 4 damaged; our losses, 6. Three B-7's attacked bridge over Medjerda River at El Bathan. West of Faid two enemy planes were destroyed and two damaged by P-38 aircraft. Four enemy aircraft were destroyed on night of December 5-6 over Bone by 16 Beaufighters. Forward area covered by four fighter sweeps. In engagement over Medjex El Bab by six fighters, two of our planes were destroyed; enemy losses are unknown. Sfax, Gabes and Gafsa covered by two P-38 aircraft patrol sorties over Faid and Soussse. La Goulette docks in Tunis were attacked night of December 4-5 by Malta Wellingtons with 38 tons of bombs. Direct hits were made on two medium sized vessels and railway siding.

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G-2 Air Report

December 6th Air Operations.

Two aircraft operating as far west as Bougie again made reconnaissances of southern half of Mediterranean. Daylight operations by 12 long range bombers over Tunisia. Night operations by about 20 aircraft with Bone as main target; 4 night raiders claimed destroyed; other evidence indicates several aircraft were in distress. Movements of large transports reported between North Africa and mainland with estimate of some 40 aircraft in operation..

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T O R C H

1900 December 7 to 0700 December 8
(All messages paraphrased)

WJZ

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIES

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	178,000	15,000 estimated strength	- ?
British " " " " "	140,000		

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	614 Planes	Unknown
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STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 29,000

U. S.	3,300	15,000 estimated strength	- ?
British	18,300		
French	7,400		
	<hr/>		
	29,000		

Allied Planes (within 200 miles of Tunis)	181	Unknown
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SITUATION REPORTS 33 and 34

NAVAL

No change

WESTERN TASK FORCE

No change

CENTER TASK FORCE

No change

EASTERN TASK FORCE (TUNISIA)

December 5, 8th Argyll and Southern Highlanders moved from north to Qued Zarga. Ninety (90) personnel of 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment returned during the night December 3.

A Commando unit made successful sea landing and held road junction north of Mateur for 3 days, inflicting heavy losses on lorried infantry for 3 days; then returned to 36th Brigade because of supply shortage.

Six (6) aircraft attempted to use Medjes El Bab advanced landing field. Two (2) destroyed landing.

11th Brigade received heavy dive bombing attacks December 6. No report on losses.

German tank and infantry attack 1st Battalion 6th Infantry at 0800 December 6 from El Batha, and during heavy confused fighting, penetrated Allied positions on El Guessa.

About 1000, another German column headed by tanks advanced on road Tunis - Massicault; turned northwest at Furna, and attacked 1st Battalion 6th Infantry from southeast.

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The 2nd Battalion of 13th Armored Regiment was ordered to attack from the south of the 6th Infantry. They were late starting and were stopped by enemy 88MM guns installed along the southern end of the El Guesso feature. Five (5) tanks were lost, 4 guns destroyed by enemy tanks. Confused fighting followed, with El Guesso half enemy and half Allied. Infantry losses were heavy. 2nd Battalion of 6th Infantry then crossed river and attacked El Guesso feature from northwest with backs to the river, supported by tanks and artillery. During the night, enemy disabled tanks were destroyed and Allied tanks worth saving were recovered. Also during the night, the 11th Brigade withdrew extending to the southwest.

12 enemy planes were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, and 10 damaged. Allies lost 5 planes.

Enemy dive bombing less severe. Enemy used 500-pound bombs at Faid, but damage was light.

Prisoners reported Allied bombing at Sfax was heavy, but did little damage except to vehicles.

Allied patrols found following points unoccupied on December 6:
Boq, Aradadn, Kasar, Lensa, Pichon, Fomndouk, El Okbi.

Enemy reinforcements reported to steadily arriving by sea and air.

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LONDON REPORT

Bombing of locomotive and carriage works at Lille, December 6 reported successful. Slight accurate heavy antiaircraft fire encountered. Numerous encounters with enemy aircraft. Three (3) bomb groups claimed to have destroyed 9 enemy planes, 1 probably destroyed and 7 damaged. One B-17 downed by antiaircraft fire, 3 men of 2 crews injured. Six (6) B-24's bombed Abbeville Ducat Air-drome, attacked by 30 FW-190's. Two (2) were destroyed, 6 probables and one B-24 last seen going down half across channel.

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T O R C H

0700 December 7 to 1900 December 7
(All messages paraphrased)

Situation Report No. 32.

NAVAL

Bone. Heavy bombing of port before dawn December 4th and night of December 4-5 without damage to shipping or Naval casualties.

Algiers. Return of Force Q from night sweep with promising attack made on submarine but no other results.

Oran. Operations of Force H to northeast and proceeding to Gibraltar.

Gibraltar. Delay of 3 ships in KM-F-4; two on account of collision and one with mechanical trouble. Transfer of passengers to Llanstephan Castle.

Eastern Task Force. No reports due to wire failure.

Central Task Force. Protection of key points of railroad and highway Stefbarbg Du Tlelat to border of French Morocco by First Battalion 19th Engineers.

Western Task Force. 30th Infantry, less 2 Battalions, proceeding by railroad to Guarcif. 1st Battalion 30th Infantry proceeding by railroad to Oujdja.

AIR

17 Bisleys attacked Bizerte docks and shipping and Sidi Ahmed airdrome the night of December 3-4. One plane missing and three damaged by antiaircraft. 8 B-25's attacked Sidi Ahmed airdrome with bombs falling on airdromes, hangars and aircraft. Planes were attacked by 4 enemy aircraft but enemy losses were unknown. One B-25 missing. In an attack

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on Sidi Ahmed by nine DB-27's bombs believed short of target and several DB'7's were damaged by antiaircraft. Sixteen B-17's attacked Tunis docks and shipping with hits on docks, sheds, merchant vessel and railway yards but all planes returned. Ten Bisleys on support bombing in vicinity of Souk El Arba met about 45 enemy fighters and 4 Bisleys were forced down. Crews are safe. There is no news of the remaining Bisleys. In the forward area 5 fighter sweeps were made with destruction of 6 enemy planes, 2 probable and 6 damaged. Our loss, 8 planes. 13 reconnaissance sorties over Faid, Feriana, Gabes, Sfax, Sbeitla, Kairouan, Sousse, Pont Du Fahs; no enemy aircraft encountered. 3 PUR over Sousse, Sfax, Gabes, Sardinia and Sicily. Location of air units: Souk El Arba, 45 fighters; Youks Les Bains, 37 fighters, 9 DB 7 light bombers; Bone, 76 fighters, 6 heavy bombers; Canrobert, 7 light bombers; Djedjelli, 12 fighters; Algiers, including Maïsson Blanche and Elida, 30 fighters, 7 night fighters, 26 night bombers, 7 17-medium bombers, 6 heavy bombers, 24 reconnaissance planes, 33 troop carriers, 11 bomber reconnaissance planes; Oran, including La Senia, Tafaraoui, Nouvion and Relizane, 82 fighters, 43 heavy bombers, 58 troop carriers; Casablanca and vicinity, 68 P-40's and 16 troop carriers.

TANGIER

At Aumara airport antiaircraft guns are now manned. Nine thousand yards west of Alcazalvir defensive positions now occupied. Several battalions going south on foot from Tangier were personally observed. On the nights of November 17th and 18th fifteen thousand white troops were moved by truck from Ceuta to International Bridge 30 kilometers south of Tangier according to reliable contact.

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ALGIERS

Activity of Flandin carefully surveyed. He is residing temporarily in Phillippeville. His dealings with German industrials is known to Murphy who understand that Flandin handles certain business transactions for them in North Africa. Murphy's opinion however, is that Flandin is at present in as much disrepute in Germany as he is in the United States and is now trying to re-establish himself in our good graces. Darlan suspects him of attempting to undermine the latter in order to set up some sort of parliamentary regime in North Africa.

LONDON G-2 Report.

Ground

German prisoners of 18th Marsch Battalion captured at Faïd. This is an independent infantry battalion intended originally for Afrika Korps 10th Bersaglie E in vicinity of Sfax--Faïd. Prisoners state this unit replacing 91st Italia Infantry Regiment, Superba Division. In northern Tunisia local attacks are continued by enemy to improve and enlarge bridgeheads while continuing to improve defensive line Mateur Daih -- Djebel Sakkak -- Djedeïda -- Saint Cyprien -- Mohammedia. Scale of enemy activity vigorous. Enemy concentrations, armored cars and infantry reported southwest of Cheylus. In southern Tunisia enemy reported concentrated north and south of Sfax--Faïd Road. Continuation by air and water of enemy reinforcement although reduced by losses. Although enemy casualties are considerable; combat efficiency is still high.

Air

Two long range reconnaissance aircraft in operation in southern half of Western Basin. Weather flight carried out by one to Greenwich Meridian.

[REDACTED]

One sea reconnaissance off-shore to Algiers, security patrols by aircraft from Southern France made in area north Balearics to French coast. Six JU 88's landed at Sardinia after morning operations. Eleven more JU 88's operating in late afternoon probably against shipping targets. Heavy scale transport between Sicily Tunis Tripoli continued; one formation 20 JU 52 landed in Africa by 1430. Bone attacked by 4 fighter bombers during the morning by 20 ME 109 and 4 JU 88's in afternoon.

Navy

No change in French fleet. In Italian fleet visual report of Naples December 5th states one cruiser lying on side; No other change. About five U/B's thought to be in western Mediterranean.

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 T
T O R C H

0700 December 6 to 1900 December 7
(All messages paraphrased)

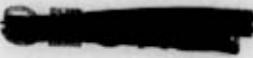
TUNISIA

There is no change in enemy dispositions Djebel Abiod area. It is reported that enemy dive bombers are widely deployed in fields outside of Djedeida. The enemy continues to maintain pressure with mechanized troops and infantry around Tebourba, and dive bomber attacks continue to take place. Enemy patrols were active in the area Pont Du Fahs, Massicault, Goubellat on December 4.

In the Faïd - Si Bou Zid area, enemy columns are reported approaching from Sfax and Kairouan. An enemy reinforcing column near Faïd was forced to withdraw because of antitank fire. The importance of Faïd is indicated by the strafing and dive bombing of our position by the enemy.

Motorized infantry and tanks from Sfax are reported concentrating in Fatnassa area. Enemy road blocks have been established 10 kilometers west of Hemima (northwest of Fatnassa) and defensive works are being constructed at Bou Thadi.

Seventy-eight Germans and forty-five Italians were taken prisoner December 3, at Faïd. Some prisoners escaped because French would not evacuate them due to lack of transportation. Total number of prisoners now reported is one hundred seven. The 5th Battalion Artillery Regiment, Superga Division, has been identified, and the 10th Bersaglieri Regiment possibly identified. The Germans were formed in a mixed unit from the Afrika Corps. The Germans appeared

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to be determined but discontented and critical.

Air Operations

Enemy bombing derailed a train at Souk Ahras the 3rd of December. Enemy bombers were active in forward areas and Tebourba was heavily attacked 3-4 of December. The enemy strafed troops and motor transports in the Faid area. Air transports operated between Naples, Palermo, Reggio, Trapani, Tunis, and Cptel Benito.

8 B-26's and 18 B-17's dropped bombs on Bizerte. One B-26 is missing. One of the escorting planes was damaged. One enemy aircraft was destroyed and one damaged. Good results were obtained. Wellingtons from Malta dropped bombs on Bizerte and Tunis.

7 P-38's made flights over Triagv, Djedeida, Sfax, Gabes and Faid. All planes returned safely after destroying two enemy aircraft. PRU sorties were made over Tunis, Bizerte, Gabes, Sfax and Sousse. Thirty-three sorties were made by Spitfires from Djidjelli to protect shipping. Fourteen antisubmarine sorties were made with no success.

Beaufighters destroyed three enemy aircraft attacking Bone, and one of the two attacking Algiers the night of the 2-3 of December.

MOROCCO - WESTERN TASK FORCE

One company of light tanks, plus one platoon of armored infantry has been alerted to move to Souk El Arba Du Rharb which is north of the Sebou River. A company of armored infantry less one platoon has been alerted to move to Ouezzane.

NAVAL

Force Q sailed to sweep the line Bizerte - Cagesfor (Cagliani?).

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There are probably ten enemy submarines between 6°N and Gibraltar.

AIR CASUALTIES FOR ONE DAY

6 - Spitfires
10 - Bisleys
5 - P-38's
1 - DB-7
Tank Casualties - 40
Antitank guns - 20
Enemy tanks knocked out - 33

EUROPE

Fifty-four B-17's attacked locomotive and carriage works at Elle (Lille?). Enemy fighters and eight flak was encountered. One B-17 is missing. Five FW 190's were destroyed. Seven B-24's attacked Abbeville Airrome and were attacked by 30 to 35 FW 190. One B-24 is down in the Channel; the others returned to their base. Eighteen B-17's were over the French coast on a practice mission and as a diversion. There were no encounters.

Bombers were covered by 23 squadrons of fighters including 3 U. S. A. Spitfires squadrons. Fighters suffered no losses and damaged one FW 190.

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T O R C H

1900 December 5 to 0700 December 6
(All messages paraphrased)

SITUATION REPORT NO. 31

Ground

11th Brigade suffered heavy casualties in the fighting December 3, near Tebourba. In the withdrawal to position established as reported in Situation Report No. 30, the Rear Guard suffered heavy casualties, the 2nd Hampshires were cut off as a result of failing to get the withdrawal order, and 20 6-pounder antitank guns were lost because of difficulties with the route of withdrawal through a defile. Enemy attack was estimated as being made by at least 3 battalions with 35 Mark 3 and Mark 6 tanks, supported by dive bombers. The 11th Brigade claims they inflicted severe casualties on the enemy December 3. Contact has been established with Commando landed on North Coast (?). Estimated enemy tank losses December 1-3 - 33.

WDB

Air

Attempting to operate fighters from Medjex El Bab on December 5 to protect tired troops from continual dive bombing. Air score of December 4 - 6 destroyed, 2 probable, and 7 damaged.

Administrative

All reserves are now small. Should improve on

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stocks of all kinds to reach the railhead within 2 days. As more trucks have arrived, a new road supply route south from La Calle (60 miles east of Bone) should be opened soon. La Calle will be stocked from Bone. Delays still caused by inefficient railway staff at Souk El Arba, but General Juin is furnishing transportation expert to assist in solving this problem. Excellent work by the Royal Engineers and French employees cleared the line at Souk Ahras for the first train at 1600 Z, although the electric power will not be installed for 2 days, thus impeding shunting and other work. Constantine, Ain Beida and Tebessa are to be visited by the Commanding General, First Army, on December 5.

ORAN

General Eisenhower reports that the harbor defense installations are manned by units of the French Navy.

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T O R C H

0700 December 5 to 1900 December 5
(All messages paraphrased)

The Spaniards are maintaining two coastwise steamer ferries between Melilla and Villa Alhucemas to Ceuta then by road via Tetuan to Arcila, Larache and Alcazarquivir to avoid using overland highways in poor condition between Melilla, Villa Alhucemas and Tetuan. This may have been the basis for the report of the arrival of divisional reinforcements by water from Spain.

Situation Report No. 30.

NAVAL

UGS 2 is being berthed at Casablanca. Conditions are reported as being crowded.

Ground Action.

In the Area of the Eastern Task Force:

- a. An enemy force consisting of infantry and tanks attacked the 11th Brigade at Tebourba from the north and east. This bombing was severe; our positions were penetrated in several places.
- b. The 6th Armored Infantry of Combat Command B cleared the east bank of the river.
- c. The commander and 150 personnel of the 2nd Paratroop Battalion reported to the 78th Division.
- d. Our tank losses for December 1st-2nd were:

U. S.	10
British	30
- e. The First Army approved withdrawal to a new line which

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will reduce the salient and which dominates the area Chouigui -- Tebourba.

f. The Sixth Commando and one Field Artillery Battery is being withdrawn from the 36th Brigade to a central location.

g. Units from KM 3 are reaching the front satisfactorily.

h. The bombing of an ammunition train in the Souk Ahras station may cause delay as it affected the electric railway power. The line to Duvivier may be blocked.

i. Enemy dive bombers were reported widely deployed in fields east of Djedeida outside of artillery range. The 503rd Paratroops, assisted by French troops, captured Faïd. The enemy fought well. It was essentially a French victory as they attacked vigorously under artillery cover and played a major part. One hundred prisoners, mostly Germans, were taken.

The Western Task Force:

An anti-aircraft battalion moved by air from Port Lyautey to Oudjda November 30th.

Air Action.

a. El Aouina. The airdrome was bombed on the night of December 2nd and 3rd by 16 Bisleys who dropped 7½ tons of bombs. The airdrome was also bombed by nine DB-7's and on the night of December 3rd and 4th by 15 Bisleys.

b. Bizerta. Docks and shipping were bombed from 20,000 feet by eighteen B-17's dropping 45 tons of bombs. Hits were observed on two vessels, canals and docks. Heavier anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Enemy fighters were engaged by the escort. Two P-28's conducted a reconnaissance over Gabes, Gafsa,

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Sfax and Sousse. Over northeast Tunisia sixteen P-38's engaged eight enemy aircraft in a twenty minute battle. Enemy losses unknown. One P-38 is missing from the action and one crash landing.

c. Tunis. Twelve P-38's were intercepted by 15 enemy aircraft. One enemy plane was destroyed while one P-38 is missing.

d. At Faid P-38's strafed enemy tanks. Fighters from Souk El Arba destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. On December 2nd fighters were dispatched to defend a Naval force from attack by Italian aircraft. Three enemy planes were destroyed while we lost one.

A report from Lisboa states that information secured from the aide to the Portugal Chief of Staff confirms that according to secret orders from Franco two new infantry divisions will be formed in Morocco composed of elements from Spain, arriving at intervals in small groups.

A Naval Attache at Cairo reports that Moreau, the French Admiral in Algiers, is being sent as envoy to confer with Admiral Godfroy about the status of the fleet.

The increase of Spanish troops in Morocco to 200,000 first reported by the Portuguese military source has now been checked as correct by Britain and Poles. An unverified report relating to a meeting in Barcelona of Franco, Chief of Staff and Commanders of military regions is to the effect that from 13 votes assembled 9 are said to be in favor of Spains entry into the war on the Axis side. Franco was said to have voted against

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entry on the Axis side. A report from Lisboa further states that on the basis of evaluation of the situation that the element of surprise should not be ruled out but our extreme vigilance of the French, Spanish and Moroccan borders is highly advisable.

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T O R C H

1900 December 4 to 0700 December 5
(All messages paraphrased)

LAND

Northern Sector

Enemy still in possession Mateur and Djedeida. Front of the 11th Brigade at Tebourba (5 miles southwest of Djedeida) penetrated by enemy infantry and tank attack, supported by severe dive bombing, December 3. Enemy front line now believed to be Chouigui (10 miles southeast of Tunis) to a point east of Tebourba. Supply train, previously derailed at Souk Ahras, bombed by enemy. German armored cars and tanks reported Bou Arada (?) (on railroad 15 miles west of Pont Du Fahs).

Southern Sector

No contact with enemy at Hadjeb El Aicun (37 miles southwest of Kairouan). Enemy driven from position at Faid with loss of 50 dead, 60 wounded; with 100 prisoners taken, mostly German. Germans killed German wounded and French driver when firing on Red Cross ambulance. Counterattack expected from column 500 Motorized infantrymen east of Faid.

IDENTIFICATIONS

2nd Company 101st Antitank Battalion	-----	Vicinity Medjex
101st Italian Motorized Division		El Bab
Ersatz Battalion 437	-----	Vicinity Djedeida
Italians believed to be		
2nd Battalion, 92nd Infantry Regiment	-----	Vicinity Faid
Germans detached from Afrika Korps	-----	

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NAVY

Italian cruiser sighted, vicinity Kerkenna Islands (just off Sfax) apparently escorting a convoy to Tripoli. No other major changes. Aircraft sighted submarine north of Cape Cazine. This submarine may have been French. Enemy continuing reinforcements by sea. Evidence of losses by Naval action.

AIR

December 2

15 German bomber and torpedo bomber aircraft, directed against Allied Naval units, active during early morning. Successful interception of short-range bombers, escorted by ME-109's, in Souk El Arba area. Destroyed--4 ME-109's, and probably destroyed 2 ME-109's and 2 JU-87's. Bone area attacked by fighters and fighter-bombers. Activity in Sfax area by about 4 long-range bombers, and 3 more long-range bombers from Sicily, probably against targets in Tunisia battle area. Increased long-range bomber activity at night. About 10 aircraft known to have operated against targets in Algeria. Defensive patrols carried out by 8 fighters from Sicily and probably Tunis.

December 3

Reconnaissance, probably by aircraft based at Southern France, covered northern waters of Western Mediterranean. 2 American aircraft shot down at Biserte by defensive patrol of ME-109's. JU-88 attacked troops in Faid area. 8 bombers operated from Sicily late afternoon; up to 20 bombers operated during night, some of which were probably escorting convoys.

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T O R C H

0700 December 4 to 1900 December 4
(All messages paraphrased)

On December 2, Naval Force Q engaged a south bound convoy between Bizerte and Sicily. With no casualties or damage to Force Q, the convoy scattered and made smoke. Four merchant vessels, two of which appeared to be transports, and three destroyers were left burning wrecks. The Destroyer Quentin was hit by aircraft torpedo off Galita Island and believed sunk. Ninety percent of the survivors were picked up. At Bone there were intermittent air raids on the morning of December 1 which resulted in slight damage to a merchant vessel. Four landing ships of Infantry were unsuccessfully attacked by bombers and torpedo bomber aircraft. The Manxman was torpedoed by a sub 85 miles to the northeast of Oran while being towed there by a destroyer.

Location of units of the Eastern Task Force

- a. The 36th Brigade is in the vicinity of Jefna.
- b. The 11th Brigade is in the vicinity of Tebourba.
- c. Combat Command B is in the vicinity of Chouigui.
- d. The Blade Force has probably withdrawn from the forward area to the vicinity of Medjex El Bab.
- e. The following part of the 6th Armored Division on KM Three is en route from Algiers to the area Beja-Testour-Souk El Khemis: Arm'd Regt, two Inf Bns, Motor Bn (less CP), two PA Regts (less btry), Anti tank Regt (less btry) Guards Brig (less bn with 11th Brig).

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The 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Inf (Reinforced) attacked Faid, silencing enemy artillery with tank destroyer fire, but failing to dislodge the Germans from their defensive position.

In the Western Task Force Area, the 47th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (less a battalion) is en route from Saff to Port Lyautey by marching. A concentration of strength in the Rabat-Port Lyautey area continues.

The marsh north of El Mouina has been camouflaged to look like the airport. At El Mouina the airdrome was bombed successfully as follows:

- a. 18 Bisleys, in adverse weather on the night of Dec. 1-2.
- b. 9 DB 7s at 0810Z.
- c. 12 B 26s dropped 17 tons of bombs at 1059Z.
- d. 6 DB 7s dropped 5 1/2 tons of bombs.

Auxiliary airdromes with well defended heavy flak were observed near Ariana.

Other successful air attacks were as follows:

- a. On the night of December 1-2, 19 Bisleys dropped 9 1/2 tons of bombs on the Sidi Ahmed airdrome; this was followed by an attack on December 2, of 18 B-17's which dropped 40 tons of bombs on the airdrome.
- b. 6 B-25's attacked the Gabes airdrome.
- c. Patrols operated over Sfax, Gabes, Mateur and Djedeida destroying 7 enemy planes.

Other air action:

- a. The Bone airdrome was attacked during the landing of replacement aircraft. Seven Fighters were destroyed, one damaged and one crashed.
- b. Aircraft from Malta laid 3 magnetic mines at Bizerte and 3 at Tunis on the night of November 30-December 1.

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Edwards reports from Tangier that there is no confirmation of the arrival in Spanish Morocco of one or more divisions of reinforcements in reduced amounts.

Considerable shifting of existing effectives continues from Ceuta and Mellila areas by way of Tetuan to Arcila and Larache centered for distribution from Alcazarquivir along the southern border.

A reliable source has reported that 3 Messerschmidts 109 and 2 110s have arrived in Morocco.

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T O R C H

1900 December 3 to 0700 December 4
(All messages paraphrased)

ALGIERS

Summary on two-day battle.

Ground

On the morning December 1, small enemy tank and infantry attack was easily repulsed. Seven (7) enemy tanks attacked, 4 of them were destroyed. Thirty (30) enemy tanks attacked Blade Force near Chouigi (10 miles southwest of Tunis) and 5 more enemy tanks were lost. Our tank losses totaled 15 December 1. Eleven of them were undergoing repair. Combat Command "B" advanced and restored positions north of Tebourba and at Chouigi on night December 1-2. Prisoners were taken. Enemy attacked again on December 2, using tanks. Estimated tank losses - enemy 14, ours 8. 36th Brigade reported heavy casualties. One Commando was reported landed but location is unknown. 6th Armored Division concentrating in Beja area.

Air

Enemy made 5 dive-bomber attacks on December 1, on Blade Force near Chouigi. Bostons and Bisleys successfully attacked El Acouina airfield. JU-88's were forced to jettison bombs by our air attacks.

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T O R C H

0700 December 3 to 1900 December 3

(All messages paraphrased)

Situation Report No. 27

NAVAL

Bone. No naval damage was reported from enemy air raids of November 29th and 30th.

Algiers. Monitor Roberts enroute to Gibraltar in a convoy with six French ships. Four landing ships with 3200 Infantry troops aboard sailed on the fourth trip to Phillipeville and Bone.

Oran. A medium sized dry dock in operation is being tested by the salvaged ship Epervier. A damaged French submarine arrived on November 30th from Toulon.

AIR

Gabes. Nine B-26 medium bombers attacked the air field, barracks and railroad yards encountering intense light flak. Four P-38's strafed the airdrome.

Djedeida. An attack by nine DB-7's resulted in hits on a bridge and railroad. Twelve P-38's attacked and fired several enemy tanks. Eight FW-190's were encountered and one P-38 is missing. Six DB-7's attacked the enemy in town; hits on the town were observed.

Mateur. Ten ME-109's were encountered by twelve P-38's while on reconnaissance. One enemy was destroyed and one P-38 is missing.

Bone. Spitfires destroyed two ME-109's.

El Aouina. On December 1st, thirteen B-17's, from a height of 20,000 feet, scored hits on a hangar and transport plane. Met with light

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flak but no air opposition.

Situation Report No. 26.

On December 1st a strong counter attack was made by Infantry troops, tanks and dive bombers by the enemy towards Tebourba from the North. While in an assembly area near Chouigui the Blade Force became involved in confused fighting causing it to withdraw towards Tebourba and later to the area southwest of Medjex El Bab. The Blade Force suffered casualties to tanks which were undergoing repairs in the assembly area. Combat Command B was employed to clear up the situation and by evening all enemy tanks had withdrawn to the north, leaving only snipers in the Tebourba area. Combat Command B is remaining in the forward area in place of the Blade Force.

Due to this action offensive operations against Tunis planned for December 2nd are postponed. An enemy attack on the 36th Brigade was beaten off. The 6th Armored Division was ordered to concentrate centrally in the Beja area to close the gap. The persistent dive bombing of our forward areas by the enemy continues. Bislays, Bostons and fortresses in turn bombed Tunis air fields but not on sufficient scale to reduce the enemy effort. Fighter sweeps from three existing fields are ineffective against enemy air tactics. An advance field at Medjex El Bab will be in use beginning December 3rd. Fighter reinforcements have been received in the forward airdromes.

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T O R C H

1900 December 2 to December 3 0700
(All messages paraphrased)

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TUNISIA

The G-2 Report of the 24 hours ending midnight, December 1, places the enemy forward positions on the line: hill south of Station Jefna--Mateur--Djedeida--Mohamedia (9 miles south of Tunis)--Djebel Oust (20 miles south of Tunis). A detachment, with armored cars and light tanks, reoccupied Depienne, (25 miles south, southwest of Tunis) and Port Du Fahs (35 miles south, southwest of Tunis). The enemy attacked in the vicinity of Tebourba (5 miles southwest of Djedeida) and Chouigui (21 miles west of Tunis) on December 1, using tanks, but were repulsed. German dive-bombing continues effectively. Documents taken from prisoners at Medjex El Bab identify the 6th Jager Regiment Herman Goring. At Kairouan, the 5th Company, 92nd Italian Infantry Regiment, and the 2nd Company of the Anti-tank Battalion Superga Division, were identified from prisoners taken at Sbeitla (63 miles southwest of Kairouan) on November 25. There is an indication that German medium tanks are present. There is a continuation of enemy build-up.

AIR

The usual sea reconnaissance in the Western Mediterranean was carried out. There were three waves of bombers active; one in the early morning, one at dusk, and one about 1900Z (3 P. M. Washington time).

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IDENTIFICATIONS

Through French interrogation of prisoners, the following identifications have been made.

Italian 1st Superga Division, commanded by General Lorenzelli, composition 91st and 92nd Infantry Regiments, 5th Artillery Regiment, Engineer Battalion.

This division is believed to be fully motorized and especially trained for operations requiring rapid disembarkation. It was formerly stationed at Naples.

The 5th Parachute Jumper Regiment

Information obtained from captured parachutists. Commanded by Colonel Koch, part of the Parachute Division, which on May 19, 1942, comprised 5 parachute regiments plus an assault regiment. It operated in Crete and played a ground role at Orel, 1942. Strength, 2,800. The regiment is composed of a regimental headquarters company, 4 battalions each headquarters company, machine gun and mortar company, with 3 parachute companies.

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T O R C H

0700 December 2 to 1900 December 2
(All messages paraphrased)

G-2 report indicates that on the ground there has been no important change in the general line held by enemy troops. An Italian patrol of 30 trucks with 500 soldiers from Kairouan bivouaced at Pichon the night of November 30th. The enemy force in the vicinity of Faid appears to be on passive defense. An enemy reconnaissance party was reported on November 30th to be on the road from Kebili to Tozeur. In the air, the usual sea and weather reconnaissance was made by aircraft based in Sicily paying particular attention to the shipping in the Bougie-Philippeville-Bone area. One of these probably did not return. There was greatly reduced activity in the air and only scattered bombing raids are in evidence. The identity of the following units has been made: the 5th Artillery Regiment of the 1st Italian Superga Division supporting the 92nd Italian Infantry Regiment near Sbeitla. Other units identified Jagerriment Goring and Paschirregiment Sturm.

Military Attache from Tangier reports a regrouping of forces in the Spanish zone with the 41st Division holding the coast from Ceuta to the north near Tzahadartz and the 52nd Division holding the line from Tzahadartz to the border. The 91st and 92nd Divisions are in reserve. So far there has been no additional reinforcements from Spain.

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1900 December 1 to 0700 December 2
(All messages paraphrased)

27

Another conference between Admirals Harwood and Godfroy was held on November 29th. The Captains of the French vessels are definitely anti-British and do not favor turning their vessels over to the British. An opinion has been expressed by the British Naval Command that Godfroy may follow the action at Toulon and scuttle his ships.

The British report that a recent air reconnaissance of Toulon showed the following:

1. Vessels intact:

- 1 Cruiser of Soufren 8-Inch class
- 2 Cruisers of Galissonniere 6-Inch class
- 3 Destroyers, 2 of Tigre class and 1 of the Mogador class.

2. Burning Heavily:

- 2 Cruisers of Soufren class
- 1 Cruiser of Galissonniere class

3. Condition of other ships:

- a. The Battleship Strasbourg is aground on an even keel.
- b. The Battleship Dunkerque is still in floating dock, damage to it is unknown.
- c. The Aircraft Carrier Commandance Teste is listing very badly.
- d. The old Battleship Provence is very badly down by the stern.

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e. Various other units seen were obviously scuttled.

4. Toulon is very badly mined.

Situation Report #24 for November 30th, covers operations of the Eastern Task Force.

Ground operations on a reduced scale due to enemy air effort.

The Eleventh Brigade in contact with the enemy west of outskirts of Djedeida and is at present resting and reorganizing. The Thirty-Sixth Brigade failed to capture the hill north of Ston De Jefna which commands the route to Mateur. At the present time this force is also resting and reorganizing. The Blade force remains in central reserve and is providing offensive patrols. Combat Command B is concentrating in the general area south on the line Medjex El Bab-Beja. The Fifty-Sixth Reconnaissance Regiment and the First Paratroop Battalion are operating offensively in a wide area north of the general line Oudna-Massicault, both of which are occupied by the enemy.

Air - Ground support activity is on a reduced scale. Bostons from Tebessa made a successful raid on the enemy at Djedeida. Fighter squadrons are somewhat reinforced. A plan to reduce enemy air effort has been agreed upon by Anderson and Welsh, and includes the destruction of enemy aircraft on the ground and denying use of certain fields. Enemy communication from the forward units to Tunis airdromes is excellent for support against our assaults on Djedeida. Their calls are answered in 5 to 10 minutes by intense dive bombing and ground strafing.

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In view of the possibility that the Spanish in Morocco may have territorial intentions south to the Sebou River, General Eisenhower considers it desirable to move at least token American detachments of the Western Task Force north to key positions in that area, especially to El Arba Du Rharb and vicinity of Maybdu Ehsa (Maybou Ohta), both points being the same number of miles south of the International Boundary. With the continuing arrival of American troops at Casablanca allowing us to move steadily to the east along Ogne toward Oran, it will obviously be necessary sooner or later to move some covering troops to the north of the Sebou River in order to cover our communications. It appears that this would be a good time to begin the process which would be a gradual one. It is believed unwise to give the Spaniards any advance notice of such movement, and General Eisenhower reports that he does not have any intention of doing so, although he does believe that appropriate diplomatic personnel should be informed of a secondary purpose of the move to quote as a reason in the event any questions are asked.

In Situation Report #25, of November 30th, it is reported that Malta aircraft laid 8 magnetic mines on night of November 28-29 outside LA Gorlette and 6 on the night of November 29-30 in the entrance Palermo. A mine field was also laid off Cani Rocks (Algiers). Two French submarines arrived at Algiers. The Dons force arrived prepared for an offensive sweep in the Bizerte area on the night of December 1-2.

Twenty-eight Fortresses were dispatched in an attack against Bizerte, although only 4 were believed to complete their mission due to mechanical failures. Despite weather over the target, hits were reported on the docks and one ship was seen burning. Moderately heavy flek was encountered and

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The escort engaged enemy aircraft over the target. An attack on November 29th by fourteen Fortresses on Bizerte failed to reach their objective due to the weather. Bone was attacked by the enemy on the afternoon of November 30th.

Eastern Task Force Liaison Officers with the First Army report that British Paratroopers were dropped at Pont Du Sahs (Pont Du Fahs) on November 29th and have captured Iudna, and that fighting is in progress at Djedeida where about half the town has been captured.

The Center Task Force balance of the Third Battalion Twenty-Sixth Infantry is enroute to Youks Les Baines.

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