

MR 310, Sec. 6 -- ARMY-NAVY TORCH SUMMARIES

April, 1943

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letter, 5-3-72  
By RAH/RS Date AUG 7 1972

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~~Date- AUG 7 1972~~

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

~~SECRET~~

Form No. 10.

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

0700 Apr 30 to  
0700 May 1.

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>

Estimated Total  
Strength of  
157,700 (Apr 29)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 2,022 (May 1)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German	725
Italian	<u>635</u>

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

Estimated Total  
Strength

U. S. 77,843 (Apr 21)

German 112,700

British:

Italian 45,000

1st Army 138,651 (Apr 29)

(Apr 29) 157,700

8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

French 54,660 (Apr 28)

371,154 (Apr 29)

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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Date- AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 28	Spitfires, Hurribombers and P-40's bombed enemy positions and flew offensive sweeps in the battle area.	Many hits on the target area and enemy motor transport strafed.	Destroyed: 4 ME-109's, 1 FW-190, 1 unidentified Probably destroyed: 1 ME-109. Damaged: 6 ME-109's, 1 FW-190, 2 Spitfires missing.
	Planes: Bombs dropped: 24 A-20's 46 300-lb 194 100-lb 12 B-25's 20 300-lb 88 250-lb	1 large explosion and 2 fires. 10 aircraft holed by flak.	
	6 Spitbombers and 6 Spitfires attacked enemy vehicles. 11 of our planes were hit by flak	3 trucks set on fire and 3 hit by cannon fire.	
	9 Hurribombers attacked motor trucks and tanks.		
	9 Hurribombers escorted by 10 Spitfires bombed about 20 motor vehicles		
	24 B-40's bombed motor trucks	Bombs straddled the center of the column	
	24 P-40's attacked 7 to 10 trucks on the road.		
Apr 29	Light and medium bombers carried out attacks in support of local army advances.		1 B-25 missing.
Apr 29	Hurribombers and Spitbombers attacked enemy concentrations at Ksar Tyr	4 tanks left burning. Smoke and flames in a courtyard.	

2. Fighters:

Axis:

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

Apr 28 20 ME-110's and a number of JU-88's escorted shipping in the Sicilian area during the morning.

Allied:

Apr 27/28 Beaufighters flew defensive (night) patrols over Souk El Khemis and Bone area.

No incidents

Apr 27/28 Beaufighters flew over Sardinia (night)

1 JU-88 destroyed

Apr 29 P-40's engaged the enemy without loss.

Destroyed: 3 ME-109's, 1 MC-202. Probably: 1 ME-109, 2 MC-202's

Spitfires destroyed

1 ME-109, 1 MC-202, Probably: 2 ME-109's. 1 Spitfire and pilot missing.

Apr 29 P-40's and P-51's flew 200 sorties and Spitfires flew 139.

Apr 29 120 Spitfires flew escort sorties and spotted for artillery.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 28 18 B-25's escorted by 19 P-38's on a shipping sweep sighted two unescorted motor vessels. The formation was attacked by enemy aircraft.

Direct hit on one. Vessel was left stationary and in flames. 2 direct hits on the other vessel.

Destroyed: 4 ME-109's, 1 ME-210, 1 MC-202, 1 unidentified. Damaged: 1 Unidentified plane.

Apr 28 3 shipping sweeps by P-39's were not completed due to weather. 26 P-38's carried out another sweep.

1 P-39 and 1 P-38 missing.

Apr 28 Kittybombers, Warhawks and Spitfires flew shipping sweeps in the Gulf of Tunis.

1 Naval auxiliary blown up. 2 naval auxiliaries set on fire. 1 3000-ton vessel left beached and burning (previously reported).

Destroyed: 4 MC-202's, 2 ME-109's. Damaged: 1 MC-202, 2 ME-109's. 1 Spitfire destroyed, 1 P-40 missing.

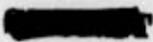
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E.O. 11652, Dec. 807 and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1978

RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1978



Apr 28 Hudsons, Swordfish, Beaufighters, Spitfires and P-39's flew convoy escort, U Boat hunts and defensive patrols. No incidents.

B-26's made a reconnaissance of the Sicilian Straits and the approaches to Naples.

Apr 29 Fighters attacked shipping in the Gulf of Tunis. 3000-ton motor vessel sunk. 3000-ton tanker left burning. 1 Siebel ferry damaged. 1 E Boat sunk and 2 damaged.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 28 (morn) 1 ME-109 made a reconnaissance of the Enfidaville area. Later an ME-110 covered the same area.

5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 27/28 About 20 JU-52's flew to Tunis (night) and then returned to Sicily and Sardinia.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

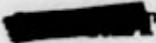
1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 29	54 of our light and 18 of our medium bombers bombed the area north of Akrouna.	2 fires were started.	1 B-25 missing, the crew is safe.
Apr 29	Escorted fighter bombers operated all day with only slight enemy opposition against shipping on the Gulf of Tunis.	1 3000-ton motor vessel sunk, 1 on fire, 1 E Boat sunk, 2 E Boats and 1 Siebel ferry damaged.	7 enemy fighters destroyed, 4 probable. 2 damaged, 1 British fighter missing.
Apr 29	12 bombers from the 12th Group dropped 44,500 lbs of bombs on enemy ground installations. 1 U.S. bomber destroyed after landing due to a hung up bomb. 2 killed; 3 burned & injured.	Good pattern observed in the target area. 8 fires started, giving off black smoke.	1 U.S. Bomber blown up.

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ON 10/11/78  
By RHP, NARA Date AUG 7 1972

SECRET



Apr 28 22 instead of 20 bombers (as reported yesterday) dropped 99,000 lbs of bombs on Naples. Hits on Vittorio Emanuel Mole. 1 ME-109 destroyed.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 29 135 fighters from the 57th Group carried out a total of 3 missions as fighter bombers.

Apr 29 92 fighters from the 79th Group carried out a total of five missions as bomber escort 5 enemy planes destroyed, 3 probably.

a. Score:

Planes destroyed since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
4 Spitfire	14 ME-109's
1 U.S. Bomber	1 FW-190
2 B-25's	1 ME-210
1 P-38	1 JU-88
1 P-39	7 GO-202's
1 P-40	14 unidentified
10	38

Accumulated reported aircraft lost since Nov 8, 1942:

705 1823

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

Apr 28 -- 45 B-17's, 32 B-25's, 12 B-26's, 35 A-20's, 24 P-40's, as fighter bombers, 50 P-38's, 12 P-39's, 24 P-40's, 124 American Spitfires. RAF: 27 Hurribombers, 12 Bostons, 12 Spitbombers, 16 Beaufighters, 4 Hudsons, 2 Swordfish, 4 Marauders, 390 British Spitfires,  
Apr 27 -- RAF: 8 Spitfires, 2 Beaufighters.

c. European Theater:

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

OSD 11/18/83

By RHP, NARA, AUG 7 1972

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 23/29 Anlandfall was made over the south coast of England by enemy aircraft. Bombs were dropped harmlessly 6 miles from Salisbury. 1 DO-217 destroyed.

[REDACTED]

Allied:

Apr 28/29 Sea mining was successfully carried out in the North Sea and the Baltic by 178 RAF Bombers

Of a force of 226 dispatched, 23 bombers are missing.

23 bombers missing.

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 29 2 ME-109's were destroyed by intercepting Typhoons in the Isle of Wright area.

2 ME-109's destroyed.

Apr 28 2 enemy aircraft were laying mines off south coast of England

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 29 A Wellington attacked a surfaced submarine 128 miles north of Cape Finistene. Sub opened fire and moved only one mile during the hour following the attack.

A Liberator attacked two submarines 165 and 108 miles northwest of Cape Ortegal.

Evidence of success in 1 attack.

Sunderland sighted a submarine 120 miles northwest of Cape Finistene and attacked another in the act of surfacing 170 miles from the same place. Sub engaged the plane and then submerged.

Results unknown.

Apr 28 Aircraft attacked two submarines 100 miles northwest and 180 miles north of Cape Ortegal.

Details unknown.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

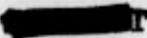
Apr 28 7 enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance off south coast of England and 1 off east of Orkneys. [REDACTED]

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**EO 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (C)**

OSD Letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**



III. Naval Action:

Two British destroyers suffered slight damage and 5 casualties in an engagement with an enemy convoy on the night of April 27/28. Enemy losses were 2 merchant vessels, 1 trawler and 1 E Boat probably sunk.

IV. Ground Action:

II Corps:

The 39th Infantry sent out patrols during the night of the 28th. One patrol met no enemy, the other encountered heavy fire and withdrew.

The 34th Division encountered heavy resistance.

Local counterattacks on the 1st Division at dusk on the 28th was repelled by one company of the 16th Infantry. There was considerable enemy fire on the 16th Infantry northeast of Sidi Msir.

On the 30th the 9th Division with the French troops on the left are preparing to attack north of Green Hill. The 34th Division advanced slightly and reached Point 609.

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

OSD Ltr, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAME DATA **AUG 7 1972**

V Corps:

4th Division attacked Sidi Abdullah the evening of the 28th and gained the objective.

Sidi Ahmed is not in our hands, as previously reported.

On the afternoon of the 29th, the enemy counterattacking force divided with half going to the northwest and the remainder going to the southwest.

The northern force reached the area west of Dj El Asoud, but withdrew after considerable loss leaving a small force of five tanks and some infantry.

Further south heavy fighting took place for Sidi Abdullah. An enemy force including 12 tanks attacked and recaptured some ground, but did not take Sidi Abdullah. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and ten tanks were knocked out.

On the 30th the enemy was reported to have Sidi Abdullah. The Irish Guards repulsed an enemy attack in the 1st ~~Division~~ ~~Area~~ which was later repeated twice

**SECRET**

In the 78th Division area the 36th and 38th Brigades succeeded in recapturing some ground in the Si Ahmed area.

**IX Corps**

The enemy was forced to give ground on the western slopes of Dj Kournine.

In the north the 1st Armored Division captured Argoui. Forward elements of the 2nd Armored Brigade were last reported in the area to the east of this feature facing strong enemy resistance.

**XIX Corps**

On the 28/29 the enemy launched two small counterattacks supported by a few tanks south and southeast of Pont Du Fahs. Most attacks were broken up by our artillery and our troops remained in position.

The French are now organized as three divisions under Generals Conne, Mathinet and Boisseau, with the armored force under General Le Coulteux in reserve.

**General:**

In the north the enemy is withdrawing slowly, but continues fierce resistance from successive hills where well sited fire positions produce heavy volume of fire. South of Medjerda there is very heavy fighting and determined enemy counterattacks. Proportion of tanks used is believed to have moved north from Bir Meherge area. General picture unchanged, with enemy still capable of active defense.

**VI. Messages included in Summary:**

- 17973
- 18082
- 18197
- 18247
- 18353
- 18410
- 4
- 31
- 141
- 157
- 216

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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(G) and 5(D) or (E)  
 OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
 By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 29 to  
0700 Apr 30.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 343,762 (Apr 17)  
British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
728,289 (Apr 17)

AXIS

Estimated Total  
Strength of  
157,700 (Apr 29)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,841 (Apr 20)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia  
German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA (Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 78,595 (Apr 29)  
British:  
1st Army 138,651 (Apr 29)  
8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)  
French 54,660 (Apr 28)  
371,906 (Apr 29)

Estimated Total  
Strength

German 112,700  
Italian 45,000  
(Apr 29) 157,700

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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OSD Inters. 2025.3.1972

RHP, NARA Dec. 1972

AUG 7 1972

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

[REDACTED]

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 26	10 to 15 JU-88's from Sicily over northern Tunisia, about half of which departed towards Sardinia.		
Apr 28	10 enemy planes <u>bombed</u> Phillippeville.	Casualties and damage slight.	2 enemy planes destroyed.
	A small number of aircraft attacked Bone.		

Allied:

Apr 26	A-20's on 12 missions bombed enemy positions. Two A-20's collided.		2 A-20's lost, 2 missing, 2 ME-109's damaged.
Apr 28	Light and medium bomber attacks on targets in battle area on reduced scale. Enemy fighters active, but unwilling to engage our fighters in combat.		
Apr 25	Several sweeps by fighters and fighter bombers over enemy concentrations near Jefna.		3 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 Spitfire destroyed, 1 Spitfire and 2 P-39's missing.
Apr 26	Hurribombers bombed enemy positions throughout the battle area.		2 Hurribombers are missing.
Apr 27	33 Hurribombers and 6 Spitfires bombed tanks and concentrations in the Tebourba-Medjes El Bab area.	Fires started.	1 Hurribomber missing.
Apr 27	The following bombs were dropped on Ksar Tyr: Escorted by 6 Spitfires 12 B-25's dropped 92 250-lb bombs; 12 A-20's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 24 300-lb and 96 100-lb bombs.		

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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (E)  
 OSD Letter, May 3, 1962  
 By [REDACTED], NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

12 A-20's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 14 300-lb, 100 100-lb and 36 fragmentation bombs. 12 A-20's escorted by 7 Spitfires dropped 23 250-lb and 188 40-lb bombs.

Apr 27 Bombs dropped on concentrations in the Tebourba-Massacault area: 12 A-20's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 25 300-lb and 96 100-lb bombs. 12 A-20's escorted by 12 Spitfires dropped 21 300-lb and 95 100-lb bombs. 12 B-25's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 96 250-lb bombs. 12 Bostons dropped 24 250-lb bombs.

Apr 27 Tanks and guns south east of Bir Meherga bombed: 12 A-20's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 20 300-lb and 80 100-lb bombs. 6 A-20's escorted by 6 Spitfires dropped 12 250-lb and 96 40-lb bombs. Explosions were followed by fires  
1 gunner of an A-20 was killed. Planes damaged by flak.

Apr 26/27 (night) 18 Bisleys dropped 13 tons of bombs on Sidi Ahmed airdrome.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 27 84 F-40's and 11 Spitfires bombed tanks on Pont Du Fahs Tunis road, concentration near Bir Meherga and a hill about six miles to the southwest.

Apr 27 24 Spitfires bombed four ships off Bizerte. Results were unobserved.

Apr 27 Fighters carried out numerous sweeps. 2 enemy aircraft destroyed, 2 damaged. 1 Spitfire damaged.

Apr 26 Kittyhawks attacked two large vessels with 500-lb delayed action bombs. Both vessels hit. One was seen to blow up.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

~~SECRET~~

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EO 11652, Sec. 202 and 203 or (E)  
OSD letter, May 8, 1972  
R. RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

~~SECRET~~

Apr 28 Allied motor gun boats off Cape Bon were attacked by enemy aircraft in the morning and again in the afternoon. Defensive patrols in the Cape Bon-Tunis area were continuous. Mid-morning standing patrols covered convoy and ferry traffic operating between Kelibia and Pantelleria. Italian aircraft has been more in evidence lately.

Allied:

Apr 28 Fighter bombers attacked and sunk shipping in Gulf of Tunis.  
Apr 26 1 Hudson on a U Boat search crashed off Cape Taney; probably due to weather conditions. The crew was killed.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 28 1 enemy bomber made a reconnaissance of the Bone area and picked up a convoy in the Gulf of Bougie  
Apr 28 Aircraft from southern France patrolled the Balearics and west of Corsica.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 28 29 bombers from the 98th Group dropped 174,000 lbs of bombs and 62 boxes of incendiaries on the Messina ferry slip. Numerous direct hits on ferry slip and the southeast end of the ferry buildings. 4 enemy planes destroyed. 1 B-24 went down in the water.  
Apr 28 20 bombers from the 376th Group dropped 94,500 lbs of bombs on Naples. Direct hits observed on the target. 1 aircraft crashed into the sea after the takeoff.

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 28 40 fighters from the 79th Group carried out one mission on bomber escort.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Sec. 1.4 and 1.5(D) or (E)  
OSD Letter, Aug. 2, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
2 A-20's	11 planes
1 Spitfire	
1 B-24	
<u>1 Bomber</u>	
5	11

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov 8, 1942:

695	1785
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

April 26 -- 52 B-17's, 28 B-25's, 20 B-26's, 72 A-20's, 3 P-38 F4's, 26 P-38's, 27 P-39's, 142 P-40's, 4 P-51's,  
April 27 -- 33 B-17's, 24 B-25's, 72 A-20's, 2 P-38 F4's, 75 P-38's, 21 P-39's, 108 P-40's, 94 American Spitfires, 30 Bostons, 19 Bisleys, 33 Hurrabombers, 6 Spitfire bombers, 7 Beau-fighters, 9 Hudsons, 3 Marauders, 302 Spitfires, 15 Hurricanes.  
April 26 -- RAF 2 Spitfires, US Air Force 2 P-39's  
April 25 -- 12 B-25's.

c. European Theater:

1. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 29 112 P-47's of the 8th Air Force carried out fighter sweeps. One pilot bailed out on the re- 2 P-47's  
76 of the fighters made an uneventful sweep around Dun- turn flight over  
kirk at high altitude. The west of Blanken-  
other 36 covered the area north berghe, 1 other  
of Blankenberghe as far as P-47 failed to re-  
Rotterdam. One squadron of turn.  
this group encountered 3 sepa-  
rate formations of enemy fighters  
estimated at 17 ME-109's and FW-  
190's in all. The combat started  
at 30,000 feet and continued to  
zero altitude. Heavy inaccurate  
flak was encountered over Flushing  
at 25,000 feet.

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

OPD letter, May 3, 1970

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

2. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 28 U.S. Navy Catalinas from Iceland sighted two submarines and attacked one. Estimate two hits obtained.

3. Reconnaissance:

Apr 27 1 enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance of the south coast of England.

IV. Naval Action:

H.M.S. Unseen attacked tanker escorted by 2 escort vessels and 2 E Boats off west coast of Sicily on April 18. One of escort was sunk.

H.M.S. Tickle attacked Italian vessel Mauro Croce, north of Plencia, April 23. Gun hits were obtained before ship escaped into territorial waters.

April 25/26 -- 1 cruiser with 2 destroyers escort carried out sweep to Marittimo. Same night motor torpedo boats from Bone sank 2 large lighters carrying petrol off Bizerte.

April 26/27 -- Destroyers carried out sweep to Marittimo and motor torpedo boats and motor gun boats from Bone operated in Gulf of Tunis and submarine report sinking 3 enemy merchant men and 1 escort vessel.

April 28/29 -- A motor torpedo boat sank a 3000-ton motor vessel east of Kelibia.

A destroyer engaged an enemy E Boat force and a surfaced submarine. One E Boat was rammed and cut in half. Two others hit, and one of them is believed to have sunk.

A motor vessel between 3000 and 5000 tons going to Kelibia when attacked by our air force was seen beached.

V. Ground Action: II Corps

In the coastal and Jefna sectors there were no important changes in the situation. The enemy withdrawal continues.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(f) and 2(d) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1962

RHP, NARS Data

AUG 7 1972

[REDACTED]

In the Sidi Msir sector the enemy was driven back on high ground north of Dj Sidi Meftah. Counterattacks against our positions were repulsed by artillery fire.

V Corps

In the Meidou area enemy resistance continues.

South of the Medjerda river the enemy used 35 tanks and 1000 infantry in retaking Dj Bou Acukaz. 7 Enemy tanks were lost. Some of these tanks were probably from the group held in reserve in the northern sector.

IX Corps

In the area northeast of Sebket El Kourzia, the situation remained unchanged with the enemy still holding Dj Kournine and reinforcing the area.

XIX Corps

In the Pont Du Fahs sector enemy resistance is stiffening. The enemy holds Pont Du Fahs and the high ground east of town. Extensive minefields have been reported south of Pont Du Fahs and artillery fire was encountered from the high ground during the day. Southeast of Pont Du Fahs the enemy has withdrawn into the foothills north of the main Pont Du Fahs-Enfidaville road.

8th Army

Strong enemy resistance held up forward troop on the left flank April 28. Fighting continued on the rest of the front and all gains were firmly held.

Djebel Der Halfa has been cleared of the enemy.

G-2 Estimate:

No change in general picture of tenacious resistance by enemy. Ineffective counterattacks east of Sidi Msir reveal enemy weakness in this area. Enemy appreciates that the main Allied thrust south of Medjerda will necessitate this area being further reinforced and indications are that part of the enemy's flank forces from Bir Meherga are moving further north.

[REDACTED]

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EO 11652, Sec. 2(D) and 4(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

**SECRET**

Though resisting to utmost, the enemy has been compelled to withdraw further by superior forces. Presence of tanks in the sector south of Medjerda River indicates intention to bolster up weakened infantry with armored reserve. Bulk of armor now committed in plain north of Pont Du Fahs and is resisting strongly, although seriously depleted. The Axis is using anti-tank gun screen to oppose our advance in this area. Withdrawal from Dorsale is being carried out according to plan as indicated by the small number of prisoners captured. Defense of Pont Du Fahs is clearly vital for the continued existence of the Enfidaville position which would be endangered from the flank. Enemy opposition is still very strong in this sector. Intention may then be to hold positions covering Cape Bon Peninsula while forces in the north hold reduced bridgehead covering Bizerte. There is no definite indications of this however. The alternative course is to fight rear guard actions with the remaining armored forces on the plains until forces facing the 8th Army have been withdrawn into the Tunis area. This course is possible, though is unlikely. The enemy's ability to supply the bridgehead after prolonged heavy fighting must now be an increasingly vital factor in his ability to continue resistance.

VI. Troop Movements:

3rd Battalion, 213 Coast Artillery Regiment arrived at Beja from Telergna.  
The 21st Tank Brigade arrived at Souk El Arba from Bone.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

17411	17458	17459	17532	17565	17368	17610	17745
17442	17749	17702	17762	17584	17861	17781	17767

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 11652, Para. (D) and (MD) or (E)  
OSD Memo, 4/13/72  
RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

**SECRET**

DECLASSIFIED  
E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/23/94

Form No. 10.

**SECRET**  
EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

0700 Apr 28 to  
0700 Apr 29.

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

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	368,324 (Apr 28)

German 112,800  
Italian 45,000  
(Apr 28) 157,800

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1978

By RHP, NARS Date

**AUG 7 1972**

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 27 (night)	30 JU-88's approached Bone and at the same time planes were reported over Philippeville.		3 aircraft destroyed 1 probably destroyed
Apr 27	Fighter bombers attacked our ground troops with little effect about six times during the day. Enemy fighters were reluctant to engage our aircraft.		

Allied:

Apr 27	B-17's attacked the Villacidro airdrome in Sardinia.	Airfield completely covered. Hits in barracks area. 5 fires believed to be aircraft were observed in the field.	
Apr 27	Medium bomber sorties were carried out against tanks and enemy concentrations at Ksar Tyr.	Good results.	8 of our aircraft were damaged, 1 Hurribomber missing.
Apr 26/27	Beaufighters flew patrols.		Destroyed: 1 SM-8A, 1 Cant 1007
Apr 25/26 (night)	Wellingtons attacked Decimomannu. Elmas and Villacidro airdromes in Sardinia	Ammunition dump believed blown up at Decimomannu.	
Apr 25/26	B-17's attacked Grosseto airdrome in Italy.	Hits reported on buildings.	1 B-17 shot down by flak.
Apr 25/26	B-25's bombed Mateur and Tebourba.	Hits observed on roads, railroads and marshalling yards. Railroad station at Tebourba left burning.	

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Apr 25/26 B-26's attacked shipping at Porto Ponte Romagn. (South-west Sardinia.

No hits on shipping, but some on a factory near target.

2. Fighters:

Apr 27 167 Spitfire fighter sweeps were carried out in the area

1 FW 190, 1 ME-109 destroyed; 2 FW-109's, and 1 Spitfire damaged

Apr 25/26 F-38's flew 2 shipping sweeps. 2nd sweep attacked a convoy of 7 Siebel ferries.

1 blew up, 2 left burning, 1 left down at stern, 1 escort vessel capsized.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 28 Hudsons flew convoy escort and anti-U Boat hunts without incident.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 27 2 aircraft from Sardinia made a reconnaissance of the Mediterranean area.

Apr 27 (night) Several reconnaissance aircraft were active off the Tunisian coast.

Allied:

Apr 28 B-26's made a reconnaissance of the approaches to Naples.

Probably destroyed: 1 C-506 escorting a convoy.

5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 25/26 20 to 30 JU-52's were reported and 26/27 enroute to Tunis. (night)

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

Allied:

Apr 26 4 bombers of 178th Squadron  
RAF dropped 18,000 lbs of  
bombs on Bari, Italy. (De-  
layed report) 1 aircraft failed  
to return.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 26/27 RAF fighters in Sousse area  
(night) Destroyed 2 Cant  
Z 1007's

Apr 27 P-40 fighters on shipping re-  
connaissance. Destroyed 1 MC-202

Apr 27 36 fighters from the 57th Group  
carried out one fighter sweep  
mission while 24 fighters of the  
79th Group carried out one  
mission as fighter bombers.

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axix</u>
1 B-17 TOTAL: 1	3 Cant 1007's, 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109, 1 G-506, 1 SM-8A, 3 enemy aircraft TOTAL-10
<u>Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov 8, 1942:</u>	
690	1774

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

Apr 22 -- 12 Bostons, 118 American Spitfires, 76 British Spitfires,  
Apr 23 -- 48 Bostons, 51 Hurribombers, 12 British Spitbombers, 373  
British Spitfires, 24 B-25's, 118 A-20's, 162 P-40's, 6 P-51's, 11  
American Spitfires; Apr 24 -- 73 P-39's, 12 American Spitfires, 24  
P-40's, 180 RAF Spitfires, 24 Hurribombers, 22 Wellingtons, 12 Beau-  
fighters, 13 Hudsons, 3 Marauders; Apr 25 -- 21 B-26's, 60 P-40's,  
12 Spitbombers, 60 P-40's, 12 P-39's, 168 American Spitfires, 4 P-51's,  
2 P-38's, 6 F-4's, 2 Hurricanes, 37 British Spitfires, 5 Beaufighters,  
13 Hudsons, 3 Swordfish, 4 Marauders.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1982

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Apr 26/27 561 RAF bombers attacked Duisburg. 17 bombers missing.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

- Apr 26 3 Catalinas sighted 3 enemy submarines south of Kaldadarnes, Iceland. Attacked later.
- Apr 26 RAF planes attacked 3 submarines north northwest of Cape Ortegál. Some evidence of success in one attack.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

- Apr 26 3 enemy aircraft on reconnaissance, 3 off southeast England, 1 off Scotland.

IV. Naval Action:

Submarine activity was on reduced scale south and southwest of Iceland and southeast of Greenland.

Russian photo reconnaissance on April 20 showed Tirpitz in company with 3 other large vessels believed to be the Scharnhorst, Lutzow, and Nurnberg and 3 destroyers in Alten Fjord on April 25 and on the same day 2 enemy destroyers, 2 large torpedo boats on a northerly course were reported as having passed Floro, Norway.

Enemy ships sunk:

Apr 19 -- 7,500 ton liner, Francisco Crispi, carrying troops; 1 motor vessel, 6,100 tons. Apr 22 -- 1 motor vessel, 5,700 tons. Apr 25 -- 1 liner carrying gasoline, prisoners were taken; 1 tanker type vessel blew up (probably struck a mine). Apr 27 -- Small motor vessel with E Boat escort sunk by a motor torpedo boat. We lost a small coaster of Cape Bengut.

V. Ground Action:

II Corps:

In the extreme north the enemy has been compelled to withdraw rapidly along the coast road. Prisoners of war state that it is the intention of the Axis to

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withdraw to high ground 12 miles west of Bizerte.

The general impression is that the enemy is thinning out in the sector from the coast to the Jefna road. The enemy holds Dj El Ajred, covering Jefna from the southwest. Machine gun and mortar fire was encountered on the eastern slopes of Kef Maksour.

In the Sidi Nair sector the enemy is holding a line across the road but has been pushed back further east over high ground south of the road. No enemy has been contacted by our patrols north and east of Dj Sidi Maftah and to the Dj Bed area.

The 1st Infantry Division prepared to attack on the morning of the 28th and reorganized the next evening due to the difficult nature of the country.

On the north the French and the 60th Combat Team made slight progress during the day.

#### V Corps

In the Heidous sector the enemy withdrawal has now reached the area four miles north of Heidous village. 60 prisoners were taken in the fighting on the V Corps front by the 38th Infantry Brigade.

South of the Medjerda River enemy forces were driven off the greater part of Dj Bou Aoukas by the 24th Guards Brigade, but still hold a line four hundred yards forward of the crest. The enemy counterattacked with infantry and tanks east of Medjex El Bab and recaptured Si Abdullah. Our troops withdrew to Sidi Salen.

The 24th Guards Brigade attacked and took Dj Bou Aoukas, but it is not known yet whether the Djebel is completely cleared of an enemy counterattack which was believed to be coming from the north around noon on the 28th.

#### IX Corps

In the area northeast of Sebket El Kourzia the situation remained generally unchanged, with the enemy contesting every inch of ground by the use of a screen of anti-tank guns to hold off our armor.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP. NARR Date

AUG 7 1972

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XIX Corps

West and south of Pont Du Fahs the enemy withdrawal was accelerated. Pont Du Fahs is believed lightly held.

There was a slight advance in the French sector east of Pont Du Fahs on the 28th.

8th Army

On the 27th, forward patrols pushed forward several miles on the left flank in spite of heavy demolitions and mines. British forces are in close contact with French troops on the left. Several sharp artillery engagements took place in the coastal sector during the day.

G-2 Estimate:

Enemy resistance in the north is weakening and has been compelled to withdraw in the sector from the coast to Jefna. Indications are that he will hold positions immediately covering Bizerte on the high ground north of Gareat Achkel. Fierce opposition and believed reinforcement by at least 1 Battalion from southern front in area south of Medjerda-Pont Du Fahs indicates that the Axis appreciates the main Allied thrust is directed on Tunis. General picture unchanged but enemy is endeavouring at all costs to retain cohesion of his forces, thus avoiding a split. To accomplish this, it is possible that he may transfer 1 or more battalions to the central sector.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

- 16783      17088
- 16805      17113
- 16872      17114
- 16874      17115
- 16928      17127
- 17033      17128
- 17049      17151
- 17050      17183
- 17060      17243
- 17072      17248
- 16919

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OSD 11652, 3, 1972

by RHP, NAME [redacted] **AUG 7 1972**

[redacted]

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APPENDIX

Statistics North African Air Force from April 17 to April 23, inclusive:

<u>Enemy Aircraft</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>	<u>R.A.F.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Destroyed	58	29	87
Probably destroyed	22	7	29
Damaged	26	38	64
Destroyed on ground			29

Losses:

Destroyed	12	4	16
Missing	13	10	23
Damaged	47	21	68

Summary combat claims and losses for week ending April 25 — London:

<u>Enemy Aircraft</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>	<u>R.A.F.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Destroyed	0	7	7
Probably destroyed	0	0	0
Damaged	0	6	6
Destroyed on ground	0	0	0

Losses:

To enemy aircraft	0	0	0
To unknown causes	0	48	48
Operational losses	0	4	4

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By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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APPENDIX

<u>Comparison of strengths:</u>	<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
Inf Bns		
8th Army Sector	39	32
XIX Corps	29	13
IX Corps	18	7
V Corps	24	8
II Corps	29	17
Reserve	0	6
Total	<u>139</u>	<u>83</u>
<u>Artillery Pieces:</u>		
8th Army Sector	554	315
XIX Corps	189	169
IX Corps	236	61
V Corps	327	52
II Corps	312	48
Total	<u>1,618</u>	<u>585</u>
<u>Serviceable Allied tanks</u>		
<u>Total Axis tanks</u>		
8th Army	290	20
XIX Corps	129	0
IX Corps	274	56
V Corps	219	2
II Corps	219	0
Reserve	0	15
Total	<u>1,131</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Casualties</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Others</u>
8th Army (wk ending 23 Apr)		
Killed	12	110
Wounded	60	837
Missing	3	65
Total	<u>75</u>	<u>1,012</u>
1st Army, excluding XIX Corps (wk ending 23 April)		
Killed	17	181
Wounded	43	532
Missing	15	359
Total	<u>75</u>	<u>1,072</u>

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972 AUG 7 1972

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	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Others</u>
II Corps		
Killed	13	63
Wounded	4	75
Total	17	138

<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Italian</u>	
8th Army (8 days ending 22nd April)	321	595	
1st Army (excluding 18 Corps)	950	35	
Unclassified	—	226	
	1,271	226	630 * 2,127

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CM-IN-16783 (28 Apr 43)

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

Form No. 10.

**SECRET**  
EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

0700 Apr 27 to  
0700 Apr 28.

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,872 (Apr 17)	Estimated Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	157,800 (Apr 27)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)	
	<u>728,289 (Apr 17)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,841 (Apr 20)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA (Mar 30)

TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)	German	112,800
British:		Italian	45,000
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)	(Apr 27)	157,800
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)		
French	53,800 (Mar 31)		
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>		

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD Letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Allied: During night of April 25/26 and day of April 26, an intensive air effort was continued by light and medium bombers concentrating on army objectives in the battle areas. Enemy landing grounds were also successfully attacked.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 26	Escorted light bombers made two attacks against enemy positions northwest of Enfidaville. Two additional attacks were made on gun positions near Bou Ticha.	Accurate bombing.	
Apr 26	A strong force of night bombers attacked Soliman landing ground. About 20 ME-109's attempted to intercept the formation.	3 fires started.	5 ME-109's destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 1 damaged.
Apr 26	62 bombers from the 98th and 376th Groups carried out two on Bari airdrome and dropped 234,500 lbs of bombs and 1008 20-lb fragmentary bombs.	Entire airdrome appeared covered with bomb bursts, especially the hanger area. Intense black smoke and red flames. Numerous hits on hangers. A number of buildings and aircraft on the ground destroyed. Hits on the railroad north of the field. The oil tanks west of the north hangers were set on fire. Dispersal area on the west and south side of the field was completely covered with hits.	
Apr 26	31 bombers of the 12th Group dropped 130,450 lbs of bombs on the Soliman landing ground.	Bombing was successful	

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OSD letter, May 3, 1973

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Apr 26/27 (night)	One Albacore operating over Nabeul dropped bombs.	2 fires were observed.
Apr 23	36 B-25's from 12th and 340th Groups attacked Soliman landing grounds.	Bursts in target area. 1 large enemy aircraft hit.
Apr 23	18 aircraft attacked enemy troop concentrations and gun emplacements in Tunisian battle area.	1 direct hit on gun emplacement. Many personnel believed destroyed.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 26/27 (night)	RAF Beaufighters flew interception patrol.	1 JU-88 destroyed.
Apr 26	44 fighters from the 57th Group carried out 2 missions as bomber escort.	4 ME-109's destroyed.
Apr 23	P-40's from the 79th Group made 24 sorties as bomber escort.	1 aircraft crash-landed at base; pilot safe.
Apr 24	P-40's from 57th Group made 36 sorties as fighter sweeps and 48 sorties as fighter bombers. P-40's from 79th Group made 36 sorties on fighter sweeps and reconnaissance missions.	

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Axis</u>	<u>Type</u>
1	B-25	9	ME-109
<u>1</u>	P-40	<u>1</u>	JU-88
2		10	

Accumulated reported aircraft lost since Nov 8, 1942:

689	1764
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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

V. Ground Action:

II Corps:

The 1st U.S. Division with the 6th Armored Infantry made progress towards its objectives.

The 34th Division with the 168th and 135th Infantry forward relieved the 26th Infantry, which is now in reserve. The 91st Reconnaissance Squadron is protecting the flank of the 34th Division.

The 9th Division is preparing to attack and the French on the extreme north flank are making good progress. It is now apparent that Bald Hill is still held by the enemy, but the 47th Combat Team is patrolling vigorously towards that position.

V Corps:

In the Heidous sector the enemy has been driven back about three miles to the north. Dj El Ahmera is now completely cleared of enemy and prisoners counted April 26 from this operation total two hundred and sixty.

On the 27th the Black Watch attacked Si Abdellah and captured it after heavy fighting. Our troops now occupy the high ground around Sidi Ali Ben Arune.

IX Corps:

The enemy opposed our armored advance with tanks, infantry, and a screen of anti-tank guns. A total of 27 enemy tanks were seen in the battle area. On the 26th the enemy lost three Mark VI tanks and two Mark IV's. On the 25th the enemy lost nineteen tanks including three Mark VI's.

During the morning of the 27th the enemy reinforced the area east and south east of Dj Bou Kournine. A battalion of the 138th Brigade and the 51st RTR (?) is now in the area west of the Djebel. Armor of the 1st British Armored Division is in the area south and southwest of Sebkra Djaber. The 6th Armored Division has withdrawn to the Keelif area.

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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

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XIX Corps:

Enemy withdrawal continues. Sixty prisoners were captured on the 26th.

On the 27th French troops continued to advance and are now firmly established on hill overlooking Pont Du Fahs. Patrols towards Pont Du Fahs were shelled and machine gunned. They later captured a machine gun and detected minefields about two miles from Pont Du Fahs.

8th Army:

On the 26th further ground was gained from the enemy on his western flank. There were no indications that tanks were on this front during the day.

G-2 Estimate:

1. No evidence at present of evacuation ~~of Tunisia~~ by the enemy.
2. Infantry forces are now fully committed in the front line, ~~as is indicated by the use of engineers and mobile troops in a role as infantry.~~
3. ~~Enemy has suffered heavy losses in armour.~~
4. Enemy resistance very stubborn on all fronts and withdrawals only occurred after heavy losses and against superior forces.
5. Withdrawal to smaller <sup>1/2</sup> bridgehead around Tunis and Bizerte and possibly into Cape Bon Peninsula will be bitterly contested.
6. Lack of reserves and losses sustained by enemy has probably resulted in very strained position for Axis, though it is to be expected he will continue in face of our pressure to offer stubborn resistance until his troops are exhausted.
7. German tank strength considerably depleted. 83 tanks were destroyed from April 21 to April 25, leaving estimated total of 100, of which about 66 are operating.
8. Italian tank strength estimated at 35, with about 15 operational.
9. Captured documents indicate that the 501st Heavy Tank Battalion and the 7th Tank Regiment are amalgamated.

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By RHP, NARS Date \_\_\_\_\_

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10. The 2nd Battalion Herman Goering Grenadier Regiment and the 1st and 2nd Battalions Herman Goering Tank Regiment have been identified from documents. It is believed only a small part of these battalions have arrived in Tunisia.

11. There is yet no indication that a general evacuation of Tunisia by the Axis is intended. In particular there are no signs of any aggregation of small craft and other shipping, either in Tunisia or Sicily which would be essential for the operation. There are definite indications of reinforcement of fighting troops with both material and men.

On previous occasions when Axis has carried out planned withdrawals in North Africa, various indications have given warning well in advance.

The situation is subject to rapid change, however, and it is impossible to estimate the enemy's intentions beyond the immediate future.

Troop Movements:

The 4th Tabour has arrived at Souk El Arba and is under command of the II U.S. Corps.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

16170	16367
16194	16410
16209	16544
16242	16577
16293	16586
16339	16581

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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

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Form No. 10.

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 26 to  
0700 Apr 27.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)	Estimated Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	158,700 (Apr 26)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)	
	<u>728,289 (Apr 17)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,841 (Apr 20)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA (Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)	German	115,000
British:		Italian	47,500
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)		
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	(Apr 26)	162,500*
French	53,800 (Mar 31)		
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>		

\*Less prisoners

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD Letter, Aug 3, 1972  
RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bombers:

Axis:

Apr 25 Enemy air activity on increased scale was predominantly defensive due to our heavy operations in the southern and central areas. There were several occasions when the enemy was unable to handle the combined offensive of our aircraft operating with the 1st and 8th Armies.

Allied:

Apr 23/24	Wellingtons attacked north quay at Bizerte with 36 tons of bombs, the first load at Goods Station.	Haze and cloud prevented observation of results.	3 Wellingtons damaged.
Apr 25	B-26's attacked Milas landing ground.	Unobserved.	
Apr 24	Hurribombers attacked Pont Du Fahs.	One fire started	

General:

Heavy scale air effort directed to assist the progress of the land forces. Targets selected were mainly in the battle area.

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 24 20 to 30 ME-110's plus a few JU-88's flew escort missions.

Allied:

Apr 25	Beaufighters on defensive patrols.		2 JU-88's destroyed.
Apr 25	Fighters on usual convoy and defensive patrols.	No incident	
Apr 24	Beaufighters patrolled Algiers area.		1 crashed into the sea.
Apr 24	P-39's patrolled Orleansville.	No results.	

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OSD letter, May 3, 1962

RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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Apr 24/25 (night)	Hudsons, P-39's and Beaufighters flew convoy escort and defensive patrols.	No incident.	
Apr 25	Hudsons and Swordfish flew convoy escorts and U Boat searches.	No results.	
Apr 25	B-26's made a reconnaissance of Sicily and Sardinia.		
Apr 24	Spitfires flew bomber escort missions and many fighter sweeps over the battle area.	Guns, motor transport and troops successfully attacked.	Destroyed: 4 ME-109's, 1 JU-88. Damaged: 4 ME-109's, 1 Spitfire destroyed, 9 missing and 2 damaged.
Apr 25	More than 900 fighter sorties were flown.		Destroyed: 1 ME-202, Probable: 1 ME-109 Damaged: 8 ME-109's. We lost 7 Spitfires, 2 Hurribombers and 2 P-39's.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 25	Hudsons flew U Boat hunts.	One sighted on surface, fired on plane which abandoned attack	1 Hudson destroyed, pilot killed, remainder of crew safe.
Apr 24	Strategic A.F. bombed 1 large enemy vessel.	Vessel set on fire.	

Transport:

Apr 24 About 15 JU-52's landed at Tunis during the night.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 25	144 light and medium bombers sorties were flown against enemy positions on Razor Back Ridge and positions in the coastal area of the 8th Army sector.	10 fires reported by fighter escort.
Apr 25	36 light bombers attacked Soliman south landing ground.	██████████

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EO 11652, Sec. 9(E) and 5(D) or (E)  
OSD dated May 8, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Apr 25 Fighter bombers claim many near misses on shipping off Cape Bon in several attacks.

Apr 25 37 bombers of the 12th Group carried out two missions, dropping 32,700 lbs of bombs on enemy landing grounds and concentrations. Near misses on buildings. Group of motor transport hit. 2 B-25's lost in a collision

Apr 23/24 (night) 5 RAF bombers dropped 30,000 lbs of bombs on Naples.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 25 Fighters carried out sweeps during the day.

Destroyed: 1 ME-110,  
1 MC-202  
Damaged: 1 ME-109  
4 Spitfires were lost,  
2 pilots safe.

c. European Theater:

1. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 25 Iceland based aircraft attacked 2 submarines.

Apr 23/24 2 enemy submarines were sunk and another believed sunk by aircraft in the Iceland area. (attacks on subs previously reported.)

2. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 25 3 enemy aircraft made a coastal reconnaissance off southern England and 1 off east England north of the Shetlands.

Apr 24 Reconnaissance by 4 enemy planes off south coast of England 1 off Shetlands.

III. Air:

a. Score:

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Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied:</u>	<u>Axis:</u>
26	10

Accumulated reported aircraft lost since Nov 8, 1942:

687	1754
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VI. Naval Action:

Night 23/24 -- Motor torpedo boats from Malta and Sousse operated in Sicilian channel. Other motor torpedo boats from Sousse swept the eastern shore of the gulf of Tunis and then proceeded to Bone. Motor torpedo boats from Bone operated Bizerte roads and shot down one JU-88.

Night 24/25 -- Destroyers carried out sweep to Marittimo. Others operated in the Sicilian channel. Latter force was attacked by fighters off Pantelaria and sustained minor damage. Same night motor torpedo boats and motor gun boats from Bone operated in the Gulf of Tunis and Bizerte roads.

V. Ground Action: II Corps

The 1st Infantry Division exploited the morning's attack and by evening of April 25 the 18th Infantry occupied the western edge of Dj Medtah. The 26th Infantry is on Dj Touta.

The 60th Infantry is in vicinity of Kef Sahan; the 47th Infantry at Bj. Salem. Very little enemy resistance is being encountered. The going was slow due to supply and underbrush.

With the 16th Infantry in reserve, the 18th Infantry at 0900 hours attacked along Medtah and the 26th Infantry along Touta and Dj Beraking.

The 6th Armored Infantry (1st Armored Division) advanced and consolidated hill two miles northwest of Dj El Ang.

The 9th Infantry Division is to attack Bald Hill and Green Hill. In the north, French troops have crossed the J 40 grid line.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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V Corps:

The 78th Division has captured Dj Tanngoucha and Heidous and have taken 87 prisoners of war. The 1st Battalion 962nd Infantry Regiment (999 Motorized Division) hoisted the white flag on Dj Tanngoucha.

On the 26th Longstop Hill was completely cleared of the enemy. The Black Watch were in the Qediene area and a squadron of our tanks were about ten miles east of Medjex El Bab. Patrols from the 24th Guards Brigade have pushed north-east towards Dj Bou Aouka and there are indications that the enemy have pulled out from this area.

IX Corps:

Armored engagements in the IX Corps area have continued. The 2nd Armored Brigade made slight progress northeast of Sebket El Kourgia and Tosebkia Sidi Djabeur. The 6th Armored Division is on the right in the Dj Kournine area. At least 16 enemy tanks and a number of U.S. anti-tank guns were destroyed in this area.

There is tenacious resistance by the enemy on all fronts. The bulk of the enemy armor is believed to be north of Pont Du Fahs with a small armored reserve to support infantry on the south bank of the Medjerda River. Tank strength is believed low and the enemy was resisting our armor mainly with infantry and guns. Enemy withdrawal from the whole northern Dorsale is possible in view of our thrust in the Pont Du Fahs area. In general, enemy strength is reduced, but will continue to resist stubbornly as long as possible.

On the 26th, heavy fighting continued in the IX Corps area with both the British 1st Armored and 6th Armored Divisions and are meeting with stiff opposition. An attack by an armored regiment is in progress with the results not yet known. Armored fighting is taking place around Dj Bou Kourine.

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XIX Corps

South of Sebket El Kourzia the enemy was compelled to withdraw to the area

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By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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east of Dar Abd El Djellil and was driven from Thibica. The enemy has withdrawn from the main heights of Dj Mansour, Dj Bou Kril, Dj Edjehaf and Dj Sefsouf. Hir Magra was also clear of enemy.

On the 26th the advance of the Mathinet and Conne Divisions continued with French tanks about five miles southwest of Font Du Fahs. The Schwartz Division has moved up and is in reserve about two miles west of Dj Chirich.

8th Army

April 25 -- Pressure by 8th Army maintained on front throughout the 24th. Gains on night 23/24 firmly held. The afternoon of the 25th our troops cleared the enemy from strong points in the Dj Garci-Takrouna area after sharp engagements. Artillery engagements continued throughout the day.

April 24 -- The Coast Battery at Cap De Garde fired 12 rounds on information from the Navy. No results reported.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

14989	15782
15617	15837
15705	15871
15708	15885
15734	15964
15755	16049
15765	16096
15772	16056

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OSD letter, 11/23/82  
By: KHP, JARS DPM **AUG 7 1972**

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 25 to  
0700 Apr 26.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)	Estimated Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	159,000 (Apr 23)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)	
	<u>728,289 (Apr 17)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,841 (Apr 20)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635
		<u>1,360</u>

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA (Mar 30) TOTAL

Estimated Total Strength		Estimated Total Strength
U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)	German 115,000*
British:		Italian 47,500*
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)	(Apr 23) 162,300*
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	
French	53,800 (Mar 31)	*Less prisoners of war.
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD Histor. May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 23 Enemy bombers flew between 70 to 80 sorties in the Monastir and Medjez El Bab area.

Apr 24 4 JU-88's bombed our positions in the Medjez El Bab area.

Apr 24 Enemy aircraft activity was on a reduced scale. Small groups of escorted bombers and fighter bombers operated over the entire front against our ground forces and tanks. German aircraft were reluctant to engage Spitfires.

Allied:

Apr 24 18 B-25's escorted by 19 P-38's swept the Sticuts without incident.

Apr 25 18 B-26's escorted by 21 P-38's dropped 108 five hundred-lb bombs from 8,500 feet on Arbatax harbor (Sardinia) The escort became separated from the bombers due to bad weather conditions and the bombers were attacked by enemy aircraft. The escort destroyed two single engined flying boats.

Apr 24 17 B-25's dropped 180 one hundred lb bombs on the railroad yards at Latour. Heavy accurate flak was encountered. One B-25 crash landed in some water 5 miles northeast of Tabourba.

Apr 24 11 B-26's escorted by 28 P-40's dropped 1290 twenty lb fragmentation bombs on the railroad junction and bivouacs near Latour and among twenty trucks in a convoy headed east at Jefna.

3 near misses were scored on one ship in the harbor.

2 single engined flying boats destroyed, 1 enemy aircraft probably destroyed. 1 B-26 missing, 1 B-26 crash landed in friendly territory.

1 B-25 crash landed

Installations were hit.

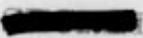
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

by RHP, NARS Date

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- Apr 22/23 (night) 33 Bisleys attacked installations near Tebourba, Djedeida, Massicault, Cyreïn, Mateur. Bombs burst in towns or roads leading from them.
- Apr 22/23 (night) 5 Leo 45's dropped 12,500 lbs of bombs on La Marsa airfield. Direct hits scored on 3 enemy aircraft. 3 enemy aircraft destroyed.
- Apr 22 12 A-20's bombed enemy positions northeast of Grich El Oued, 12 A-20's bombed enemy positions on Longstop Hill, and 12 A-20's again bombed positions near Grich El Oued.
- Apr 22 Two flights of six A-20's bombed troops in the Wadi near Ksar Tyer.
- Apr 22 6 B-25's dropped 48 250-lb bombs on a suspected headquarters 11 miles northwest of Pont Du Fahs. Another similar attack was made ten minutes later.
- Apr 22 6 B-26's attacked Ain El Asker.
- Apr 22 6 A-20's bombed positions east of Massicault. Intense heavy anti-aircraft fire encountered. 1 A-20 missing
- Apr 22 6 A-20's attacked positions near Chouismi, 6 A-20's attacked positions 11 miles northwest of Pont Du Fahs and 12 B-25's attacked positions in the same area.
- Apr 22 12 A-20's bombed the east side of the hill 4 miles southeast of Grich El Oued.

2. Fighter:

Allied:

- Apr 24 10 P-38's, 3 of which were carrying bombs, dropped 3 500-lb bombs on an Italian destroyer 20 miles east of Cape Bon. Near misses were scored.
- Apr 24 24 P-40's bombed a convoy of 10 or 12 trucks going west near Thibyda and also bombed 10 trucks and trailers near Moghsane.

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Apr 24	4 P-51's made a reconnaissance of roads in Medjez El Bab Tebourba area.	1 P-51 shot down by friendly anti-aircraft 9 miles north of Cued Zarga.
Apr 24	Fighters and fighter bombers carried out many missions giving continuous support to our advancing ground forces.	1 P-40 lost.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 22/23 (night)	Hudsons flew convoy escort missions and U Boat hunts. Albacores flew shipping sweeps in Bizerte area and one bombed a convoy off Siebel Tenies.	Near misses claimed.
Apr 22/23 (night)	Beaufighters flew patrols and convoy escorts.	Cant Z 1007 destroyed north of Cape Serrat
Apr 22 (night)	Hurricanes flew sweeps at dusk in the Algiers area.	1 Hurricane missing
Apr 22/23	Hudsons flew U Boat sorties, fighters flew convoy escorts and defensive patrols. 5 B-26's made a reconnaissance of approaches to Naples.	A B-26 attacked a Cant Z 501 on the water and left it listing with 3 crew members struggling in the water.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 24 3 enemy bombers made a reconnaissance off the Algerian coast. One plane was over the Balearics in the afternoon while another was active during the night near our west bound convoy west of Algiers.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 23/24 RAF heavy bombers attacked Soliman south landing ground. Patrols were maintained over Cape Bon. A fighter bomber attacked enemy positions along the coast in the

No claims or losses.

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area of the 8th Army.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 23	84 fighters from the 57th Group carried out a fighter bomber mission and a fighter sweep.	No observations.	1 plane hit by anti-aircraft fire.
Apr 23	36 fighters of the 79th Group carried out a fighter sweep and reconnaissance.		

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 24/25 (night)	3 enemy aircraft flew over U.K. One was over Devon and South Wales, one was over Dorset and Isle of Wight and the third which flew over the Oxford area and then over London was destroyed by a mosquito.	Damage slight
Apr 24/25 (night)	15 enemy planes were off the east coast and five of them made brief landfalls.	Incendiaries were dropped and machine gunning took place.

2. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 24 U.S. Navy aircraft attacked two submarines and sighted 4 operating in the Iceland area. RAF planes attacked one and sighted two. RAF planes based in the U.K. attacked two submarines, one of which was believed sunk. Photos indicate that one submarine attacked was definitely sunk.

3. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

Apr 24	1 JU-88 on reconnaissance over Iceland was shot down by <del>2 B-29's</del> <del>2 B-29's</del> . Plane was wrecked and 3 bodies <del>found</del> .	1 JU-88 destroyed. No damage to American planes.
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were in the wreckage. A radio operator came down by parachute and was captured.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
4	6

Accumulated reported aircraft lost since Nov 8, 1942:

661	1744
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b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

19 B-17's, 43 B-25's, 33 B-26's, 32 A-20's, 4 P-38 F 4's, 90 P-38's, 51 P-39's, 198 P-40's, 11 American Spitfires, 6 P-51's, 14 Hudsons, 5 Marauders, 4 Albacores, 17 Beaufighters, 80 English Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Losses: 1 B-26 and 1 B-25 destroyed, 1 B-26 destroyed, 1 B-26, 1 P-51, 1 P-40 and 1 Hurricane missing.

Victories: 1 Cent Z 1007 and 2 unidentified aircraft destroyed, 1 ME-109 probably destroyed, 1 ME-109 and 1 Cent Z 501 damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

Considerable submarine activity continued in the area south and southeast of Cape Farewell and south of Iceland.

V. Ground Action:

Pressure was maintained on all fronts throughout the day and further gains made the night Apr 23/24 were firmly held.

II Corps

The Corps Franc D' Afrique is operating along the coast and has 3 battalions in the front line. The 9th Division is west of Jefna and the 1st Infantry Division is south of Sidi Masir with the 6th Armored Infantry Regiment attached.

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By RHP, NARS Date

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XIX Corps Quiet.

8th Army

The 51st Division extended its boundary to include Takrouna. The 56th Division composed of the 169th Brigade and the 201st Guards Brigade has taken over the coastal sector. The enemy withdrew without opposition in the area north west of Takrouna.

The enemy is hard pressed in all sectors opposing the 1st Army and is obliged to use Engineer and Motorcycle troops as ordinary infantry. After the heavy tank losses suffered April 21-23, it is reasonable to expect all of the enemy armored strength, except for an unidentified heavy battalion in the north, to be brought up in support of the 7th Tank Regiment and the 501st heavy battalion.

There has been tenacious resistance on all fronts, and it is clearly the intention of the enemy to afford maximum opposition.

Report of Action up to 1800 April 25 -- (Supplementary Report):

II Corps

The 26th Infantry has advanced east of Sidi Msir and the 18th Infantry has also advanced east about two miles. The 47th Infantry is attacking. 9th Division artillery fired harassing fires.

V Corps:

The 139th Brigade attacked early on the morning of the 25th and captured Si Marrou. The position is now being consolidated with patrols forward in the 26th Armored Brigade area. Hard fighting continues and despite enemy counter-attacks supported by tanks, our forward positions remained intact and losses of men and tanks were inflicted on the enemy.

XIX Corps

Early in the morning patrols found that the enemy had withdrawn in some places. The Mathenet Division is now advancing.

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

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8th Army

The Guards Brigade and the New Zealand Division attacked on the night of the 24th and captured the Terhouna feature. The Guards Brigade took fifty prisoners and are now well placed for an assault on Dj Mengoub.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

15161	15347
15196	15384
15229	15403
15317	15421
15330	15559
15335	15587

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

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Form No. 10.

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 24 to  
0700 Apr 25.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	349,672 (Apr 17)	Estimated Total Strength of	
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)		
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)	159,000 (Apr 23)	
	728,289 (Apr 17)		

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,841 (Apr 20)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia  
German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)
British:	
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)
French	53,800 (Mar 31)
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>

Estimated Total Strength

German	115,000*
Italian	<u>47,500*</u>
(Apr 23)	162,300*

\*Less prisoners  
of war.

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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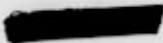
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ODD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bombers:

Axis:

Apr 23	3 JU-88's were reported in the Medjez El Bab area at dusk while over Tunisian battle area during latter half of the night 12 JU-88's were active.		1 JU-88 damaged.
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Apr 22/23	8-10 enemy aircraft bombed and strafed our ground forces over Monastir-Kairouan-El Djem area.		
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Apr 23 General:

Enemy air operations were on a large scale over Tunisia with fighter bombers unusually active. ME-109's and FW-190's performed constant low level attacks against our tanks southeast of Medjez El Bab and in the Pont Du Fahs sector. Continuous defensive patrols were also maintained against our fighters.

Allied:

Apr 22	12 B-25's bombed landing grounds at Mabtouha and Utique.	Bomb bursts among dispersed aircraft.	Destroyed: 1 FW-190, and 1 other enemy fighter.
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Apr 22	18 B-25's bombed Carloforte Harbour in Sardinia.	Hits on piers port facilities and shipping.	
--------	--	---	--

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 23	5 ME-110's were reported on escort mission in the Sicilian area.		
--------	--	--	--

Allied:

Apr 22	Fighter sweeps were flown over the Tebourba-Le Sebala areas.	Results of tactical mission:	Destroyed: 4 ME-109's, 2 ME-202's, 1 JU-52 Probably: 1 ME-109 Damaged: 2 ME-109's, 2 Spitfires missing, 1 damaged.
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Apr 22 Kittyhawks attacked army targets and bombed gun positions near Enfidaville.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 23 Convoy escort, U Boat hunt and sea searches were flown. Swordfish attacked 1 U Boat.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 23 Several enemy aircraft operated between Balearica and off southern France and Sardinia.

Allied:

Apr 23 Marauders flew armed reconnaissance over Sicilian channel and approaches to Naples.

5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 23 Only very few JU-52's were encountered.

b. 9th Air Force:

1. Bomber

Allied:

Apr 23 72 Bostons and Mitchells and Baltimores attacked gun crews and dug in positions near Dj El Krera.

Apr 23 36 Mitchells attacked a south landing ground during day.

1 MB-202 probably destroyed. 1 Mitchell and 1 Kittyhawk missing.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

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Apr 23/24 7 enemy aircraft operated between Siaton and Salcombe. 1 penetrated to mouth of Severn Others made landfalls between Portsmouth and Selsey hills then separated. 1 operated London-Cambridge-Bedford area. 1 each penetrated to Gloucester and Birmingham.

Minor incidents in Exeter area

Property damage and casualties 1 DO-217 damaged.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 22 RAF planes based in the United Kingdom attacked three submarines and sighted one in the Iceland area. 2 U.S. Navy FBV's based on Iceland sighted two submarines and an RAF Liberator sighted three.

Results unknown.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 24 A JU-88 from Norway made a reconnaissance of the Keflavik, Iceland area. 1 JU-88 shot down by 2 P-38's.

Apr 23 6 enemy aircraft made reconnaissance of England, 1 over North Sea off east coast and 1 off Stonehaven, Scotland.

Apr 22 6 Bordeaux based FW-200's operated northwest of Cape Finisterre Convoy shadowed, no attacks.

Allied:

Apr 22 Photo reconnaissance showed Sheer alongside railroad quay and Graff Zeppelin off port.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied:</u>	<u>Axis:</u>
4	10

Accumulated lost aircraft since 1942:

657	1738
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

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b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

30 B-25's, 21 B-26's, 2 TRU P-38's, 2 P-38's, 43 P-39's, 36 P-40's, 12 Hurribombers, 11 Beaufighters, 17 Hudsons, 3 Swordfish, 3 Marauders, 119 British Spitfires, 3 Hurricanes.

Losses none

Victories: 1 ME-109, 1 FW-190

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

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IV. Naval Action:

British ship Amerika torpedoed and sunk.

British Barge, Isle of Wight, 176 gross tons is a marine casualty.

1 craft, KG-40, operated from Trondheim--details unknown.

The Lena Luckenback is beached in James Bay Scotland.

James Finimore Cooper arrived at Clyde; no salvage services required.

Edward B. Dudley was in a convoy and is overdue 7 days.

Six KG-40 craft from Bordeaux were active and four covered the area west of Portugal and northwest of Cap Finistere.

Submarine Redar 3 sunk 1500-ton merchantman off Marrittimo on April 19. Later the same sub hit and blew up a 3000-ton westbound tanker in same area.

On April 21 a submarine reports sinking a 5000-ton modern motor vessel in the Sicilian Narrows.

On night of April 22, motor torpedo boats from Malta and Bone operated respectively in eastern half of Gulf of Tunis and off Bizerte, also in vicinity of Kelibia.

On April 22 one of our destroyers hit a mine off Bone but reached port safely.

On April 22/23 a cruiser and 2 destroyers carried out a sweep south of Marrittimo without incident.

On April 23 there were swept into approaches to Bone 3 German type Q mines. Considerable submarine activity continues south of Greenland.

~~SECRET~~

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British America probably a straggler from a convoy was torpedoed and sunk 145 miles south southeast of Cape Farewell, Greenland.

V. Ground Action:

II Corps:

The U.S. II Corps has taken over the sector from nine miles northwest of Medjez El Bab to the coast. Two battalions of the 26th Infantry regiment engaged enemy strong points about about 3 miles south of Sidi Nsir. 168th Combat Team is located just in rear of the 26th Infantry.

Headquarters of the II Corps is now located at Beja.

Hard fighting took place during the day of the 23rd. The attack made rapid progress and all first objectives were taken. The 60th Infantry holds Dj Krata, the 39th holds the southwest slopes Dj Ainchouba and the 47th Infantry holds Kef Maksour and is maintaining pressure on Bald Hill.

In the first Infantry Division sector the 18th and 16th Infantry Regiments are attacking.

The 1st Armored Division (US) has been ordered to prepare plans to block any counterattack which the enemy may attempt against the left flank of the 1st Division.

100 prisoners were taken in the fighting.

From the coast to the Jefna road strong enemy opposition was encountered with centers of resistance at Sta Rherib-Sedjenane Valley-Sta Salah-So. Dj. Garsia.

By evening of the 24th the enemy had evacuated the area of the line Dj Krata-Dj Aine Houana-KefMaksour.

On morning of April 24 the 60th Infantry continued advancing on its third objective.

V Corps:

The 24th Guards Brigade and the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the British 1st Infantry Division captured all objectives ~~by the~~ the day. The enemy counterattacked

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARA

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with infantry and tanks retaking some of the ground gained which was later retaken by our troops. 2nd Brigade now holds area in vicinity of A. Zruouna.

The advance of the 78th Division was much delayed by mines and machine guns but the 36th Brigade succeeded in capturing Long Stop hill except for the north east slopes. Grich El Oued is in our hands. Over 200 prisoners have been taken.

The 4th Recce Regiment passed through Dj Djaffa Gap and forward elements reached Goubellat.

On April 24 the enemy withdrew in area 2 miles northwest of Dj El Ang. Heidou village continued held in strength but is being cleared.

An attack south by the 2nd Royal Fusiliers during the night of April 23/24 met with stiff resistance 2 miles west of Hir Dirase.

IX Corps:

During the night of the 22/23 the British 1st Armored Division moved to the forward assembly area. The 2nd Armored Brigade was ordered to operate in the vicinity of Delayney's Corner and had reached Si Mirane before dark on the 23rd. The 7th Motorized Brigade was concentrated about 4 miles south of Goubellat.

Enemy withdrew from Mehalla and Argour which were occupied at once by the 128th Infantry Brigade. The advance continued to Tree Hill.

In the area of the 138th Infantry Brigade pockets of the enemy were being mopped up near Argout Seli.

Tanks were seen in the Tebourba area.

XIX Corps:

On the 23rd active patrolling in the 19th Corps area did not detect any signs of enemy withdrawal. Patrols made contact with the 7th Armored Division as well as with the enemy along the entire front. On the northern Dorsale, 1 company of Italians was captured complete. 84 prisoners were taken.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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8th Army

In the central sector around Dj Garci an enemy counter move was frustrated and he was forced by heavy artillery fire to withdraw after suffering considerable loss.

General:

General picture of enemy positions and capabilities unchanged. Stubborn resistance can be expected on all fronts with the bulk of armour facing our attacks in the Medjez El Bab-Bou Arada sector.

The 15th Panzer Division is still believed in support of Enfidaville while tanks seen in the Tebourba area suggest armour reserve for Heidous, Sidi Ksir and Jefna sectors.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

14278	14661
14402	14737
14474	14817
14506	14821
14596	14869
14602	14983
14605	14907
14665	14991
	15003

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OSD Letter, 21 Apr 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

Form No. 10.

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 23 to  
0700 Apr 24.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)
	<u>728,289 (Apr 17)</u>

AXIS

Estimated Total  
Strength of  
161,500 (Apr 22)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,841 (Apr 20)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)
British:	
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)
French	53,800 (Mar 31)
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>

Estimated Total  
Strength

German 114,800\*  
Italian 47,500\*

162,300\*

\*Less prisoners  
of war.

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 20/21	Bisleys attacked traffic on Faads Mateur-Medjes-Djedeida, Tunis-Massicault, La Sebala landing ground and railway station at Mateur.	Large fire, 3 explosions.	
Apr 22	The attack by 8 B-25's on Costi-Torres on April 17/18 in which 108,500 lbs of bombs were dropped, resulted in the following damage, air photo interpretation (additional information)	3 direct hits on 375-foot merchant vessel. Two probable direct hits on 250/300 foot merchant vessel. One near miss on 250-foot merchant vessel. Severe damage to quay at Pentilh Del Faro.	
Apr 22	6 A-20's escorted by 12 Spitfires attacked position in vicinity of Hir Ferretissa.		
Apr 22	11 A-20's escorted by 12 Spitfires attacked positions at Dj Mansour.		
Apr 22	6 A-20's escorted by 12 Spitfires attacked Longstop landing ground twice.		
Apr 21	10 Hurribombers escorted by 36 Spitfires attacked landing ground near Ac El Hamman while A-20's escorted by 36 Spitfires attacked landing ground north-east of Ac El Hamman.		
	In addition to above other missions were flown against landing grounds at Pont Du Fahs and Mabtouha.	Many dispersed planes hit on landing grounds	1 ME-109 probably destroyed. 1 B-25 destroyed, crew safe.
Apr 20	12 Escorted A-20's attacked landing ground at Ae El Ksenb		

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP. NARS Date

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2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 21 Numerous sorties by Spitfires on fighter sweeps, reconnaissance and bomber escort.

Destroyed: 3 ME-109's  
3 FW-190's.  
Probably: 2 ME-109's,  
1 FW-190,  
Damaged: 1 ME-109,  
1 Fw-190.  
2 Spitfires were destroyed, 7 were damaged.

Apr 20/21 Coastal Air Force made 4 contacts with enemy planes north of Algiers-Djedjelli.

4 JU-88's destroyed

Apr 20/21 Beaufighters made intrusions over Sardinia. Photo mission over Tunis-Naples area.

Bombs dropped on Villacidri air-drome. Jetty at Myssolivia de Sargdigni was strafed. Fires spread among jetty buildings.

1 F-4 missing.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 21 10 JU-88's and 8 ME-110's were on an escort mission in the Sicilian area.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 22/23 46 enemy bombers on reconnaissance for eastbound convoy approaching Algiers.

5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 21/22 15 JU-52's landed at Tunis during night.

Apr 21 No transport flights to Tunis detected during day.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Fighters:

[REDACTED]

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Allied:

Apr 21/22 (night) Fighters patrolled in Cape Bon area and attempted to intercept JU-88's bombing El Djen without success.

Apr 22 Fighters patrolling the Gulf of Tunis encountered a heavily escorted formation of ME-323

Destroyed: 21 ME-323,  
8 ME-109's, 1 MC-202,  
1 RE-2001.  
Damaged: 1 ME-109.  
4 P-40 pilots missing

Apr 22 48 fighters from the 79th Group carried out one fighter sweep and 43 fighters from the 57th Group carried out one bomber sweep.

1 P-40 forced down.

Fighter bombers claim only near misses on enemy gun positions in the 8th Army area. Visibility was bad.

Our activity continues on a heavy scale with the main weight of air operations in support of the First Army. Enemy Air activity is slightly increased, but is entirely defensive.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 21/22 10 enemy bombers caused wide-spread damage and several casualties when they bombed Ft. Aberdeen in Eastern Scotland.

Allied:

Apr 20/21 RAF raiders report the ground defenses in the target area at Stettin appeared to be overwhelmed by the attack.

2 enemy aircraft claimed destroyed.

The Rostock raiders reported the target was covered by an effective smoke screen. The Berlin raiders encountered fairly accurate flak and observed decoys working west and northwest of the city.

Apr 22 No enemy action over United Kingdom.

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by RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 21	Uneventful fighter sweep over occupied Holland by 82 P-47's Swept Dutch coast from Noordwijerhout to Westwoofd by way of Rotterdam.	No enemy fighters sighted. Light inaccurate flak observed near Rotterdam at 15000 ft.
--------	---	---

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 20	Slight activity of Bordeaux-based FW-200's continued.
--------	---

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 22	3 enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance of the Dover Straits 1 off north Ireland and 3 others off south coast of England.
--------	--

Allied:

Apr 20	4 F-5 A's successfully photographed Lorient and 3 strips along beaches of Brest peninsula from 24,500 to 25,000 ft.	No enemy fighters sighted. One pilot observed 30 bursts of heavy black flak, accurate as to altitude only.
--------	---	--

Apr 21	1 F-5 A attempted to photograph Cherbourg.	Unsuccessful due to adverse weather conditions.
--------	--	---

Apr 21	One enemy aircraft on reconnaissance of south coast of England.
--------	---

Apr 20	A photo reconnaissance of Kiel in the morning showed the Graf Zeppelin alongside entrance to inner dockyard basin and the Koln alongside northern mole. Photos in the afternoon showed Graf Zeppelin had moved and the next day a large unescorted vessel believed to be the Graf Zeppelin was sighted near Pehmarn belt.
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OSD Letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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III. Air:

b. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
9	41

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

653	1728
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

15 B-25's, 29 A-20's, 2 P-38's, 13 P-39's, 24 P-40's, 142 American Spitfires, 2 P-51's, 16 Bisleys, 22 Hurribombers, 27 Beaufighters, 3 Swordfish, 9 Hudsons, 2 Marauders, 4 Albacores, 200 British Spitfires, 12 Hurricanes, 2 Mustangs.

Losses: 2 Spitfires destroyed, 7 Spitfires damaged, 1 Beaufighter damaged.

Victories: 3 ME-109's, 3 FW-190's, 3 JU-88's, 1 enemy aircraft destroyed; 2 ME-109's, 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109, 1 FW-190 damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

A convoy south of Greenland was attacked, Details unknown.

A total of 22 enemy submarines were sighted in the European Theater on April 22 and nights of April 22/23. 9 submarines were attacked and of this group 6 were in Atlantic area northwest of Cape Ortegal, Spain. Results unknown. Of 5 submarines sighted 120 to 147 miles northwest of Vaagar, 2 were attacked with some evidence of success. Another submarine was attacked with some evidence of success 190 miles southeast of Portland Light, Iceland.

5 submarines were sighted 210 miles southeast of Cape Farewell, Greenland, and 2 others 335 and 375 miles southwest of Reykjavik, Iceland.

4 enemy submarines were sighted in the area 80 to 230 miles northwest of Feres (Islands) on April 21.

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RHP, NARS Date

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[REDACTED]

On the same day the British ships Wanstead, Ashantion, and Norwegian ship Scebeli in a convoy bound from United Kingdom to New York were attacked by submarines south of Greenland. The Norwegian vessel was abandoned after part of it sunk while part was still afloat.

V. Ground Action:

IX Corps Sector:

IX Corps attacked in its sector on morning of April 22 with 138th Infantry Brigade on left and 128th Infantry Brigade on right. These units were stopped by enemy action and the 128th Infantry Brigade was pushed back by enemy counter-attack to high ground northwest of Melah. The 138th Infantry Brigade was initially held up, but later made good progress and reached Argout Sellat, at which point the 6th Armored Division was ordered to attack. Two armored regiments passed south of Akgoub Sellah and one regiment reached a point one mile north of Sebkret El Kourzia.

Northeast of Bou Arada fierce enemy resistance was encountered by our attacking force and extensive minefields were reported. Mark 6 tanks were reported in the area.

XIX Corps Sector:

The enemy was holding in strength positions on Northern Dorsale at B. Dj. Plifet.

II Corps Sector:

Line held on April 22 is Dj Ez Zeboudj-Si Deraif-Dj El Gorrao.

V Corps Sector:

Goubellat was occupied without opposition on April 22 and enemy is reported clear of plains.

Our troops now occupy the high ground east of Heidous. Patrols north of Heidous are not in contact with the enemy.

Chassart Teffaha was evacuated by the enemy.

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OSD Intact, May 3, 1972  
AUG 7 1972  
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East of Medjez El Bab the enemy was driven back to area 2 miles southwest of St. Chiarman but maintained a foothold in the sector with tanks and infantry at the pass north of Dj Djaffa on April 21. During the night of April/22 some armour withdrew and the remainder of sector is clear of enemy.

Total confirmed number of tanks destroyed on April 21/22 is 33, including 3 Mark 6's.

8th Army Sector:

At midnight April 22 enemy resistance stiffened with more guns and troops being brought forward. All 8th Army gains were held and enemy counterattacks were defeated.

The 51st Division is now in the forward coastal area in place of the 50th Division.

Enemy Dispositions:

Location of 21st Panzer Division is unknown but believed to be in central reserve.

The enemy was contacted on high ground four miles west of Djebinia.

Troop Movements:

The 4th Tabor (French) left Fez for Souk El Arba and will come under the command of the II U.S. Corps upon arrival.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

13669	14002
13794	14008
13809	14071
13812	14095
13815	14207
13818	14210
14001	14211

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/12/94

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APPENDIX

Disposition of troops as of April 22:

<u>Unit (Reading North to South)</u>	<u>Axis Forces</u>
<u>II U.S. Corps</u>	
9th Infantry Division	1 Regiment Herman Goering Panzer Div.
1st Infantry Division	Barenthin Regiment
<u>Rear</u>	
34th Infantry Division	3 German Regiments (Equiv)
1st Armored Division	1 Italian Battalion "
<u>V Corps</u>	
78th Infantry Division	10 Battalions Infantry from
4th Infantry Division	Herman Goering Division
<u>Rear</u>	334th Infantry Division
1st Infantry Division	
<u>IX Corps</u>	
46th Division	2 Battalions Herman Goering
<u>Rear</u>	Panzer Grenadier Regiment
1st Armored Division	
6th Armored Division (subsequently in line with 46th Division)	
<u>XIX Corps</u>	
Mathinet Division	Superga Division
Comne Division	Infantry of 10th Panzer Division
<u>Rear</u>	
Swart Division (former name-- present name unknown)	Miscellaneous German Units (6 Battalions)
<u>8th Army</u>	
<u>X Corps (reading East to West)</u>	
2nd New Zealand Division	90th Light Division
4th Indian Infantry Division	Remnants of Y.F. Division
7th Armored Division	164th Light Division
L Force	Remnants of Trieste Division
<u>Rear</u>	25th Panzer Division
50th Infantry Division behind	21st Panzer Division
2nd New Zealand Division	
Flying French behind 7th Armored Division.	
<u>XXX Corps is at Sfax</u>	
51st Infantry Division	
<u>Axis Forces -- General</u>	
Southwest of Tunis: Armour	Div. & 501st Heavy Tank Battalion

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAME D... AUG-7 1972

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

Form No. 10.

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EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 22 to  
0700 Apr 23. *WZ*

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)	Estimated Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	162,300 (Apr 21)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)	
	<u>728,289 (Apr 17)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,841 (Apr 20)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)	(Mar 30) TOTAL	1,360
British:		Estimated Total Strength	
1st Army	136,821 (Apr 15)	German	114,800
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	Italian	47,500
French	53,800 (Mar 31)	(Apr 21)	162,300
	<u>367,464 (Apr 21)</u>		

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD letter 21-5, 1972

By TRIP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 20	B-17's bombed La Marsa landing ground.	Landing ground and dispersal area covered.	1 ME-109 destroyed, 1 ME-109 probably destroyed, 1 ME-109 damaged. 6 B-17's slightly damaged by flak.
Apr 20	B-17's attacked Sidi Ahmed airdrome.	Entire target covered. Large fires and explosion occurred.	
Apr 20	23 B-17's escorted by 36 Spitfires bombed La Marsa airdrome. Fighters destroyed 4 planes	Field well covered.	5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, 1 damaged.
Apr 19/20	Convoy patrols as far north as Naples and Sardinia attacked 2 trains	1 train left on fire.	
Apr 19/20 (night)	Light bombers made two attacks on Sidi Ahmed landing grounds	One large fire started.	3 Wellingtons missing
Apr 20	B-25's attacked airdromes at Mabtouha, La Sebala, near Protville and at Creteville.	Majority of fields well covered.	1 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 damaged, 2 Spitfires missing.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 19/20	Hurricanes strafed 1 JU-52 in the Cape Bon area.		1 JU-52 destroyed.
Apr 20	P-40's and Spitfires carried out several sweeps in the Gulf of Tunis and Cape Bon area, including Sidi Ahmed.		Destroyed: 9 MC-202's, 6 ME-109's, 4 JU-88's, Probably: 1 MA-200, Damaged: 2 MC-202's, 3 ME-109's.

3. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 9(T) and 9(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS D-11

AUG 7 1972

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Apr 20 Marauders flew armed reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel and approaches to Naples. 1 JU-88 damaged.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bombers:

Allied:

Apr 21 5 Bombers of 178th RAF Sqdn. dropped 30,000 lbs of bombs from 15-17,000 feet on Naples 2 fires observed Bursts in target area at pin points

Apr 21 38 fighter bombers of 79th Group dropped 12,000 lbs of bombs on 2 motor barges in target area. All bombs near misses. Destroyed: 3 ME-109's, Damaged: 1 ME-109 1 P-40 lost--pilot bailed out.

III. Air:

a. Score:

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OED 11-1-64, 872  
By RHP, NARA Date AUG 7 1972

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
6	31

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

644	1687 (corrected total)
-----	------------------------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

93 B-17's, 72 B-25's, 12 B-26's, 2 P-38 F 4's, 60 P-38's, 27 P-39's, 72 P-40's, 4 P-51's, 201 American Spitfires, 9 Hudsons, 3 Swordfish, 3 Marauders, 58 British Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Losses: 4 Spitfires missing, 6 B-17's and 1 Spitfire damaged.

Victories: 6 109's, 1 FW-190 destroyed, 4 ME-109's and 3 FW-190's probably destroyed, 1 ME-109, 1 FW-190, and 1 JU-88 damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

Night of April 19/20 destroyers carried out a sweep in Sicilian channel.

Two motor torpedo boats from Bone encountered three E Boats off Bizerte. All E Boats were hit and one boat was left on fire. Enemy night fighters attacked and appeared to score a hit on one E Boat. **[REDACTED]** torpedo boats suffered only superficial damage.

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Early morning April 20 -- Two ships in convoy UGS 7 were sunk by U Boats northwest of Oran. One ship was carrying French troops from Casablanca. About 600 survivors were picked up.

Night April 20/21 -- Destroyers from Bone sighted two small merchant vessels and sank one north of Marittimo.

Submarines on patrol reported six enemy ships sunk, one probably sun, and one hit.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

During the night of April 20/21 at least 3 Infantry Battalions supported by fifty to seventy tanks attacked the 1st and 4th British Divisions in the Medjez El Bab sector.

Later information states that approximately 80 enemy tanks, including at least six Mark 6 tanks, took part in the action. The enemy is reported to have penetrated across the Medjez - Goubellat road and also to have infiltrated to within one mile of Medjez and to the area around Djebel Djaffa. Confused fighting ensued but the enemy was checked after suffering considerable casualties and began withdrawing at dawn on April 21.

The 501st Battalion counterattacked during the afternoon claiming the destruction of two Mark 6 tanks. A total of 27 tanks, including some Mark 6's were destroyed or captured and approximately 500 prisoners have been captured.

The area is now believed to be clear of enemy, who has withdrawn to original positions except for some tanks which are still in the Goubellat area.

The enemy attacked a post south of Sidi Mahmoud but failed to capture it.

In the 8th Army sector confused and very bitter fighting has been in progress for Takrouna, but it is not yet certain that it has been cleared. The 4th Indian Division holds the southern slopes of Dj Garci, but were driven off the top by a counterattack.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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Fighting is also reported in the Ould El Kebir area. A later report indicates that the enemy were driven off the feature overlooking Takrouna from the west. The action during the day included two major enemy counterattacks which were repulsed by massed artillery fire. The enemy is reported to have suffered heavy casualties and to be withdrawing in disorder.

About 1400 prisoners of war have been taken on this front to 2300Z Apr 21.

Locations: 5th Infantry Brigade is at Ae St. Amara.

Alignment of Axis forces: East to West; 90th Light, 15th Panzer, 164th Light, 21st Panzer, and 10th Panzer.

G-2 Estimate:

1. Enemy attack on 1st and 4th British Divisions indicates infantry and other elements of 10th Panzer Division now disposed to cover Font Du Fahs.
2. On Enfidaville line, fierce opposition suggests enemy attaches great importance to this position, which he may be expected to defend to utmost. Position probably held in considerable depth.
3. A captured document signed by Arnim as GOC Army Group Afrika indicates Rommel has handed over supreme command and confirms rumor he has left country.
4. Some indications of intention to move parts of 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions northwest to Aghouan.

German Strength:

Unit	Strength	Inf. Guns	AT Guns	Arty Guns	AAGuns
Wanteuffel	4500	6	17	"	
334th Inf. Div.	9450	21	24	19	
Herman Goering Div.	10000	24	39	21	24
999th Ltzd. Div.	5800		31	18	
10th Panzer Div.	10000	18	75	40	5
15th Panzer Div.	5600	10	25	20	
21st Panzer Div.	5600	5	30	25	
90th Light Div. (Inf)	6000	4	28	18	
501st Heavy Battalion	500		15	10	
Karsch Battalions	14950				
TOTAL	75400	88	284	171	29

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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

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3rd Battalion, 62nd Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft, Searchlight Regiment  
arrived at Algiers from Oran.

1st Ranger Battalion arrived at Oran from Gafsa.

1st Parachute Brigade departed Beja for Boufarik.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

13206	13624
13220	13669
13224	13676
13424	13684
13508	13720
13549	13721
13586	13788

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OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 21 to  
0700 Apr 22.

*MFB*

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

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British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
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Estimated Total Strength of
162,300 (Apr 21)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,841 (Apr 20)

In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia

German	725
Italian	635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,843 (Apr 21)
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1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>

German	114,800
Italian	<u>47,500</u>
(Apr 21)	162,300

367,464 (Apr 21)

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

**AUG 7 1972**

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

~~SECRET~~

II. Air Action

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 20	Hostile aircraft over Djedjelli and later reported flying towards Phillipville and Bone.		2 JU-88's destroyed.
Apr 20	8 to 10 JU-88's and 5 ME-110's reported on escort duty in Sicilian area.		

Allied:

Apr 19	18 B-17's dropped 216,500 lbs of bombs from 23,000 feet on Tunis harbor.	Bombs covered main basin. Some bursts in town.	1 ME-109 damaged, 14 B-17's damaged by anti-aircraft fire.
Apr 19	16 Hurribombers escorted by 24 Spitfires bombed 24 tanks west of Tebourba.	Target was hit and a large fire observed.	
Apr 19	24 A-20's escorted by Spitfires bombed La Sebala airdrome. 24 A-20's and 12 B-25's escorted by 36 Spitfires attacked the same airdrome.	Bombs fell on runways and dispersal area.	1 B-25 hit by flak and crash landed near the target.
Apr 19	24 P-40 bombers escorted by 12 P-40's bombed an airdrome near Kt. El Mabtouha.		
Apr 18/19 (night)	16 Bisleys carried out continuous reconnaissance throughout the night. 8 tons of bombs dropped.	La Marsa and airfield bombed. 1 plane made direct hit on ship south east of Cape Zebib. Ship later reported on fire.	1 Bisley damaged by friendly action. 1 Bisley missing.
Apr 18/19 (night)	11 Leos dropped 24,398 lbs of bombs from 10,000 feet on La Marsa.	2 large fires started.	

2. Fighter:

Allied:

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EO 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (K)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

Apr 19 Spitfires flew numerous fighter sweeps, weather reconnaissance and shipping reconnaissance.

1 ME-109 destroyed, 1 ME-109 probably destroyed, 3 ME-109's damaged. 1 Spitfire missing, 1 Spitfire damaged.

Spitfire escort for bomber missions report.

3 ME-109 destroyed, 1 ME-109 probably destroyed, 1 FW-190 probably destroyed, 2 ME-109 damaged. 2 Spitfires missing

Apr 19 Fighters carried out numerous patrols flying 486 sorties.

4 enemy aircraft destroyed, 3 probable, 7 damaged, 1 Spitfire lost, 3 missing.

Apr 19 P-40's intercepted 20 JU-52's (additional information)

27 JU-52's and 8 other enemy aircraft destroyed

Apr 18/19 Beaufighters and Spitfires intercepted 18 enemy planes attacking Algiers. Anti-aircraft brought down two enemy planes.

3 bombs dropped in dock area.

5 enemy planes destroyed 2 probably destroyed.

5 Beaufighters flew over Sardinia looking for enemy aircraft returning from Algiers raid.

3 enemy aircraft damaged over Villacidro.

Apr 20 Allied fighters intercepted 3 Axis reconnaissance aircraft off Algerian coast.

2 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed.

Apr 20 3 Fighter bomber raids were made in Enfidaville area.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber

Allied:

Apr 18/19 22 Wellingtons and Halifaxes attacked landing grounds south-east of Tunis.

Apr 18/19 Additional information on bombing of Korba landing ground by 72 Baltimores & Mitchells.

7 fires started 2 direct hits on enemy aircraft destroyed.

Missing: 5 Spitfires 2 Warhawks, and 1 Kittyhawk pilot.

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OSD Ref: [redacted]

By RHP, NARS [redacted]

AUG 7 1972

[REDACTED]

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 18/19 Hurricanes strafed remaining JU-52's which force landed in the Cape Bon area.

3 enemy aircraft set on fire. 3 Wellingtons missing.

Apr 20 RAF fighters patrolled Cape Bon area.

1 barge set on fire.

Destroyed: 9 ME-102's, 6 ME-109's, 4 JU-88's. Damaged: 6 fighters.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 16 52 B-17's raided Lorient instead of 59, as previously reported, and 19 instead of 17 attacked Brest.

Our tail guns had little effect on enemy fighters.

1 B-24 crash landed in United Kingdom (not previously reported). Final score enemy fighters Brest: 2 destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, 1 damaged. Lorient: 9 destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, and 1 damaged

Apr 17 Encounter with enemy fighters on bombing raid against Bremen resulted as follows:

63 enemy fighters destroyed, 15 probable, 17 damaged.

Apr 20/21 RAF bombers attacked (with 339 planes) Stettin, Rostock with 86 planes, and Berlin with 11 planes.

Missing: 21 planes from Stettin, 9 from Rostock, and 1 from Berlin.

2. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 19 Submarine 520 miles southwest Fastnet Rock, Ireland attacked by Liberator. Submarine 190 miles south Kaldedarnes, Iceland attacked by Hudson.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 19 2 FW-190's made overland reconnaissance from Isle of Wight to Portsmouth.

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

RHP, NARS Doc

AUG 7 1972

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2 enemy aircraft made reconnaissance off East coast and south coast of England. 1 aircraft on reconnaissance off Peterhead, Scotland.

Apr 21 2 FW-190's made a flight to Chatham Central in London, and Uxbridge.

1 high explosive bomb was dropped on Nostholt airfield, causing damage to hangers and house property

Apr 20 A land fall was made over Felixstowe by 1 JU-88.

1 JU-88 destroyed by intercepting Spitfires.

Apr 21 4 enemy reconnaissance aircraft were over outer Thames Estuary, 3 off south coast of England, 1 off east and 1 in Shetlands area.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
19	77

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov 8, 1942:

638	1691
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

41 B-17's, 42 B-25's, 48 A-20's, 73 P-38's, 13 P-39's, 38 P-40's, 108 American Spitfires, 2 P-51's, 16 Bisleys, 16 Hurribombers, 22 Beaufighters, 3 Marauders, 2 Swordfish, 248 British Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes, 11 French Leo 45's.

Losses: 1 Spitfire, 2 B-25's destroyed; 3 Spitfires, 6 Warhawks missing; 1 Beaufighter and 1 Spitfire damaged.

Victories: 73 JU-52's, 19 ME-109's, 1 FW-190, 5 JU-88's, 2 ME-202's, 2 ME-110's, 2 JU-88's, 3 ME-109's, 1 JU-88 destroyed; 15 ME-109's, 2 JU-88's, 19 JU-52's, 1 ME-110; 3 unidentified aircraft damaged.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**



IV. Naval Action:

Apr 2 reported battleship Terpitz to be in Land Fjord off Alten Fjord. 2 pocket battleships reported in Kaa Fjord believed to be Lutzow and Schamhorst.

Apr 3 Ender reported to be at Kiel.

*Lutzow + Scharnhorst*

*Emden*

Apr 8 Seydlitz with all upperworks except funnel removed, reported at Bremen.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

In the French area the enemy were active on night of Apr 19/20 -- Qued Kebir area.

The 6th Armored Division is now concentrating 5 miles southeast of Testour

The British 1st Division is southeast of Medjer El Bab. 1st Army headquarters opened about 3 miles east of Berrebanne April 20.

All ground gained in the 8th Army sector April 20 is now securely held. 4 enemy counterattacks during the day were successfully beaten off. Many of the enemy were killed and about 800 prisoners captured.

The X Corps, consisting of the 50th Division, 2nd New Zealand Division, 8th Armored Brigade, 4th Indian division, 23rd Armored Brigade, L Force, and 7th Armored Division attacked the enemy position in the coastal belt around Enfidaville. The 50th Division occupied Enfidaville and pushed patrols forward about 3 miles. The 2nd New Zealand Division has secured a base from which the 8th Armored Brigade was operating north and northwest in face of heavy mortar and artillery fire. A few enemy tanks were reported in front of the 2nd New Zealand Division and considerable enemy infantry were opposing the 5th Indian Brigade. The 5th Indian Brigade with the 23rd Armored Brigade on the right and the L Force on the left repulsed two enemy counterattacks.

Movement of flak to the Pont Du Fahs area is possibly connected with a supposed intended attack by the Herman Goering Division.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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151st Brigade moved to Mergla, while the 69th Brigade moved to area approximately 2 miles southeast of Sidi Bou Ali on April 19.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

12519	12819
12681	12824
12693	12918
12714	12921
12764	13107

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

Form No. 10

~~SECRET~~  
EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENEVA STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 20 to  
0700 Apr 21.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength landed or in Port 343,672 (Apr 17)  
British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
728,289 (Apr 17)

AXIS

W/B  
Estimated Total  
Strength of  
169,000 (Apr 20)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,841 (Apr 20)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia  
German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN ITALY

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. \*77,843 (Apr 21)

Estimated Total  
Strength

British

1st Army 135,821 (Apr 15)

German 116,500

2nd Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 52,500

French

53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 20) 169,000

367,464 (Apr 21)

Effective Strength:

(Apr 20) 162,500

\*Includes 436th Coast Artillery Bn (AA) Sep.

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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R.G. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (H)

OSD letter, May 8, 1973

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 18/19	Medium bombers attacked Creteville and Sollman. landing ground and gun positions.		
Apr 19	Kittybombers and Spitfires on fighter sweep over Gulf of Tunis		Destroyed: 12 JU-52's, 2 SM-79's, 2 RE-2001's, 1 JU-88 w/glider, 1 JU-87, 2 ME-109's Probably: 4 JU-52's, 1 SM-79, 1 JU-87 Damaged: 1 ME-109 Lost: 5 Spitfires, 3 Kittyhawks.
Apr 19	Mitchells and Baltimorea bombed Korba landing ground.	Good results	
Apr 18/19	Medium bombers of French Air Force bombed La Marsa landing ground.	2 large fires observed.	

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 18	Spitfires intercepted 2 ME-210's off Phillipville		1 ME-210 destroyed
Apr 18	A Hurricane patrolling 35 miles off Cape De Sarde destroyed		1 ME-210
Apr 18	1 Squadron of Spitfires, at high altitude on bomber protective mission destroyed		2 MC-202's and 1 ME-109, probably 1 ME-109. 1 Spitfire missing
Apr 18	Hurricanes destroyed		1 JU-88 and damaged one other.
Apr 18	5 Beaufighters flew intruder sweeps over Sardinia destroyed a large motor transport south of Bonorva and bombed and machine gunned hangars at Decimomannu.		

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OSD letter, May 3, 1981

AUG 7 1972

By RHP, NARS Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Apr 18	Beaufighters destroyed an enemy plane approaching Algiers	1 JU-88
Apr 18/19	Beaufighters flew defensive patrols	Destroyed: 3 JU-88's Probably: 1 JU-88 Damaged: 2 JU-88's
Apr 18/19	47 Beaufighters flew intruder sweeps over Sardinia.	3 enemy aircraft damaged.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 17	Hudson Bomber 55 miles north of Cape Tenes	Dropped 3 depth charges and machine gunned a surfaced submarine.
Apr 17	4 Albacores attacked jetty at Porto Farino.	
Apr 19	19 Hudsons and Swordfish flew convoy escort sea patrols.	

4. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

Apr 18/19	Hudsons flew reconnaissance of Sicilian channel.
Apr 19	In a search for U Boats Hudsons and Swordfish flew convoy escort sea patrols.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 17/18 (night)	19 Wellingtons bombed the Tunis docks and railroad yards. 540 pamphlets were dropped.	Fires and a large explosion resulted	2 Wellingtons are missing. 1 crash-landed in friendly territory.
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III. Air:

Score:

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
10	30

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov 8, 1942:

619	1614
-----	------

B. Sorties Flown:

88 B-17's, 36 B-25's, 2 P-38 F 4's, 56 P-38's, 20 P-39's, 78 Spitfires, 19 Wellingtons, 12 Bisleys, 18 Beaufighters, 15 Hudsons, 3 Marauders, 4 Albatrosses, 4 Swordfish, 364 British Spitfires, 27 Hurricanes

Losses: 1 Spitfire destroyed; 3 Wellingtons, 3 Spitfires, 2 Kittyhawks, 1 B-17 missing, 1 Bisley, 1 Marauder, 1 Wellington, 20 B-17's damaged.

Victories: 3 JU-88's, 5 SM-82's, 2 JU-52's, 1 ME-109, 1 SM-81, 1 MC-202, 1 FW-190, 1 ME-210 destroyed; 1 FW-190 probably destroyed; 2 JU-88's, 10 ME-109's, 2 MC-202's, 1 ME-210, 2 FW-190 damaged.

Statistics North African Air Force from April 10 to April 16, inclusive:

<u>Enemy Aircraft</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>	<u>R.A.F.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Destroyed	119	25	144
Probably destroyed	27	15	42
Damaged	26	34	60
Destroyed on ground	70		70

Losses

Destroyed	11	13	24
Missing	2	10	12
Damaged	13	2	15

IV. Naval Action:

During night of April 18/19 motor torpedo boats from Bone operated in Bizerte area and also in Gulf of Tunis. Motor torpedo boats from Malta operated off Kelibia.

In the air raid on Algiers harbor on April 18, HMS Torbay was damaged by a near miss.

Mine sweeping continues in approaches to Sousse Harbour.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

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V. Ground Action:

On April 19 there was considerable movement including 24 enemy tanks along the Tebourba-Medjex El Bab road.

39th Infantry is near Dj Garsia.

84th Field Artillery Battalion ammunition dump was set on fire by an enemy shell. Intermittent artillery fire landed in vicinity of 34th Field Artillery Battalion.

A large anti-tank and anti-personnel minefield was noted east of Kef Maksour.

An enemy observation post on Dj Ainhouna was fired on by 47th Infantry troops.

An outpost of the 39th Infantry at Dj Ainhouna was attacked during night.

2 men killed, 8 missing.

A local counterattack by the enemy on French positions south of Dj Si Selem was repulsed.

151st Brigade and 22nd Armored Brigade occupied position near S. Nassri and 4 miles southeast of Djebibina.

Regrouping of 9th Corps continued on April 19 with 1st Br. Armored Division now concentrated in area west of Le Krib.

Locations:

V Corps Headquarters moved to B. Dj Rhamdane

3rd Brigade is near Sloughia.

24th Guard Brigade occupied Smidia.

128th Brigade is near B. Bou Ama

138th Brigade is near Dj M Soulia

139th Brigade is 2 miles north of Bou Arada

Axis: 115 Panzer Grenad Regiment is at Kef El Hadj.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date Aug 7 1972

G-2 Estimate of Enemy Capabilities:

1. Enemy still determined to maintain line on northern sector.

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3. Probably grouping some mobile forces in Tunis plain.
4. Defense preparations continue on Enfidaville line which will be given over largely to infantry as soon as positions are ready.
5. No indications of evacuation scheme.
6. Information suggests continued reinforcement of troops in Tunisia.
7. Consider that non-essential personnel and surplus line of communication troops are being evacuated, which is normal under the circumstances.

b. North African Theater Except Combat Zone:

A landing party occupied Kerkenna Islands. On April 17 the force was withdrawn and Gendarmes were left in charge.

Troop Movements:

436 Coast Artillery Battalion (AA) Sep arrived at Constantine from Oran.

V. Messages included in Summary:

- 11906
- 12009
- 12031
- 12145
- 12297
- 12343
- 12378
- 12480

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OED Letter, 2007-8, 1972  
RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

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Form Fu 10

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 19 to  
0700 Apr 20.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength landed or in Port 343,672 (Apr 17)  
British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
728,289 (Apr 17)

AXIS

Estimated Total  
Strength of  
160,400 (Apr 19)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,656 (Apr 15)

in Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 77,091 (Apr 19)

Estimated Total  
Strength

British

77,091 135,821 (Apr 15)

German 106,767

French

100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 53,633

U. S.

53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 19) 160,400

366,712 (Apr 19)

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

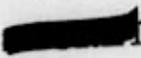
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OSD letter, May 9, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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



II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 18	20 to 30 JU-88's attempted to attack Algiers.		5 JU-88's destroyed, others claimed damaged included 1 over Algiers and another near bases in Sardinia.
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Apr 18	FW-190's and fighter bombers carried out 3 raids on our airdromes at Souk El Khemis by following our bombers to their bases and combining their approach with high dives and fighter sweeps.		
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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(E) and 5(D) or (E)  
 OSD letter, May 3, 1977  
 RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1979**

Allied:

Apr 17	16 B-17's escorted by 36 Spitfires dropped 192,500 lbs of bombs on Ferryville dock area	Intense flak encountered.	Major damage to one plane and minor damage to five.
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Apr 17	44 B-17's escorted by 36 P-38's dropped 522,500 lbs of bombs on Palermo. 40 enemy aircraft attacked 21 B-17's from the 97th Group and 20 enemy aircraft of various types attacked later.	Direct hits on six ships, near misses on one. All piers, one power house and the dock area were hit. 3 large fires and one explosion observed.	Intense accurate flak damaged 14 B-17's. Destroyed: 1 MA-200, 2 JU-88's, 1 MA-210, 7 others Probable: 8 enemy planes Damaged: 8 enemy planes 1 P-38 was lost, pilot bailed out.
--------	--	--	--

Apr 17/18	B-17's escorted by P-38's attacked marshalling yards at Palermo and Bocca Di Falco airdromes.	Targets well covered, resulting in large columns of black smoke.	
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Apr 17/18	B-25's escorted by P-38's at Alghero-Tertilla airdromes in Sardinia and shipping at Porto Torres.	Airdrome and harbour well covered causing large fires 1 merchant vessel set burning and another sinking.	
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Apr 17/18 Bisleys attacked La Marsa landing ground. Hits on greater part of target.

2. Fighter:

Apr 17/18 Fighters carried out numerous sweeps and interception sorties.

Destroyed: 1 JU-88,  
1 FW-190, 3 ME-109's  
Damaged: 9 ME-109's,  
2 FW-190's  
2 Spitfires damaged.

Apr 17 27 P-38's made a sweep near Zembra Island

1 JU-88 and 4 Italian planes destroyed.

Apr 16/17 (night) 4 Albacores attacked 1 large merchant vessel and 1 four to six hundred-ton tanker with bombs and torpedoes.

Tanker was left stationary after being hit by a torpedo.

3. Transport:

Apr 17 2 groups of about 60 JU-52's arrived at Tunis.

Apr 17 2 formations of 8 to 10 ME-323's landed at Tunis while 40 to 50 JU-88's landed at Bizerte.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 18 10 bombers dropped 50,000 lbs of bombs on tanker in Catania harbor.

Apr 18 12 bombers dropped 72,000 lbs of bombs on Catania harbor

1 ME-109damaged.

Apr 18 6 RAF bombers dropped 36,000 lbs of bombs on Catania.

Bursts seen at pin points.

Apr 18 15 bombers of bomber command dropped 67,000 lbs of bombs on tanker in Catania harbor.

Direct hit seen on merchant vessel followed by fires and explosions on other pin points.

Apr 17/18 Wellingtons attacked landing ground in Korba-St. Marie Du Zit area.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

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2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 18 Fighters of 57th Group intercepted strongly escorted convoy of approximately 100 JU-52's over Cape Bon peninsula. Full report not yet in. Believed to be biggest single engagement of war. At least 74 planes destroyed. Provisional score: Destroyed: 51 JU-52's, 13 JU-52's, 2 JU-52's Probably: 2 JU-52's Damaged: 18 JU-52's Our losses: 9 planes, including 8 pilots.

Apr 17/18 Hurricanes patrolled over Sousse Sfax area and searched for transports, aircraft in Hammamet area.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 18/19 1 enemy aircraft crossed inner London area and bombed Millwall District and E. Canterbury. No casualties

Allied:

Apr 19 Final details on Lariet raid by B-17's 9 destroyed, 4 probably and 2 damaged.

Apr 19 Final details on Brest diversion attack by B-24's 2 destroyed, 3 probably and 1 damaged.

Apr 18/19 A force of 178 RAF bombers attacked Spezia. 2 bombers missing

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 18 16 P-47's made an uneventful fighter sweep over Nieuport, Dunkerque, Hazebrouk, and Sangatte.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

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OSD letter, May 2, 1962

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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Apr 17 Enemy reconnaissance plane over North Sea sighted and reported approach of AAF Bremen raiders (Additional information indicates 107 instead of 100 B-17's made the attack)

Fire control reported by observation plane flying alongside our bombers and radioing in information.

Attacks by enemy fighters more numerous and more vicious than ever before. Twin engined fighters used cannon at long range while others waited for stragglers cut off by single engined fighters. Up to 150 enemy planes sighted at one time.

III. Air:

Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
10	100

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

609	1584
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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHIP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

72 B-17's, 36 B-25's, 18 A-20's, 103 P-38's, 38 P-39's, 108 P-40's, 127 American Spitfires, 7 P-38's, 13 Wellingtons, 25 Bisleys, 85 British Spitfires, 30 Hurricanes, 19 Beaufighters, 15 Hudsons, 3 Marauders, 4 Albacores, 1 Swordfish.

Losses: 1 B-17, 1 P-38 destroyed; 1 P-40 missing and 20 B-17's damaged.

Victories: 5 ME-110's, 8 ME-210's, 1 FW-190, 1 MA-200, 3 JU-88's, 2 JU-52's, and 4 unidentified aircraft destroyed; 3 ME 110's, 1 ME-109, 1 JU-52, 1 FW 190 and 5 unidentified aircraft probably destroyed; 2 JU-52's, 2 ME-210's, 1 ME-110 and 1 JU-88 together with 4 unidentified aircraft damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

British Fort Rampart bound for United Kingdom was torpedoed in the convoy and sunk 530 miles southwest of Cape Clear, Ireland on April 17.

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British Dynam, in a convoy from London to Hull was mined and sunk 14 miles east of Clayton, England.

In an action during the night of April 17/18 a force of motor torpedo boats and others engaged an enemy force of 2 R boats and 2 armed trawlers off the mouth of the Somme. One trawler blew up.

V. Ground Action:

Increased enemy activity and heavy machine gun fire in vicinity of Dj Ainehouna.

During night of April 17/18 shelling of the area around Chassert Teffaha was heavier than usual.

Much movement was noticed in the Goubellat area during day of Apr 18.

64 Italian prisoners taken in drive on Dj Hejij on evening of April 17.

No enemy counterattacks.

Takrouna and Enfidaville definitely held by enemy.

Considerable motor transport movement at road junction 2 miles north of Ai El Heria.

There are indications of a regrouping of armour northwest of Zaghouan.

Area around Dj Garci held by mostly Italians.

104th Panzer Grenad Regiment (21st Panzer Division) is in vicinity of Djebibini.

151st Infantry Brigade concentrated in area 2 miles southeast of Sibou Ali.

8th Tank Regiment (15th Panzer Division) is in vicinity of Ain El Hallouf with 164th Division on left flank probably in contact with 90th Light Infantry Division.

Probable alignment on Dj Chirich-Enfidaville position, west to east: 10th Panzer, 21st Panzer, 90th Light, 15th Panzer, 164th Light. Armored elements of the 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions possible for withdrawing.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

L. 11652

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

[REDACTED]

General:

1. Enemy continues improvised reinforcement of northern sector.
2. Possible transfer of armour to more suitable area suggests that infantry are now organized in the new defense line.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

11287	11587
11329	11719
11530	11752
11537	11768
11459	11867

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

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Form No. 10.

EUROPEAN-NO AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 18 to  
0700 Apr 19

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>
	728,289 (Apr 17)

Estimate Total  
Strength of  
160,200 (Apr 17)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,656 (Apr 15)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia  
German 725  
Italian 635  
TOTAL 1360 (Mar 30)

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,564 (Apr 12)
British:	
1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)
5th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>
	367,185 (Apr 15)

Estimated Total  
Strength  
German 106,667  
Italian 53,533  
(Apr 17) 160,200

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94



II. Air Actions:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
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1. Bombers:

Allied:

Apr 16/17	Wellingtons attacked North Quay at Bizerte.	Many hits scored on target. Fires started in town, dock, and warehouse area. Tower station hit.	Bombers Report: 7 ME-210's, 5 ME-110's, and 1 FW-190 destroyed; 3 ME-110's probably destroyed; 1 ME-110 and 1 JU-88 damaged. Bomber Escort Reports: 2 JU's and 1 ME-110 destroyed; 5 aircraft probably destroyed and 1 damaged. 1 B-17 and 1 P-38 lost.
Apr 16	B-25's escorted by P-40's, Warhawks and Spitfires attacked Mateur and railroad lines covering town tracks and marshalling yards.		1 ME-109 probably destroyed. 1 P-40 missing.
Apr 16/17	Bisleys attacked airdrome at La Sabala.	Hits scored on dispersal areas.	
Apr 17	20 Bostons escorted by Spitfires flew 2 missions, attacking concentrations at Ksir Tye and Griet El Oued.		

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army):

1. Bombers:

Allied:

Apr 16/17	French Leo 45's attacked La Sabala airdrome dropping all bombs in target area.	Several fires started.
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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972



2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 17 Kittyhawks with Spitfire cover made 3 sweeps in Gulf of Tunis Area.

5 ME-110's, 1 SM-81 and 1 MC-202 destroyed; 1 ME-109 and 2 MC-202's damaged. 2 Spitfires and 2 Kittyhawks missing.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 16/17 242 RAF bombers were dispatched against Pilsen and 201 against Mannheim.

37 bombers missing and 1 ME-110 destroyed at Pilsen; 18 bombers missing at Mannheim, 1 crashed in UK.

Apr 16 Further details on B-17 attack on Lorient.

147 tons high explosive dropped on installations around sub pens from 24 to 27,000 feet. Several attempts made to bomb our planes. Hits on railroad bridge power plant.

Apr 17 100 B-17's dropped 250 tons high explosive on Focke Wulf airplane factory at Bremen.

Intense accurate flak encountered all over Germany and at target.

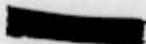
47 enemy aircraft destroyed, 17 probably destroyed and 10 damaged. 16 B-17's still outstanding, 3 men killed, 12 wounded.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 16 Diversionary attack to Bremen bombing flown by 76 P-47's in 3 formations of 32, 25 and 19 planes.

Heavy accurate flak encountered on leaving enemy coast.



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By RHP, NARS Date

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Apr 16 60 P-47's flew 2d mission  
afternoon of same day.

III. Air:

Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allies</u>	<u>Axis</u>
7	23

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

599	1,484
-----	-------

IV. Ground Action:

a. Combat Zone:

Northern Tunisia:

V Corps. A battalion of the 38th Brigade attacked Dj. Tennlou Hem during night of April 16/17. Mules carrying entrenching tools and blasting powder, <sup>with</sup> ~~was~~ killed on way up forcing battalion, without enemy interference, to withdraw.

9th Division. Patrols reached Dj. Ainehouma and Dj. El Garsia and were in contact with the enemy.

Axis. Considerable motor transport movement in both directions on following roads:

Tunis - Mateur  
Tunis - Tebourba  
Tunis - Hammamet

Enfidaville town reported not held by the enemy.

Central Tunisia:

8th Army. 201st Guards Brigade is in vicinity of Mejim. The 50th Division has taken over the area on the right of the 2d New Zealand Division. The 4th Indian Division with the "I" Force under command is concentrated in the vicinity

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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of Borj El Bev.

XIX Corps. 7th RTM is now in vicinity of Makabra.

9th MTA is at Mabrouka.

Axis. 8th Tank Regiment moved up in Enfidaville area.

No change in disposition of 15th Panzer Division.

Headquarters of the 10th Panzer Division believed to possibly be 11 miles southeast of Zaghouan.

Fighting quality of 962 Infantry not noticeably lower than other German units.

b. North African Theatre Except Combat Zone:

Remaining parachutists dropped in the Canrobert area have been captured.

V. Messages Included in Summary.

CM-IN-10725  
10736  
10819  
10893  
11154  
11197  
11227  
11228  
11261  
11262  
11276

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By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

Form To: 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER**  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GINAWI STAFF

- I. Daily Allied Strength Report  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 17 to  
0700 Apr 18.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

* U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	343,672 (Apr 17)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	150,000 (Jan 4)
	728,289 (Apr 17)

AXIS

Estimate Total  
Strength of  
160,200 (Apr 17)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,656 (Apr 15)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725

Italian 635

TOTAL 1,360 (Mar 30)

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 77,564 (Apr 12)

Estimated Total  
Strength

British:

1st Army 135,821 (Apr 15)

German 106,667

2nd Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 53,533

French 53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 17) 160,200

367,185 (Apr 15)

- \* Increased strength based on #4553, CM-IN-9918  
dated April 17, 1943, from Algiers.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bombers:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 15	15 JU-88's attacked Bone.	No damage reported.	1 destroyed and 4 damaged by ack ack. 3 para-chutes seen.
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 16	18 B-25's dropped 211 100 pound bombs on Oudna airdrome where 20 enemy planes were parked.		
	21 B-17's escorted by 10 P-38's bombed Palermo.	Probable hits on merchant vessel at dry docks and 3 other merchant vessels. Power station and warehouse area hit.	1 ME-109 damaged. 1 P-38 lost, pilot bailed out.
	12 B-26's escorted by 34 Spitfires attacked Oudna airdrome with 216 100 lb bombs.	6 to 8 trucks and railroad station were destroyed.	1 ME-109 hit by bomb and exploded in the air.
	1 A-20 attacking ground positions.		Was lost.
	6 A-20's escorted by 23 Spitfires successfully bombed 25 motor transports and troops in a Wadi.		

**2. Fighters:**

Axis:

Apr 16 The enemy maintained continuous fighter patrols in the Medjes El Bab sector. Allied patrols encountered formations of 2, 7, and 9 ME-109's. At least 11 enemy aircraft including FW-190's raided Souk El Arba landing ground late in the afternoon.

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Apr 16 ME-109's attempted to intercept Allied planes raiding Oudna landing ground.

Enemy fighters prevented an attack by P-38's on a beached vessel near Cape El Ahmar.

Allied:

Apr 16 18 P-38's skip and dive bombed beached merchant vessel, a medium merchant vessel and 1 barge near Cape Zebit. All vessels hit, barge blew up. 1 P-38 lost.

2 Hurricanes and 20 Spitfires engaged an enemy formation over Bizerte area. 1 enemy plane destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 3 damaged.

Apr 15/16 Hurricanes flew 11 patrols. Tented trucks shot up 1 JU-88 destroyed.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 16 4 JU-88's probably engaged on anti-submarine and shipping escort duties active in the Sicilian area.

6 aircraft probably JU-88's and later 5 JU-88's engaged in shipping reconnaissance between Sardinia and Tunisia.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

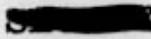
Apr 16 3 enemy aircraft were reported off the Algerian coast. 2 aircraft (1 in the morning, 1 in the afternoon) were active between Spain & the Balearics.

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 16 10 ME-323's were reported between Sicily and Tunis. About 40 JU-52's landed at Tunis.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army).

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Night

Apr 15/16 Wellingtons dropped 49 tons of bombs on St. Marie Du Zit.

Apr 15 13 bombers from the 376th Group Tanker bracketed but dropped 64,500 pounds of bombs no direct hits observed. on a tanker at Catania.

Apr 16 8 bombers from the 376th Group dropped 46,000 pounds of bombs on tanker at Catania harbor, 4-Lieutenants were wounded. Explosion and smoke observed.

7 bombers from 98th Group dropped 31,500 pounds of bombs on tanker at Catania. 1 stick hit center of tanker, no explosion observed. Hits on the Mole.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Day

Apr 16 Spitfires engaged in patrol activity.

Destroyed 5 SM-82's, 2 JU-52's, 3 ME-109's and probably destroyed 1 FW-190. 2 of our planes are missing.

3. Anti-shipping:

Allied:

Night Hurricanes and Bostons searched  
Apr 15/16 For shipping, Hurricanes claim

2 JU-52's destroyed  
1 probably destroyed  
and 2 damaged.

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

**c. European Theater:**

**1. Bombers:**

Allied:

Apr 16 B-17's attacked sub base at Lorient. Enemy fighter reaction was moderate, enemy fighters attempted unsuccessfully to bomb the formation. Flak was moderate and accurate. Bombing was good. At least 7 fighters destroyed, 1 B-17 failed to return.

17 B-24's made a diversionary raid on port installations at Brest. Many fighters were encountered. Flak was moderate and very accurate. Of returning crews 3 men were wounded. Excellent fighter support was provided by RAF Spitfires. Bombing results good. 3 B-24's failed to return.

**2. Fighters:**

Axis:

Apr 15 63 P-47's engaged in fighter sweeps over the northern coast of France. This was the initial engagements of P-47's. Pilots who engaged in combat feel that P-47 will definitely close rapidly in a dive against the 190, they feel that P-47 shows great promise in turning against the 190 and 1 pilot reported that he was able to outrun the 190 at 17,000 feet. Pilots who engaged in combat are generally enthusiastic about comparative performance and fighting characteristics of P-47 against 190. Excessive engine failures thus far are cause of much concern. 6 known complete engine failures, 6 probable complete engine failures and 26 partial engine failures. 3 FW-190's destroyed and 1 damaged. We lost 3 P-47's (1 due to enemy action).

**3. Reconnaissance:**

Axis:

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

by RHP, NARS Desc. **AUG 7 1972**

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/2/94

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Apr 15 4 F-5's photographed the coast of Dieppe, Cherbourg, Etretat, and St. Briec.

III. Air:

a. Scores:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
5	20

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

592	1461
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

B-17, 26; B-25, 36; B-26, 12; A-20, 40; P-38, 92; P-39, 28; P-40, 72; American Spitfires, 70; P-38 F-4, 4; Hurribombers, 6; Beaufighters, 13; Hudsons, 11; Marauders, 4; British Spitfires, 217; Hurricanes, 22.

IV. Naval Action:

The night 16/17 April two motor torpedo boats from Bone sighted an enemy convoy of two merchant vessels and four destroyers in the vicinity of Cape Bon. One merchant vessel was sunk. Aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm attacked the same convoy and obtained one hit on the other merchant vessel which appeared to stop.

Four other motor torpedo boats from Malta operated between Hammamet and Kelibia.

Photo reconnaissance of Spezia Italy revealed that three matoric class battleships had departed. These ships were seen four miles off Spezia escorted by six destroyers and on a westerly course.

Belgian tanker Alexandre Andre and Dutch ship Titus were slightly damaged

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OSD letter, May 3, 1977

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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in Bone harbor by aircraft April 12.

V. Ground Actions:

Northern Tunisia:

The enemy abandoned a couple of points in the Heidou area but still retain Heidou on the 16th of April.

Central Tunisia:

Local counterattacks by the enemy on the 16th recaptured Djebel Sefsouf and forced the French back. The headquarters of the XIX Corps is now north of Siliana.

A French officer who escaped from Bizerte on the 11th saw sixty tanks between Enfidaville and Hammamet moving north. Ten tanks were being towed and had desert camouflage.

Patrols of the X Corps in contact with the Enfidaville position on the 16th report little enemy activity. The 201st Guards Brigade is now under command of the 50th Division and the 23d Armored Brigade is under the Indian Division.

Miscellaneous:

All parachutists which landed in the Constantine area the night of 12/13 April have been captured.

The morning of April 16th eleven parachutists dropped in the Aine Mlila area. One officer and five men, all Italians, were captured during the afternoon.

Troop Movements:

The 1st Ranger Battalion left Gafsa for Oran April 17th.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

CM-IN-10031, 10060, 10075, 10127, 10148, 10313, 10331, 10588, 10614, 10617.

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OSD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER**  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENS/MI STAFF

0700 Apr 16 to  
0700 Apr 17.

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	160,000 (Apr 16)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	
	691,709 (Apr 2)	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,656 (Apr 15)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength (Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

U. S.	77,564 (Apr 12)	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 106,667
*1st Army	135,821 (Apr 15)	Italian 53,333
2th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	(Apr 16) 160,000
	367,185 (Apr 15)	

\*Increase includes 76th and 39th Anti-Aircraft Regiments (Br).

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 14/15 (night)	Wellingtons attacked Decimomannu, Elmas, and Villacidro (Sicily) airdromes. 41 tons were dropped.	Large fire started on Decimomannu airdrome.	
Apr 15 (day)	B-25's escorted by P-38's carried out shipping sweeps.	No targets found	
Apr 14/15 (night)	Hudsons flew anti-submarine patrols. Hudsons and Beaufighters carried out defensive patrols. One Beaufighter reconnoitered the east coast of Sardinia.		
Apr 15	B-26's made a reconnaissance of approaches to Naples and dropped four 500-lb bombs on a 1500-ton merchant vessel.	Near misses were scored.	

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 15	Occasional fighter sweeps and defensive patrols with Italian fighters protecting landing grounds vigorously. One strong offensive sweep was made in the Medjes El Bab area.		
--------	---	--	--

Allied:

Apr 15	Hurribombers and Spitfires flew many sorties. Tanks attacked at Oum El Abouab.	Large explosions	2 Spitfires damaged.
Apr 15	20 Bostons attacked enemy positions.	Results unobserved.	

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972



3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 15 4 enemy bombers made a reconnaissance of the Algerian coast.

Apr 15 Enemy planes from southern France made a reconnaissance of the Balearics and the Sicilian Straits.

4. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 14 Over 52 transports landed in Tunisia.

b. 9th Air Force:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 14/15 Wellingtons attacked Korba landing ground.

Apr 14/15 Night bombers attacked St. Marie Du Zit landing field.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 14/15 Hurricanes flew dawn and dusk patrols over Sfax and shipping searches.

Apr 15 P-40's attacked motor transport north of Enfidaville and on the Tunis-Hammamet road. 2 ME-109's destroyed, 1 damaged.

Apr 15 P-40's flew escort patrols and Spitfires patrolled forward areas throughout the day.

c. European Theater:

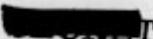
1. Bomber:

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date **AUG 7 1972**



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Axis:

Apr 14/15 The RAF destroyed 4 Dornier 217's and damaged one instead of 3, as previously reported.

Allied:

Apr 14/15 RAF Stuttgart raid (previously reported)

2 ME-110's, 1 JU-88 destroyed. 23 RAF bombers missing.

2. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

Apr 15 4 enemy planes made a reconnaissance off the south coast of England while 5 reconnoitered the east coast.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
0	2

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

587	1441
-----	------

The North West African Air Force has been concentrating against shipping instead of Axis air transport, until the recent successful efforts, for three reasons:

1. In order to accumulate intelligence on which to plot positions of majority of aircraft involved at given times.
2. To permit build up to such numbers that their loss would be a serious blow to Axis effort.
3. To allow timing with battle progress so that urgently required transport would be denied when it was most urgently needed and when time did not permit

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

u. RHP, NARS Date \_\_\_\_\_

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satisfactory replacement. The initial operation consisted of simultaneous attacks on congested terminals in Sicily and Tunisia coordinated with strong fighter sweeps between terminals.

#### IV. Naval Action:

The night of April 14/15 a British destroyer operating off East Anglia engaged enemy E boats. Two E boats believed sunk and two others hit.

Air reconnaissance reports 20 fifty-foot lighters in the Hammamet Harbor with others to the north and east. The boats are protected by anti-aircraft and searchlights.

Night of April 14/15 destroyers carried out a sweep to Marittimo and Cagliari, while motor torpedo boats from Bone destroyed a wreck near Cape Zebib. Later they attacked two large E boats on the surface without success but damaged one escorting E boat.

The night of April 15/16 HMS Plenham and HMS Paladin sank two destroyers south of Marittimo. The Plenham was damaged and later ordered sunk.

Submarine HMS Safari sank a 3000-ton merchant vessel and 3 smaller ships, probably sank a tanker and a 5000-ton ship and damaged a 4000-ton merchant vessel.

Submarine HMS Unshaken probably sank a 4000-ton merchant vessel and shelled a road bridge over Wadi Korba near Beni Aichoun.

#### V. Ground Action:

##### Northern Tunisia:

One combat team from the 9th U.S. Division relieved the 1st Parachute Brigade in the north.

Heavy fighting in the 78th Division sector took place on the 15th. Counterattacks regained Dj Ang and the 11th Infantry Brigade is now on the northern end of Dj Tangouche and southern slopes of Kef El Tiour.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

**AUG 7 1972**

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



The enemy's continued concern for his positions in the northern sector is indicated by employment of newly arrived troops. Resistance is stiffening along the high features in the north. Traffic movements suggest continued build up of forces in the Tunis plain.

Central Tunisia:

On the 15th Tabours operating on the right flank of the Conne Division (French) advanced to the north slopes of Djed Jehaf, but were counterattacked and forced to withdraw. 50 enemy prisoners were taken, and fighting continues.

The IX Corps, less the 6th Armored Division, moved to the area six miles northwest of Gafour.

Three parachutists were captured in the Constantine area.

VI. G-2 Estimate:

Capabilities:

1. Enemy was forced to shorten his line in North and now holds position approximating those before his offensive of February 26.
2. Energetic counter attacks in areas Sidi Nsir-Heidous reveals his determination to hold high ground here.
3. Most units in North already depleted and reserves largely committed.

Immediate Plans:

1. Probable enemy will reinforce Font du Fahs area since ground in this area vitally important to him.
2. Expected that part of enemy's armour will regroup in this area southwest of Tunis where it will be centrally placed for counter attack role.
3. Enemy is likely to develop his defenses rapidly in the Enfidaville position in order to free forces as a central reserve.

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By RHP, NARS Date

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Since the initial attack on the Mareth positions, more than 30,000 enemy prisoners have been captured. The enemy effective strength is now estimated at 160,000, of which two-thirds are German and the balance Italian. The enemy build up in personnel has been reduced to an estimated 200 per day.

VII. Ground Action -- Troop Movements:

436th Coastal Artillery Battalion (Anti-Aircraft) (Sep) left Oren for Beja.

VIII. Messages included in Summary:

- 9292 ✓9640
- 9405 ✓9761
- ✓9528 ✓9791
- ✓9592 ✓9953
- ✓9601

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER**  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 14 to  
0700 Apr 15.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

<u>ALLIED</u>		<u>AXIS</u>
U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	185,900 (Apr 12)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	
	691,709 (Apr 2)	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,656 (Apr 15)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,564 (Apr 12)	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 125,500
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	Italian 60,400
6th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	(Apr 12) 185,900
	365,141 (Apr 12)	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

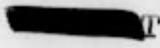
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II. Air Action:

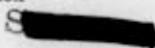
a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
1. Bomber:			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 13	Baltimores and Wellingtons attacked Korba airdrome and Wellingtons attacked Temine		1 Wellington missing
Apr 13	Hudsons, Marauders, and fighters flew U-Boat searches escort patrols and defensive patrols.		
Apr 12/13 (night)	Wellingtons attacked Megrine airdrome. 1 Wellington could not find target so bombed docks at Tunis.	Bombs dropped in target area.	
Apr 12/13	27 B-17's attacked Milo and 23 attacked Vetrano airdrome 50 to 80 aircraft were parked on each field. Estimated over 25 planes destroyed.	Both targets were well covered with fragmentation bombs. Numerous fires observed.	4 enemy aircraft destroyed, 2 probable, 2 damaged. 3 B-17's shot down by flak and fighters.
Apr 12/13	B-25's attacked Oudna airdrome, another B-25 bombed it 2 hours later.	Target well covered.	2 FW-190's destroyed, 2 aircraft probably destroyed.
Apr 12/13 (night)	Bisleys attacked Megrine airdrome with incendiaries, delayed fuse bombs and crow-feet.	Explosions and fire followed bombing.	

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 13 Defensive patrols against allied raids and sweeps were flown in the Mateur sector. Italian fighters have been more active lately. Dive bombers and fighter bombers made 60 sorties to attack our forward troops.



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Allied:

- Apr 13 Fighters in offensive sweeps and escorts over forward area met some fighters opposition later in day. 1 ME-109 destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, and 4 damaged.
- Apr 12/13 (night) 8 Hurricanes strafed motor transport in the Tunis area. 1 Hurricane missing.
- Apr 13 (day) P-40's flew offensive patrols and convoy patrols.
- Apr 13 12 fighters flew patrols and escorts. A Hurricane forced a JU-88 to jettison its bombs. 1 JU-88 damaged.
- Apr 13 Beaufighters shot up Alghero (Sardinia) airrome. 1 JU-52 destroyed.
- Apr 13 6 Beaufighters patrolling southwest Sardinia attacked 12 enemy torpedo bombers and caused them to jettison 16 to 20 torpedoes into the sea. 1 JU-88, 1 DO-217 destroyed, 1 JU-88 probably destroyed, 2 JU-88's, 1 HE 111 damaged.
- Apr 12/13 (night) 5 P-38's carrying 1000-lb bombs attacked the cruiser Gorizia and merchant vessels. One skip bomb passed through a freighter and exploded in a merchant vessel along side at Porto Torres. Direct hit and two near misses scored on the Gorizia.
- Apr 13 Spitfires flew fighter sweeps and reconnaissance patrols over northern Tunisia. 1 ME-109 destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, 3 damaged.
- Apr 12/13 (night) Baltimores and Bostons bombed St. Marie Du Zit airfield. 1 fire and 1 large explosion observed.
- Apr 12/13 (night) B-25's bombed motor transport

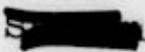
3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

- Apr 13 One enemy aircraft was sighted west of Oran and one north of Algiers.

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Apr 14 Two enemy aircraft were active in Algiers area. Probably on a search for shipping.

4. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 13 About 40 JU-52's landed at Tunis in the afternoon.

b. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 13/14 211 RAF bombers were sent against Spezia, Italy. Details unknown.

2. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 12 At least 4 Bordeaux-based FW-200's operated off Cape Finisterre.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 13 13 enemy aircraft made a reconnaissance off south coast of England, one off Fraserburgh, Scotland and one over the Orkneys.

III. Air:

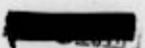
a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
3	11

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

582	1,418
-----	-------



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b. Sorties:

1. North African Theater:

76 B-17's, 72 B-25's, 12 A-20's, 49 P-39's, 111 P-38's, 25 American Spitfires, 7 Recce P-38's, 15 Wellingtons, 15 Bisleys, 23 Beaufighters, 12 Hudsons, 3 Marauders, 2 Swordfish, 206 Spitfires, 21 Hurricanes,

Losses: 1 Beaufighter, 1 Bisley destroyed; 1 Marauder, 1 Mitchell, 1 Hurricane, 1 Wellington missing; 1 B-25 damaged.

Victories: 1 ME-109, 2 JU-88's, FW 190 destroyed; 4 ME109's, 2 unidentified aircraft probably destroyed; 3 ME 109's, 2 FW-190's, 5 unidentified aircraft damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

Our submarines on patrol April 12 sank 2 enemy merchant vessels of 4500 tons (previously reported) and 2000 tons respectively.

Destroyers from Bone carried out a night sweep on April 11/12 to Marittimo, but sighted nothing.

A photographic reconnaissance of Maddelena shows that the Gorizia has departed since April 12. She was sighted off Leghorn, escorted by 2 destroyers and 4 escort vessels.

British vessels Pacific Grove, Fresno City and Dutch ship Ulysses were torpedoed in a United Kingdom bound convoy 775 miles west of Bloody Foreland, Ireland.

Norwegian Ingerfire, outward bound from the United Kingdom, was torpedoed 450 miles northeast of St. Johns Newfoundland.

British ships overdue and believed lost are: Baron Kinnaird, Clarissa Radcliffe, and Melbourne Star.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

Regimental Combat Team 47 from the 9th U.S. Division relieved the 138th Brigade.

The night of April 12/13 patrols from the 78th Division reconnoitered to

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Dj Bou Diss, but withdrew with some casualties after being attacked.

A battalion of the 4th Division reached the high ground 3 miles south-east of Sidi Nsir, but were counterattacked and forced to withdraw. They were reinforced by another battalion and were able to stop the counterattack after suffering some casualties.

Patrols from the 46th Division report no contact.

The enemy is now on the Jefna-Sidi Nsir-Heidous line and are determined to hold there in the face of strong Allied pressure.

In the XIX Corps area the Eastern Dorsale is now reported clear of enemy southwards from Karachoun. The advance continues to the north with contact maintained.

Central Tunisia:

On April 13 forward patrols from the 5th New Zealand Brigade, 8th Armored Brigade and 4th Light Armored Brigade were in contact with enemy positions about two miles in front of the Enfidaville position. The 6th New Zealand Brigade was in the Akouda area and the 50th, 4th and 7th Armored Division was moving up.

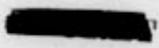
Concentration of the IX Corps is reported to be complete in the Keara area. No confirmation from the IX Corps.

The railroad between Bone and Souk Ahras was demolished by paratroopers the night of April 12/13, but was repaired. Three paratroopers were captured.

Fourteen paratroopers dropped in the Laghouat area April 11. One Italian captain was captured and eight Italians were captured in the Ain Elibel area April 13.

Troop Movements:

3rd U.S. Infantry Division closed at Port Lyautey and opened at Port Aux Poules April 14.



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76th Anti-Aircraft Regiment from Algiers to Constantine.

39th Anti-Aircraft Regiment departed from Algiers for Le Kef.

VI. Messages Included in Summary:

8214	8455
8219	8518
8279	8554
8402	8663
8454	8674

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OPERATIONAL SUMMARY  
(Tunisian Combat Zone - North African Theater of Operations)

I. STRENGTH

		<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
Infantry Battalions	8th Army	40	29
	II Corps	22	0
	IX Corps	13	11
	XIX Corps	38	10
	V Corps	40	23
		<u>153</u>	<u>73</u>
Artillery Pieces	8th Army	604	200
	II Corps	240	0
	IX Corps	99	40
	XIX Corps	223	74
	V Corps	306	142
		<u>1,472</u>	<u>456</u>
Serviceable Tanks	8th Army	460	Total 70
	II Corps	271	Axis 0
	IX Corps	246	Tanks 60
	XIX Corps	83	25
	V Corps	177	25
		<u>1,237</u>	<u>180</u>

II. CASUALTIES

	<u>8th Army (week ending April 8)</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>
Killed		8	98
Wounded		39	487
Missing		5	129
	TOTAL	<u>52</u>	<u>714</u>

	<u>1st Army (week ending April 9)</u>	
Killed	17	212
Wounded	43	561
Missing	7	225
	TOTAL	<u>67</u> <u>998</u>

	<u>II Corps (week ending April 11)</u>	
Killed	14	34
Wounded	47	765
Missing	5	170
	TOTAL	<u>66</u> <u>969</u>

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III. PRISONERS

	<u>German</u>	<u>Italian</u>
8th Army to April 8th	1,456	10,581
II Corps to April 14th	----- 1,438	-----
* 1st Army to April 10th	561	8
	<u>2,017</u>	<u>10,589</u>
		2,017
		1,438
TOTAL		<u>14,044</u>

IV. ORGANIZATION

8th Army (Br)

- 30th Corps
  - 7th Armd Div
  - 50th Inf Div
  - 51st Inf Div
  - 4th Indian Div
- 10th Corps
  - 1st Armd Div
  - 2nd New Zealand Div
  - 8th Armd Brigade (7th Armd Div)
  - "L" Force
  - Fighting French Flying Column

II Corps (US)

- 1st Armd Div
- 1st Infantry Div
- 9th Infantry Div

9th Corps (Br)

- 6th Armd Div
- 34th Infantry Div (US)
- 128th Infantry Brigade (46th Div)

1st Army (Br)

- 19th Corps
  - Welwert Div
  - Mathinet Div
  - 3rd Infantry Brigade (1st Br Inf Div)
- 5th Corps
  - 1st Infantry Div
  - 78th Infantry Div
  - 46th Infantry Div
- Army Troops
  - 4th Infantry Div

#3684 CM-IN-7827 April 14  
#3684 CM-IN-7964 April 14

\* Less 19th Corps

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APPENDIX

Status of Tanks and Self-Propelled Weapons  
North African Theater of Operations

Period: March 1 to March 31

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<u>TANKS:</u>							
Light	582	474	125	10	2	4	0
Medium	640	584	169	69	12	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<u>SELF-PROPELLED WEAPONS:</u>							
3" SP M-10	117	66	51	38	0	10	0
105 MM Howitzer SP M-7	243	218	25	15	0	7	0
155 MM Howitzer & Carriage (towed)	118	112	6	48	5	8	0
155 MM Gun & Carriage (towed)	27	26	1	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>

LEGEND: A - Total on hand  
B - Serviceable for combat  
C - Under repair  
D - New arrivals  
E - Other gains such as from salvage  
F - Losses due to enemy action  
G - Losses due to other causes

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CM-IN-7820, (14 April 43)

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EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 13 to  
0700 Apr 14.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 307,092 (Apr 2)  
British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
691,709 (Apr 2)

AXIS

Estimate Total  
Strength of  
185,900 (Apr 12)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,614  
(Ready for combat 979)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia  
German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

U. S. 77,564 (Apr 12)  
British:  
1st Army 133,777 (Mar 31)  
8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)  
French 53,800 (Mar 31)  
365,141 (Apr 12)

Estimated Total  
Strength  
German 125,500  
Italian 60,400  
(Apr 12) 185,900

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bombers:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 12	5 enemy bombers on reconnaissance were sighted off the Algerian coast.		1 destroyed by our fighters.
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 12 (day)	B-17's attacked shipping in the Sicilian Straits and at Bizerte and Trapani. Fires were started on the quay at Bizerte	Hits and near misses on a merchant vessel and large tanker.	1 ME-109 destroyed, 6 probably destroyed, 5 damaged.
Apr 11/12 (night)	Bisleys attacked the landing field at St. Marie Du Zit.	Target well straddled.	
Apr 12 (day)	B-26's made a reconnaissance of the Sicilian channel and the approaches to Naples.		1 B-26 Missing.
<b>2. Fighters:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 12	Continuous enemy protective patrols were over Cudna and St. Marie Du Zit airfields.		
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 12 (day)	Numerous fighter sweeps and escort sorties were flown.		1 FW-190 destroyed, 6 ME-109's and 1 FW 190 damaged.
Apr 11/12 (Night)	Fighters carried out defensive patrols.		1 JU-88 destroyed.
Apr 11/12 (night)	Beaufighters patrolled Algiers and Bone area and flew over Sardinia.		1 Beaufighter crashed into the sea. The crew is safe.

3. Transports:

Axis:

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHIP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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Apr 11 About 60 JU-52's and 9 six-engined transports arrived in Tunisia during daylight.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 11/12 Wellingtons, Halifaxes, Balti- One building blown 1 Wellington missing.  
(night) mores, and Albacores attacked up.  
the landing field at St. Marie  
Du Zit and caused 19 fires.

Apr 12 2 Squadrons from the 376th Bombs fell in rail-  
Group dropped 63 bombs of 500 way yard and adja-  
lbs each on Potenza, Italy cent building.  
and nine 500-lb bombs on  
Crotona, Italy.

Apr 12 2 squadrons from the 376th Results unobserved 1 ME-202 damaged.  
Group dropped fifteen 500- at Naples. Bombs  
lb bombs on Naples and 6,000 hit harbor install-  
lbs of bombs on Pizzo, Italy. ations at Pizzo.

Apr 12 6 RAF bombers dropped 24,000 Results unobserved  
lbs of bombs on Palermo and due to clouds.  
12,000 lbs of bombs on  
Messina.

Apr 11 18 bombers from 98th Group Bombs hit target 3 enemy aircraft destroyed,  
dropped 108,000 lbs of bombs area. Incendiaries 5 probable.  
on Naples. dropped over town. 1 B-24 lost over the  
target. 4 men bailed out

Apr 12 18 bombers from 12th Group 2 B-25's lost.  
dropped 31,500 lbs of bombs  
on motor transport concentra-  
tions.

c. European Theater:

1. Fighters:

Allied: 6 P-47's made an offensive No enemy fighters  
high altitude sweep over for flak encount-  
France, crossing the coast ered.  
of Nieuport at 26,000 feet,  
sweeping inland and return-  
ing south of Calais at  
17,000 feet.

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Apr 13 36 P-47's made an offensive high altitude sweep over France. The coast was crossed between Ostend and Dunkirk at 31,000 feet. St. Omer, Bethune and St. Pol area was swept and planes returned by way of Calais at 27,000 to 31,000 feet. Engine failure forced one pilot to bail out off French coast 10 miles north of Calais. Pilot is safe.

2. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 11 4 FW-200's based at Bordeaux operated west of Cape Finisterre. No attacks, British Naval unit believed sighted.

Allied:

Apr 10 Wellington made a depth charge attack on an enemy submarine 190 miles north, northwest of Cape Ortegal. Results unknown.

3. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

Apr 12 1 F5A made an attempt to photograph the Le Mans, Tours area. Mission unsuccessful due to heavy cloud conditions.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
4	7

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

579	1407
-----	------

IV. Naval Action:

Sinkings: British Lancastrian Prince torpedoed 470 miles off South Belle

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Isle Strait, Newfoundland, April 11.

Sunk off south coast of England by mines, British Trawler Boy Billy, April 10th, and Norwegian Frigate April 11.

V. Ground Action:

April 12 -- 8th Army:

Forward troops entered Sousse at 0800 hours and no contact with enemy was reported. Patrol line is now at Sousse-Hammam-Caraet es Salle.

The L Force is now under command of the 4th Light Armored Brigade. The 2nd New Zealand Division and the 8th Armored Brigade is concentrating in the Sousse area.

IX Corps:

After taking many prisoners, the 26th Armored Brigade moved about 2000 yards north of Sbikla where it has been delayed by mine fields. No resistance was encountered.

XIX French Corps:

Completed mopping up of Dj Ousselat on April 11. Movement forward continues.

On April 12, clearing of western Dorsale by XIX Corps continued with French troops pushing north from Karachoum to regain contact. Points at Dj Bou Dabouss, Dj Teuila, Dj Belloute were also occupied with little opposition.

Total prisoners taken on all fronts from March 20 to April 10 are approximately 22,000 Italians and 6,000 Germans. The withdrawal has resulted in considerable losses and disorganization.

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V Corps:

1st Division patrols made no contact in the Goubellat area.

The 12th Infantry Brigade positions were under heavy artillery and machine gun fire about four miles north of Chsouch. The 10th Infantry Brigade astride Sidi Nsir road was under machine ~~gun~~ fire from the north and northeast

Patrols from the 46th Division in the Acuana area attacked enemy machine gun posts.

The U.S. 1st Armored Division is now concentrated in the Sbeitla area while the 1st Infantry Division is concentrating at Morsott. The 9th Division is moving to the V Corps sector.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

7479	7638	7754
7484	7661	7929
7498	7691	7978
7515	7701	
7565	7702	

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By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

Form No. 10

**SECRET**  
EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 12 to  
0700 Apr 13. *WJ*

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	185,900 (Apr 12)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	
	691,709 (Apr 2)	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British (Ready for combat 979)	1,614 (Apr 7)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	77,564 (Apr 12)	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 125,500
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	Italian 60,400
2nd Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	<u>          </u>
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	(Apr 12) 185,900
	365,141 (Apr 12)	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

~~SECRET~~

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 11	Enemy dive bombers and fighter bombers concentrated in the Medjez El Bab sector and attacked concentrations and road targets near Oued Zarga.		1 ME-110 destroyed, 3 ME-109's damaged.
Apr 10	Wellingtons attacked airdromes at Tecmoaknu and Moneerrato.	Hits were scored on airdrome and near misses on munitions dump	
Apr 11	B-17's attacked the harbor at Tunis, Marsala and Trapani. 18 B-17's attacked each port. 6 to 7 enemy aircraft refused combat over Trapani.	Several hits many near misses on large vessel at Tunis. 1 small freighter sunk at Marsala Direct hits on 3 merchant vessels at Trapani. Dock areas at all 3 places hit.	1 enemy aircraft destroyed, 3 damaged.
Apr 11	B-26's attacked the airdrome at Oudra, escorted by 38 Spitfires.	Hits scored on enemy aircraft on the ground.	
Apr 11	B-25's bombed the airdrome at St. Marie Du. Ziyas.	20 enemy aircraft were on field in revetments. Field and revetments well covered.	
Apr 10	A-20's escorted by Spitfires attacked enemy concentrations in the battle area.	Hits and near misses scored on motor transport and troop concentrations.	
Apr 11	P-38's flew numerous missions to intercept enemy transports between Sicily and Tunisia.		Destroyed: 75 JU-52's, 1 unidentified transport and five other aircraft. 7 probably destroyed, 1 damaged. We lost 4 P-38's.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

**SECRET**

Apr 11 17 P-38's, 82nd Group on sweep over Sicilian Stratis encountered 21 JU-52's at low altitude covered by 4 ME-110's and 2 JU-88's at 2000 feet and seven ME-109's as top cover. All 21 transports and 5 other enemy aircraft were destroyed, 7 probably destroyed, and 1 damaged. 7 enemy transports which were carrying gasoline crash landed on sea to avoid attack. Transports in many cases are now carrying machine guns. 3 P-38's were lost; 1 hit by a JU-52's rear gun fire, 1 collided with a JU-52 and 1 shot down by ME-109. A later formation of this same group encountered 25 to 30 JU-52's and reported 5 JU-52's destroyed with loss of 1 P-38. These planes were unescorted but carried 21 millimeter cannon mounted on a top turret.

Apr 11 P-40's attacked heavy concentrations of trucks south of Enfidaville. Devastating effect.

Apr 11 Many missions against ground troops during the past two days have resulted in great damage and are met by decreasing enemy air resistance. Attacks against shipping has been particularly effective.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 11 A number of JU-88's flew anti-submarine missions in the Sicilian area.

Apr 10/11 Our destroyers between Tunis, Sicily and Sardinia were shadowed by at least two enemy aircraft.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 11 4 enemy aircraft made reconnaissance off the Algerian coast and sighted our west-bound convoy in the morning and again in afternoon.

1 JU-88 was shot down.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

Transports:

Axis:

Apr 11 About 10 six-engined transports arrived at Tunis and returned to Naples.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 11 Heavy bombers attacked Enfidaville landing Grounds and motor transport in that area about dusk, and later attacked Menzel Temine south landing ground.

Several fires started among motor transport and aircraft.

Apr 11 21 bombers from the 376 Group carried out one mission.

1 shot down, 3 unaccounted for, 1 landed at Malta.

Apr 10 6 bombers of 178th Squadron RAF dropped 36,000 lbs of bombs on Palermo.

Bombs landed in dock and warehouse area.

Apr 10 13 bombers of the 376 Group dropped 58,500 lbs of bombs on Naples.

Near hits on 2 ME-109's probably destroyed.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 11 Fighters patrolled at dusk and at dawn.

2 fighters lost.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 10/11 RAF planes attacked Frankfurt and encountered moderately accurate flak. Enemy aircraft was active over the target.

19 RAF planes missing.

2. Anti-Shipping:

~~SECRET~~

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

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

Apr 11/12 20 enemy aircraft engaged in sea mining in the Thames Estuary.

1 destroyed by Naval anti-aircraft fire.

Apr 11 One Bordeaux-based FW-200 operated off the West Coast of Portugal. Eight others are suspected in the same area.

Allied:

Apr 10 A Catalina attacked a submarine 135 miles south west of Brest. Results unknown. The next day a Liberator attacked a submarine 230 miles northwest of Cape Ortegal.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 11 4 enemy aircraft made reconnaissance off the south coast of England and 1 off the east coast.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
5	84

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1943:

575	1400
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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. (b)(7) and (b)(7) or (D)

OSD letter, May 2, 1972

RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

IV. Naval Action:

The Matt Ransom was damaged by a mine and towed into harbor.

One of our merchant vessels successfully reached Casablanca after being torpedoed.

The Sfax channel has been opened and is sixty feet wide and 18 feet deep.

Three berths are usable and others are being cleared.

An enemy submarine was attacked by our aircraft between Gran and Gibraltar.

~~SECRET~~

A beached enemy merchant vessel south of Cape Tauina was attacked by three Albacores. Results unobserved.

The enemy blockade runner Silva Plana was scuttled and sunk in the Bay of Biscay.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

Considerable movement is reported. The 1st Army encountered little opposition, but progress was hindered by mines and booby traps.

Central Tunisia:

The 6th Armored Division has advanced through Kairouan which was in flames and has reached Sbikla. The 26th Armored Brigade engaged 25 enemy tanks and destroyed ten. The remainder withdrew.

The 128th Brigade had cut the Kairouan-Ousseltia road and were in contact with the Welwert Division of the French XIX Corps.

Headquarters of the IX Corps (British) is now near Kairouan.

Approximately 500 prisoners were taken on April 10. The 15th Tabour captured one company of Italians at Arne Pjeloula.

~~SECRET~~

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

OSD letter, May 2, 1972

**AUG 7 1972**

8th Army:

By RHP, NARS Data

Armored car patrols continued to advance in the coastal area. The 4th Light Armored Brigade continued to advance northward but was delayed by mines and difficult terrain.

Little opposition was experienced until 29 tanks were encountered ten miles southeast of Msaken.

Patrols reached the line Touza, Bebababk, Ae Soltone and gained contact with the IX Corps at El Melah.

The 1st U.S. Armored Division remained concentrated in the Sbeitla-Faid area. The 9th Division is moving to a new location and the 1st Division Field Artillery is moving from Gafsa to Marsott area.

Clearing of El Guettar battlefield and minefields continues.

Enemy dispositions: The 90th Light Division is astride the coastal road north of Sousse with the 15th Panzer on the right flank to Sebkra Kalbia. All forces south of Sousse have been withdrawn and the Dockyards are burning.

VII. Messages included in Summary:

7041

7193

7197

7228

7229

7239

7240

7258

7366

7454

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG

7 1972

[REDACTED]

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 11 to  
0700 Apr 12.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength landed or in Port 307,092 (Apr 2)  
British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
691,709 (Apr 2)

AXIS

Estimate Total  
Strength of .  
185,300 (Apr 10)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,614 (Apr 7)  
(Ready for combat 979)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 76,699 (Apr 8)  
British:  
1st Army 133,777 (Mar 31)  
8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)  
French 53,800 (Mar 31)  
364,276 (Apr 8)

Estimated Total  
Strength

German 124,975  
Italian 60,325

(Apr 10) 185,300

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures  
referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

[REDACTED] RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

[REDACTED]

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bomber:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 10	2 enemy bombers made reconnaissance off Algerian coast	Sighted our west-bound convoy.	
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 10	Light and fighter bombers continuously attacked vehicles in the Souasse, Kairouan, Enfidaville areas.	Fires, explosions and much disorganization caused. Estimated more than 50 vehicles destroyed.	5 ME-109's destroyed, 1 FW-190 probably destroyed, 6 enemy aircraft damaged. 1 Spitfire was lost.
Apr 9/10	Wellingtons attacked troop and transport concentration near Enfidaville.	Results unobserved.	1 Wellington missing, 1 Wellington damaged.
Apr 9/10	B-17's attacked two 10,000-ton cruisers, the Trieste and Gorizier, the submarine and the harbor at Moddeleena, Sardinia.	Direct hits on two cruisers with an explosion seen on one. Munitions dump, submaring base and hangar well covered. 3 small ships and a merchant vessel left burning.	
Apr 9/10	B-25 on a shipping mission destroyed		10 JU-52's and 2 JU-88's
Apr 9/10	B-26's attacked roads and concentrations near Enfidaville.	Barracks, area supply dump and gun emplacements well covered.	
<b>2. Fighter:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 10	Fighters engaged in sweep over Medjez El Bab area where enemy aircraft had been operating.		5 ME-109's destroyed, 5 probably destroyed, 8 damaged.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

AUG 7 1972

By RHP, NARS Date: 4/13/94

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**SECRET**

Apr 10 P-38's on sweep and escort of Sicilian Straits.

Destroyed: 30 JU-52's,  
2 MA-200's, 1 FW-190,  
1 ME-110, 1 JU-88.  
Damaged: 10 enemy aircraft. 1 P-38 lost.

Apr 9/10 P-38's flew weather reconnaissance and photo missions.

Apr 9/10 Spitfires and Hurribombers attacked road near Enfidaville.

3. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 9 Over 100 JU-52's and perhaps 10 ME-323's landed in Tunisia.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 10 Beaufighters, Airocobras and Spitfires flew local defense patrols and Hudsons, Swordfish and Fighters flew local defense and escort patrols. Marauders flew armed reconnaissance missions of Sicilian channels and approaches to Naples.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
1	54

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

570	1316
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b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

62 P-38's, 88 B-17's, 18 B-25's, 12 B-26's, 15 Wellingtons, 34 Hurribombers, 34 Spitbombers, 2 Beaufighters, 2 Swordfish, 8 Hudsons, 4 Marauders, 327 Spitfires and Hurricanes

Losses: 1 P-38 destroyed, 1 Wellington missing, 1 Wellington damaged.

Victories: 40 JU-52's, 7 MA-200's, 1 FW-190, 3 JU-88's, 2 ME-109's, 1 ME-110 destroyed; 1 FW-190 probably destroyed; 3 JU-52's, 2 MA-200's, 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109 and 5 unnamed aircraft damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

A naval party has arrived at Sfax. The channel is partially blocked, but access is possible by using L.C.T.'s. The Quays were blown up at forty-yard intervals. The commercial quay will be ready for lighters by the morning of the 12th. Coast defense guns have been mounted on the south quay.

A submarine on patrol sank a loaded 4500-ton enemy merchant vessel in the approaches to Cagliari.

An enemy submarine attacked one of our cruisers near Alborra Island, but missed. The destroyer escort made a prompt counterattack.

4 enemy destroyers were sighted off the Gulf of Tunis proceeding north-east. 3 enemy motor vessels with 4 small vessels were seen north of the Kerkenah Islands.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

There was active patrolling by patrols from the 1st, 78th, and 46th Divisions.

Central Tunisia:

9th Corps: The 6th Armored Division and the Derby Yeomanry continued to follow the enemy towards Kairouan and forced the enemy to withdraw from the high ground south east of Fondouk which was later occupied by the 34th U.S. Division. The Derby Yeomanry made an offensive reconnaissance on a wide front and were closely followed by the 26th Armored Brigade. On the north

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

**SECRET**

the 1st Guards Brigade held Fondouk Gap, while the 128th Infantry Brigade occupied Dj El Cherichera.

The southern half of Dj Ousselat was occupied by the Welwert Division of the French XIX Corps.

8th Army: During the afternoon of the 10th of April, armored car patrols reached Melloulerhe. The 51st Division reached Sfax and the 7th Armored Division was about ten miles northwest of Sfax. The New Zealand Division was in the La Hancha area with four patrols from the 4th Light Armored Brigade at El Djem, La Smala, Chourbane and Kel El Khelifia. The 1st Armored Division concentrated in the Bou Thadi area.

Enemy Dispositions: The 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions are in the Kairouan area, while the 15th Panzer is on the main road between El Djem and Sousse. The 90th Light Division is on the coastal road in the Moknine area and the 164th is believed to be withdrawing northwest of Sousse. The remaining Italians are presumed to be in the Enfidaville position.

2nd U.S. Corps: The 1st Infantry Division engaged in clearing up the battlefield in the Gafsa area while the 60th Combat Team had the same task in the Maknassy area. Upon completion of this mission the 60th will rejoin the 9th Division which is refitting in the Bou Chebka area.

The 1st Armored Division is about 22 miles west of Faid and Combat Command A of that division has moved to Fondouk, where it is in contact the 34th Division.

Troop Movements:

91st Reconnaissance Squadron from Rabat to Tebessa.

433rd Coastal Artillery Battalion Anti-Aircraft Sep. left Oran for Algiers.

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date AUG 7 1972

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

VII. Messages Used in Summary:

5850	6600
6369	6602
6488	6671
6516	6691
6523	6780
6538	
6539	

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 303 and 304 or (B)

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date AUG 7 1972

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

~~SECRET~~  
 EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
 OPERATIONS DIVISION  
 WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
 (All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 10 to  
 0700 Apr 11.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port 307,092 (Apr 2)  
 British " " " " " 234,617 (Mar 30)  
 French " " " " " 150,000 (Jan 4)  
 691,709 (Apr 2)

AXIS

Estimate Total  
 Strength of  
 184,700 (Apr 8)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,614 (Apr 7)  
 (Ready for combat 979)

In Sicily, Italy  
 and Tunisia

German 725  
 Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 76,699 (Apr 8)

Estimated Total  
 Strength

British:

1st Army 133,777 (Mar 31)

German 124,450

8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 60,250

French 53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 9) 184,700

364,276 (Apr 8)

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred  
 to were first reported.

~~SECRET~~

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAME Date AUG 7 1972

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

~~SECRET~~

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 9 Fighter sweeps over forward areas intercepted enemy aircraft on offensive missions.

Destroyed: 8 JU-88's,  
1 ME-109  
Probably: 1 JU-88  
Damaged: 3 JU-88's,  
1 ME-109  
Our losses: 1 Spitfire

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 8/9 Heavy and medium bombers attacked Sousse and targets between Sousse and Sfax.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 9 Hurricanes strafed Mahares-Sfax road. Traffic dispersed and held up.

3. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 9 Between 60 and 70 German transports and some 6-engined planes landed at Tunis and Menzel Terime during day.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

Allied: 1 Axis: 9

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

Allied: 569 Axis: 1262

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater

8 P-38's, 4 P-39's, 1 P-51, 47 P-40's, 92 American Spitfires, 7 Hudsons, 5 Marauders, 71 British Spitfires, 1 Beaufighter.

Losses: 1 Hudson destroyed, 2 Spitfires and 8 fighter bombers missing.

Victories: 8 JU-88's destroyed, 3 JU-88's and 1 ME-109 probably destroyed, 4 JU-88's and 3 ME-109's damaged.

IV. Ground Action:

Enemy abandoned Sidi Msir on April 8 and during night of April 8/9 they were cleared from Toukabour village and ridge 2 miles to the south.

On April 9 after slight resistance the enemy evacuated Chouach.

An unconfirmed report indicates enemy are withdrawing northeast from Chassart Teffaha.

78th Division took all objectives allotted for attack of April 7/9. 975 prisoners of war taken since operation began.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

Central Tunisia:

Opposition continues along western slopes of Dj Ousselat.

By RHP, NAME Data. **AUG 7 1972**

During morning of April 9 the enemy resisted strongly at Dj Rharab and on high ground south of Fondouk, but these positions were later abandoned.

Our armour was enabled to pass through to east and further engagement commenced three miles east of Fondouk. Three enemy tanks were reported knocked out and the remainder withdrew to the east.

Enemy withdrawal north and northeast continued with traffic towards Kairouan reported heavy. A similar situation exists on the Coast road.

Southern Tunisia:

A Panzer Division is believed moving north to vicinity of Bel Ainoa to join remnants of 21st Panzer Division.

15th Panzer Division withdrew on peak to Coastal road via Nakta and was last reported south of Sfax.

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Units believed completely withdrawn:

164th Light Division

Spezia Division

Pistoia Division

Location Unknown:

Trieste Division

90th Light Division

1st Armored clearing mines from Faid Pass.

After some resistance, Mahares was occupied. North of Mahares units of 7th Armored Division were in contact with enemy forces withdrawing to north.

In the X Corps sector, forward troops of the New Zealand Division were moving north on the main Sfax-Sbeitla road approximately 5 miles south and southwest of Bou Thadi.

Enemy tanks in the area of Trabelsia avoided being engaged in action by 1st Armored Division and indicated intention to withdraw northward.

V. G-2 Estimate:

1. Enemy compelled to use small remaining reserves in north.
2. Employment of 10th Panzer Division to meet lateral threat to Kairouan still considered probable.
3. Heavy casualties and disorganization of Italian infantry render any major stand on broad Tunisian waistline improbable.
4. Delaying action to continue.
5. Probable new defense line: Enfidaville--Djebel Chirich.

VI. Messages used in Summary:

5920	5963	6046	6111	6276
5885	6007	6065	6167	
5894	6012	6101	6271	

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

AUG 7 1972

RHP, NARS Date

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

[REDACTED]

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

1. Daily Allied Strength Report. 0700 Apr 9 to  
(All messages paraphrased) 0700 Apr 10

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

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Strength of  
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(Ready for combat 979)

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and Tunisia  
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Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	76,699 (Apr 8)	Estimated Total Strength
British:		
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	German 123,525
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	Italian 60,875
French	53,800 (Mar 31)	(Apr 8) 184,400
	364,276 (Apr 8)	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred  
to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 7 About 50 JU-52's and a few six-engined aircraft arrived in Tunisia, using Menzel, Temime, El Aouina and Tunis air bases.

b. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 8/9 A force of 392 RAF bombers was dispatched to Augsburg. 22 planes missing.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
0	0

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1943:

568	1253
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b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater

19 P-38's, 36 P-39's, 24 P-40's, 55 American Spitfires, 135 Hurricanes and British Spitfires, 10 Beaufighters, 3 Hudsons, 3 Swordfish; 5 Marauders.

Losses: 1 Spitfire and 6 Hurricanes missing.

Victories: 4 ME-109's and 1 ME-110 destroyed, 1 ME-109 probably destroyed and 1 ME-109 damaged.

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

OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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IV. Naval Action:

One of our submarines sank a 200-ton merchant vessel by torpedo and a motor fishing boat by gunfire during a recent patrol.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia

In the Oued Zarga-Toukabour area extensive minefields were encountered with the enemy abandoning point two miles west of Toukabour.

438 German prisoners were taken and four infantry guns captured.

Strong resistance was encountered at Kef Gitoun.

Identifications -- Enemy:

3 companies of 24th Marsch Battalion identified as being 3 miles west of Heidous.

1st and 3rd Battalions of 755th Infantry Regiment are approximately 5 miles northwest of Chacouach.

Central Tunisia

34th Division is holding positions just west and south of Fondouk.

Hampshires have reached Dj Ech Cherishera and Kef El Harhich.

Our troops encountered resistance during day in immediate vicinity of Faïd Pass and mines were encountered northwest of Pichon, but our tanks are now in the town.

17/21 Lancers are now at Dj Kraim.

6th Armored Division intends to capture high ground at Bled El Mselsel.

A Panzer Division is reliably reported forming up in area of the Faïd Pass and to northeast after withdrawal during day on enemy's western flank.

Identifications -- Enemy:

1 company of the 90th Engineer Battalion is in Fondouk area.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

~~SECRET~~

Southern Tunisia (II U.S. Corps)

On April 8 Benson's Force reconnoitered Dj Ben Krur and then assembled south thereof preparatory to moving to Sbeitla on April 9. 9th Infantry Division is three miles west of El Guettar and is ready to move north.

The 1st Armored Division intends to join Combat Command A at Dj Hamra on April 9, leaving Combat Command B with 60th Combat Team under command to defend present front.

At 2045 hours April 8 a patrol of the 60th Combat Team was reported to have reached the hill Dj En Nodjilet without opposition.

2nd Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry moved to Sbeitla from El Guettar.

The 894th Tank Destroyer Battalion is at Bou Chebka.

Enemy was still withdrawing from line Mezzouna-Skirra during the night of April 7/8 and all day on April 8.

Southern Tunisia (British 8th Army)

8th Army estimate 8,000 prisoners up to midnight April 7. 6230 prisoners were counted.

15th Panzer Division is believed withdrawing in direction of Agareb with 164th Light Division on the right.

The 115th P.G.R. was still in action early in afternoon of April 8, but the main German forces are to the north of the Mezzouna-Mahares.

90th Light Division is moving in Axis of coastal road and forms the rear-guard.

b. General

G-2 Estimate:

1. Enemy unlikely to attempt to retain the Mezzouna coast line.
2. Indication of 10th Panzer Division in the Faïd area suggests a possible intention of employing his force against the Fondouk threat while his remaining forces withdraw northward.

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OSD letter, 10/2/72

RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

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3. Enemy's rearguard apparently reduced to 90th Light Division and remains of 21st Panzer Division, though the latter was unlocated on April 8.
4. With large numbers of Italians surrendering possible that remnants of Italian Divisions will be too severely reduced to enable any decisive stand at present.
5. Enemy will make every effort to stage local counterattacks to delay the Allied advance.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

5145	5256
5218	5517
5254	5551
5255	5566

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 8 to  
0700 Apr 9.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	184,400 (Apr 8)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	
	691,709	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,614 (Apr 7)  
(Ready for combat 979)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	76,699 (Apr 8)	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 129,550
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	Italian 73,150
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	(Apr 7) 202,700
	364,276 (Apr 8)	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

AUG 7 1972

w. Encl. number

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
1. Bomber:			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 7	Following the 8th Army's successful break through of the Akarit position all available light and fighter bombers of the Western Desert and Central Tunisia Air Forces attacked on the heaviest scale that has ever been put against Rommel's retreating forces.	Much damage and confusion caused among enemy columns moving northward.	
2. Fighter:			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 7	12 Spitfires intercepted 15 JU-87's and 3 ME-109's northwest of Oued Zarga.	JU-87's jettisoned 5 enemy aircraft bombs when intercepted.	destroyed, 4 probably and 1 damaged
Apr 7	Beaufighters attacked 6 JU-88's attempting an attack on Algiers		1 JU-88 destroyed
3. Anti-Shipping:			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 7	Air shipping score for day:	16,000-ton merchant vessel blown up, 24,500-ton ship and 1 other vessel left burning, 2 vessels hit and left sinking and several other ships hit.	
b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)			
1. Bomber:			
<u>Allied:</u>			

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NAME [redacted] **AUG 7 1972**

**[REDACTED]**

Apr 7	21 bombers of 98th Group carried out a mission on Palermo.	Report not yet received.	
Apr 6	17 planes dropped 55,400 lbs of bombs on motor transport operating along roads.	Fires and explosions resulted	Some crew members were wounded.
Apr 6/7	Wellingtons found good targets in the Mahares area.		1 JU-88 destroyed
Apr 7	Light and fighter bombers made two attacks on La Fauconnerie landing grounds		4 enemy aircraft destroyed. 2 of our own aircraft missing.
Apr 6/7	15 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and Dj Ojelloud railroad yards dropping 64,000 lbs, 5404 lbs incendiary and 31,380 lbs of high explosive.		
Apr 6/7	8 Bisleys patrolled Sfax-Sousse road dropping 10,240 lbs on convoys at Kerker and 7 miles north of El Djem.		

2. Fighter:

Axis:

Apr 7 Defensive patrols by both German and Italian fighters were flown over the coast road from Cekhira to Sfax.

Allied:

Apr 7	98 fighters accomplished 9 missions as reconnaissance and bomber escorts.		1 enemy plane destroyed, 1 damaged.
Apr 7	Western Desert Force attacked concentrations on the Cekhira-Sfax roads.	Excellent results from bombing and strafing. 2 tanks set on fire	5 enemy planes destroyed, 1 probable, 3 damaged, 1 Spitfire missing.

3. Anti-Shipping:

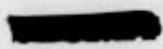
Allied:

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1982**



Apr 7 4 Albatrosses attacked 8000-ton merchant vessel 5 miles off Bizerte.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 7 3 FW-190's bombed Broadstaris, England. Slight damage and minor casualties.

Allied:

Apr 8 Final claims on AAF bombing of Antwerp on April 5: 23 enemy fighters destroyed, 8 probably and 4 damaged.

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 7 8 ME-109's bombed and machine gunned Newport Isle of Wight. Casualties included 15 fatal 1 ME-109 destroyed by fighters another by anti-aircraft.

III. Air:

a. Score:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
3	19

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

568	1253
-----	------

b. Sorties flown:

1. North African Theater

64 B-17's, 45 B-25's, 76 A-20's, 3 P-38 F 4's, 54 P-38's, 26 P-39's, 120 P-40's, 195 American Spitfires, 17 Wellingtons, 12 Hurribombers, 8 Hudsons, 3 Maurauders, 206 British Spitfires, 26 Hurribombers, 15 Beaufighters.

Losses: 4 Spitfires destroyed, 3 unnamed planes and 1 B-25 missing; 3 Spitfires, 1 A-20, 12 B-17's damaged.



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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (G)  
OSD letter, May 2, 1972  
AUG 7 1972  
By RHP, NARS DOW

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Victories: 4 SM-79's, 2 JU-88's, 18 ME-109's, 1 FW-190, 2 MA-202's, 1 RE 2001 destroyed; 8 ME-109's, 1 MA-202, 5 unnamed planes, 1 FW-190 probably destroyed; 12 ME-109's, 5 unnamed planes, 2 FW-190's damaged.

2. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

P-39's, 52; 4 P-38's, 8 Bisleys, 16 Wellingtons, 12 Beaufighters, 12 Hudsons, 4 Albacores, 1 Swordfish, 1 Maurauder, 26 Hurricanes, 134 British Spitfires.

Losses: 1 Hurricane destroyed, 2 Wellingtons and 1 Bisley damaged.

Victories: 3 ME-109's, 1 ME-202, 4 JU-88's, 9 JU-87's destroyed; 2 ME-109's and 4 JU-87's probably destroyed; 3 ME-109's, 2 JU87's and 1 JU-88 damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

In yesterday's report British ships Arbour and Waroonga reported torpedoed now known to have sunk. Also British Hosefina reported to have struck a mine in Thames Estuary now known to have broken back and a tug has been sent to assist.

V. Ground Action:

Attack of 78th Division made further progress on April 7. 120 prisoners were taken. 36th Brigade captured Mergued Chouach during afternoon.

38th Brigade completed occupation northern end of Dj Si Mahdi.

Operations of 78th Division carried out against stiff enemy resistance on a front of 10 miles. All objectives taken and operations are continuing.

Patrols report enemy activity in area of Dj Ainehouna.

Ae El Bey was shelled lightly by the enemy.

5th Corps:

11th Infantry Brigade captured Poput on the morning of April 8. Attack continues with a reconnaissance squadron operating on left flank northeast from Chaouch.

Patrols of the 4th Infantry Division located enemy positions near Hadisred and and Bj Bou Tabouna. Patrols advanced to Ae Djernel and Mexbual without contacting enemy.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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Central Tunisia:

Thickening up of our troops opposite the eastern Dorsale continued without incident.

Patrols reported the enemy in strength at Dj El Halfa.

19th Corps occupied Mairia Des Eaux and Heuchir El Louz. Advance continues.

9th Corps:

128th Infantry Brigade crossed Cuel Marguellil in Pichon area and was making good progress at last report.

34th U.S. Infantry Division advance held up by heavy fire from vicinity of Fondouk.

Southern Tunisia: (II Corps)

Advanced elements of 1st Infantry Division are in the vicinity of Madrila and are consolidating positions.

Benson Force is clearing enemy from Cherusi Pass.

9th Division Artillery (less 60th and 34th FA Battalions, 15th Engineers Battalion, 47th Infantry and Division Service troops are moving from El Guettar to assembly area in vicinity of Bou Chebka.

Williams Force now known as Combat Command "A" under command of 1st U.S. Armored Division.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(7) and 2(D) or (E)  
OSD letter, May 2, 1973

Southern Tunisia: (8th Army)

The 51st Division less 53rd Brigade plus the 23rd Armored Brigade and 201st Guards Brigade with the left flank protected by the 7th Armored Division less 4th Light Armored Brigade and 131st Brigade, advanced along the coast road and engaged the enemy approximately five miles southwest of La Skhirra about six o'clock on the 7th. The enemy was forced to withdraw.

The 50th Division, 4th Indian Division and 153rd Indian Brigade engaged in clearing the battlefield in Akarit ~~SECRET~~

By RHP, NARA Date **AUG 7 1977**

~~SECRET~~

The 2nd New Zealand Division with the 8th Armored Brigade continued the pursuit with the 1st British Armored Division protecting the left flank. In the afternoon the 8th Armored Brigade was engaged in cutting the enemy screen in the center of the line running from northwest of Cekhira to Chebket En Nouiges. Enemy tanks were engaged.

The L Force operated against small parties of enemy who remained in the area northwest of the Akarit position.

On April 8 enemy withdrawal from line Cekhira-Sebkret En Noual continued to north and northeast with forces of 8th Army in pursuit. Considerable congestion of motor transport on roads leading northwards.

Forward troops of the XXX Corps have reached Skirra area. Advance continues on Axis of coast road.

In the area of the X Corps, enemy anti-tank screen is holding the spur of Mezzouna and small tank actions are taking place to the south of this position.

V. Troop Movements:

431st Coastal Artillery Battalion AW Sep less Battery B has arrived at Tebessa from Casablanca.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

4363	4623
4415	4795
4555	4982
4616	5021
4617	5027
4618	5032

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EO 11862, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (B)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICA THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 7 to  
0700 Apr 8.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	202,700 (Apr 7)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,614 (Apr 7) (Ready for combat 979)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
	German 725
	Italian <u>635</u>

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA (Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

Estimated Total Strength

U. S.	75,972	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 129,550
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	Italian 73,150
6th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	(Apr 7) 202,700
	363,549	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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

[REDACTED] T

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bomber:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 6	34 B-25's escorted by 15 P-38's attacked Bo Rizzo airdrome with 2442 20-lb. fragmentation bombs	80-90 planes poorly dispersed. Formation was attacked immediately after it left target.	6 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 damaged. 2 B-25's shot down but made good landings in water near Agadi Islands.
<b>2. Fighters:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 6	23 P-38's in a sweep over Sicilian Straits intercepted a large flight of escorted JU-52's.		16 JU-52's destroyed and 4 damaged. 2 P-38's missing.
Apr 6	34 Spitfires attacked 2 enemy boats off coast of Tunis.	1 boat left smoking. 3 ME-109's encountered	1 ME-109 destroyed, 2 damaged. 1 Spitfire shot down, 2 damaged.
<b>3. Anti-Shipping:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 6	16 B-25's escorted by 26 P-38's dropped from 6100 feet to 500-1000 ft. bombs on a convoy north of Cape Bon. Encountered before target was reached by formation of 50 JU-52's escorted by Me-109's and 110's and other aircraft.	Direct hits and several near misses on all 3 merchant vessels in convoy. 1 destroyer blown up and 2 barges hit.	Destroyed: 7 JU-52's, 1 ME-110, ME-210, 3 ME-109's, 3 JU-87's. Probably destroyed: 3 enemy aircraft. Damaged: 6 enemy aircraft. Our losses: 1 B-25 lost, 4 P-38's missing.

[REDACTED]

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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b. 9th Air Force (8th Army)

1. Bomber:

Allied:

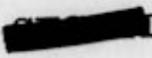
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Apr 6 20 bombers of 376th group dropped 114,000 lbs of bombs from 20,000 to 23,500 feet on Messina Ferry; also, 12 planes of 12th Group dropped 43,000 lbs of bombs from 8700 to 9500 feet.</p> | <p>Direct hits on 1 MC-202 crashed in Ferry building and Strait. ships.</p> <p>1 direct hit scored on buildings; 1 tank on fire, 1 direct hit on bank. 25 motor transport bombed.</p>   |
| <p>Apr 7 1 B-24 unable to find special mission dropped 6000 lbs of bombs on Crotona Chemical Works from height of 50 feet.</p>   | <p>Tremendous damage; fires burning in every section of works. This surprise attack at low altitude represents maximum damage inflicted by a single bomber to date in this theater.</p> |

Summary of Operations during March:

1. During February 1,523,235 lbs of bombs were dropped, bringing Middle East total to 10,254,875 lbs.
2. Work done by our fighters and bombers in their softening effort was of inestimable value in final penetration of Mareth Line with resultant route of Rommel's force in that area.
3. Eleven bombing missions flown against Southern Italy and Sicily. 570,500 lbs of bombs were dropped.
4. Nineteen bombing missions were flown in assisting in softening Mareth Line and Sfax area. 817,375 lbs of bombs were dropped.
5. Fighters were engaged in 85 missions destroying 10, probably 5, damaged 11, with a loss of 18 P-40's.

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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 2(D) and 5(D) or (E)  
 OSD letter, May 5, 1972  
 By RHP, NARA Doc. **AUG 7 1972**



6. 135,360 lbs of bombs were dropped on military transport and enemy defensive positions.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 6 Final claims on raid of Renault Works on April 4.

47 enemy aircraft destroyed, 13 probably, and 6 damaged.

2. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 5 An Iceland based Liberator attacked a surfaced enemy submarine 360 miles southwest of Reykjavik.

Apr 5 Sunderland attacked an enemy submarine 525 miles southwest of Fastnet, Ireland.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 6 2 Enemy aircraft over Dover area.

1 enemy plane destroyed

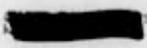
Apr 6 16 aircraft on reconnaissance off south coast of England, 1 off Shetlands, 1 off east coast.

Apr 5 6 Bordeaux based FW-200's operated west to Portugal.

Allied:

Apr 5 Photo reconnaissance of Wilhelmshaven confirmed departure Scheer and shows Hipper has moved into floating dock.

III. Air:



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EO. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (B)  
OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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a. Score.

Planes shot down since last report.

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
8	39

Accumulated reported aircraft lost from Nov. 8, 1942:

565	1234
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

91 B-17's, 54 B-25's, 54 A-20's, 11 Hellie P-38 F 4's, 146 P-38's, 107 P-40's, 129 American Spitfires; 15 Wellingtons, 17 Hurribombers, 356 Hurricanes, 2 Marauders.

Losses: 1 Spitfire, 2 A-20's, 3 B-25's destroyed; 6 P-38's, 1 A-20 missing; 2 Spitfires, 7 A-20's, 12 B-17's damaged.

Victories: 18 JU-52's, 6 JU-87's, 1 JU-88, 18 ME-109's, 1 ME-110, 1 ME-200, 1 ME-210, 1 MA-202, 1 FW-190, 4 unnamed enemy aircraft 1 ME-201 probably destroyed; 1 JU-52, 11 ME-109's, 1 ME-200, 2 MA-202, 1 FW-190, 8 unnamed enemy aircraft damaged.

IV. Naval Action:

British coastal batteries fired 72 rounds at 2 enemy merchant vessels passing through Dover Straits on night of April 4/5. One vessel was reported beached near Calais. In reply, enemy guns fired about 45 rounds, 5 of which fell in Dover causing slight damage. Later enemy intermittently fired a total of 6 rounds, cutting the Dover power cable, killing 2 and injuring 3 at Folkestone.

On April 6 a submarine attacked a 6100 ton enemy tanker which later disappeared and was believed sunk. Same submarine also hit a 6000-ton merchant vessel.

On April 6 British Josefina Thorden struck a mine in the Thames Estuary.

On night of April 4/5 and day of April 5 a convoy bound for England was attacked by submarines southwest of Reykjavik, Iceland.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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Results:

- Sunk: British Shillong
- Torpedoed: (believed sinking) British Arbour
- Torpedoed: (proceeding with convoy) British Waronga
- Stragglers: (details unknown) U.S. Sunoil, Dutch Blitar
- Previously reported torpedoed--now sunk: British Nagara, U.S. William P. Frey
- Torpedoed: --reached Belfast under own power: British Ocean Viceroy.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

A reconnaissance force occupied southern slope of Dj Tabouna.

In the Sedjenane sector the enemy continues to cover a slow withdrawal in the direction of Jefna by considerable mining and cratering. Our patrols now report that the area around El Aouana is clear of enemy.

Enemy reported digging in in the vicinity of Heidous.

Central Tunisia:

Williams Force, in a demonstration against Faid Fass, occupied Dj Es Souda.

Advanced Headquarters of XIX Corps moved to Maktar.

April 7 -- 1st objective of 78th Division taken with approximately 60 prisoners.

Forward elements 4 miles east of Qued Zarga.

Southern Tunisia:

Heavy losses sustained in action in area of 9th Division after failure to take Dj Berda.

Most advanced elements of Benson's Force were 7 miles northeast of Dj Berda.

Patrols of the 1st Division reached southwest slope of Dj Chensi.

1st Armored Division 200 yards short of objective pass west of Dj Gouleb.

[REDACTED]

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 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(C) and 3(D) or (E)  
 OSD letter, May 8, 1972  
 By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

S [REDACTED]

April 7 -- Enemy withdrew to east and northeast.

1st Division, 9th Division and Benson's Force advanced and made contact with 8th Army patrols north of Dj Haidoudi.

British 8th Army:

Despite counterattacks, operation to establish bridgehead gained during morning of April 6 is proceeding satisfactorily. 5000 prisoners of war were taken.

At 1600 hours on April 6 the enemy counterattacked against front of 153rd Infantry Brigade and on the southwest end of Dj Tibaga in front of the 4th Indian Division. Some penetration was effected in the Roumana area and confused fighting followed resulting in a slight enemy gain. The counterattacks on the 4th Indian front were repulsed.

The 50th Division made good progress in the center during the afternoon and completed crossings over the Wadi, through which 2 armored regimental groups of the 8th Armored Brigade were passed.

15th Panzer Division reliably reported moving south while 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions have probably withdrawn eastward.

16 enemy tanks reported north of Dj Tebaga Fatnassa, enemy also reported collecting in same general area.

No indication of main counterattack.

Motor transport observed moving east in Sidi Mansour area and possibly concerns withdrawal of armored forces from the Guettar front.

Camel Platoon is maintaining liaison with 8th Army at El Hamma.

April 7 -- During night of April 6/7 enemy withdrew from Akerit position.

Withdrawal followed by XX Corps on Gabes-Sfax Road and by X Corps further inland.

[REDACTED] DECLASSIFIED

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

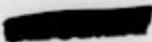
OSD letter, May 3, 1972

-7-

in RHP, NAV. Div.

AUG 7 1972

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



During afternoon patrols of II Corps met patrols of 8th Army north of Dj Haidoudi.

Much equipment and many prisoners taken in battle area.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

- 3632
- 3747
- 4005
- 4011
- 4013
- 4076
- 4078
- 4085
- 4103
- 4114
- 4115
- 4142
- 4261
- 4314
- 4327
- 4333
- 4025



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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

-8-

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

Comparative and general information received April 7, 1943.

<u>Artillery Pieces</u>	<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
Eighth Army Sector	614	390
II Corps	371	112
XIX Corps	267	74
V Corps	334	154

<u>Serviceable Allied Tanks</u>	<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
Eighth Army Sector	467	120
II Corps	341	130
XIX Corps	104	25
V Corps	363	30

<u>Casualties</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Others</u>
Eighth Army		
week ending 30th March		
Killed	29	205
Wounded	80	875
Missing	3	168
	-----	-----
TOTAL	112	1248

First Army Less XIX Corps, week ending April 2		
Killed	4	46
Wounded	12	225
Missing	6	129
	-----	-----
TOTAL	22	400

<u>Prisoners</u>	<u>German</u>	<u>Italian</u>
Eighth Army		
Week ending 30th March	55	3768
II Corps		
5 days ending 30th March	130	275
First Army Less XIX Corps		
Week ending 2nd April	222	652

EX-116  
 EO 11652 Sec. 3(c) and (d) or (b)  
 OSD letter, May 8, 1972  
 RHP, NARA from AUG 7 1972

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 6 to  
0700 Apr 7.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>

AXIS

Estimate Total  
Strength of  
202,100 (Apr 6)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,400 (Mar 30)

In Sicily, Italy  
and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1360

Estimated Total Strength 363,549 (Apr 4)

U. S. 75,972

Estimated Total  
Strength

British:

1st Army 133,777 (Mar 31)

German 129,025

8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 73,075

French 53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 6) 202,100

363,549

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred  
to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	--------	--------

1. Bombers:

Axis:

Apr 5 Escorted bombers attacked  
Thelepte airfield.

Allied:

Apr 4/5	Wellingtons attacked Trapani (Sicily) docks with 500-lb. and incendiary bombs.	Fires started.	
Apr 4/5	Medium bombers attacked with fragmentation bombs Borizzo airdrome where 80 to 90 mixed types of aircraft were poorly dispersed.		Many aircraft destroyed on ground.
Apr 4/5	Heavy bombers attacked Sidi Ahmed airdrome.	Bombing inaccurate.	
Apr 4/5	As a 2nd mission heavy bombers attacked El Aouina airdrome where about 30 aircraft were seen, mostly transports.	Burst seen to cover entire field.	Aircraft on ground destroyed.
Apr 4/5	As a 3rd mission heavy bombers attacked Boca Di Falgo with fragmentation bombs.	100-150 seen on ground. 50-70 covered by bomb bursts. 6 or 7 large fires visible for 100 miles.	
Apr 4/5	4th mission involved attack on Bilo airdrome.	70-80 large aircraft seen on ground.	30 enemy aircraft reported destroyed (see summary below)
		Results of four bombing missions noted above:	Enemy aircraft destroyed: 16 JU-52, 5 JU-87, 1 FW-187, 13 ME-109, 1 ME-210, 1 ME-200, 1 ME110

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972



Probably Destroyed:

1 FW-190, 1 ME-200,  
and 3 unidentified.

Damaged:

1 JU-52, 3 ME-109,  
1 FW-190, 1 ME-200,  
5 unidentified.

Our Losses:

2 B-25 destroyed,  
1 B-25 and 6 P-38  
missing.

Apr 5 106 B-17's bombed shipping facilities, airdromes, and marshalling yards at Naples.

Direct hits on tanker and large merchant vessel. Another ship set on fire. Docks and railroad yard, 2 small merchant vessels, one of which exploded were also hit.

Estimated 25 planes destroyed on ground.

Apr 5 18 B-25's escorted by 72 fighters attacked El Djem airdrome.

bursts were observed on truck convoy on road east of target

Estimated 8 enemy planes destroyed on ground. 1 B-25 hit by flak missing.

Apr 5 16 B-25's escorted by 22 P-38 bombed a convoy of 1 medium merchant vessel, 2 small merchant vessels and naval escort. Enemy resisted by air.

Medium vessel and 1 small vessel set on fire.

4 enemy planes destroyed 1 ME-109 after being hit crashed into a B-25 Parachutes were seen to open before the B-25 went into the sea.

Apr 5 15 B-25's escorted by 24 P-38 from 6000 feet bombed a concentration of small boats at Carloforte, Sardinia.

9 small boats and a coaster were hit. Numerous bursts were observed in dock area.

Apr 5 A beached freighter south-east of Cape Zebit was bombed.

A direct hit and two near misses were observed.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By: [Redacted] DATE: [Redacted]

AUG 7 1972

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

[REDACTED]

Apr 5 3 formations of A-20 escorted by P-40's and Spitfires attacked La Fauconnerie airdrome while a similar formation attacked a motor vehicle concentration northwest of Faid.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 5 Fighters maintained intensive offensive sweeps in Tunis-Bizerte area in support of coordinated operations by bombers and long range fighters against enemy air transport.

Apr 5 Fighter bombers attacked aircraft on the ground at Enfidaville.

Apr 5 Fighter escort engaged substantial enemy air opposition with success and fighter bombers attacked enemy motor transport.

Apr 5 Fighters made 649 sorties.

10 enemy aircraft destroyed, 13 damaged. 1 P-40 and 1 Spitfire lost, 1 Spitfire damaged.

Apr 5 Results of fighter combats:

8 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 probable. 17 damaged. We lost 6 Spitfires, and 1 B-25.

Apr 5 Allied fighter action off Cape Corbelin.

4 Italian torpedo bombers claimed destroyed.

Apr 5 Fighter action between Sicily and Tunis in 2 encounters.

Enemy planes destroyed:  
18 JU88's, 5 JU 87's,  
7 ME-109's, 1 ME-110  
1 ME-210.

[REDACTED]

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARA Date

AUG 7 1972

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

3. Anti-Shipping:

Allied:

Apr 4/5 5 medium bombers carried out shipping sweep in Sicilian Channel. 1 destroyer reported blown up. Hits scored on 2 merchant vessels and 2 barges.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 4/5 Increased enemy bomber reconnaissance; 1 JU-88 over Gibraltar, another over Gran Harbor, 4 others off Algerian Coast between Bone and Gran. Convoy proceeding west off Bougie contacted.

Apr 4/5 Other planes operated over Malta and Central Tunisia.

Allied:

Apr 5 Coastal Command made a reconnaissance of the Sicilian Straits. 1 Hudson crashed in flames.

5. Transports:

Axis:

Apr 2- About 150 German transports  
3-4 arrived at Tunis daily.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army):

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 4/5 Sfax was attacked and fighters and fighter bombers harrassed motor transport throughout the area. Fire reported in the railway depot.

Apr 4/5 21 bombers dropped 108,500 pounds of bombs and 240 pounds of incendiaries on Palermo. Targets believed demolished. Numerous fires, smoke and a large explosion at Quay. Other fires along shoreline.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1974

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1977

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 5 65 B-17's and 18 B-24's attacked industrial targets at Antwerp, from 23000 to 26000 feet with 245 1/2 tons of high explosives.

Airplane & aero engine repair works hit. Direct hits scored on important ships. Many enemy fighters were countered. Support was provided by RAF Spitfires. Slight inaccurate flak countered through-out occupied territory.

More than 10 enemy fighters destroyed. 4 B-17's failed to return, with 2 being shot down near target. 3 men were wounded and 40 are missing from lost airplanes. 12 B-17's and 1 B-24 damaged.

III. Air:

a. Score, North African Theater of Operations:

Planes shot down since last report:

Allied	Axis
20	127

Accumulated Reported Aircraft Lost From Nov. 8, 1942:

557	1195
-----	------

b. Sorties Flown:

1. North African Theater:

136 American Spitfires, 111 P-40's, 20 P-39's, 71 P-38's, 106 B-17's, 72 B-25's, 72 A-20's, 228 British Spitfires and Hurricanes, 12 Beaufighters, 4 Albacores, 2 Swordfish, 9 Hudsons, 3 Marauders.

Losses: 1 P-40, 2 B-25's, 1 Hudson, 1 Spitfire destroyed; 1 B-25 missing; 10 Spitfires damaged.

Victories: 6 ME-109's, 4 FW-190's, and 2 aircraft destroyed; 1 FW-190 probably destroyed; 9 ME-109's, 1 ME-200, 3 Krog-90's, and 1 unidentified aircraft damaged.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

IV. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

Enemy divebombed and shelled positions in the Sloughia area and shelled the Touksbeur area. Our artillery engaged a small enemy force south of Goubellat.

The Derby yeomanry has left the U.S. 2nd Corps area and is now under the British 9th Corps. Patrols towards Jelfa gained contact with the enemy. The 4th Division has assumed command of the sector northeast of Beja.

Included in IX Corps:

- 6th Armored Division
- 34th Infantry Division
- 123th Infantry Brigade

Composition of 1st Army:

V Corps: 1st, 46th, & 73rd Infantry Divisions and Parachute Brigade.

XIX Corps: Melwert Division, Mathinet Division, and 3rd Inf. Brigade.

Central Tunisia:

A patrol of 9 armored cars operated southwest of Fichon, but later withdrew. Patrols from northeast of Gusseltia captured 3 Italians.

There are some indications of enemy interest in organizing a defensive line in the Enfidaville area.

Enemy positions at Dj Touil and Fendouk control observation to western approaches to Fendouk.

34th Infantry Division has withdrawn to positions south of Dj Trossa for rest and reorganization.

Southern Tunisia:

The enemy counterattacked the night of April 3/4 and regained the Dj Berda ridge. Tanks and artillery were observed moving southwest. 16 tanks appeared immobilized in the 1st Division area north of the Gafsa-Cabes road.

[REDACTED]

On April 5th three columns of enemy vehicles, including 50 tanks, were reported moving northwest in the Dj El Kreronn area. Later during the night the column was reported as containing 75 tanks with infantry and was seen moving west on the road south of Dj Berda. The second U.S. Corps is prepared to reinforce General Boisseau's French force should it become necessary.

3rd Battalion, 26th Infantry with one battery of the 65th Field Artillery Battalion has moved to Sbeitla area while the 178th Field Artillery Regiment less one battalion has moved to Fondouk.

The 133 Regimental Combat Team has moved from Sbeitla to Fondouk under the 34th Division.

Increase in enemy defensive preparations and mining in Maknassy area. 9th Division attacked on April 6 south of Gafsa-Gabes Road/to take high ground at Dj Berda due to machine gun fire. but failed

Benson Force advanced but was held up by tanks east of Dj Berda.

Believe II Corps only in contact with rear guard today. Headquarters of II Corps is still at Gafsa and is composed of 1st, 9th, and 34th Infantry Divisions and 1st Armored Division.

British 8th Army:

Axis units in forward zone.

Trieste, Young Fascist and Spezia Italian Divisions supported by one regiment of 90th Light Division.

Attack launched by 8th Army with XXX Corps leading off at 0415 hours on April 6. X Corps started at 1100 hours. Enemy position appears to have collapsed at 0630 hours. Report large numbers of prisoners of war taken.

Composition:

[REDACTED]

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

**AUG 7 1972**

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

XXX Corps:

- 7th Armored Division
- 50th Infantry Division
- 51st Infantry Division
- 4th Indian Division
- 23rd Armored Brigade

X Corps:

- 1st Armored Division
- 8th Armored Brigade
- 2nd New Zealand Division
- "I" Force
- Fighting French

G-2 Estimate:

Main weight of enemy's armour still believed to be on the El Guetter front where it is readily available to switch to other fronts.

*opposite  
Gen Patton;  
US 1st +  
9th Divisions*

c. Troop Movements:

The British 9th Corps including the 6th Armored Division, 128th Infantry Brigade completed concentration in the forest defense area with the 34th Infantry Division in Fondouk area under its command.

12th Infantry Brigade (4th Division) arrived in area of Souk El Arba.

V. Miscellaneous:

E.O. 11652, Dec. 18, 1951 (C) or (D)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

Reported by Military Attache at Bern:

By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1972

1. Rommel has requested reinforcement of 400 planes by April 8, of which 150 are to be bombers.
2. 20 large transport planes arrived in Sicily from Norway on April 2.
3. Italian transports continue to arrive at Naples and islands in the Gulf of Naples.

4. Transports requisitioned in French Mediterranean ports are assembling in Northern Sardinia.

5. Debarkation platoons are being placed on the Sicilian coast and vicinity.

VI. Messages used in Summary:

3268

3272

3279

3345

3381

3386

3393

3512

3516

3548

3569

3622

3628

3664

3693

3696

3702

3467

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS D-100 **AUG 7 1972**

Form No. 10.

[REDACTED]

EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN SECTION  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 5 to  
0700 Apr 6

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	239,600 (Apr 5)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British	1,400 (Mar 30)	In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia
		German 725
		Italian <u>635</u>
		(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 363,549 (Apr 4)

U. S.	75,972	Estimated Total Strength
British:		German 155,075
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)	Italian 84,525
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)	(Apr 5) <u>239,600</u>
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>	
	363,549 (Apr 4)	

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

[REDACTED]

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OSD letter, May 3

**AUG 7 1972**

By RHP, NARS Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULTS	LOSSES
------	---------------------------	---------	--------

1. Bomber:

Axis:

Apr 4	5 JU-88's reported over Bone		
Apr 3-4	18 JU-88's reported over Gabes		
Apr 4	JU-88's escorted by ME-210's made early morning sweep over Maknassy followed by FW-190's and ME-109's strafing ground.		

Allied:

Apr 4	Light and medium bombers made 4 attacks on enemy landing fields at La Fauconnerie and St. Marie Du Zit. Enemy fighters attempted to intercept.	Fires observed. Intense flak.	5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 6 damaged. Allied losses, 2 planes -- pilots safe.
-------	--	----------------------------------	--

Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 4	Defensive and interception patrols of landing grounds west of Sfax and over Sfax-Chekira area.		
Apr 4	Sweeps were made in Sbeitla area by German fighters. Italian planes were seen southwest of Maknassy.		
Apr 4	Axis fighters carried out offensive sweeps west and southwest of Medjez El Bab.		

Allied:

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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By RHP, NARS Date

AUG 7 1975

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

Apr 4 Fighter bombers in offensive sweeps over enemy territory including landing ground at Zitouna intercepted JU-88's and other enemy craft that were heading for II Corps front.

5 ME-109's destroyed  
1 FW-190 and 1 ME-109 damaged. 1 Kittyhawk lost--pilot believed safe.

3. Anti-Shipping:

Axis:

Apr 4 Eastbound convoy between Algiers and Bone attacked by 3 torpedo bombers--again same evening.

Ships not reported damaged

1 enemy aircraft destroyed 25 miles north of coast.

b. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 4-5 A force of 577 RAF planes bombed Kiel.

12 planes missing.

Apr 4 Provisional claim in attack on Renault Works by 85 U. S. bombers.

35 enemy aircraft destroyed, 7 probably, 11 damaged, 4 fortresses still missing.

2. Reconnaissance:

Axis: Increased enemy air activity continued with 5 aircraft reported over Iceland during week ending April 4.

III. Air:

a. Score, North African Theater of Operations:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
3	11

Accumulated reported aircraft lost beginning Nov 8, 1942:

537

1068

-3-

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1975**

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

c. Summary of Combat Aircraft claims and losses for week ending Apr 3:

Destroyed:

AAF 4 FW-190, 2 ME-109;  
RAF 16 FW-190, 1 ME-110, 6 JU-88;  
AA 1 JU-88

Probably destroyed:

AAF 3 FW-190 (0), 2 ME-109;  
RAF 3 FW-190, 1 ME-110;  
AA 1 unidentified.

Damaged:

AAF 3 FW-190;  
RAF 15 FW-190, 2 ME-110, 1 JU-88, 1 DO-217;  
AA 1 unidentified.

Air Action losses by enemy Aircraft:

AAF 2 B-17, 2 B-24  
RAF 0

Losses to Anti-Aircraft:

AAF 0  
RAF 0

Losses from Unknown cause:

AAF 1 B-17, 1 B-24,  
RAF 13 Spitfire, 3 Mosquito, 10 Lancaster, 13 Wellington, 13 Halifax,  
2 Hampden, 2 Ventura, 2 unnamed.

IV. Naval Action:

Lines were laid in the Sicilian Channel during the night of April 4-5.

Our submarines on patrol off the north coast of Sicily have carried out the following operations (recapitulation of Sicilian area patrolling activities):

1. Sunk 2500-ton east bound tanker.
2. Sunk 3000-ton merchant vessel and believed sunk 6000-ton merchant vessel both at anchor off Palermo.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NANI Date AUG 7 1972

-4-

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

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- 3. Attacked ships in Milazzo harbor, 1 of which appeared to settle by the stern.
- 4. Sunk 3 schooners and damaged a fourth by gunfire. 1 schooner sunk by torpedo.
- 5. Another submarine attacked a large southbound tanker off toe of Italy, estimated 1 hit.

British ships Gorga and Pan Katha in an outbound convoy were torpedoed and sunk 320 miles west of Oporto, Portugal on April 2.

V. Ground Action:

Northern Tunisia:

Some artillery activity on both sides of the 5th Corps front. No casualties in our own troops.

The 10th Infantry Brigade relieved the 126th Infantry Brigade in the sector northeast of Beja.

Central Tunisia:

Patrols were active on the 19th Corps front on April 4.

Southern Tunisia:

The enemy is still maintaining strong infantry and artillery contact in the Dj Berda area.

Enemy counter attack on Dj El Kherona drove the 47th Combat Team from the hill.

During the day Benson's force attacked south southeast towards the Kebili road, but because of heavy artillery and tank fire were forced to withdraw to their original positions.

An attack on the position held by the 1st Infantry Division was driven off and some prisoners taken.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

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By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

[REDACTED]

BRITISH 8th ARMY:

The 4th Indian Division is in the forward area with patrols in contact with the enemy. The 69th Brigade of the 50th Division is in the Daret El Ahmar area and the 151st Brigade is in Gabes.

Troop Movements:

10th Infantry Brigade (4th Infantry Division) (British) arrived in forward area.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

CM-IN-2387  
3041  
3002  
3139  
3117  
3147  
3144  
3127

[REDACTED]

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)  
OSD letter, May 3, 1962  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN SECTION  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

1. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 4 to  
0700 Apr 5.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimate Total Strength of
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>	239,000 (Apr 4)

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,400 (Mar 30)

In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia  
 German 725  
 Italian 635  
 (Mar 30) TOTAL 1,360

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 363,549 (Apr 4)

U. S. 75,972

Estimated Total Strength

British:

1st Army 133,777 (Mar 31)

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8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

Italian 84,450

French 53,800 (Mar 31)

(Apr 4) 239,000

363,549 (Apr 4)

NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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

II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:



DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULTS	LOSSES
<b>1. Bomber:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 3	16 B-25's bombed St. Marie Ouxit Airdrome.	Building, runways and seven planes on ground were hit.	
<b>2. Fighters:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 3	Increased tempo of enemy air activity noted; 55 sorties performed by fighters, fighter-bombers and ground attack aircraft in vicinity of Medjex El Bab - Sedjenane.		
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 3	Spitfires on offensive sweep intercepted Stukas and fighter-bombers attacking our landing grounds at Souk El Khemis and the forward area in the El Guettar sector.		19 enemy planes shot down and 7 were damaged. Our losses were 3 destroyed and 2 damaged. 2 pilots are missing
	12 Spitfires of 52nd Group engaged 15 JU-87's near Dj Berda. Enemy force included 8 FW 190's and 6 ME 109's. Numerous patrols carried out over battle area.	6 ME 109's bombed northern slopes of Dj Berda.	14 JU-87's destroyed, one Spitfire missing.
Apr 2	Fighter sweeps over Kebera - Si Naar Allah area by Spitfires.	7 trucks, 1 staff car and 1 tank hit.	11 P-40's destroyed

**3. Anti-Shipping:**

Allied:

Apr 3 A submerged submarine was depth bombed near Oran.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

**BUG** 7 1072

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4  
NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/23/94

4. Reconnaissance:

Allied:

Apr 3 Weather reconnaissance

1 P-38 missing.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army):

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 2 27 B-24's departed for dusk attack over Naples harbor.

9 aircraft bombed target area; 7 planes returned bombs; 1 plane jettisoned load; 1 plane bombed Augusta; 1 bombed Mt. Alice; 2 bombed Crotone and 2 bombed pin point Southern Italy.

2 ME-109's prob-ably destroyed; 1 ME 109 damaged. 1 B-24 missing.

24 B-24's departed to bomb Palermo.

15 planes returned bombs, others jettisoned.

3 planes un reported, but believed landed at Malta.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Apr 2 Spitfires on patrol missions

3 enemy planes destroyed, 5 damaged

P-40's of 57th Group flew 8 missions totalling 72 sorties of armed reconnaissance.

Bombing destroyed 8 heavy guns, at least 5 motor transport, also heavy tentage and personnel.

1 ME-109 destroyed, 1 damaged against U.S. loss of 1 plane destroyed.

P-40's of 79th Group flew 6 missions totalling 112 sorties of fighter-bombers and bomber escort. 1 formation attacked by ME-109's.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

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

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Dec. 1972 **AUG 7 1972**

Axis:

Apr 3 12 FW-190's dropped 12 high explosive bombs on Eastbourne, England.

Considerable damage to houses; 20 fatal casualties. No interceptions.

Anti-Aircraft provisionally claim 1 enemy plane destroyed.

20 enemy aircraft operated in the Thames Estuary area.

Beaufighters destroyed 1 JU-88, damaged 1 other plane.

Allied:

Apr 3-4 348 RAF Bombers carried out a well-concentrated attack on the Krupp works at Essen.

Enemy defenses heavy.

21 bombers missing; 2 crashed in United Kingdom.

Apr 4 Heavy U.S. Bombers attacked Renault Motor Vehicle and Armament Works in Paris this afternoon.

Many large fires seen in target area. Enemy air action very strong. Flak was slight.

More than 25 enemy fighters destroyed. 5 crew members slightly wounded, 40 men missing from 4 B-17's that failed to return.

Apr 4 25 B-24's made diversion flight along channel and North Sea coast. Medium bombers of RAF also made diversionary flights with Spitfires providing escort and support for all missions.

Drew enemy fighters off main effort. No enemy opposition encountered.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 3 13 enemy aircraft made a coastal reconnaissance of the channel. 3 planes were near Mouth of the Thames and 1 plane was off the east coast.

III. Air:

a. Score, North African Theater of Operations:

Planes shot down since last report:

Allied -- 19

Axis -- 37

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

**AUG 7 1972**

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Accumulated reported aircraft lost beginning Nov 8, 1942:

Allied: 530

Axis: 1057

b. Sorties flown:

9th Air Force (8th Army)

16 B-25's; 2 P-38's; 16 P-39's; 47 P-40's; 134 Spitfires; 20 Hudsons;  
1 Swordfish; 3 Marauders; 31 British Spitfires; 9 Beaufighters.

IV. Naval Action:

One enemy ship was sunk by torpedoes and another probably sunk. Enemy escorting vessels then engaged each other.

Other submarines attacked an enemy convoy and an Italian cruiser off the toe of Italy. A 2000-ton merchant vessel was torpedoed and is believed sunk. A heavy explosion resulted from the attack on the cruiser, but results are unknown. Cruiser believed to have been based at Ancona (Eastern Italy).

British Ocean Viceroy reported torpedoed on March 31 is now proceeding under its own power (Apr 3)

The British Niagara reported sinking is now under tow by a tugboat.

On April 3 the British Baron Rennaird bound Loch Ewe -- San Domingo was reported overdue since March 27.

Two motor torpedo boats from Bone attacked an enemy convoy off Bizerte on the Night of March 31/April 1.

V. Ground Action:

a. Combat Zone:

Northern Tunisia:

The areas near Hir El Bahorine and Emebaret were lightly shelled during afternoon of April 3.

Cape Serrat was occupied without opposition on April 3 by a combined naval

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date

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and military detachment.

36th Infantry Brigade is now at Testour.

Sixty motor transports were reported moving east in the Goubellat area.

Five stationary tanks were noticed south of Sebket Kourzia.

No activity reported in the Ousseltia Valley area.

Central Tunisia:

On April 3 an enemy force of nine tanks attacked west from Pichon; later attacked with four tanks. Both attacks were repulsed by our artillery.

Fifteen enemy tanks were seen three kilometers southwest of Fondouk during afternoon of April 3 but subsequently withdrew to northeast. Twenty-five motor transports, some towing guns, were seen moving into Fondouk. Increased defensive preparations were noticed.

Southern Tunisia:

Contact maintained with enemy. Heavy artillery activity reported on April 3.

Small raid by the Camel troops near Dj El Asker resulted in capture of twelve Italian prisoners.

9th Division carried out an attack on a limited objective vicinity of B. Mrabott with partial success.

1st Division made a slight advance in area three miles west of El Meheitat. Other sectors were quiet.

Additional information of the thirty enemy tanks (including some Mark 6's which were reported fifteen miles southeast of El Guettar during afternoon of April 3) our artillery claims to have destroyed four.

There has been some regrouping of enemy artillery in this sector.

British 8th Army:

Considerable enemy motor transport movement was noticed near El Akarit

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EO 11652, Sec. 2(b) and (c) of (1)  
ORD Index, May 8, 1972  
by RHIP, NARS Date AWC 7-1972

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on April 3.

The enemy positions at Wadi Akarit are considered stronger than originally believed. The enemy layout is believed to be similar to that at Mareth.

Enemy Dispositions:

1. Trieste and Young Fascists not yet identified.
2. Possibly XX Corps is again in coastal area with 90th Light Division in Reserve.
3. Pistoia Division is holding the pass east of Dj Haidoud.
4. Spezia Division holding high ground on left of Pistoia Division.
5. 164th Light Division is in support of the XXI Corps.

G-2 Estimate:

1. No indications at present of intention to abandon Akarit Line or positions on El Guettar Front.
2. Enemy's ability to hold Akarit position depends largely on blocking our advance in El Guettar area. Possibly Reinforcing this sector.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

CM-IV-2356  
2376  
2488  
2510  
2517  
2574  
2604  
2609  
2633  
2721  
2743.

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972  
By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/23/94



EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN SECTION  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF

Form No. 10.

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 Apr 3 to  
0700 Apr 4.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)	Estimated Total Strength of	
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)	238,400 (Apr 3)	
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>		

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,400 (Mar 30)

In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia

German 725  
Italian 635

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

(Mar 30) TOTAL 1,350  
Estimated Serviceability

Estimated Total Strength 362,710 (Apr 3)

691  
Estimated Total Strength

U. S. 75,133 (Apr 3)

German 154,025

British: 133,777 (Mar 31)  
1st Army

Italian 84,375

8th Army 100,000 (Mar 27)

(Apr 3) 238,400

French 53,800 (Mar 31)

362,710 (Apr 3)

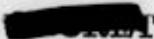
NOTE: Date in paren is date that figures referred to were first reported.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1977



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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bombers:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 3	17 B-25's attacked airdrome at La Fauconnerie with good results.		1 ME-109 destroyed. 1 B-25 shot down.
Apr 3	36 Spitfires escorted 18 A-20's on a record attack of La Fauconnerie. The dispersal areas were covered and several planes destroyed on the ground.		1 ME-109 destroyed, about 3 destroyed on the ground.
<b>2. Fighters:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 2	Fighter sweeps in El Guettar area uneventful.		1 ME-109
Apr 2	Fighter patrols in Southern Tunisia were larger and predominantly defensive. One raid was reported on Gabes. Enemy air activity to the North was restricted to fighter patrols.		
<u>Allied:</u>			
Apr 2	Our patrols near La Fauconnerie were engaged by 18 ME-109's and FW-190's.		
<b>3. Anti-Shipping:</b>			
<u>Axis:</u>			
Apr 2	4 JU-88 torpedo bombers were active against a convoy between Algiers and Oran.	Convoy was not damaged.	2 JU-88's damaged.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1970

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Allied:

Apr 3 The Coastal Air Force flew seventy sorties on convoy and anti-submarine patrols.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 2 Axis reconnaissance was active over the Mediterranean and along the Algerian Coast.

b. 9th Air Force (8th Army):

1. Bomber:

Allied:

Apr 2 Light and fighter bombers made several attacks on well dispersed motor transport. Enemy fighters attempted interception. Our losses one Warhawk and two Baltimores shot down by anti-aircraft.

4 ME-109's destroyed. 7 ME-109's damaged.

Apr 2 One raid on enemy landing ground by medium bombers, our loss one B-25.

1 ME-109 destroyed. 1 ME-109 probably destroyed.

Apr 2 5 Liberators bombed the Messina Ferry Terminal and one bombed Catania. Two B-24's bombed San Giovanni Terminal and one bombed the Messina Ferry Terminal.

2. Fighters:

Axis:

Apr 2 24 F-40's escorted bombers over the Mareth area. Excellent bomb patterns were observed on enemy concentrations.

c. European Theater:

1. Bomber:

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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Axis:

Apr 2 A JU-88 was sighted one mile east of Vatmarnes, Iceland. 450 rounds of .50 calibre ammunition were fired at plane. No results.

Allied:

Apr 2-3 The RAF dispatched 54 bombers to St. Nazaire and 48 to Lorient. 2 bombers are missing.

2. Fighters:

Allied:

Mar 31 Claims as result of bombing raid against Rotterdam. 1 enemy fighter destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 2 damaged.

3. Anti-shipping:

Allied:

Apr 1 1 UK based Halifax attacked a submarine. Details unknown.

4. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Apr 2 5 enemy aircraft off east coast of England, 3 off south coast and one off the Shetland Islands.

III. Air:

a. Score, North African Theater of Operations:

Planes shot down since last report:

<u>Allied</u>	<u>Axis</u>
4	10

Accumulated reported aircraft lost beginning Nov 8, 1942:

511	1020
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OHD letter, May 2, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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IV. Ground Action:

a. Combat Zone:

Northern Tunisia:

Apr 2. The patrol of one Parachute Battalion successfully engaged an enemy patrol of 30 at Chir El Bridj, killing 26 and taking one prisoner. Our casualties slight. There was little enemy combat in the Sedjenane area with slight shelling in the Medjes El Bab sector.

Central Tunisia:

19th Corps. The Welvert Division conducted intense patrolling along the whole front, near Fondouk it is estimated that the enemy forward troops have been reinforced by one battalion.

Southern Tunisia:

The 1st Division (U.S.) continues a slow advance. The 9th Division (U.S.) made no progress. Leading elements of the 9th Division were H V Soltan. 32 enemy tanks were engaged by artillery fire in the El Guetter sector.

British 8th Army:

The 51st Division relieved the 2nd New Zealand Division during night Apr 1-2 without incident. The 201st Guards Brigade is located just south Oplat Er Rekrama. The 69th Brigade moved into the forward area during the day and took position on left of the 51st Division.

Troop Movements:

67th Coastal Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment less 1st and 3rd Battalion and 434th Coastal Artillery Battalion sep arrived at Tebessa. 353rd Coastal Artillery Battalion sep Anti-Aircraft 3L arrived at Telergha from Oran.

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OSD letter, May 8, 1972

By RHP, HADS Date AUG 7 1972

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V. Messages included in Summary:

- 1581
- 1625
- 1686
- 1872
- 1776
- 1911
- 1894
- 2028
- 2045
- 2056

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By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/3/94

Form No. 10.

**EUROPEAN-NORTH AFRICAN THEATER  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF**

I. Daily Allied Strength Report.  
(All messages paraphrased)

0700 April 1 to  
0700 April 2.

STRENGTH IN NORTH AFRICA

ALLIED

AXIS

U. S. Strength Landed or in Port	307,092 (Apr 2)
British " " " " "	234,617 (Mar 30)
French " " " " "	<u>150,000 (Jan 4)</u>

Estimate Total Strength of (Apr 1)	237,200
--	---------

AIR STRENGTH

U. S. and British 1,400 (Mar 20)

In Sicily, Italy and Tunisia	
German	725
Italian	<u>625</u>
(Mar 30) TOTAL	1,350
Estimated Serviceability	691

STRENGTH IN TUNISIA

Estimated Total Strength 361,210 (Mar 31)

U. S.	73,633 (Mar 29)
British:	
1st Army	133,777 (Mar 31)
8th Army	100,000 (Mar 27)
French	<u>53,800 (Mar 31)</u>
	361,210 (Mar 31)

Estimated Total Strength	
German	152,975
Italian	<u>84,225</u>
(Apr 1)	237,200

Note: Date in paren is date that figures referred  
to were first reported.

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ODD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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II. Air Action:

a. North African Theater:

DATE	NO. OF PLANES AND MISSION	RESULT	LOSSES
<b>1. Bombers:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Mar 31	Night bombers attacked road south of Sfax.	50 fires started.	
	Light bombers attacked Sfax airfield in morning. Bad weather prevented operations after 1200Z.		
	700 successful sorties were flown.	1 large merchant vessel sunk and 4 severely damaged.	31 enemy aircraft destroyed.
	95 B-17's operated against Sardinia landing grounds and Cagliari Harbor. Many aircraft were set on fire.	At Cagliari 2 large vessels, several smaller vessels and the railroad station were hit.	9 enemy aircraft destroyed.
	29 B-25's escorted by P-38's in 2 shipping sweeps.	Sank 1 large merchant vessel, secured a direct hit on another and left 3 additional burning. 2 direct hits made on a transport.	6 enemy aircraft destroyed. 2 B-25's shot down and 2 P-38's missing.
	The tactical air force carried out constant successful strafing attacks and reconnaissance over the entire battle area.	Many trucks, tanks, and half tracks were destroyed.	
<b>2. Fighters:</b>			
<u>Allied:</u>			
Mar 31	Offensive sweeps maintained throughout day over El Guettar sector.	Many motor transports and tanks destroyed.	15 enemy aircraft destroyed, 9 damaged. We lost 9 aircraft.

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 OSD letter, May 8, 1978  
 By RHP, NARS Date **AUG 7 1972**

Mar 31 36 P-40's on a bombing and strafing mission destroyed at least 40 motor vehicles. On the return trip they encountered 18 JU-87's and 12 ME-109's attacking our ground troops. The P-40's broke up the attack.

4 JU-87's and 6 ME-109's destroyed. 6 JU-87's and 1 ME-109 damaged. 1 P-40 lost.

3. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Mar 31 JU-88's made the usual daily reconnaissance flights over the Western Mediterranean.

b. European Theater:

1. Reconnaissance:

Axis:

Mar 31 2 enemy aircraft in reconnaissance off south coast England and 1 off east coast.

Allied:

Mar 29 Partial reconnaissance Wilhelmshaven showed Adm. Scheer had left dock since March 23.

III. Air:

a. Score, North African Theater of Operations:

Planes shot down since last report:

Allied

12

Axis

40

Accumulated reported aircraft lost beginning Nov 8, 1942:

508

1010

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OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By RHP, NARS Date AUG 7 1972

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IV. Naval Action:

Two of our destroyers operated in the Gulf of Hammamet without incident during the Night March 30/31.

German Regensburg blockade runner homeward bound from Rangoon scuttled herself 180 miles north-northwest Reykjavik, Iceland, March 30, on being sighted by British Naval vessel.

March 29 and 30. Westbound convoy between Ireland and Iceland attacked. British vessels Umara and Empire Bowman sunk and British Nagara reported sinking. USA William Pierce Frye torpedoed, details unknown, while following vessels presumed sunk USA Benjamin Harrison, Molly Pitcher, Mathew Luckenback, and Yugoslav, Vosvoda Putnick.

V. Ground Action:

a. Combat Zone:

Northern Tunisia:

March 31. The French XIX Corps pushed patrols further east and made contact with the 34th Infantry Division (US) at El Ala. Dj Trozza was found unoccupied. Patrols to Tarel Hamrane made no contact. The Mathenet Division patrols to Dj Trouila made no contact.

The British 1st Army continued its drive to the northeast. Two battalions of the 36th Brigade pushed through Sedjenane occupying highground to the east and northeast, considerable booty was taken. Two battalions of the 1st Parachute Brigade occupied Dj Galb Sour. Enemy air was active over the Sedjenane-Mateur road. There has been some regrouping in the Sidi Nsir area. The enemy has shown nervousness at night in the Medjez El Bab-Goubellat area. Patrols south of Dj Cherich discovered that former enemy positions were unoccupied.

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The enemy made a reconnaissance into Sidi Bou Zid with motorcycles and four tanks.

Southern Tunisia:

March 31. Southeast Algiers:

Quiet day. Enemy still occupies defensive position Dj Rouana-Dj Asker. Kebili occupied evening of March 30th by Camel troops.

March 31. In the Maknassy area small enemy infantry attacks took place. Three "tiger" tanks were reported in the area. Enemy defense in the El Guettar area continues to be stubborn and intensive mining operations have taken place.

The enemy defenses along Dj Semlet-El Beida-Wadi Akarit seem to be manned by Italians including the Spazia Division. The 90th Light Division is believed to be north of Wadi Akarit, and the 15th Panzer Division at La Suiruha. There are indications that the supply point for the 10th Panzer Division is moving back to Sousse.

British 8th Army:

March 31. Forward troops maintained contact with the enemy throughout day on Wadi-Akarit-Dj Zemeet-El Beida. Air reports and reports of patrols of the 2d New Zealand Division indicate an extension of this defensive line to the west as far as Qued El Tmerina.

b. Troop Movements:

437th CA Battalion AW Separate arrived at Telergma from Casablanca.

VI. Messages included in Summary:

CM-IN-	397	583	745
	417	657	887
	524	700	923.

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