MR 440 CONVOYS

SECTION 1 — OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER, 1943

DECLASSIFIED

O&D Letter, 5-8-43

Regraded Unclassified
(CINCLANT ORIGINATES. COMNAVEU INFORM ADMIRALTY.
RIO ALGIERS INFORM COM 8TH FLEET AND CINCHED. (NYQ)
US NAVAL COMMUNICATION/UNIT GIBRALTAR DELIVER TO FOC
LIAISON)

TASK GROUP 21.12 CAPTAIN GALLERY IN GUADALCANAL
COMDESRON 29 IN THIPPEL DESDIV 57 HEREBY ESTABLISHED.
DEPART HAMPTON ROADS 4 JANUARY AND OPERATE AGAINST
SUBMARINE ACTIVITIES GIVING PRIORITY TO THOSE THAT
MIGHT MENACE USS GUS CONVOYS. FUEL AT BERMUDA OR FROM
UGS OR GUS TANKERS AS NECESSARY. FURTHER ORDERS LATER.
COMDESRON 29 REPORT WITH HIS DIVISION TO GUADALCANAL BY
NOON 3 JANUARY FOR THIS DUTY.

This is a new CVE group. There will now
be 5 such groups in the Atlantic.

COMINCH PASSED TO NOR FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION
TOR NCR 302526
FX37...19...196...093...31...20G...211...

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVRECS.)
OPNAV-NCR-15
272214
440
USS BLOCK ISLAND INFO ADMIRALTY COMINCH CINCCLANT F0 GIBRALTAR COMNAVEU FROM CINCWA.

CONSEQUENT ON AIRCRAFT SIGHTING OF U-BOAT NEAR OS 62
IT IS PRESUMED U-BOATS ARE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TO CLOSE CONVOY. ESTIMATED POSITION COURSE AND SPEED OF OS 62 STROKE KMS 36 AT 1100 2 44-29 NORTH 25-45 WEST 180 DEGREES 6 KNOTS ALTERING ON CROSSING 43-29 NORTH TO 125 DEGREES.
INCOMING MESSAGE

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

From: Algiers
To: War
Nr: No #

22nd December, 1943

Freedom CRYPTO paraphrase of COSITINTRF no 163 part 2 signed Eisenhower cite PHRNA from CINC Med 11 dtg 221937A Dec.

As result of attack by aircraft on GUS 25, 120 miles southeast of Malta 1 H/V was near missed and later sank PN 21st December. Covering convoy 2 Mosquitoes attacked JU 88 and claim damage. There were no casualties.

No Sig.

(Cargo 5,759 g7 (2/2)

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: G-2
OGAOF
CC/S (Capt. Royal USN)
Adm King
LOG

CM-IN-14205 (23 Dec 43) 00462 jb

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

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN
INFO JICNAV. RIN

TELL OPNAV EFFECTIVE 13TH CONVOYS TEMPORARILY DISCONTINUED BETWEEN BOMBAY AND PERSIAN GULF. ESCORT CMDR SAYS MEASURE DUE WITHDRAWAL SUBS FOR UNDERSTOOD CONCENTRATION IN ANOTHER AREA.

FX37...ACT
16...COMINCH...29G....NAMAVE..
NAVAL MESSAGE

FROM  CINCMED
RELEASED BY
DATE  15 DECEMBER 1943
TOR CODERoom  152041
DECoded By  C STRONG
PARAPHRASEd By  C STRONG
Routed By

ADDRESSees  ADMIRALTY

INFORMATION  CINCELENT COMINCH
               COMNAVNAW CINCLAANT
               CTF 81  CTF 82
               CTF 86  CTG 86.2
               COMDESRON 7
               CTG 89.1

PAGE 1  141818A
NCR  6615

(PRIORITY PRIORITY ROUTINE DEFERRED)

ORIGINATOR FILL IN DATE AND TIME:

ON OUTGOING DISPATCHES PLEASE LEAVE ABOUT ONE INCH CLEAR SPACE BEFORE BEGINNING TEXT

(comnavnaw recencyphers cincmed 32 141818a to cominch, cinclant, ctf 81, 82, 83, 86, comdesron 7, ctg 86.2, ctg 89.1 for info)

(quote. action admiralty, info cincelevant comnavnaw)

preliminary reports. your 131623 not to all refers.

cuckmere, escorting [kms 34] in position a.

torpedoes by a qnat torpedo while attacking asdic contact. torpedo hit forward of bridge. u-boat contact at time of explosion was on port bow at 1600 yards. no he from torpedo which may have missed astern and then circled under full port rudder to hit forward.

(2) tyndale escorting [kms 34] in position m. 12.5 knots. zigzagging 120 (r) 120 degs every 5 minutes but had prolonged leg of zig zag rather over 5 minutes at time of attack. asdic listening watch only being.

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to code room with officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)

14/8/44 440 KMS 34

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

Regraded Unclassified
KEPT DURING TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENT TO S/R KEY. NO HE
HEARD FROM TORPEDO OR U-BOAT SHIP HIT PORT SIDE
ABREAST FUNNEL AND BROKE IN HALF.

(2) HOLCOMBE HUNTING U-BOAT IN COMPANY WITH
HIBLACK. GAINED CONTACT 40 DEGS ON PORT BOW AT 1700
YEARS AND TURNED TOWARDS TO ATTACK. GNAT HIT AFT
U-BOAT CONTACT AT TIME OF EXPLOSION RIGHT AHEAD
1400 YARDS. NO HE FROM TORPEDO.

(4) TYNEDALE AND HOLCOMBE Both SUNK BY U-593 WHICH
WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SUNK BY CALPE AND WAINWRIGHT IN
SAME AREA. SURVIVORS OF U-593 STATE CO WAS
MANOEUVERING TO FIRE GNAT AT CALPE BUT WAS FORCED
DEEP BY DEPTH CHARGE ATTACKS. WAINWRIGHT STREAMED
DASHDASH UP FOXER GEAR DURING PART OF A/S HUNT.
(5) IT APPEARS GNATS WERE FIRED AT RANGE OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 YARDS AND THAT IF THEY MISS ASTERN THEY SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCLE UNDER FULL RUDDER TO HIT TARGET ON DISENGAGED SIDE IF SPEED OF SHIP IS INSUFFICIENT TO DRAW CLEAR OF GNATS TURNING CIRCLE.

(6) FROM INSPECTION OF DAMAGE TO CUCKMERE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NO CONTACT PISTOL IS BEING USED.

(7) SUMMARY OF INTERROGATION REPORT WILL BE SIGNALLED. UNQUOTE.

* CINCPAC NR. 32 141818A RECEIVED FROM COMNAVNAW AS 151517A
THIS FROM CINCLANT.

SPLIT GUS 22 WHEN APPROPRIATE AND ESCORT SECTIONS TO DESTINATIONS. TURN CHESAPEAKE SECTION OVER TO LOCAL ESCORT WHEN LAST SHIP HAS PASSED BUOY SAIL 11 SWEEP CHANNEL. ALL ESCORTS PROCEED NAVY YARD NEW YORK FOR AVAILABILITY WHEN TASKS COMPLETED. DESTINATION TARAIZED, MATTAPOMINI, HAMPTON ROADS IF COM TASK GROUP 23.1 DOES NOT EMPLOY LATTER. DETACH MAYRANT WHEN APPROPRIATE TO PROCEED NAVY YARD CHARLESTON FOR AVAILABILITY, STOPPING BERMUDA IF NECESSARY FOR FUEL. TASK FORCE DISSOLVED UPON ARRIVAL.

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to Coder Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREDS.)

OCS NAVY-SCR 15 1 33642

082053

4/40 GUS □

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E. O. 12356, Sec. 3.3 or Sec. 3.4
NLR 101
By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94

Regraded Unclassified
A10 387 FROM CIRCLED.

SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 236.

(1) DESTROYER PATROL IN THE AIETICIAN NIGHT 24TH/25TH SIGHTED NOTHING. MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS HAD TO TURN BACK OWING WEATHER.

(2) CONVOY KMF 26 ATTACKED BY 30 PLUS AIRCRAFT OFF BOUGIE 17TH/20TH. S.S. ROKNA HIT BEING TAKEN IN TOW. DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE FIGHTER'S CLAIM 8 SHOT DOWN.

DELIVERED 263.
CONVOY ANCHOR 11 SHIP HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT

TORPEDO MISS POSITION 12-50 150-38

* PASSED BY 2VA TO ALL SHIPS AND STATIONS AS 121350

CC TO 25-G
Off Oran afternoon of 11th November convoy KM331 was attacked by approx 25 Do217's and He111's with torpedoes and glider bombs. Torpedoes sunk SS Tirchonbank, Mivos, Indian Prince and Carlier. 2 other ships were slightly damaged but continued with convoy. Ack Ack claims 2 aircraft shot down 1 probable and fighters claim 1 damaged. COSINTREP number 123 not issued. Supporting 5th Army a successful bombardment by destroyers was executed during night of 8-9 November in the Gaeta Gulf.

Nosig

ACTION: OPD
INFORMATION: G-2
CG AAF
Capt. Royal, USN CG/S
Adm. King
LOG
AIG 387 FROM CINCMED.

SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 226.

1. MY Ø72243 PARA 6. 5 ENEMY AIRCRAFT CLAIM DESTROYED BY A/A FIRE DURING ATTACK CONVOY KMF 25 A.

2. HMS QUILLAM AND HMS RAIDER ON PATROL SOUTH OF VALONA DURING NIGHT 9TH/10TH SANK A SIEBEL FERRY LOADED WITH PETROL AND AMMUNITION. OF 3 ESCORTING M.L. 1 WAS TAKEN IN TOW TO BRINDISI AND 1 WAS DESTROYED.

3. BETWEEN 1ST AND 8TH NOVEMBER 61 MINES WERE SWEEP BY 14TH M/S FLOTILLA WHILE CLEARING THE APPROACH CHANNEL TO MADDELENA.

4. 1 ENEMY AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN DURING AN ATTACK 9 PLANES ON MADDELENA AT 200/10TH.

(DELIVERED TO 2-G)
FROM ADMIRALTY

RELEASED BY

DATE 9 NOVEMBER 1943

TOR CODEROOM 1309/9

DECODED BY MCCLELLAN/KNOWLES

PARAPHRASED BY W. STRONG

ROUTED BY ALLEN

CINCLANT, COMNAVEU CINCWA, FOC GIB AOGINO80

CINCLANT, COMNAVEU CINCWA, FOC GIB AOGINO80

CONVOY MKS 29 CONSISTING OF 34 SLOW SHIPS ESCORTED BY
4 DESTROYERS, 4 CORVETTES S.O. CLOSE ESCORT HIGHLANDER
IS IN APPROXIMATE POSITION 44°-57 N 19-39 W AT 0800A
COURSE 366° DEG 7 KNOTS.

CONVOY IS THREATENED AND U-SHIPS HAVE BEEN
SIGHTED BY ESCORT.

FORTRESS AIRCRAFT FROM AZORES ARE COVERING CONVOY

(2) CINCLANT'S 81415* REFERS.

*NOTE: NCR HAS PASSED.

SECRET

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

Regraded Unclassified
NAVAL MESSAGE

DRAFTER: CINCWA LIVERPOOL
RELEASED BY:
DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 1943
TOR CODEROOM: 2J81
DECODED BY: COURTNEY-JORDAN
PARAPHRASED BY: JOHNSON-4 (PP)
ROUTED BY: WALLS/REEGAN

FROM: CINCWA LIVERPOOL
TO: CINCWA (C)

HMS CHURCHILL

OP 1014444
OP 1014444

COM TENTH FLT CAR
(SEE BELOW)

ON 299.

CONVOY IS THREATENED. STEER DIRECTLY TO
INTERCEPT AT BEST SPEED

MOR PASSED TO FX-37 ....... 3DG
MOR PASSED TO MOR FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (d) NAVREGs)

OFPNAV-NCR-14 A 33052

RECEIVED BY: 08/18/43Z

440 (3) on 299

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

Regraded Unclassified
On 204

Approaching scattered U-boats by ASDIC close ahead of
294 Position 62-31N 28-29W

(U) at 1640Z. No sighting report heard from it but
another U-boat is within 50 miles to southward by D/F
Nene conducting hunt. Convoy steering direct to
Position XF at 10 knots.

ON 19 IS NORTHWEST.

COMINCH...C/OG
FX-37....

SECRET

Make original only. Deliver to Code Room Watch Officer in person. (See Art. 76 (4) NAVREGS.)
OPNAV-NCR-15
2004

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

Regraded Unclassified
**SECRET**

Following is a digest of conclusions reached by S.O. B3 Group in report of proceedings on attacks on convoy 232 and ONS 18.

**A.** In a series of attacks on the convoy spread over 5 days only 3 submarines succeeded in firing torpedoes at the convoy which was their first objective and which was considerably spread out. Of these attacks 2 were long range night and 1 submerged day. 1 night attack was probably with acoustic torpedoes and attack on steel voyager was almost certainly with non-contact pistol.

**B.** Night attacks on convoy possibly showed some increase in pair ship cooperation but were generally stereotyped. These attacks were not

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**Page 2 of 2**

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**FOLLOWING IS A DIGEST OF CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY S.O. B3 GROUP IN REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS ON ATTACKS ON CONVOY 232 AND ONS 18.**

**A.** IN A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON THE CONVOY SPREAD OVER 5 DAYS ONLY 3 SUBMARINES SUCCEEDED IN FIRING TORPEDOES AT THE CONVOY WHICH WAS THEIR FIRST OBJECTIVE AND WHICH WAS CONSIDERABLY SPREAD OUT. OF THESE ATTACKS 2 WERE LONG RANGE NIGHT AND 1 SUBMERGED DAY. 1 NIGHT ATTACK WAS PROBABLY WITH ACOUSTIC TORPEDOES AND ATTACK ON STEEL VOYAGER WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY WITH NON-CONTACT PISTOL.

**B.** NIGHT ATTACKS ON CONVOY POSSIBLY SHOWED SOME INCREASE IN PAIR SHIP COOPERATION BUT WERE GENERALLY STEREOTYPED. THESE ATTACKS WERE NOT
**SECRE**

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OPNAV-NCR-15  A 33052

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

NLR 101

By RT, NARA, Date 4/18/94

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**PRESSED HOME.**

C. Number of U-boats surprised in fog indicates no radar or else teething troubles with it.

D. Only new tactical feature is evidence of carefully rehearsed tactics against escorts which are hunting.

Considering number of hunts carried out it cannot be said however that these tactics were very successful.

E. S.O. B.S. O. C2 and C.G.S. are strongly of the opinion that best way to defeat these tactics is to sink or seriously incommode the U-boat and while precautions should be born in mind the initiative will only be given to the enemy if attacks are not pressed home with utmost vigour.

CO/VINCH...COG

CNO...FX37...2G...OP-65G...12...NAVAIDE...23...

2G-OP...FILE

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**SECRET**