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U.S. Navy

WAR DIARY

OF

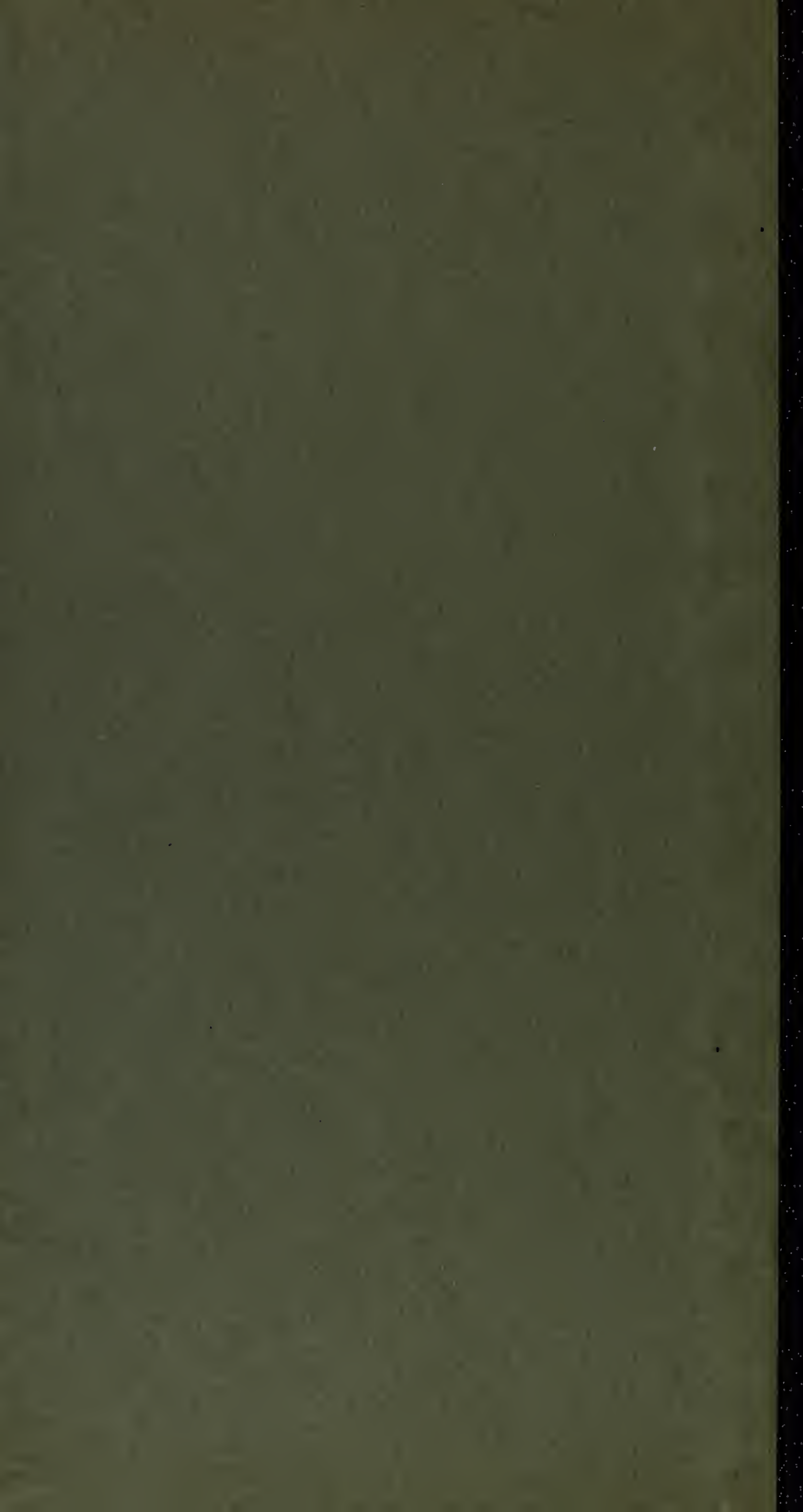
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 JANUARY - 30 JUNE, 1943

PG Numbers 30930 - 30931

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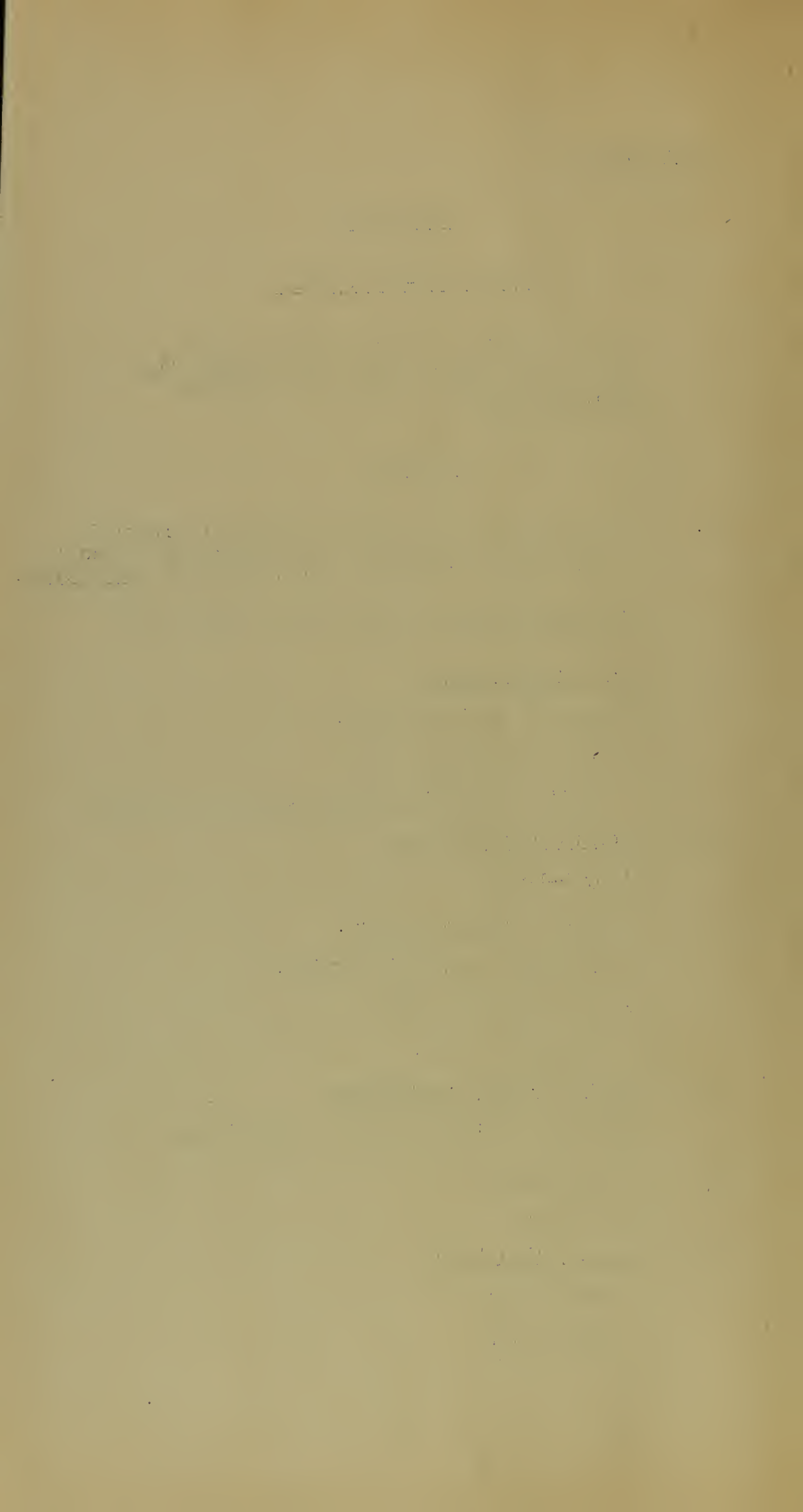


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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
1 JANUARY - 30 JUNE, 1943
PG Numbers 30930 - 30931

Grid charts may be found in War Diary
for 8 Dec 1941 - 30 June 1942.



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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 JANUARY, 1943

PG/30930

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1 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8420,
U 371 CH 8340,
U 565 CJ 1390,
U 617 CO 2590,
U 561 CP 2660.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 565 put in to Spezia at 1000.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as Bone.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Mersa Matruh and probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta, nothing sighted, Port Said.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1103 CH 9636 1 merchant ship of 3,000 GRT,
1 destroyer, easterly course,
speed 10 knots.
1128 CH 9567 2 merchant ships of 3,000 GRT each,
3 destroyers, southeasterly course,
moderate speed.
1400 CH 8471 12 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
6 escort vessels, 1 possible aircraft
carrier, probably easterly course,
slow speed.
1500 CH 7753 1 merchant vessel up to 10,000 GRT,
5 destroyers, course 100°, slow speed.
0120 CK 7244 1 merchant ship, course 45°, speed
10 knots.
0645 northeast of Derna 1 merchant ship of 3,000
GRT, 1 destroyer, easterly course.
1243 CN 8852 1 submarine.

c) By radio intercept service:

7 convoys from north of Nile Delta to Cyrenaica intercepted by radio.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

The "Nelson", "Rodney", "Formidable", "Furious", 1 Dido class cruiser and 10 destroyers put out from Gibraltar between 0000 and 0400.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 0700 on 2 January, the boats were informed that the Italian repatriation ships "Vulcania" and "Saturnia" put out from Gibraltar at 1700 on 1 January, bound for the Mediterranean.

At 0635, success report was received from U 73 (see V.a).

V. a) Successes:

U 73 reported: "On 27 December drove off 2 aircraft in damaged condition in CH 8252. At 1418 on 1 January sank a large American ammunition steamer from a convoy putting in to Oran."

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats returned from Spezia at 2000.

(Signed) Kreisch.

2 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8470,
U 371 CH 8340,
U 561 CP 29.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put in to Salamis at 0845.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 60 miles west of Algiers and Bone.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance over Nile Delta, inshore waters of Benghazi.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Western Mediterranean:

1046 CH 8386 6 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 1 possible transport, 6 destroyers, course 90^o, speed slight.

1155 CH 9471 6 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 4 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 4 patrol vessels, westerly course, moderate speed.

1244 CH 8369 the same formation.

1755 CH 8375 5 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 1 tanker up to 4,000 GRT, 7 patrol vessels, westerly course, slow speed (possibly the same convoy).

Eastern Mediterranean:

0645 CO 5543 1 freighter of 3,000 GRT, 2 destroyers, course 100^o, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an Italian agent's report, 4 light units put out from Bone on the evening of 1 January, probably for offensive operations to eastward.

According to an agent's report, 4 merchant ships and 4 escort vessels put out from Gibraltar at 2200 on 1 January, bound for the Mediterranean.

Ceuta reported the passage of 6 or more fairly large units, probably transports, as well as 2 possible destroyers, at 0100 on 2 January, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The boats were informed during the day of reports on the enemy received here.

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V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.

b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

3 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8470,
U 371 CH 8340,
U 561 CP 53.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 30 miles west of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters, Derna to Sidi Barrani, probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta, probing reconnaissance of Alexandria, all without sighting the enemy.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

U 73 was in contact with a westbound convoy at 1205 in CH 8432 (see V.a).

b) By air reconnaissance:

At 1035 the convoy proceeding from Gibraltar to Algerian ports was detected by aircraft 45 miles west of Algiers with a heavy defense group. Strength and course not reported. Parts which were apparently in advance were off Algiers at 1100 (3 steamers, 4 escorts) and at 1004, 1 transport was north of Cape Bengut on an easterly course.

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0850 CJ 7766 5 merchant vessels up to 3,000 GRT,
3 escorts, course 315°, speed 10
knots.
1004 CH 9547 1 transport, speed up to 23 knots,
easterly course.
1100 CH 9449 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
4 escorting vessels, high speed,
easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

1447 CH 8448 attack on one of our boats (U 73).
1101 CH 9458 convoy "Flint" was attacked by Axis
aircraft.

According to radio intelligence, enemy convoys or
units are proceeding in both directions along all
the African coast as on the previous days.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1004, U 371 was requested to give his position by
short signal, and to report whether anything has so
far been intercepted from the considerable traffic
running. (Boat last reported on 25 December.)
Position report was received at 0532. U 371 is in
CH 9459.

Orders to sail on 5 January were sent to U 617 -
lying in Salamis for replenishment - by radio message.
After the successes off Benghazi it is advisable to
let the doubtless stricter patrolling which is in
operation there die down, and meanwhile to appear on
the Apollonia - Alexandria supply route. U 617 is
therefore assigned the operational area between the
meridians of CO 5544 and CP 4954 from the coast of
Africa to 60 miles offshore. U 561 in the Eastern
Mediterranean has been informed of U 617's opera-
tional area. U 561's new operational area is now the
area east of U 617's; in this area only has U 561
permission to attack submarines.

After it was known that U 73 had been attacked with
depth charges (radio intercept service report) U 73
was requested at 2003 to report his position.
Success report was received from U 73 at 2309
(see V.a).

V. a) Successes:

U 73 reported: "At 1205 in CH 8432, westbound
convoy. 2 hits probable. Sinking noises after
27 minutes...."

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b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

U 81 was handed over to Lieut.(j.g.) Krieg by Lieut.
(s.g.) Guggenberger.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8150,
U 371 CH 9450,
U 561 CP 53.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Air reconnaissance as far as the sea area northwest of Algiers, nothing sighted.

1 ship of 10,000-12,000 GRT, several small ships in Bone harbor at 0900.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters between Mersa Matruh, Susa and Sidi Barrani, and probing reconnaissance off Alexandria, no results because of very bad visibility.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

0620 CJ 9279 1 submarine.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1640 an enemy aircraft sighted a U-boat in CH 7366. U 73, who is there, has been informed.

At 1805 U 561 was ordered to make a reconnaissance near Jaffa (keyword Morgenstern).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

The technical staff in Spezia reports that only one dock is available - of the 6 there are in Spezia - and that 3 boats are in this dock. Another dock promised for 31 December could not be made ready; planned docking of 3 more boats could then of necessity not be agreed to until 4 January. Because of postponement of the completion date of the Italian destroyer in dock, this dock cannot be vacated until 6 January according to Italian information; the date of completion, however, is not firm. Out of 14 boats, 6 have so far been unable to dock, although they have been in port 2 weeks. There are absolutely no docking facilities available for unexpected docking, i.e. caused by damage to the propellor or leaky breech mechanisms. This state of affairs means that to all intents and purposes U-boat warfare will be brought to a standstill if a remedy is not found quickly.

In a conference between Captain U-boats and the competent Italian office in Rome, the provision of 2 docks in Spezia on 5 January is attained as an immediate aid.

Repeated written and verbal representations made by Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy to the Under-Secretary of the Italian Navy should obtain the basic remedy. According to previous experience, the effect will only be of short duration. The dockyard problem remains a source of constant anxiety.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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5 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8150,
U 561 CP 53,
U 371 CH 8268.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put out from Salamis at 1330.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as west of Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Sidi Barrani. Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0420 CH 9434 2 medium-sized merchant ships,
westerly course.
0850 CH 9566 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
3 escorts, easterly course.
1305 CH 9657) formation as at 0850.
1545 CH 9662)
0908 CH 9625 convoy "Christine" (radio intercept
service report).
1000 CH 9619 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT,
3 escorts, course not known.
1100 CH 9448 2 MTBs.
0715 CO 5585 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 GRT,
2 escorts, course 120°.
1232 CP 7284 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT,
2 escort vessels, course 240°,
moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0250 (6 January) 1 possible cruiser, 6 destroyers,
1 undefined warship, about 24 large freighters,
4 tankers passed Gibraltar from the Atlantic
to the Mediterranean.
0830 Gibraltar sighted the "Nelson" formation
coming from the east.
0930 the "Nelson", "Rodney", 5 destroyers, 1 gunboat
put in to port. The carriers "Illustrious" and

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"Furious", on firing practice off Europa Point, put in to Gibraltar at 1630.
1630 14 steamers, 2 transports, 2 tankers, 8 gunboats put in to Gibraltar.
0820 (5 January) the following passed Cape Spartel: 2 tankers (about 10,000 GRT), one of them with 3 aircraft on the deck, 1 destroyer, 2 gunboats bound for the Mediterranean.
1500 north of Tres Forcas, 32 freighters, 6 warships, easterly course.

On 4 January radio intelligence intercepted instructions to a unit which was to take over escort of a formation or a unit from Bone to Algiers. Route via CH 7761, CH 9639, 9649, 9556, 9458 to Algiers. Due to arrive there at 0730 on 6 January.

0741 1 shadower with convoy "Agent" in CO 5578, course 115°, speed 8 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 0148, U 617 reported that he had commenced his return passage as his radio location set was out of order and he requested a new audio-gain which is not available in Salamis at present. Steps are immediately taken to have 2 spare receivers flown to Salamis. They will arrive on 7 January; U-boat base has been notified by radio. During the day several radio messages of enemy reports were sent to the boats.

At 1223, a British aircraft reported a U-boat (probably U 371) in CH 8268.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

It is extremely regrettable that as a result of the present difficult dockyard conditions there are not more boats in the operational area. The enemy's heavy convoy activity and the favorable phase of the moon thus remain unexploited.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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6 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8150,
U 371 CH 9440,
U 561 CP 53,
U 617 CK 8978.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put in to Salamis at 1130.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the sea area as far as east of Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Sidi Barrani, probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta, reconnaissance of Crete, Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

At 1922, U 73 reported by short signal: "At 1200 in CH 8449 one convoy of more than 20 steamers, course 45°, speed 8 knots."

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1620 (5 January) 1 Abdiel (fast minelayer) put out from Gibraltar, bound for the Mediterranean.

0030 1 freighter, 2 corvettes put out from Melilla for Gibraltar.

At 1030 Tangier reported 1 submarine ("Sturgeon" class) bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

At 0100 on 7 January, an Italian U-boat sighted 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, course 270°, speed 15 knots in CJ 7718.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

Eastern boats were informed that according to an agent's report, at 2100 on 7 January 9 steamers with troops and material escorted by 10 destroyers are to proceed from Latakia to Famagusta. Will probably arrive at 0700 on 8 January. Further reports received of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats during the day.

U 224 - expected in the Mediterranean - asked at 2237 from CG 2741 (on Ireland Service), whether he might commence his return passage. Reason: sudden illness of Warrant Quartermaster. He was ordered by C-in-C U-boats to carry out his assignments (break-through into Mediterranean) under any circumstances.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 74 (Lieut.(s.g.) Friedrich) was finally reported missing with effect from 21 May 1942, according to C-in-C U-boats Secret 1700 A5.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

7 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8440,
U 561 CP 5650,
U 371 CH 9450.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 431 (Lieut.(j.g.) Schoeneboom) put out from Pola at 1400.

U 617 put out from Salamis at 2015.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as the area around Cape Tenes.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters from Derna to Sidi Barrani.
Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta and off
Alexandria. Reconnaissance of Cyprus (Famagusta:
1 freighter of 1,000 GRT, 1 small naval vessel).
Reconnaissance over Malta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

U 617 sighted an enemy submarine in CO 3351 at
0150 on 8 January.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0858 CH 9657 12 medium-sized steamers, 4 escorts,
course 270°, speed 14 knots. The same convoy in
CH 9592 at 1150 was again reported at 1245 in
CH 9567 with 14 ships, at 1430 with 20 ships, at
1535 in CH 9546 with 9 merchant ships up to 5,000
GRT, 8 small merchant ships and escorts.
Westerly course, speed 10 knots.

2) An eastbound convoy was sighted at 1135 in
CH 9461 (10 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 4 escorts),
easterly course, speed up to 10 knots. The same
convoy was in CH 9466 at 1400 (10 merchant ships
up to 10,000 GRT, 6 escorts reported), in
CH 9542 at 1605 (10 merchant ships up to 10,000
GRT, 4 escorts, easterly course, speed slight).
At 1805 escort unit reported an attack on the
convoy in CH 9554.

3) At 1135, aircraft spotted 12 ships up to 3,000
GRT, 3 escorts, off Algiers, probably putting
in to Algiers.

c) By radio intercept service:

The westbound convoy (see IIIb.1.) was intercepted
by Italian radio intelligence at 0859 in CH 9643
with course 62°. At 0959 course was given as 260°.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 reported - time of origin 0347 - that he is
returning to Salamis because his radio location set
has again broken down. U 617's query about permission
to attack the submarine sighted (see IIIa) was
received by Captain U-boats at 0250. Permission to
attack was given to U 617 at 0303 after consultation

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with the Italian Naval High Command which showed it was not an Italian boat.

U 561 was requested for a position report at 1721. (Last position report received on 1 January.) Report was received at 0306: U 561 in CP 5322.

At 0130, a success report was received from U 371 (see V.a.). Boat is commencing return passage because Junkers compressor has broken down and there is considerable other damage; 50 potash cartridges left. U 371 has been at sea since 1 December. At 0304 he was ordered to return to Spezia.

At 1730, an enemy aircraft reported a U-boat in CH 7615 (probably U 73). Boats received enemy sightings during the day.

V. a) Successes:

U 371 reported: "At 1204 on 7 January, anti-submarine vessel from search group sunk in CH 9467; at 1831 large freighter torpedoed from westbound convoy in CH 9466."

b) Losses:

According to C-in-C U-boats G 216/A5 of 7 January 1943, Lieut.(s.g.) Tiesenhausen (the former commander of U 331) is a prisoner of war. 16 more of the crew are also prisoners. Names follow.

According to C-in-C U-boats G 244/A5 of 7 January, 16 of the crew of U 660 have been prisoners of war since 12 November 1942.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

8 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8440,
U 371 CH 6880,
U 431 CJ 3790,
U 561 CP 5320.

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b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 671 put in to Salamis at 0900, put out from Salamis at 1300.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance as far as Alexandria.
Reconnaissance of inshore waters Ras Amer - Sollum.
Reconnaissance east of Athens.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1015 CH 9548 2 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT,
4 escorts, easterly course, speed up
to 10 knots.

1405 CH 9636 3 destroyers, course 50°, speed 23
knots.

0800 CO 9359 1 small naval vessel, course 180°,
speed 13-17 knots.

0850 CO 9392 4 small freighters up to 2,000 GRT,
1 medium-sized freighter, 4 escorts.

0833 CO 9215 6 merchant ships, 4 escorts, course
280°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

At 0800 on 8 January, Cape Tres Forcas sighted
1 British convoy (1 large steamer, 5 anti-
submarine vessels), southeasterly course.

e) By naval forces:

At 0808 Italian naval forces sighted 1 submarine
in CJ 4713.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 was ordered to put in to Spezia.

U 431 was ordered to proceed from Entrance Point
Adria via CK 1255 to CO 5285.

U 617 reported from CO 2884 by short signal.

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U 561 reported that reconnaissance of area around Jaffa showed heavy patrolling (see War Diary for 4 January 1943, IV).

At 0105, a British aircraft reported a U-boat in CH 5977 (probably U 73).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

In C-in-C U-boats G 326/A5 of 8 January, the names of the 16 members of the crew of U 331 (Lieut. Commander (s.g.) Tiesenhausen) who are prisoners of war have been announced.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

9 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8440,
U 371 CH 6380,
U 561 CP 5350,
U 431 CK 4450,
U 617 CO 5510.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as west of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Crete, reconnaissance of inshore waters of Derna, Mersa Matruh, reconnaissance of inshore waters north of Alexandria.
Meteorological reconnaissance of Cyprus.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

U 73 sighted 2 passenger ships, course 90°, speed 16 knots in CH 8183 at 1145.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1125 CH 8288 26 merchant ships, 4 escorts, westerly course.

2230 CH 9662 1 possible warship.

0740 CO 5958 2 destroyers, 1 escort vessel, course 240°.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, 4 convoys were in the Alexandria-Apollonia area, 3 of them westbound, 1 on an unknown course.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1920 U 431 - proceeding to operational area in the Western Mediterranean - was ordered to make a search for Major Schweighardt (holder of oak leaves to Knight's Cross) in the area CK 7892, CO 1314 and CO 1337; he had to make a forced landing on a flight from Catania to Athens.

U 561 requested permission to return because of various breakdowns and because he was leaking badly. U 561 had been at sea since 25 November with an interval of 5 days to replenish supplies in Messina. At 2040 U 561 was ordered to proceed to Pola.

At 0107 on 10 January a U-boat in CH 8279 was reported by a British aircraft (probably U 73).

The Führer has awarded the oak leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross to Lieut.(s.g.) Guggenberger (the former commander of U 81) as the 171st recipient in the German forces.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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10 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 8180,
U 371 CJ 1380,
U 431 CK 7890,
U 561 CP 5170,
U 617 CO 5580.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put in to Spezia at 0930.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as east of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Sidi Barrani - Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0907 CH 9465 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 escorts.
1515 9564 the same convoy, easterly course.
- 2) 0955 CH 9542 13 merchant ships, 13 escorts, easterly course.
1405 9564 the same convoy, course 75°.
1815 CH 9537 2 destroyers, easterly course.
1710 CO 4722 11 units, 4 of them warships, course 330°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0913 CH 9466 convoy "Rathume" (2-3 steamers, 3 escorts), see III.b.1.
1040 CO 5723 convoy (attacked by aircraft).

According to Italian radio intelligence, 4 convoys were in the Alexandria-Benghazi area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1234, U 431 was ordered to continue his passage into the operational area if his search was unsuccessful by the time darkness fell (see War Diary for 11 January, IV).

U 617 received permission to attack submarines in his operational area.

U 73 requested permission to return because his radio location set was out of order and there were further more serious breakdowns. (U 73 has been at sea since 22 December.) At 2140 the boat was ordered to return to Spezia.

So there are at present no boats in the operational area of the Western Mediterranean.

U 617 is in an operational area in the Eastern Mediterranean, U 431 is proceeding thither.

At 1000 an enemy aircraft sighted U-boat in CH 8145 (probably U 73).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

11 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 73 CH 5950,
U 431 CO 2710,
U 561 CO 6290,
U 617 CO 6790.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 453 out out from Spezia at 1705.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as about 60 miles west of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Amer to Benghazi; from Derna to Sidi Barrani.
Reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus and along the coast of Syria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1205 CH 8385 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 GRT,
1 destroyer, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1800 40 steamers and 12 escort units passed Ceuta to the west.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1146, U 73 reported that he was 30 hours from entrance point North and at 1618 was ordered to put in to Spezia.

At 1926, U 431 was ordered to proceed eastwards from CO 5832 on the 200 meter line. As he would pass through U 617's operational area, the latter was forbidden to attack submarines.

At 0100 U 224 reported by short signal "Yes" that he has made his breakthrough through the Straits of Gibraltar. 24 boats are now in the Mediterranean.

U 224 is given CH 81, 82, 84 and 85 as attack area.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

According to C-in-C U-boats G 434/A5 of 10 January, 2 more men from U 331 are prisoners of war.

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VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8430,
U 453 CJ 4170,
U 73 CH 6380,
U 617 CO 5960,
U 431 CO 5580,
U 561 CO 2710.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 83 put out from Spezia at 1630.
U 205 put out from Pola at 1530.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters: 1) Apollonia - Mersa Matruh, 2) Mersa Lukk, Cape Kanais, Tolemaide - Tobruk. Land reconnaissance of Tunisia.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0840 CH 9653 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course.

2) 1050 CH 9565 3 merchant ships (probably tankers, no course or speed given).

c) By radio intercept service:

1100 on 11 January 3 units south of Malta (probably destroyers), speed 22-25 knots, course 26°.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

2130-2230 on 11 January 11 steamers, 6 escort units put out from Gibraltar bound for Mediterranean.

1200 Tres Forcas 15 steamers, 5 destroyers, easterly course, speed 6 knots.

1600 20 freighters, 2 tankers, 6 gunboats, passed Tangier bound for the Mediterranean.

1600 eastbound from Gibraltar the "Nelson", the "Rodney", the carrier "Formidable", 8 destroyers, 2 gunboats.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 was given CH 83, 94 and 95 western third as attack area, and instructions about the route taken by enemy traffic in the operational area.

The reports of enemy movements received during the day were passed on to the boats.

At 0845 one of our aircraft sighted a U-boat in CO 5115, course 300° (possibly U 561 on return passage to Pola).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

We may conclude from the fact that the heavy forces have put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, taken in conjunction with convoys notified coming from the Atlantic, that there will be increased traffic in the Mediterranean in the immediate future.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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13 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8470,
U 453 CH 9430,
U 83 CJ 4140,
U 73 CJ 1380,
U 205 CJ 6230,
U 561 CK 7890,
U 617 CO 5960,
U 431 CO 9210.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 73 put in to Spezia at 1000.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as Arzeu Bay.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Crete, north and south of Cyprus. Reconnaissance of inshore waters Tolima to Ras Azzaz, Mersa Matruh to Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1100 CH 9457 1 convoy.

2) 1515 CH 8381 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course.

3) 1600 CH 8464 (30 miles northeast of Arzeu)
12 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 3 escorts, easterly course.
1630 CH 8515 the same convoy.

4) 1700 CH 9457 8 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 4 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 3 escorts.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Convoys in Tobruk, Apollonia, Sollum areas.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 2020 U 83 was assigned CH 76 and 79 as his attack area.

U 431 was given carte blanche east of 31° E and permission to attack submarines in this area.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

14 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8270,
U 453 CH 9440,
U 83 CH 9120,
U 205 CK 4870,
U 561 CK 4440,
U 617 CO 5960,
U 431 CP 7180.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as north of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.
Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Mersa Matruh and Derna to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1130 4 merchant ships of 3,000-5,000 GRT,
4 escorts putting in to Bone.

2) 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 4 escorts
putting out from Bone.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1015 CM 6253 5 transports, including one passenger ship of 20,000 GRT, and 1 tanker, 6 escorts, course 140°, speed 10 knots. Composition of convoy doubtful. Malta has been constantly reconnoitered, no passenger ship of 20,000 GRT was in the harbors or bays.

c) By radio intercept service:

In the early hours of the night, one convoy eastbound from Malta (probably the same as in III.B.b).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

About 1045, Italian navy reported sighting a submarine at 0900 10 miles abreast of Otranto, southerly course. Since U 205 when putting to sea must have passed through the Straits at about 0300, 20 miles off the coast, we suspect this is an enemy submarine. U 205 and U 561 - on return passage - (position at 0900 by dead reckoning is about CK 4440) were at 0900 requested to report their positions immediately by short signal. Reports were received at 1145 and 1155. The boat sighted was U 205. U 561's position (4441) tallied with that by dead reckoning.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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15 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8270,
U 205 CO 1830,
U 453 CH 9440,
U 561 CJ 2360,
U 83 CH 7660,
U 617 CO 5720,
U 431 CP 7180.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 561 put in to Pola at 1020.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 40 miles north-east of Arzeu Bay.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance in the Malta-Benghazi area.
Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta.
Reconnaissance of Crete, north and west of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1015 5 fairly large merchant ships stationary in Bone roads.

2) 1030 CH 7751 (8 miles north of Philippeville) 1 probable battleship, easterly course, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0720 CO 5482 1 merchant ship of 5,000 GRT, 3 escorting vessels, easterly course, speed 10 knots.

2) 0905 CO 4736 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 2 tankers, 8 destroyers, 3 escorts, course 140^o, speed 10 knots.

1515 CO 4922 12 units eastbound (possibly one part of convoy of 0905).

1420 CO 4978 (possibly another part of the convoy at 0905) bound for Benghazi.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) One westbound convoy in the Benghazi area and also one in the Tobruk area.

2) One eastbound convoy in the Apollonia area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 205 was assigned CO 45, 46, 48 and 49 as his attack area. At 2221 a success report was received from U 617. Since the boat had only one stern torpedo left, he commenced his return passage to Salamis. Various radio messages about enemy reports were transmitted to the boats during the day.

V. a) Successes:

U 617 reported: 1) at 0630 on 13 January, 1 small and 1 medium-sized freighter sunk in 5721 (CO) from a convoy of 3 steamers, 3 escorts; 2) at 1030 on 15 January in CO 5722 convoy from Malta of 1 standard and 1 large freighter, 3 escorts. Both steamers sunk.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 JANUARY, 1943

PG/30930

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16 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8270,
U 453 CH 5980,
U 83 CH 7650,
U 205 CO 4680,
U 617 CP 2880,
U 431 CP 7180.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 50 miles west of Cape Tenes.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters between Alexandria and Mersa Matruh, also between Benghazi and Tobruk.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1027 8436 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 GRT, westerly course.
- 2) 1350 CH 9554 1 merchant ship of 5,000 GRT (30 miles northwest of Bougie), westerly course, moderate speed.
- 3) Submarine sightings: 1000 CJ 7699
0945 CJ 5966
15 January 1800 CJ 1426.

c) By radio intercept service:

14 January 2000 CH 7525 1 submarine (Dolfium?)
(Translator's note: Dolphin.)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 15 January 1800 Cape Spartel, 11 transports, 6 destroyers bound for the Mediterranean

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passed Ceuta at 2215. 1 ship with 3 funnels, 4 with 2 funnels in the convoy.

2) At 1115 convoy of 7 freighters, 1 freighter with catapult, 2 tankers, 3 destroyers, 3 gunboats passed Ceuta bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

At 0320 an Italian torpedoboat in action with 3 destroyers in CN 5314 (50 miles south of Lampedusa).

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The boats in the Western Mediterranean, U 83 and U 453 were ordered to concentrate their operations further south, U 244 to the southern third of CH 81. We can reckon on the convoy reported in III A.d.1) being off Algiers at dawn; at 1735 U 453 was therefore ordered to concentrate on the western part of his operational area (83, 94, 95 western third) in order to intercept the convoy while it was still dark.

At 1525 an enemy aircraft reported attacking a U-boat with depth charges in CH 5896 with a possible hit.

U 224 and U 453, who may be near the position of the attack, were then requested for position reports. At 0554 U 453's report was received from CH 5998.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

17 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8230,
U 453 CH 5990,
U 83 CH 7650,
U 205 CO 4680,
U 431 CP 7190.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 made fast in Salamis at 0845.
U 407 put out from Pola at 1400 to proceed to Messina. (Plans: operations in Western Mediterranean.)

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Tobruk, Mersa Matruh to Alexandria. Reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus (broken off because of weather). Reconnaissance of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0930 CH 9558 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 GRT,
1 destroyer, easterly course,
moderate speed.
1415 CH 9467 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT,
3 escorts, probably easterly
course.
1725 CH 9464 5 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT,
3 escorts, easterly course.

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1750 CH 9464 (40 miles eastnortheast of Algiers)
3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT,
4 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT,
2 destroyers, 3 escorts, course 90°,
speed 10 knots.

0500 18 January CJ 7628 2 possible cruisers and
destroyers, course 220° - 180°
(aircraft was fired on when recog-
nition signals were requested).

c) By radio intercept service:

1900 CH 9519 convoy reported attack by aircraft,
course 72°, speed 8 knots.

2229 CH 9556 (probably the same convoy, again
reported attack by aircraft).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance: Submarine sightings:

1) 0908 CN 5198	} enemy submarines
2) 1126 CK 8683	
3) 1100 CO 2387	

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 224 was again requested for a position report
as this has not been received. U 431 was also
requested for a position report. This boat put
out from Pola on 7 January to operate in the
Eastern Mediterranean, and should have reported
"Yes" on passing 31° E. No report has been
received to date. Neither boat reported during
the day.

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V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

18 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 224 CH 8240,
U 453 CH 5980,
U 83 CH 7650,
U 205 CO 4670,
U 431 CP 7190,
U 407 CJ 6220.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance, no further details.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.
Reconnaissance of inshore waters Mersa Matruh,
Derna - Sollum, Ras Amer - Benghazi.
Reconnaissance around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1125 CJ 7717 4 merchant ships up to 5,000
GRT, 3 escorts, easterly course,
moderate speed.

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- 2) 2100 CJ 7753 7 merchant ships, 5 escorts,
westerly course.
- 3) 2312 CJ 7722 10 merchant ships up to 5,000
GRT, 8 escorts, westerly course.
0445 CJ 7716 3 steamers in a westbound
convoy were reported on fire.
0630 CJ 7714 the same convoy.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1730 16 steamers, 4 tankers, 3 destroyers,
4 gunboats put out from Gibraltar into
the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0850 CJ 9533 1 submarine }
1021 CN 5831 1 submarine } enemy submarines.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 224 and U 431 were again requested to send
position reports. Reports were not received.
The boats have been informed of reports on the
enemy received here.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

19 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 453 CH 5960,
U 83 CH 7650,
U 205 CO 4670,
U 431 CP 7190 ?,
U 407 CK 7580.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance to about 3° W.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Port Said. Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Sidi Barrani and Takra - Ras Amer. Sea reconnaissance of Crete. Sea reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1445 CH 7675 15 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 5 escorts (later reported probably on a westerly course).

2) 1505 CH 7493 50 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, indefinite number of escorts, course 130° (see also under d).

3) 1510 CH 9644 9 merchant ships, 9 escorts, westerly course (possibly the convoy last reported at 0630 in

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War Diary for 18 January, III.A.b.3). The same convoy was reported at 1236, no position given, apparently putting in to Bougie.

4) 0307 CH 9462 2 destroyers, westerly course.

5) 2 submarine sightings: 1400 CJ 8898.
1615 CJ 8912.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1841 CH 9552 convoy was attacked by aircraft (probably the same as III.A.b.3).

2) 2305 CH 9612 2 shadowers on convoy, course 270°, speed 22 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) Ceuta, from 0100 to 0200, convoy of 49 freighters, some of them liners, bound for the Mediterranean (see III.A.b.2). The same convoy was reported at 1400 approximately 40 miles north of Melilla with 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1025 CO 4975 1 merchant ship, 2 destroyers, (10 miles northwest of Benghazi), course 45°, speed slight.

2) 0100 CN 2251 1 submarine.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat Operations:

At 0750 a success report was received from U 83 (see V.a).

U 407 - proceeding to Messina - reported that he will be at Point S 2 at 0800 on 20 January.

At 1258 the boats were notified of the new reduced anti-submarine hunt area off the south coast of France. The boats can now return to Spezia from the Western Mediterranean north of the Balearic Islands.

U 83 and U 453 each received an operational order during the evening, connected with orders issued by Naval War Staff as to the disposition of the boats based on the extraordinarily lively enemy activity in the Western Mediterranean (see under VI).

In order to be sure of U 224's and U 431's positions, both boats were requested to transmit short weather reports during the night. U 431 put out from Pola on 7 January and carried out tests with one of our aircraft in the Adriatic on 8 January. Since then no report has been received from the boat, in spite of requests for a position report on 17 and 18 January. U 224 reported entering the Mediterranean by short signal "Yes" on 12 January. The boat was requested to report its position because of an attack on a U-boat reported by an enemy aircraft. The boat did not reply to this, nor to the position reports requested on 17 and 18 January.

V. a) Successes:

U 83 reported: "At 1812 (18 January) a fan of two fired at 2 overlapping steamers (medium-sized) in CH 7688. One explosion. Hit probable. Sinking noises for a short time."

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

1) At 1530 the following teleprint message was received from Naval War Staff:

"1) Army High Command informed us: 100,000 GRT of shipping in Bone and 300,000 GRT in Algiers, also information from agents, leads us to conclude that another major British action in the Central Mediterranean is possible.

2) U-boats in the Western Mediterranean will operate in the Algiers - Bone - Sardinia area, fitting in with the Italian U-boat disposition.

Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations)
1A 197/43 Most Secret. S.O.s only."

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- 2) Flag Officer German Naval Command Italy issued the following directive under serial number 15/43:

"Reference Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) 1A 197/43 Most Secret S.O.s only.

To execute the instructions transmitted in para. 2 of the above, the Algiers - southern tip of Sardinia - Bone sea area is to be occupied in as close a chessboard formation as possible. This has been decided in agreement with the Italian navy and the Algiers - Bone coastal strip has been reserved for the German boats. The boats now operating between Oran and Algiers will not withdraw from their present attack areas until the present Gibraltar convoys have passed."

- 3) There are at present two boats in the Western Mediterranean (U 81 and U 453). (We must presume U 224 lost; the boat has not reported after repeated requests.)

U 83 has occupied CH 76 and 79 and U 453 CH 83, 94, 95 western third as their attack areas.

U 407 is proceeding from Pola to the Western Mediterranean via Messina.

Both boats will be in the operational area by 23 January at the earliest.

- 4) The "Rodney", the "Nelson" and the "Formidable" put out from Gibraltar on 12 January to act as escorts for the present heavy enemy supply traffic. The formation has not been intercepted lately, but is believed to be still at sea.

Information about enemy traffic shows that an eastbound convoy consisting of 50 merchant ships and an indefinite number of escorts put out from Gibraltar between 0100 and 0200 on 19 January. It is also known that there is westbound traffic. The German Air Force sighted the convoy of 50 merchant ships at 1505 in CH 7493.

- 5) Plans in accordance with directive:

a) U 83 will remain in the former operational area and operate on the convoy. If he does not gain contact he will commence his eastward passage at first light on 20 January, as the convoy will then have passed U 83's attack area. U 83 will occupy CH 94 as his new attack area.

b) U 453 will remain in his former operational area, concentrating on the western and southern part, and operate on the convoy. After the convoy has passed, U 453 will be assigned a new attack area east of Algiers by the morning of 21 January at the latest.

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- c) U 224 is no longer included in our calculations.
 - d) After the next 2 boats have arrived in the operational area the Algiers - Bougie coastal strip will be occupied by 3 boats. The fourth will be assigned CH 91 as his attack area, as covering forces are suspected here and also to intercept traffic proceeding at a slight distance from the coast.
- 6) The request was forwarded to Supermarina to reserve operations in the coastal strip from Algiers to Bone to a breadth of 50 miles for German U-boats, and to put Italian U-boats into operation to the east and north of the German attack area.

A conference with Supermarina on this subject showed:

- a) Supermarina does not believe there will be a major enemy operation (landing on a bridgehead in Tunisia or on Sardinia), but that Oran, Algiers and Bone are being supplied with heavy forces.
- b) With reference to the numerical weakness of the German boats and the Italian interpretation of 1), Italian U-boats are also intended for operations in the coastal strip, at first 6 boats in the Bougie - Philippeville sea area as far as 30° N.

(Signed) Kreisch.

20 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 453 CH 8390,
U 83 CH 7660,
U 205 CO 4670,
U 407 CJ 9890.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 put in to Messina at 1005, put out from Messina at 1845.
U 301 put out from Spezia at 1600.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as the Greenwich meridian approximately.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Mersa Matruh - Alexandria. Sea reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus. Probing reconnaissance off Port Said.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 453 1633 CH 8521 48 ships (7 columns),
course 70°, speed 10 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1325 CH 8438 38 merchant vessels, 10
escorts, course 60°, speed
10 knots.

1510 CH 8511 the same convoy.

1810 CH 8286 the same convoy.

2030 CH 8296 the same convoy, but only
45 units.

0325 CH 9472 the same convoy (north of
Algiers).

2) 1145 40 merchant ships putting out from
Algiers on a northerly course.

1800 CH 8356 30 ships, westerly course,
(probably the same convoy).

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 2040 escort unit reported aircraft attack
in 8374, course 267°, speed 7 knots.
(possibly convoy in III.A.b.2).

2) The "Nelson" group is probably in the
Oran - Algiers area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean.

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

During the day numerous sighting reports of enemy submarines were received.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 reported a success on a large eastbound convoy (see V.a).

At 2011 one of our aircraft reported a surfaced U-boat 30 miles astern of the convoy. This is probably U 453, which must have been in CH 8288 at this time according to the convoy position (CH 8296) reported at 2030.

At 1850 an aircraft reported a depth charge attack on a U-boat in 8414, course 70°, speed 8 knots. This was probably U 83. U 407 reported, time of origin 0100, that he was returning to Spezia. Reason: forward hydroplane out of order. According to a telephone conversation with the Commander of U 407 the damage had become apparent while proceeding from Pola to Messina, and could not be repaired in Messina. Commander decided to return to Spezia after repeated fairly long dives after putting out from Messina. A boat is thus out of action which is at present urgently needed for operations on the extraordinarily large amount of traffic running in the Western Mediterranean.

The boats have been kept informed of the latest German Air Force reports on the enemy.

V. a) Successes:

Success report from U 453: "Eastbound convoy of 48 ships, 7 columns in CH 8521 at 1633, course 70°, speed 10 knots. Barrage balloons. Four single shots at 2 freighters and 2 transports of 6,000-8,000 GRT each. 3 hits, one definitely sunk."

While the number of enemy units was reported by air reconnaissance as 48 before U 453's attack, after 1630 only 45 units were reported. There are good grounds for supposing that all 3 hits, which were gained on 3 different vessels, resulted in sinkings.

b) Losses:

We must presume U 431 is lost, since the boat has not reported in spite of repeated requests.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

21 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 453 CH 8270,
U 83 CH 8170,
U 205 CO 4670,
U 301 CJ 4140,
U 407 CJ 9150.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as abreast of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta,
reconnaissance of inshore waters of Africa and
reconnaissance around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1) 0930 from U 83, westbound convoy in
CH 8179 (probably the convoy which put
out from Algiers at 1145 on 20 January).

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0930 CH 9673 4 merchant ships up to
5,000 GRT.
- 2) 0900 CH 7844 (north of Bone) 3 merchant
ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2
escorts, southerly course.
- 3) 1020 CH 9483 26 merchant ships, 8 escorts
(rest of the large convoy),
course 60°, moderate speed.
1415 CH 9544 21 merchant ships, 8 escorts,
easterly course.
1830 CH 9558 20 merchant ships, 8 escorts,
easterly course, speed slight.
2240 CH 9645 the same convoy.
0445 CH 9658 the same convoy.
- 4) 1120 CH 9548 5 minesweepers, easterly
course.

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c) By radio intercept service:

2150 CH 9566 British unit reported shadower on convoy (see III.A.b.3).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 was directed to CH 95 western half as his attack area if he had not contacted the large convoy.

U 407 reported his position from CJ 5584 at 1300 when requested.

U 83 was requested to make a short weather report during the night. (Boat was probably attacked by aircraft with depth charges at 1850 on 20 January.) As the boat's success report has been received meanwhile, the short weather report was cancelled by radio message at 0040. At 0450 U 83's weather report was received all the same.

U 301 was directed to CH 91 as attack area in a radio message at 2033.

The boats were informed of reports received here about enemy movements.

V. a) Successes:

U 83 reported, time of origin 1059: "1) Fan fired at 0929 in CH 8179 at westbound convoy, 4 hits. 6,000 GRT and 4,000 GRT freighters sunk. Sinking noises. Another damaged. Probably sunk."

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

22 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 8180,
U 453 CH 8280,
U 301 CH 9120,
U 407 CJ 1380,
U 205 CO 4670.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 put in to Spezia at 1030.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the sea area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria, then reconnaissance as far as Mersa Matruh. Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Amer to Benghazi. Reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0630 22 January CJ 7741 (32 units). This is the rest of the large convoy from Gibraltar (see War Diary for 21 January, III.A.b.3).

1530 north of Bone, the same convoy with 20 ships making for Bone.

1700 putting in to Bone (12 units probably put in to Philippeville).

2) 1210 CJ 7742 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2 transports, 3 escorts, westerly course.

3) 1245 CH 9569 3 destroyers, 1 torpedoboat, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0920 CO 4792 2 destroyers, course 130°.

c) By radio intercept service:

2 convoys were in the Mersa Matruh area.
1 convoy was in the Tobruk area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 83 was ordered to proceed to CH 94 in the course of the directives.

U 453 received CH 95 and CH 96 western third as his attack area.

The boats were informed of the reports on the enemy received here.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

In Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret S.O.s only 12/43 of 23 January, C-in-C U-boats was informed (copy to German Naval Command Italy) of the possible loss of U 224 and in Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret 170/43 of the probable loss of U 431.

VI. General situation:

According to radio message C-in-C U-boats 432 A5 Lieut.(s.g.) Brandi has been awarded the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

23 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 9450,
U 301 CH 9150,
U 205 CO 4680,
U 453 CH 9550.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put out from Salamis at 1315, put in to Salamis at 1715 after a collision with his escort vessel.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria and reconnaissance of inshore waters as far as Mersa Matruh. Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna - Tobruk. Reconnaissance of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Italian U-boat sighted a convoy at 1950 in CH 9649; course 270°, speed 13 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1235 CJ 7763 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 4 escorts, course 280°, speed slight (20 miles northwest of Bone, probably coming from Bone).

c) By radio intercept service:

1811 unknown unit reported shadower on a convoy in CJ 7717.

1840 CH 9639 the convoy was attacked by aircraft.

All the reports (a, b, c) probably refer to the same convoy.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1034 CP 5975 2 transports, 1 escort, 1 M.T.B.,
course 195°, speed 6 knots
(southwest of Haifa).

1658 Benghazi roads, 4 destroyers, 2 escort
vessels stationary.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Sightings and reports of enemy submarines:

0832 CH 3231 (30 miles east of Catania).

0835 CJ 9856 (20 miles south of Messina).

1400 CH 2122 (45 miles northeast of Bizerta).

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 2026 U 205 was ordered to extend his operational area eastwards to the meridian of 5465, i.e. also to the area in which there were formerly 2 Italian boats, which were withdrawn.

At 2201 the boats were informed of the following route on which enemy traffic is running according to experience gained during recent weeks:

1) From Gibraltar to Algiers for eastbound convoys via CH 7493, 7689, 7696, 8438, 8511, 8286, 8296, 9472.

2) From Algiers to Gibraltar for westbound convoys via CH 9472, 8296, 8286, thence to 8179.

Reports of enemy movements received during the day were passed on to the boats.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

The "Nelson" group is still at sea. To date it has been intercepted neither by our aircraft nor by the U-boats (at present there are only 3 boats in the Western Mediterranean). According to radio intelligence, the "Nelson" was located in the Oran area.

(Signed) Kreisch.

24 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 9450,
U 301 CH 9150,
U 453 CH 9560,
U 205 CO 4680.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance in area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Port Said to Alexandria. Reconnaissance around Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

At 1957 on 23 January an Italian U-boat torpedoed 1 large steamer in CH 9657 (see War Diary for 23 January, III.A.a).

At 1138 U 83 reported a convoy in CH 9453, course 260°, speed 7 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0320 24 January CH 9544 possibly 8 units, westerly course.

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c) By radio intercept service:

The "Nelson" group is suspected to be in the Oran Sea area according to radio traffic.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

At 1736 German aircraft reported 1 transport, 1 tanker, 13 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 8 destroyers, 3 escort vessels, westerly course, speed 12 knots in CO 4889.

At 1736 Italian aircraft reported 4 steamers, 1 transport, 8 destroyers, 3 escorts, course 270°, speed 2 knots in CO 4899.

At 2140 4 M.T.B.s in CN 2554, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

2 convoys in Tobruk area, 1 convoy in Sollum area, 1 convoy in Benghazi area were intercepted by radio.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1220 U 453 was informed that there were Italian U-boats temporarily in his area.

U 83, U 301, U 453 were given new attack areas (see under VI):

Reports received here of enemy movements were passed on to the boats.

During the day numerous reports were received of enemy submarines sighted.

At 0250 one of our aircraft sighted one U-boat in CH 8339, northwesterly course (probably U 83).

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- V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.
- b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

At 1557 the following teleprint message was received:

"Reference Naval War Staff 1st Division I U (U-boats) Serial Number 197 Most Secret S.O.s only of 19 January:

The restrictions on U-boat operations in the Western Mediterranean ordered in message under reference are removed. Operate on own judgment. Report plans.

German Naval High Command, Naval War Staff 1st Division I U (U-boats) 2314/43 Most Secret."

(See War Diary for 19 January, VI).

The boats were then assigned new attack areas west of their former ones. German Naval Command received the report in letter form. The following will occupy: U 301 CH 81 and CH 84; U 83 CH 82 and CH 85; U 453 CH 83 and CH 94.

(Signed) Kreisch.

25 January 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- U 83 CH 8260,
U 301 CH 8190,
U 453 CH 8350,
U 205 CO 5470.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
- Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta.
Reconnaissance of inshore waters around Crete.
Reconnaissance of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1050 CH 9639 possible aircraft carrier,
4 possible light naval units,
course 90°, moderate speed,
escorted by fighters.
1345 CJ 7718 2 possible cruisers, 2 possible
destroyers, course 90°, speed
20 knots (no carrier observed).
1800 CJ 7847 4 destroyers (6 miles north of
Bone), stopped.
- 2) 2130 CJ 7833 3 units, no course or speed
given.

c) By radio intercept service:

The presence of the "Nelson" group in the sea
area of Oran has been confirmed.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

25 January. Between 2300 and 2320 1 convoy of
11 units passed Gibraltar bound
for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

At 1612 3rd E-boat Flotilla reported that there
was no carrier with the convoy (see III.A.b.1).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence there are 2
convoys in the Sollum area, 1 or 2 in the
Mersa Matruh area, 1 near Alexandria.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 2008 U 205 was requested to report his position during the night. (No report from boat since 14 January.)

U 205 reported, time of origin 1947, that he was on return passage to Salamis. (Radio location set broken down, both compensating fuel tanks and port compensating tank leaking.)

Radio message of the convoy was sent to the boats at 0356 (see III.A.d).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Since U 205 has commenced his return passage there are now no boats in the Eastern Mediterranean.

(Signed) Kreisch.

26 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 8280,
U 301 CH 8420,
U 453 CH 9440,
U 205 CO 2670.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 77 put out from Spezia at 1700.
U 205 made fast in Salamis at 1915.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Nile Delta, reconnaissance of inshore waters, reconnaissance around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Italian U-boat:

0800 CH 9623) steamers of 3,000-5,000 GRT,
3 torpedoboats, course 270°,
speed 7 knots.

0830 CH 9156 3 steamers, indefinite number
of destroyers, course 270°,
speed 7 knots.

U 453:

2130 CH 9435 convoy, course 240°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1000 CJ 7814 2 merchant ships, 2 escorts,
(27 miles north of Bone), no
course or speed given.

2) 1005 CH 9647 7 merchant ships up to 5,000
GRT, 1 up to 10,000 GRT, 10
escorts, strong fighter cover,
westerly course.

1655 CH 9548 6 steamers, 8 escorts (18
miles eastnortheast of Cape
Bengut), course 270°;
moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1032 CH 9627 convoy.

1908 CH 9551) convoy was attacked by
0248 CH 9458) aircraft.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0810 CH 7812 (14 miles north of Tres Forcas)
13 steamers, 7 escort units,
easterly course, speed 8 knots
(see War Diary for 25 January,
III.A.d).

According to a later report the convoy
consisted of 4 transports, 1 tanker, 9
freighters.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

During the day the boats received several radio messages concerning reports received on the enemy.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

According to German Naval High Command Radio Intelligence Division 0900 C of 26 January, the British radio reported the recent destruction of a German U-boat in the Mediterranean by the corvette "Ville de Quebec" (Captain - Lieut.Cdr. Robert Ernest Colman): Boat was attacked with depth charges and forced to surface, attacked with gunfire and finally rammed close by the conning tower. Boat sank bow first. One survivor was picked up.

It is not impossible that this was U 224. A more probable assumption, however, is that U 224 was lost through bombing. In favor of this are the following facts:

On 16 January a British aircraft at 1525 reported a depth charge attack on a U-boat in CH 5896, with probable hits. U 224's operational area was CH 81, 82, 84 and 85, but he may have moved away northward to 58. No answers were received to requests for position reports on 16, 17 and 18 January or for a weather report on 19 January.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

Captain U-boats went to Spezia at 0755.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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27 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 8250,
U 301 CH 8420,
U 453 CH 8360,
U 77 CJ 1790.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 and U 755 put out from Spezia at 1600 for the Western Mediterranean.
U 617 put out from Salamis at 1830 for the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Tobruk/Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 83 reported a convoy in CH 8289 at 1925, course 260°, speed 7 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1330 CH 8382 7 merchant ships of 5,000-10,000 GRT, 5 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 5 escorts, westerly course, speed 12 knots (41 miles west of Algiers).

2) 0250 27 January 25 miles eastnortheast of Algiers, westbound convoy.

3) 0545 CH 9175 4 ships } course and speed
CH 9181 8 ships } not reported.

4) Off Algiers harbor 3-5 fairly large ships, stationary.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0030 27 January. Gibraltar, bound for the Mediterranean, 16 freighters, about 2 tankers, about 5 escort units (or more, not clearly made out because of bad visibility).

1015 15 miles northwest of Tres Forcas the same convoy (16 merchant ships, 5 warships, probably destroyers, 8 barrage balloons).

2) 0747 Cape Tres Forcas 1 steamer, 2 destroyers, easterly course, speed 8 knots.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

At 1200 the following convoys were at sea:
1 in the Benghazi area,
2 in the Tobruk area,
1 between Port Said and Alexandria.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an agent's report, a convoy of 2 cruisers, 10 torpedoboats, 5 submarines, 4 destroyers, 8 minesweepers and minelayers and 5 tankers proceeded from Benghazi to Tripoli on 24 January.

e) By naval forces: Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

We intend to direct U 77 - proceeding into the operational area - to the southern part of U 83's former operational area, and after U 77's arrival U 83 will operate in the northern part. (Reason: Most of the traffic passes in the south; U 77 can intercept this with his full load of torpedoes, U 83 has only 4 torpedoes left.) Both boats therefore received the following orders: "Occupy as attack area: U 77 CH 82 southern third and CH 85. After 29 January U 83 northern and center thirds of CH 82."

Reports on the enemy received here were passed on to the boats.

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V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.

b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

2000 Captain U-boats returned from Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 8280,
U 77 CH 6750,
U 301 CH 8430,
U 453 CH 8350,
U 596 CH 4110,
U 755 CH 4120,
U 617 CO 5229.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in Melilla - Algiers area.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Cyprus and Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Italian U-boat:
0140 CH 9614 (bearing 20°, 35 miles from Bougie) indefinite number of steamers, course 250°, speed 11 knots.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1150 CH 7698 10 merchant ships, 3 escorts, westerly course.
- 2) 1211 CH 8457 12 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 10 escorts, easterly course, speed 10 knots.
- 1800 CH 8275 (28 miles westnorthwest of Cape Tenes) enemy convoy, our aircraft shadowing convoy.
- 0340 CH 8393 (20 miles westnorthwest of Algiers) convoy, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Convoys in the Derna, Sollum and Tobruk areas were intercepted by radio.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

Firing report was received at 0747 from U 83. The boat was commencing the return passage to Spezia with one stern torpedo.

U 617 was ordered to extend the operational area assigned in his sailing orders (the area between meridians 31° and 20° E) to CO 54, 46 and 49. (Area northeast of Benghazi.)

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Since U 83 is homeward bound his operational area (CH 82 and 85) is vacant: U 77 is assigned this area as attack area. U 596 and U 755, outward bound, are given CH 81 and 83 as attack areas. As a result of this, U 453's attack area is limited to CH 94 and U 301's to CH 84.

At 1535, enemy aircraft reported a depth charge attack on a U-boat submerging in CH 6546; effect not observed. At 1620 unsuccessful bombing attack on a submerged U-boat in CH 6812. The boats at sea have been informed. (The boat in question may be U 83, homeward bound, or one of the boats U 77, U 596 and U 755 proceeding into the Western Mediterranean.)

During the day enemy submarines were repeatedly reported especially in the Sicilian Channel.

Reports received of enemy movements (especially the convoy in III.A.b.2) were passed on to the boats.

V. a) Successes:

U 83 reported: "At 1927 (27 January) fired at 3,000 GRT, violent double explosion after 14 minutes, bright flames." Because of the relatively long period between firing and explosion, and the fact that it is not definite from the report whether a hit was gained, the report is at present not evaluated as a success for U 83. An interview with the Commander on his return will clear up the matter.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 6570,
U 77 CH 8250,
U 301 CH 8190,
U 453 CH 9450,
U 596 CH 6750,
U 755 CH 6760,
U 617 CO 4690.

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- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

- b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Malta, south and north of Cyprus. Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:

U 453:

1) 0900 CH 9527 eastbound convoy, moderate speed.

2) 1408 CH 9516 westbound convoy, moderate speed.

Italian U-boat:

3) 1845 CH 9558 convoy with escort, course 90° , speed 10 knots (attacked by aircraft).

4) 0000 30 January CH 9663 convoy with escort, course 45° , speed 8 knots (probably the same as the convoy in 1).

- b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1230 CH 9537 3 patrol vessels, westerly course, high speed.

2) 1245 CH 9646 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2 escorts, easterly course.

3) 1215 CH 9473 convoy; course and speed not given.

1215 CH 9457 convoy of 23 units, easterly course.

1745 CH 9546 convoy, course and speed not given.

4) 1825 CJ 7844 3 possible warships, easterly course, high speed.

2040 CJ 7923 the same formation, probably 3 destroyers, course 100° , high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1840 CH 9556 unit in convoy (possibly see III.A.b.3) reported, shadower probably crashed.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence 1 convoy is suspected to be in the Mersa Matruh area and one off Derna.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 83 reported at 0910 that he was 30 hours from Entrance Point North and was ordered to put in to Spezia.

The following reports on the enemy were transmitted to the boats:

1606)
1717) convoy as in III.A.b.3.
2002)
2034 convoy as in III.A.a.2.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 January 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CH 6320,
U 77 CH 8280,
U 301 CH 8450,
U 453 CH 9460,
U 596 CH 8160,
U 617 CO 5470,
U 755 CH 8350.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Valetta. Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Cape Kanais to Tobruk. Reconnaissance of Tobruk - Tolmaide sea area.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1320 CJ 7739 convoy of 11 ships, probably 5 merchant ships, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1005 CO 9345 4 M.T.B.s (bearing 325°, 18 miles from Mersa Matruh).
- 2) 2210 CN 3788 probably 2 destroyers, course 270°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Convoys and units in the Sidi Barrani - Mersa Matruh area, Tobruk, Alexandria areas and between Benghazi and Tripoli were intercepted by radio.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 0910 an address from Grand Admiral Doenitz was transmitted to the boats on the occasion of his taking over Supreme Command of the Navy.

At 0912 the boats were informed of the supposed route of the convoys from Alexandria to Malta and back via CO 9122, CO 5994, CO 5584, CO 4685 and CO 4473.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Flag Officer German Naval Command issued the following directive:

"Boats which will be putting to sea in the immediate future will be deployed so that after reaching the operational area the total number of boats at sea is divided equally between the Eastern and the Western Mediterranean. Particulars of operational plans will be reported as soon as possible for the information of the Italian offices."

Operational considerations:

- 1) There are in the operational area at present:
 - a) in the west: 5 boats
 - b) in the east: 1 boat.
- 2) From 31 January to 5 February the following become operationally ready on the basis of the

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current war orders:
In Spezia: 6 boats
In Pola: 2 boats
In Salamis: 1 boat.

- 3) Boats lying in Pola and Salamis are assigned to the Eastern Mediterranean because of the shorter approach, and also boats in Spezia which have had especially strenuous operations during recent months.

This division has been arranged in such a way that - if no boats fall out prematurely - on 5 February 8 boats will be operating in the Western Mediterranean, including those outward bound, and 7 boats in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Since boats operating in the Western Mediterranean become spent, according to past experience, more quickly, it is necessary to keep their number higher in comparison to the east.

- 4) Operational area is scheduled as follows:

- a) In the west: sea area between 3° W and $4^{\circ} 30'$ E, concentration to the south on the coastal route. Italian U-boats are at present operating east of $4^{\circ} 30'$ E. As soon as these leave their operational area it is intended to extend the eastern limit for our boats to $7^{\circ} 31'$ E.
- b) In the east: the maritime area off Tripoli, also a 60 mile broad strip along the coast from Benghazi to 31° E. The sea area off the coast of Syria is now occupied by one boat, whose commander is on his first independent operation and is still inexperienced.

(Signed) Kreisch.

31 January 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 83 CJ 1390,
U 77 CH 8280,
U 301 CH 8450,
U 453 CH 9460,
U 596 CH 8180,
U 617 CO 5470,
U 755 CH 8350.

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b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 81 put out from Pola at 1400.
U 83 put out from Spezia at 1030.
U 407 put out from Spezia at 1800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Tolmaide.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1521 CH 9547 1 tanker, 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course, speed 8 knots.
- 2) 1600 CJ 7753 1 destroyer, easterly course, high speed (probably proceeding to Bone).
- 3) 2145 CJ 7845 3 ships, course 330°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0930 ? 9566 partial convoy of 2 vessels (20 miles north of Bougie).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- I. 1) 0135-0145/31 January. Tarifa reported: 12 darkened vessels, among them 2 apparent battleships, 5 apparent cruisers and 5 apparent destroyers, proceeding from the west to the Straits, speed 19 knots.
- 2) 0205 31 January. Tangier reported: 26 units bound for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 0245-0315 Ceuta reported: convoy, 1 aircraft carrier, 2 transports, 2 freighters, 2 destroyers passing from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

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4) 0235-0300 Ceuta reported that there were 6 large troopships with the convoy (one with 3 funnels and one with 2).

5) 0340-0400 (Ceuta) 1 aircraft carrier, 1 large transport, 1 probable destroyer proceeding from the Mediterranean to Gibraltar, probably from the convoy reported.

II. 0500 31 January. The "Renown", the "Furious" and 6 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the west.
0715 (Tangier) 1 aircraft carrier, 1 battleship, 6 destroyers, bound for the Atlantic.

III. 0910 according to an agent's report 1 large submarine put out from Gibraltar, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) Convoy traffic in the Mersa Matruh area was intercepted by radio.

2) 1331 CO 5577 bearing obtained on one unit.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1038 an address from Grand Admiral Doenitz "to my U-boat men" was transmitted - U 205, who will put to sea on 2 February is due to operate in the Eastern Mediterranean between 21° 41' E and 24° 30' E in a strip 60 miles broad off the coast. He cannot be expected to arrive there before 4 February. This area was formerly included in

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U 617's operational area. U 617 has been ordered to operate east of U 205's operational area as far as 31° E after 4 February.

U 407 made fast to buoy A1 at 2345 because of fog.

The following reports on the enemy were transmitted to the boats:

1714 convoy as in III.A.b)1).
1717 " " " III.A.d)I.3).
1858 " " " III.A.d)I.4).
2029 forces as in III.A.d)I.1).
2318 convoy as in III.A.b)3).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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Summary

- 1) The number of boats occupying the operational area was small during January. On the following dates there were:-

	<u>In the Western Mediterranean</u>	<u>In the Eastern Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward or outward bound</u>
1 January	2 boats	1 boat	2 boats
10 January	1 boat	2 boats	1 boat
20 January	2 boats	2 boats	1 boat
30 January	5 boats	2 boats	1 boat

On an average in the various periods there were:-

	<u>In the Western Mediterranean</u>	<u>In the Eastern Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward or outward bound</u>
from 1-10 Jan.	1.8 boats	1.2 boats	0.8 boats
" 11-20 Jan.	2.2 boats	1.7 boats	1.8 boats
" 21-31 Jan.	3.5 boats	1.9 boats	1.4 boats

On a monthly average there were in the operational area:-

2.5 boats 1.6 boats 1.3 boats

- 2) The unfavorable repair facilities in Spezia were primarily responsible for the small number of U-boats in the operational area. Severe delays in dock completion dates as well as lack of labor resulted chiefly from the Italian Fleet's move to Spezia. This caused extra long dockyard periods for the boats and therefore a numerical overcrowding of the base and further intensification of these difficulties. At times there were 14 U-boats in Spezia simultaneously. The numbers in dock on 30 January were as follows:-

Spezia

11 boats in dock, average duration of repairs 50 days. U 97 and U 73 are, as long-term cases, not considered, as they would give a false picture as a result of specially extensive work lasting several months.

Conditions for repairs can be regarded as normal for the 3 boats lying in Pola and Salamis in view of the present strained dockyard situation.

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3) The following successes were obtained:-

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Sunk</u> <u>No. of ships</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>	<u>Torpedoed</u>
1	U 73	1	8,000	2 hits on convoy, sinking noises.
2	U 77	-	-	-
3	U 83	2	10,000	2 hits on 2 medium-sized freighters, probably sunk.
4	U 205	-	-	-
5	U 224	-	-	-
6	U 301	-	-	-
7	U 371	1	1,759	1 freighter of 6,000 GRT torpedoed, probably sunk.
8	U 407	-	-	-
9	U 431	-	-	-
10	U 453	1	6,000	2 freighters of 8,000 GRT each torpedoed.
11	U 561	-	-	-
12	U 565	-	-	-
13	U 596	-	-	-
14	U 617	4	18,500	-
15	U 755	-	-	-
		<hr/>		
		9	44,259	
		<hr/>		

Result: Each boat at sea during January 1943 sank, in an average of 10.4 days at sea, 2950.6 GRT, that is 283.7 GRT per day at sea.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
1 - 15 FEBRUARY, 1943
PG/30930

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1 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 8280,
U 81 CJ 3765,
U 301 CH 8450,
U 407 CJ 1380,
U 453 CH 9460,
U 596 CH 8180,
U 617 CO 5960,
U 755 CH 8380.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 put out from Spezia at 1100 for the Eastern Mediterranean via Messina.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 80 miles west of Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh and from Ras el Hilal to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1135 CH 9441 6 merchant ships up to 5000 G.R.T., 6 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.

2) 1125 CH 8293 2 merchant ships up to 5000 G.R.T., 5 escorts, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

e) By naval forces:)

) Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

See under V a) (Success report from U 617).

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b) By air reconnaissance:

1145 CP 8291 1 large, 1 medium-sized merchant ship, 3 destroyers, course 30°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Intercepted by radio:

1) A convoy off Mersa Matruh in the afternoon.

2) One large vessel in the Tobruk area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 301 and U 617 at 2042 were ordered to report their positions at night by short signal. (No signal has been received from U 301 since he put out to sea on 20 January; U 617 reported crossing 35° N on 28 January.)

Success report was received from U 617 at 2147 (see V a).

U 301 did not report.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1322 as in III A b) 1).

1832 as in III A b) 2).

V. a) Successes:

U 617 reported at 2122: 1745 in 6776 2 hits on cruiser, depth 4, listed and left sinking. Bulkheads broken. "Dido" class, not certain owing to darkness.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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2 February, 1943.

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 8280, U 755 CH 8380,
U 301 CH 8450, U 617 CO 6770,
U 596 CH 8180, U 81 CK 4840,
U 453 CH 9460, U 380 CJ 9120.
U 407 CH 6390,

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 205 put out from Salamis at 1310 for the Eastern Mediterranean.
U 380 put in to Messina at 0100 on 3 February.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance west and southwest of Crete. Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Tobruk and from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- I. 1) 1315 CH 9645 14 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 7 escorts, westerly course.
- 2) 1526 9568 forces consisting of 1 anti-aircraft cruiser, 8 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 7 merchant ships up to 3,000 G.R.T., 9 escorts, westerly course, speed 10 knots.
- II. 1445 CJ 7763 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 merchant ships up to 3,000 G.R.T., 4 escorts, easterly course, speed 12 knots.
- III. 1315 CJ 7761 14 guardboats, no details of course or speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

I. 0300/1 February, Ceuta: 26 steamers, 9 destroyers, 1 "Illustrious" class carrier, 1 "Nelson" class battleship, probably a cruiser, no details of course and speed. According to a later report the formation was on a westerly course.

II. 1) 1240 Tangier: 10 large freighters (carrying lorries, light tanks, guns, tanks), 7 large tankers (1 carrying a deck cargo of aircraft).

2) 1445 the same formation was reported by Ceuta.

3) It was reported later that 7 of the 10 freighters were equipped with anti-torpedo nets.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

2015 CN 9335 2 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, course 10°, speed 8 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence continuing supply activity along the coast of Cyrenaica.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1058 the western boats were informed of maneuvers, already announced, by 6 Spanish destroyers off the coast of Majorca.

U 407 at 1056 received CH 76 as his attack area. Supermarina requested that the sea area east of 30° E (roughly the longitude of Algiers) be kept clear of German U-boats from 1800 on 3 February for a period of approximately 3 days. Then U 453 (operational area CH 94 until now) received orders to occupy the northern half of CH 83 as his attack area. U 755's operational

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area was restricted to the southern half of CH 83 and all western boats were forbidden to cross the area east of 30° E after 1800/3 February. Supermarina has agreed with the instructions given.

U 380 (en route from Spezia to Messina) reported at 1155 that he would not reach Point M 2 before 1930 (1630 was scheduled). Supermarina was informed and an escort requested for 1930. As we may expect enemy supply traffic to Tripoli soon after the surrender of Tripoli by the Axis powers, according to C-in-C South's instructions the next boat intended for the Eastern Mediterranean will operate off Tripoli.

U 380 (en route from Spezia via Messina to the Eastern Mediterranean) received orders to make for CN 3945 after putting out from Messina via Entrance Point East and to find out beforehand in Messina about the situation of minefields off Tripoli. U 380 received as his attack area, the area between the meridians in CN 5675 and CN 6485 south of the parallel in CN 5661. As we may expect U 380 to reach the operational area on or after 4 February, Supermarina and C-in-C South have been requested to forbid anti-submarine sweeps east of 12° 30' E from that date.

U 301 was again ordered to report his position at night by short signal. U 77 was also ordered to report his position - no signal has been received from him since he put out on 26 January. No signal was received from either boat.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1054 convoy as in III A d) I.
1529 convoy as in III A b) I.
2029 convoy as in III A d) II.
2355 convoy as in III B b).
0029 convoy as in III A d) II 2).
0521 convoy as in III A d) II 3).

V. a) Successes:)
) Nothing to report.
 b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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3 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 8280, U 755 CH 8380,
U 301 CH 8450, U 617 CO 6740,
U 596 CH 8180, U 205 CO 5250,
U 453 CH 6320, U 81 CO 1530.
U 407 CH 6890,

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Cape Kanais and from Ras Azzaz to Sidi Barrani. Reconnaissance of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- I. 0803 CJ 7738 4 light naval craft, westerly course, high speed.
II. 1625 CH 8471 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 G.R.T., 2 probable tankers, 5 escorts, course 80°.
III. 1650 CH 7575 4 merchant ships up to 20,000 G.R.T., 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 7 escorts, west course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 received the operational area east of 31° E at 0851.

U 301 and U 77 were again ordered to report their positions. Report was received from U 77 in CH 8512 at 0606 on 4 February. U 301 did not report. At 0400 on 4 February U 371 (Lt. s.g. Schoeneboom), reported presumed lost in Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret 170 dated 22 January 1943, reported from CO 6521 that he has started the return passage. Successes: 4 cargo-carrying sailing ships sunk. Emergency transmitter clear with restrictions. The boat, probably because of the breakdown of the transmitting set, could not send the position reports requested on 17, 18 and 19 January or they were not heard when sent on the emergency transmitter.

U 431 received orders to make for Pola.

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

0940 CH 7685.

1006 CH 8257 (probably U 77).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0943 shipping in Bone and Algiers harbors.

1918 convoy as in III A b) II.

U 380 reported by telephone that he was damaged at 1600 during an air raid on Messina harbor and was no longer ready to operate. U 380 was in Messina to repair engine trouble before continuing to the operational area. He received orders to return to Spezia.

U 375 putting out from Spezia on 4 February received by courier additional instructions to his sailing orders, to operate off Tripoli (U 380 was intended).

- V. a) Successes:)
 b) Losses:)
-) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77	CH 8510,	U 755	CH 8370,
U 301	CH 8450,	U 617	CO 9130,
U 596	CH 8180,	U 205	CO 5910,
U 453	CH 8320,	U 81	CO 5270,
U 407	CH 8130,	U 431	CO 6430.

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b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 375 put out from Spezia at 1500 for the Eastern Mediterranean via Messina.
U 380 put out from Messina at 1300 to return to Spezia.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 60 miles west of Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Benghazi to Derna, north and south of Cyprus along the Syrian coast.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0915 CH 9465 2 merchant ships, 2 escorts, easterly course.

2) 0945 CH 8359 4 merchant ships, 3 escorts, easterly course.

3) 1250 CH 9662 2 merchant ships 5,000 G.R.T.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

Supply traffic running on the coast of Cyrenaica was intercepted by radio.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 received what has been up till now U 301's operational area (CH 84) and his operational area (CH 81) becomes U 453's attack area.

U 596 at 2121 was ordered to report his position as he was probably attacked by depth charges at 1515 in CH 8173 (according to an enemy aircraft report). Position report was received from CH 8151 at 0035. U 301 was ordered for the fourth time to report his position, did not answer.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 301 must be presumed lost. U 301 put out from Spezia on 20 January for the Western Mediterranean area. The boat has not answered previous requests on - 1, 2, 3 and 4 February. (Pencil note: Loss has been reported).

VI. General situation:

Naval Command proposed to Naval War Staff, with reference to the large convoys expected from Gibraltar, to suspend the instruction to distribute operationally ready boats in equal numbers to the Eastern and Western Mediterranean.

At 1904 the following teleprint message was received from Naval War Staff:

"Operational opportunities for U-boats must also be taken into account for the operation. Replies from Captain U-boats to the following questions are to be submitted in this respect:

- A. Are operational possibilities for U-boats in sea areas where there is enemy traffic better in the Western or Eastern Mediterranean ?
- B. Are a larger number of boats necessary in the Western or Eastern Mediterranean to intercept enemy traffic at points it will probably pass (focal points) ?
- C. Are the tactical pre-requisites for the greatest possible success per boat better in the Western or Eastern Mediterranean as far as it is possible to judge, leaving out of account the formation of a strategical point ?

Answers must be submitted to Naval War Staff by 0900/5 February 1943.

Naval High Command, Naval War Staff 1st Division (U-boats) 3543/43 Most Secret."

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Captain U-boat's opinions on a distribution of U-boats to the west and east are contained in the following replies to the questions put by Naval War Staff:

- To A: The prospects for U-boat operations are better in the Eastern Mediterranean in spite of very scrappy reconnaissance by our aircraft, than in the Western Mediterranean since defenses are less in the east. Whether operations will be as successful, experience which is still lacking must show.
- To B: To intercept enemy traffic at probable focal points a larger number of boats is required on the Western Mediterranean as stronger defenses cause a heavier wear and tear on the boats as well as making operational conditions and attacks more difficult.
- To C: The tactical requirements for the greatest possible success per boat are better in the Western Mediterranean as decisively qualified by disproportionately strong traffic now running or expected here with very large ships. In conclusion it is reported that a) experiences in the Eastern Mediterranean of most recent date are very incomplete as only 3 boats have been operating since the end of October, b) agent reports from the east are always unreliable, c) operations in the west and east seem useful with a numerical concentration in the west.

(Signed) Kreisch.

5 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77	CH 8280,	U 380	CJ 5980,
U 596	CH 8450,	U 617	CH 9220,
U 453	CH 8150,	U 81	CO 5030,
U 407	CH 7650,	U 375	CJ 5450,
U 755	CH 8380,	U 205	CO 5580,
		U 431	CO 2710.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria, reconnaissance southwest of Crete and inshore waters of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1605 CH 9483 24 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 7 escorts, course 270°, speed up to 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

I. 1) 0115 Gibraltar) 2 troopships,
0250 Ceuta) 3 steamers, 2 tankers,
2 destroyers,
2 corvettes.

2) 0340 Gibraltar: part of a convoy of more than 40 ships, making for the Mediterranean.

3) 0600 Ceuta: 32 ships including 6 fairly large ones.

4) 0600 to 0645
Ceuta: 60 - 70 ships including the 32 already reported, making for the Mediterranean.

5) 0645 Ceuta: convoy consisting of 45 steamers and 15 light forces, making for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

See success reports from U 81 and U 617.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1345 CP 7287 4 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T, 5 escort vessels, course 280°, speed 10 knots.
- 2) In Alexandria 40 - 50 ships over 2,000 G.R.T.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 0815 CO 9121 1 convoy was being attacked by aircraft.
- 2) 0828 CO 8778 enemy aircraft reported 1 merchant ship sunk, probably due to a mine. (Very probably it was U 617's success, see Va).

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 451 at 0915 was ordered to report his position. At 1040 a radio message, time of origin 0647, was received from U 431 (Wavelength America II c) reporting that the boat would be at Point Adriatic at 0600 on 6 February. At 1159 U 431 received instructions for the return passage through the Adriatic to Pola. U 380 was informed that he might meet U 375 returning to Messina.

After U 453 was withdrawn from CH 83 yesterday, U 755 again received the whole of CH 83 as his attack area. Until then U 755 had been operating in the southern half only.

Because of the large convoy which entered the Mediterranean from Gibraltar, U 453 will concentrate on the southeast corner of his attack area (CH 81) where the boat can also intercept the westbound convoy of 24 merchant ships as well as the large convoy.

U 617 at 0806 and U 81 at 1003 reported successes (see V a). U 617 was starting to return because starboard shaft and listening set were not working. U 617 received orders to make for Pola if he required long repairs or rest for the crew (the boat was only in port for 6 or 10 days between the last three operations of 11, 9 and 10 days), if, on the other hand only a short time was required for repairs, he was to make for Salamis. The Commander decided on Salamis as he thought he could operate again.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0955 convoy as in III B c) 1).
1048 " " " III A d) I 1).
1113 " " " III A d) I 2).
1419 " " " III A d) I 4).
1612 " " " III B b) 1).
2010 " " " III A b).

6 Feb. 0013 shipping in Alexandria harbor.

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V. a) Successes:

U 617 reported: 0806 in 6774 1 steamer of 4000 G.R.T. and 1 of 3000 G.R.T. sunk out of 4 steamers and 4 escorts on a westerly course,

U 81 reported at 1003 2 hits on a ship of 5000 G.R.T. probably a tanker, from a convoy of 2 steamers in CO 5837, easterly course, speed 8 knots.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

6 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 8280, U 380 CJ 1690,
U 596 CH 8450, U 617 CO 5260,
U 453 CH 8190, U 81 CO 5990,
U 407 CH 7680, U 375 CJ 9580,
U 755 CH 8380, U 205 CO 5910,
U 431 CK 7580.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

1) Put in to port:

U 380 to Spezia at 1400.
U 375 to Messina at 1100.

2) Put out from port:

U 593 from Pola at 1400.
U 602 from Spezia at 1500.
U 562 from Spezia at 1500
put in again at 1700.
U 458 from Spezia at 0900
put in again to repair burnt-out
starting resistance in electric
motor at 2240.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Cyprus.
Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Crete, from Sollum to Mersa Matruh, around Rhodes, coasts of Syria and Palestine.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1435 (U 453) CH 8445 westbound convoy.
1900 (U 453) CH 8439 eastbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 1049 CH 7695 50 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 10 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.

2) 1530 CH 8454 eastbound convoy, speed 11 - 17 knots.

3) 1800 CH 8431 44 merchant ships, 11 escorts, course 90°, speed slight.

II. 1320 CH 8452 20 ships, course 70°.

III. 1) 1106 CH 8279 28 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 10 escorts, westerly course, speed slight.

2) 1430 CH 8287 the same convoy, course 270°, no details of speed.

3) 1530 CH 8444 westbound convoy.

c) By radio intercept service:

1907 CH 8461 convoy was being attacked by 1 aircraft, course 60°, speed 9 knots.

(The same convoy as in III A b) I).

d) By radio intercept service:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0745 CP 5464 3 unidentified units, course 195°, speed 16 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1247 (Convoy as in III A b I 1),
(" " " III A b III 1),
1926 " " " III A b I 2),
2320 " " " III A b I 3),
7 Feb. 0053 " " " III A b III 2).

V. a) Successes:

U 596 reported that at 0840 on 6 February in CH 8472 he fired 5 single shots at an east-bound convoy. 3 hits were obtained on 3 freighters of 5000 - 7000 G.R.T. and sinking noises observed.

U 77 at 0200 on 7 February in 8271 obtained 3 hits on 2 freighters of 5,000 G.R.T. each from an eastbound convoy, observed that the stern of one steamer was sinking and heard sinking noises.

U 205 at 0246 on 7 February sank one steamer of 5,000 G.R.T. from 4 steamers and 5 escorts and at 0255 and 0341 heard 2 hits.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Naval War Staff concurred in teleprint message 3570/43 dated 5 February with Captain U-boats' summing up reported on 5 February in Section C (See war diary of 4 May) and ordered the boats to operate accordingly.

Plans:

Operations will be concentrated numerically in the west as ordered. At present there are 7 boats for the west, including those outward bound, and 5 for the east. Next week 3 more will be ready to operate. They are intended for the Western Mediterranean, if a premature breakdown or loss of eastern boats does not entail an alteration. The proportion of western to eastern boats depends on how the situation develops and on further experiences in U-boat operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. At present the ratio of western to eastern boats seems favorable at 2 : 1.

(Signed) Kreisich.

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7 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 8270, U 81 CO 9350,
U 596 CH 8450, U 205 CO 5580,
U 453 CH 8190, U 593 CJ 6310,
U 407 CH 7690, U 431 CK 4440,
U 755 CH 8380, U 617 CK 8940,
U 602 CJ 4150.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 562 put out from Spezia at 1500.
U 375 put out from Messina at 1500.
U 617 made fast in Salamis at 0845.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Italian U-boat: 2147 CH 9639 2 steamers,
2 destroyers, course 90°, speed 6 knots.
2315 CJ 7727 3 steamers; 4
destroyers, course 270°, speed 6 knots.
8 Feb 0220 CH 9673 convoy, unknown
43. number of ships,
course 50°, speed 8 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- I. 1) 1100 CH 9473 34 merchant ships, 8 escorts, stopped.
- 2) 1400 Algiers roads, 17 merchant ships totaling 80,000 - 100,000 G.R.T. putting in to port.
- 3) 1400 CH 9446 14 ships, 7 escorts, course 80°, speed slight.
- 4) 1430 9473 14 steamers, 2 escorts, hove to.
- 5) 1800 CH 9461 12 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T. 8 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T. 7 destroyers, course 100°. This probably the rest of the large eastbound convoy, see III A b) I

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II. 1910 CH 8514 4 probable cruisers,
2 destroyers, course 90°,
high speed.

- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) No reports.
- e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence at
1015 1 westbound convoy was in the
Alexandria area,
2000 1 westbound convoy was in the Tobruk
area.

- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 was informed that he might meet 3
Italian U-boats and U 431 that he might meet
an Italian torpedoboat.

U 77 was starting the return passage to
Spezia after firing all his torpedoes.

U 453 received CH 82, which was left vacant
by this departure, as his attack area and
was ordered to return to Pola on the night
8/9 February.

U 453 has been at sea since 11 January.

U 407 and U 755 were ordered to report their
positions.

U 755 reported at 0035 from CH 8351 and

U 407 at 0555 from CH 7659.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

1427 convoy as in III A b I 1),

2223 formation as in III A b II.

V. a) Successes:

U 77 reported that he sank the two freighters
attacked (see success report of 6 February
1943) with finishing shots.

U 205 reported in amplification of the
success report of the War Diary of 6 February
1943 that, apart from the 5,000 G.R.T. freighter
sunk, he heard a hit on a 5,000 G.R.T. steamer
after 10 minutes and a hit on a 4,000 G.R.T.
steamer after 9 minutes.

U 596 at 1708 on 7 February 1943 sank 1 escort
vessel in CH 8438.

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b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

8 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77 CH 6870, U 81 CP 7250,
U 596 CH 8430, U 205 CO 5580,
U 453 CH 8280, U 593 CK 7820,
U 407 CH 7670, U 431 CJ 3450,
U 755 CH 8350, U 375 CN 3910,
U 602 CH 6810, U 562 CJ 5450.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Put out from port:

U 617 from Salamis at 0815.
U 458 from Spezia at 1400.

Put in to port:

U 431 to Pola at 1700.
U 617 to Patras at 1630.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Derna, Sollum, Tobruk - Tolmaide, Crete, coast of Syria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1345 CH 9482 1 merchant ship up to 10,000 G.R.T., 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 G.R.T., 3 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 1345 CH 9671 convoy, easterly course, speed 10 knots.
- 3) 1625 off Bone 8 merchant ships, stopped, probably the rest of the large eastbound convoy.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0745 Gibraltar: 3 small freighters, 1 French minesweeper bound for the Mediterranean.
1700 the "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Formidable", and 8 destroyers put in to Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0945 (coded) CP 5952 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 3 escort vessels, course 200°, moderate speed.
- 2) 1520 CO 9125 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 G.R.T., southeasterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 77 reported at 1126 "Am 30 hours from entrance point".

U 602 received CH 82 as his attack area. This square became vacant on the night 8/9 February with the return of U 453.

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U 593 received the area left vacant by U 617's return on the African coast between the meridians of CO 6744 and CP 7325.

U 562 en route from Spezia to Messina was informed he might meet his escort at about 2100.

U 453 started to return to Pola at 2025 from CH 8291.

U 205 at 2001 started to return to Salamis because his radar interception set had broken down.

- V. a) Successes:)
) Nothing to report.
 b) Losses:).

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

9 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 77	CH 6850,	U 81	CP 8120,
U 596	CH 8460,	U 205	CO 2890,
U 453	CH 9140,	U 593	CO 1990,
U 407	CH 7690,	U 375	CN 6450,
U 755	CH 8350,	U 562	CJ 9580,
U 602	CH 8250,	U 458	CJ 4110.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 205 put in to Salamis at 2240.
U 562 put in to Messina at 1230, after repairs were completed put out for the Eastern Mediterranean at 1600.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Oran to Boné.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Apollonia, Port Said, Tripoli to Misurata, Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

1046 (coded) CH 8273 2 merchant ships
up to 1,000 G.R.T., 5 merchant
ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 3 escorts,
westerly course.

In the afternoon the rest of the large
convoy (0700/5 February passed Ceuta)
that is 8 steamers, put in to Bone.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)
Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

1 convoy, probably on a westerly course,
was in the Benghazi area and 1 in the
Mersa Matruh area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)
Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 562 received as his attack area CH 46, 49,
54 and 57.

U 458 CH 78, 79 and southern half of CH 75.

U 617 due to put out from Patras for Pola
at 1400 has been delayed 24 hours owing to
the presence of an enemy submarine in the
lower Adriatic. Italian anti-submarine
sweeps are in progress there.

At 1342 an enemy aircraft reported a depth
charge attack on a U-boat in CH 5914 (it might
be either U 602 or U 755).

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

0930 Force H put in to Gibraltar at 1700 on
8 February.

1418 convoy as in III A b).

V. a) Successes:)
Nothing to report.
b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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10 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CJ 1380, U 755 CH 8350,
U 407 CH 7690, U 453 CH 9290,
U 596 CH 8460, U 602 CH 8250.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E,
U 562 CH 1760,
U 593 CO 5690,
U 458 CH 6870,
U 375 CN 5680.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 77 put in to Spezia at 0915.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of the coasts of Palestine, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1525 CH 9482 1 destroyer, 1 patrol vessel, westerly course.
- 2) 1535 CH 7668 1 patrol vessel, 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., no details of course or speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0810 CH 9637 unit reported aircraft on formation, course 265° .

According to radio intelligence a convoy of 7 ships was between Oran and Algiers on a westerly course.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

2215 to 2245 Gibraltar, 5 freighters,
1 tanker, 2 destroyers, 1 corvette,
bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

10 merchant ships in Tripoli harbor.
2 merchant ships, 1 patrol vessel
at anchor.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617's sailing from Patras has been postponed
for another 24 hours until 1400/11 February
because of the presence of enemy submarines
in the Adriatic and proposed anti-submarine
sweeps.

U 617 was informed that 3 enemy submarines
were sighted.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

1234 convoy as in III A c).
1722 " " " III A d).
1902 " " " III A b) 2).
1729 shipping in Haifa harbor.
2001 shipping in Tripoli harbor.

V. a) Successes:)
b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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11 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CH 8460,
U 453 CJ 7360,
U 407 CH 7690,
U 755 CH 8380,
U 602 CH 8270,
U 458 CH 8170.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E,
U 593 CO 9220,
U 562 CO 4950,
U 375 CN 5920.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put out from Patras for Pola at 1400.
U 205 put out from Salamis for the operational area in the Eastern Mediterranean at 2300.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Apollonia to Sollum, west and southwest of Crete, Rhodes and north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1445 (coded) CH 8391, 22 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 escorts, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Escort vessel reported aircraft shadowing formation:

1453 26 miles northwest of Algiers,
1510 23 miles westnorthwest of Algiers,
1831 39 miles west of Algiers in CH 8381.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1400 on 10 February Alboran reported a convoy of 4 freighters, 1 destroyer, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1055 CO 4878 4 tankers, 1 merchant ship of 5,000 G.R.T., 1 escort, course 270°, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

1 convoy in the Mersa Matruh area on a westerly course.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

1725 success report was received from U 81 (see V a).

2101 radio message to U 453: instruction to proceed to Pola without stopping in Messina.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1038 convoy as in III A d),
1327 " " " " B c),
1653 " " " " A b),
1803 " " " " B b).

V. a) Successes:

U 81 at 2325 on 10 February in CP 5636 sank a laden tanker of 12,000 G.R.T. In addition the boat has sunk 4 sailing ships and 1 lugger. The tanker was most probably the Dutch ship "Saroena" of 6600 G.R.T., intercepted by the radio intercept service at 0048 as she reported being torpedoed.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats to Pola at 2000.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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12 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CH 84,
U 453 CJ 91,
U 407 CH 76,
U 755 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 79.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 51° E,
U 593 CP 71,
U 562 CO 57,
U 375 CN 64,
U 617 CK 47,
U 205 CO 26.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 453 put in to Messina at 1810.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the sea area from Oran to Bone.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Tolmaide.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1145 CH 8473 convoy, westerly course, speed 8 knots

b) By air reconnaissance:)
c) By radio intercept service:) Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1930 the "Rodney", the "Nelson" and 6 destroyers put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0820 CO 4815 5 ships, course 100°.
- 2) 0950 CN 6721 1 merchant ship 5,000
G.R.T., 3 torpedoboats,
course 140°, speed slight.
- 3) 1345 CO 5712 formation of ships, course
76°, speed 20 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Lively supply traffic on the coast
of Marmarica.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 205 at 1540 crossed 35° N to the south.

U 453 reported at 1515 that he intended to put in
to Messina to take up the starboard diesel
coupling which has seized.

U 596 started return passage to Spezia from
his operational area CK 84. The boat has
fired all his torpedoes.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

- 1055 convoy as in III B b) 1).
- 1856 " " " III B b) 3).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Pola.

(Signed) Kreisch.

13 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according
to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

- U 596 CH 59,
- U 407 CH 76,
- U 755 CH 83,
- U 602 CH 82,
- U 458 CH 79.

Eastern Mediterranean:

- U 81 east of 31° E,
- U 593 CO 92,
- U 205 CO 59,
- U 375 CN 64,
- U 562 CO 46,
- U 617 CJ 34.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

- U 617 put in to Pola at 1600.
- U 453 put out from Messina at 0000/14 February.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° 30' N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani - Tolmaide, Crete, Tripoli to Misurata, Malta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1120 CH 9371 4 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., easterly course, speed slight
- 2) 1120 CH 9526 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 2 escorts, easterly course, high speed.
- 3) 1430 CH 9398 4 light naval craft, course 130°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0757 CN 3977 2 M.T.B.s, easterly course, high speed
- 2) 0907 CO 7114 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 G.R.T., 1 escort vessel, westerly course, moderate speed.

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- 3) 0940 CO 7312 5 merchant ships, 5 escorts, southwesterly course, moderate speed.
- 4) 1120 CO 6445 1 merchant ship, easterly course, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1206 1 convoy in the Tobruk area. According to radio intelligence units of the Alexandria forces are at sea...

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 0929 and 1825 enemy formation as in III B b) 1).
- 1127 convoy as in III B b) 2).
- 1823 convoy as in III B b) 4).

Sightings of our U-boats:

1900 CH 8392 1 submerged U-boat (probably U 755).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Pola.

(Signed) Kreisch.

14 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

U 596 CH 63,
U 407 CH 76,
U 755 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 78.

U 81 east of 31° E,
U 593 CO 92,
U 375 CN 67,
U 453 CK 77,
U 205 CO 59,
U 562 CO 49.

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b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put out from Spezia at 1515.

U 565 put out from Spezia at 1530.

Both boats are bound for the Western Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 38° N as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Tolmaide, around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 602: 1800 CH 8285 small convoy, westerly course, speed slight.

b) By air reconnaissance:

2330 CJ 7589 2 small ships stopped.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

2255 Ccuta 5 large transports, 3 destroyers, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1515 1 convoy in the Mersa Matruh area.

2) Considerable forces of the Alexandria Fleet are in the Tripoli sea area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 reported at 1306 that he could not reach Point C until 16 February instead of 0800/15 February because of a northerly gale.

- V. a) Successes:)
) Nothing to report.
b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats back from Pola at 1030.

(Signed) Kreisch.

15 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CJ 18, U 602 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76, U 458 CH 78,
U 755 CK 83, U 371 CJ 17.
U 565 CJ 17,

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 between $24^{\circ} 30'$ and 31° E.
U 375 CN 59.
U 453 CK 44.
U 205 between $22^{\circ} 5'$ and $24^{\circ} 30'$ E.
U 562 CO 49.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Oran - Algiers - Bone area.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Todra to Sollum, Tobruk to Sidi Barrani, Tripoli to Misurata, around Crete.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.
- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:
 - 1) 2330 Tangier: 62 units, including 41 medium-sized freighters, 6 large tankers, 1 aircraft carrier, 14 escort vessels, bound for the Mediterranean.
 - 2) 0100 to 0150/16 February 30 units, probably freighters, 5 escorts.
- e) By naval forces:
Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:
Nothing to report.
- b) By air reconnaissance:
 - I. 1) 1400 CN 5923.6 merchant ships totaling 30,000 G.R.T., course 100°, moderate speed.
 - 2) 0123/16 February CN 6868.6 enemy ships, course 90°.
 - II. 1440 CP 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 3 torpedo boats, course 300°, speed slight.
- c) By radio intercept service:
At least 2 convoys in the area along the coast of Cyrenaica.
- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:) No reports.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 received CH 94 and
U 565 CH 84 as their attack areas.
U 453 reported at 2013 that he was 12 hours from the entrance point.
U 81 at 0030 requested permission to return to Salamis as his forward hydroplane was damaged.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 28 FEBRUARY, 1943

PG/30930

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16 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CJ 13, U 602 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76, U 458 CH 78,
U 755 CH 83, U 371 CH 68,
U 565 CH 69.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E,
U 593 between $24^{\circ} 30'$ and 31° E.
U 205 between $22^{\circ} 5'$ and $24^{\circ} 30'$ E.
U 562 CO 49.
U 375 CN 59.
U 453 CJ 23.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put in to Spezia at 1000.
U 453 put in to Pola at 1030.
U 443 put out from Spezia at 1400 for the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as 0° .

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 458: 0155 CH 7832 eastbound convoy (probably the large convoy reported yesterday).

b) By air reconnaissance:

0730 off Bone 3 destroyers, hove to.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence the "Nelson" and American vessels are at sea, presumably protecting the large convoy.

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- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

- b) By air reconnaissance:

1430 C0 9391 3 destroyers, 1 M.T.B., course 270°, moderate speed.

- c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) According to radio intelligence there are considerable forces of the Alexandria fleet at sea and
- 2) at least 3 convoys in the Tobruk sea area, Alexandria and Port Said.

- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 outward bound for operational area CH 84 received orders at 0931 to operate on the large eastbound convoy reported.

U 371 also outward bound, is to continue to operational area CH 94 as he can reach this area in time to attack the convoy.

U 81 at 0932 received orders to return to Salamis.

U 371 is returning because tube 5 is damaged, also water is coming in all the time preventing the boat from submerging comparatively deeply. At 1702 the boat received orders to make for Spezia.

U 375 has been off Tripoli for a week. The prospects of success are slight here as our minefields prevent him from approaching the harbor. In spite of that an attempt ought to be made to intercept enemy traffic off Tripoli. After operating unsuccessfully so far the boat has been withdrawn from his present operational area and received C0 54 and 57 as his attack area (sea area around Cape Ras Amer). The boat received orders to report his position by short signal when he left his present operational area. Signal was received at 2129 from CN 6763.

U 562's present operational area is being restricted to C0 46 and 49 (sea area around Benghazi).

U 755 is returning because of very leaky breech doors and at 0110 received orders to make for Spezia.

- V. a) Successes:)
b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

17 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76, U 602 CH 82,
U 755 CH 91, U 558 CH 79,
U 565 CH 82, U 371 CJ 18.
U 443 CJ 17,

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CP 44.
U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CN 69.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put in to Spezia at 2120.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete and Rhodes, west coast of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 1030 CH 8452 70 ships, northeasterly course, speed 10 knots.

2) 1530 CH 8282 approximately 25 merchant ships, 15 light naval craft, course 85°, moderate speed. Nothing is known of the whereabouts of the rest of the ships.

II. 1945 CH 9456 aircraft reported 1 convoy attacked.

III. 0300/18 February CJ 7476 20 merchant ships, course 150°, moderate speed.

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c) By radio intercept service:

2100 CH 8272 British unit reported convoy was being shadowed.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1645 west of Straits of Gibraltar 1 American convoy of 8 medium-sized steamers, 2 destroyers, 3 gunboats, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

)
) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence at least 3 convoys are in the Eastern Mediterranean and 1 in the Syrte area, 1 in the Tobruk and 1 in the Mersa Matruh area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

)
) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 reported that he would reach Point C at 2000.

U 443 received CH 83 as his attack area.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1326 convoy as in III A b) I 1).

1655)
1940) convoy as in III A b) I-2).

2344 convoy as in III A b) II.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 224 was reported missing in C-in-C U-boats G.2254 A.5 dated 15 February.

VI. General situation:

Rough weather in the operational area will probably hamper U-boat operations.

(Signed) Kreisich.

CONFIDENTIAL

18 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 755 CH 68,
U 565 CH 84;
U 443 CH 68,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 79.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CO 61.
U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49.
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Crete, inshore waters from Derna to Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0910 CH 9471 30 large ships, 5 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 1310 CJ 7751 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 2 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 3) 1345 CH 9567 5 merchant ships, 7 escorts, westerly course.
- 4) 1510 In Algiers roads and harbor 15 merchant ships stopped.

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- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.
- e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

- b) By air reconnaissance:

0755 CP 5928 1 apparent tanker approximately 8,000 G.R.T., 1 freighter up to 5,000 G.R.T., 1 destroyer, 2 fairly small escort vessels, northerly course, moderate speed.

- c) By radio intercept service:

More supply traffic intercepted by radio.

- d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 755 reported that he would reach Entrance Point North at 1600/19 February and Point C at 0900/20 February.

U 565 reported at 2047 that he did not reach the large convoy on 16 February because of repairs and bombs. Signal came from CH 8284, the boat was entering his operational area CH 84.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats.

1107 convoy as in III A b) 1).

1535 convoy as in III A b) 3).

2132 convoy in the Mersa Matruh area.

U 371 due to sail at 0000 on 19 February must be delayed as the boom is not clear owing to rough weather.

Enemy aircraft was over a U-boat in CH 8435 at 0515 on 18 February and attacked with depth charges. (Probably U 565).

- V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

- b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

19 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 755 CH 63,
U 565 CH 84,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 79.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CK 8970,
U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 203 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 81 made fast in Salamis at 1100.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Benghazi, south of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)
b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) Considerable forces of the Alexandria Fleet are at sea.
- 2) Supply traffic running on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)
e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 205 and U-602 at 1917 were ordered to report their positions by short signal. No signals have been received.

Sightings of our U-boats by enemy aircraft:

1225 CO 4921 (probably U 562).

1335 CO 5712 (probably U 375).

- V. a) Successes:)
) Nothing to report.
b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

20 February, 1943.

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 755 CJ 16,
U 565 CH 85,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82;
U 458 CH 79.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between $24^{\circ} 30'$ and 31° E.
U 205 between $22^{\circ} 5'$ and $24^{\circ} 30'$ E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put out from Spezia at 0900.
U 755 put in to Spezia at 0930.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Apollonia to Tolmaide.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- I. 1) U 458: 0140/21 February CH 7599 eastbound convoy, speed slight.
- 2) 0355 CH 7685 eastbound convoy, long legs, speed 8 knots.
- 3) 0505 CH 7694 eastbound convoy attacked.

b) By air reconnaissance:)
) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0500 - 0600 convoy of 26 steamers, 9 escorts, including 6 large probable troopships, 11 medium-sized and 9 smaller ships, passed Gibraltar bound for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 0435 - 0540 40 unidentified units passed Ceuta bound for the Mediterranean (probably the same convoy as 1).

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)
) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 0840 convoy on a westerly course in Bomba Gulf.
- 2) 1 convoy in the Port Said area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0700/20 February 2 armed steamers proceeding south from Alexandretta.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 205 and U 602 at 1950 were ordered to report their positions at night.

U 602 reported at 2200 from CH 8223.

No signal was received from U 205.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 565: 2005 eastbound convoy put in to Oran according to hydrophone bearing.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1630/20 February German and Italian source reported 10 ships passed near Cape Tres Forcas, easterly course. (Probably the same as the eastbound convoy of 26 ships).

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0115 CN 6469 2 transports, course 100°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence units of the Alexandria forces are at sea and there are convoys between Benghazi and Tripoli.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 205 at 1905 was ordered for the third time to report his position. No signal was received. At 0350 the eastern boats were informed of the enemy sighting as in III B b).

An enemy aircraft at 1132 in CH 6859 reported 1 surfaced U-boat, course 220°. (Probably U 371, outward bound for his operational area CH 94).

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- 2) 0913 CH 8381 4 patrol vessels,
westerly course.
- 3) 0915 CH 8383 6 tankers, 3 escorts,
easterly course.
- 4) 1002 CH 9468 2 merchant ships up to
5,000 G.R.T., westerly
course.
- 5) 1900 CH 9482 2 merchant ships up to
10,000 G.R.T., westerly
course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

21 February 1700 south of Alboran 8 steamers,
1 tanker, 4 destroyers, easterly course.
(see also War diary of 21 February III A d).

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0955 CO 4482 1 transport, course 80°.

c) By radio intercept service:

1 convoy was in the Mersa Matruh sea area
believed to be on a westerly course.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 562 and U 375 were ordered to report their
positions at night by short signal. U 375
reported at 0406 from CO 5498.

No signal has been received from U 562.

The following reports of enemy movements
were passed on to the boats:

1133 convoy as in III B b).

1201 enemy sightings as in III A b) 2) and 3).

1226 convoy as in III A b) 4).

1902 convoy as in III B c).

2216 convoy as in III A b) 5).

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- V. a) Successes:)
) Nothing to report.
 b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

23 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to
 naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 565 CH 84,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 79,
U 371 CH 94.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from
0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the
Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras
Amer to Mersa Susa.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 371: 1350 CH 9467 westbound convoy.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0150 CH 9468 1 merchant ship up to 10,000 G.R.T., easterly course, speed up to 10 knots.
- 2) 1340 CH 8386 4 destroyers, course 315°, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, Force H is at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) Italian U-boat: 22 February 2300 C0 4466 fairly strong enemy convoy with strong escort protection, course 270°, speed slight.
- 2) Italian U-boat: 23 February 0200 56 miles bearing 110° from Misurata, 1 steamer sighted, course 280°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1900 CN 2392 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., course 270°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Supply traffic running along the coast of Cyrenaica.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 407 received permission to return as he has used up all his potash cartridges and at 2133 received orders to make for Spezia.

U 205 at 2125 was ordered to report his position. No signal was received.

U 371 reported a success (see V a).

0547 the western boats were informed of the enemy sighting in III A b) 1).

V. a) Successes:

U 371 reported: 23 February 1350 CH 9467 hit on freighter of 6,000 G.R.T., from westbound convoy. Boiler explosion and sinking noises.....

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats to Spezia and Toulon at 0730.

(Signed) Kreisch.

24 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 81,
U 565 CH 84,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 79,
U 371 CH 94.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Ras Hilal. South of Cyprus to the Levant.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 565: 1354 CH 8459 1 steamer, 2 escorts.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1430 CJ 7754 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., course 200°.

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2) 2243 CH 8381 1 merchant ship up to 10,000 G.R.T., 2 escorts, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to an Italian situation report of 1800, units of the "Nelson" group are probably in the Oran area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

According to Italian radio intelligence there are probably 2 convoys in the Tobruk - Mersa Matruh area.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 received, in addition to his present attack area CH 84, CH 76 which has become vacant through the return of U 407.

U 562 and U 593 were ordered to report their positions.

U 593 reported at 2150 from CO 9386.

No signal was received from U 562.

This boat had already been ordered on 22 February to report his position without result.

U 565 reported a success (see V a).

0323 the enemy sighting in III A b) 2) was passed on to the boats.

Enemy unit sighted a U-boat in CH 8449 at 1337 (probably U 565).

V. a) Successes:

U 565 reported sinking a steamer of 8000 G.R.T., after 2 hits at 1354 on 24 February in CH 8459.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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25 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 65,
U 565 CH 84,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 78,
U 371 CH 94.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 31' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 57.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the sea area as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh - Cyprus, southwest of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1030 CH 6617 1 destroyer, course 60°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an Italian agent's report 1 convoy of 15 steamers, 4 large tankers, 4 destroyers, 1 escort vessel passed Ceuta on the night 24/25 February bound for the Mediterranean.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1100 CO 7428 1 merchant ship up to
5,000 G.R.T., several escorts,
course 295°.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) Convoy traffic in the Syrte area and in the Marmarica - Egypt area.
- 2) At midday 1 convoy believed to be between Mersa Matruh and Sollum.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 562 was ordered for the third time to report his position, also U 443. Neither boat replied. The western boats were informed of the convoy as in III A d).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

26 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CJ 15,
U 565 CH 76,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 78,
U 371 CH 94.

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Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 put in to Spezia at 1415.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Algiers to Philippeville.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Sidi Barrani, south and southwest of Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1455 CH 8514 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 1 merchant ship up to 3000 G.R.T., 2 escorts, south-westerly course, speed 8 - 10 knots, fighter cover.
- 2) 1520 CH 7681 10 merchant ships, 7 destroyers and torpedoboats, westerly course, speed 10 knots.
- 3) 1625 CH 8383 3 merchant ships up to 3000 G.R.T., westerly course, speed 12 knots, fighter cover.

c) By radio intercept service:

Units of the "Nelson" group have probably put to sea to escort the eastbound convoy.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

From 0730 21 freighters, 1 tanker, 2 destroyers, 3 corvettes, 3 gunboats and 3 escort vessels were putting out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.
- c) By radio intercept service:
 - 1) 1 convoy in the Mersa Matruh area, other convoys along the North African coast.
 - 2) Units of the Alexandria forces at sea (cruiser(s) destroyer(s)).
- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:
1516 convoy as in III A d).
1905 convoy as in III A b) 1) and 3).

- V. a) Successes:)
- b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 84,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 78,
U 371 CH 94.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.
U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.
U 375 CO 57,
U 562 CO 49.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Oran sea area.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters between Derna and Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 458: 0840 CH 7685 eastbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0945 CH 7599 19 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 5 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, units of the "Nelson" group are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

Light craft, evidently M.T.B.s, with a convoy probably in the Benghazi area.

Air cover assumes convoy activity in the Tobruk area.

Units of the Alexandria forces are believed to be at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 requested permission to return to Salamis owing to depth charge damage after an attack on a hunting group, and at 0238 received orders to make for Salamis

U 443 was ordered to report his position during the night. No signal was received.

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U 458 reported contacting an eastbound convoy at 0840 in CH 7685.

U 565 reported a success (see V a).

At 1728 the western boats were informed of the enemy convoy as in III A b).

At 1038 1 periscope was sighted in CH 7682 (probably U 458).

V. a) Successes:

U 565 at 0010/28 February in CH 7684 torpedoed a steamer of 8,000 G.R.T., and left a tanker of 10,000 G.R.T., sinking after 1 hit and 1 finishing shot.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 February, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 76,

U 443 CH 83,

U 602 CH 82,

U 458 CH 76,

U 371 CH 94.

Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.

U 205 between 22° 5' and 24° 30' E.

U 375 CO 54,

U 562 CO 49.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put out from Spezia for the operational area in the Western Mediterranean at 1400.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, between Benghazi and Misurata.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0542 CH 8289 10 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 destroyers, 6 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 1747 CH 9466 15 merchant ships, easterly course.
- 3) 1747 CH 9462 6 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 1900 CH 9545 enemy unit reported to Algiers, convoy, course 84°, speed 8 knots, attacked by aircraft.
- 2) 1920 CH 9449 convoy, course 43°, speed 15 knots, was being attacked by aircraft.
- 3) Units of the "Nelson" group are believed to be still at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) Increased traffic between Alexandria and Benghazi presumes cruiser division is at sea.
- 2) 1 convoy was in the Derna area in the morning, on a westerly course. 2 eastbound convoys are in the Mersa Matruh area and between Tripoli and Benghazi.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 602 was ordered to report his position during the

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night. The boat reported at 2306 from CH 8228.

U 371 reported a success (see V a) and, as he had only 2 stern torpedoes left, requested permission to return to Spezia. At 0142 the boat received orders to make for Spezia to take on supplies.

At 0510 on 28 February an enemy aircraft sighted one of our U-boats in CH 8382.

V. a) Successes:

U 371 at 1715 on 28 February torpedoed a freighter of 5,000 G.R.T., in CH 9465.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats in Spezia.

(Signed) Kreisch.

Synopsis for February

There are no essential changes or new information from the operational areas.

The occupation of the Eastern Mediterranean has proved rewarding as the successes gained there show. It must however be noted that the enemy stopped traffic here from about the middle of February after the series of successes, and has gone over to intensified anti-U-boat hunts which are probably responsible for the losses of U 205 and U 562.

In the Western Mediterranean, stronger supply traffic was running, partly dominated by large convoys of up to 50 ships and smaller convoys. The disposition of the boats in the attack areas with a lateral length of approximately 60 miles where the southern part of the area lies on the traffic route, in the vicinity of the Algerian coast, has been justified. Traffic concentration points lie off the Habibas Islands, between Cape L'Aiguille and Cape Ferrat and east of Algiers off Cape Bengut.

Good organization on the part of the enemy location service has made the boats' operations more difficult. It is believed that on land, location sets are formed into groups which cooperate with aircraft and also with any anti-U-boat hunting groups.

Recently Commanders have reported that they have been approached and attacked by aircraft without having a location when their sets were in order.

The number of boats occupying the operational areas in February on certain dates was as follows:

	<u>Western</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>and out-</u> <u>ward bound.</u>
1 February	4 U-boats	1 U-boat	3 U-boats
10 February	5 U-boats	2 U-boats	4 U-boats
20 February	5 U-boats	3 U-boats	1 U-boat
28 February	4 U-boats	2 U-boats	./.

Daily average in the periods:

	<u>Western</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>and out-</u> <u>ward bound</u>
1-10 February	4.5 U-boats	1.4 U-boats	4.4 U-boats
11-20 February	4.4 U-boats	4.2 U-boats	2.6 U-boats
21-28 February	4.8 U-boats	2.1 U-boats	.5 U-boats

Daily average for the month:

4.5 U-boats	2.6 U-boats	2.6 U-boats
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3. The following successes were obtained in February

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>U-boat</u>	<u>No. of ships sunk</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>	<u>torpedoed</u>
1.	U 77	2.	11,000	also 1 tanker of 6,000
2.	U 81	1.	6,671	(enemy tanker "Saroena") 1 tanker of 5,000 G.R.T. 1 freighter of 4,000 G.R.T. Believed sunk.
		5 cargo carrying sailing ships 600		
3.	U 205	1 lugger	5,000	also 2 freighters probably torpedoed.
4.	U 371	1	6,000	also 1 freighter of 5,000 G.R.T. torpedoed.
5.	U 565	2	18,000	also 1 freighter of 8,000 G.R.T. torpedoed.
6.	U 596	2	12,000	1 freighter of 5,000 G.R.T. torpedoed
		1 escort vessel ("Bridgewater" class)		
7.	U 617	2	7,000	
		1 "Dido" class cruiser		

15 vessels 66,271 G.R.T.
and 1 "Dido" class cruiser
1 escort vessel ("Bridgewater" class).

Result:

Every U-boat at sea in February in an average of 15.2 days sank 3,487.9 G.R.T., i.e. 229.5 G.R.T. per day.

Losses:

The following losses must be presumed:

- U 205)
- U 562) in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- U 301)
- U 443) in the Western Mediterranean.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 MARCH, 1943

PG/30930

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1 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 76,
U 443 CH 83,
U 602 CH 82,
U 458 CH 78,
U 371 CH 92,
U 596 CH 41.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E,
U 205 " 22° 5' and 24° 30' E,
U 562 CO 49,
U 375 CO 28.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 83 put out from Spezia at 1615 to proceed to the Western Mediterranean operational area.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus. Alexandria, west of Crete as far as Benghazi.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 565: 1815 CH 8515 westbound convoy, course 245°, speed 7 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1025 CJ 7715 6 light naval units, south-westerly course, high speed.

2) 1435 CH 9278 possibly 5 destroyers, course 230°, high speed (probably the units reported in 1).

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c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, units of the "Nelson" group are still at sea, probably acting as convoy escort in the Western Mediterranean.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0610 1 March CO 5476 2 merchant ships of 5,000 GRT each, 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 1 merchant ship up to 1,000 GRT, course 100°, speed 8 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) Supply traffic concentrated in the Benghazi - Tripoli area.

2) Units of the Alexandria forces are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 443 was requested for a position report for the third time since 25 February. Report was not received.

U 565 requested permission to return to Spezia after a three fan miss, with one stern torpedo left, and at 2112 was ordered to return.

U 596 has been assigned CH 84 as his attack area. It has been vacated by U 565's return passage.

The following reports of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats:-

1159 convoy as in III.B.b.

1856 forces as in III.A.b.2.

2110 westbound convoy as in III.A.a.

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V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats returned from Toulon at 1930.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

2 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 59,

U 602 CH 82,

U 596 CH 59,

U 458 CH 78,

U 371 CH 63,

U 83 CJ 41.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 between 24° 30' and 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 375 put out from Salamis at 0800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete and eastwards.
North and south of Cyprus, inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh and from Tobruk to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

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a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1030 CH 9167 2 destroyers, easterly course, moderate speed.

2) 1230 CH 9525 3 minesweepers, course 270°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

~~Between 1000 and 1100 on 2 March, the~~ "Nelson" with 4 destroyers and the "Rodney" put in to Gibraltar, also 27 merchant ships and 15 escort vessels.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1830 CN 6714 from unit: "Am being attacked by enemy aircraft."

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 was ordered to proceed to Spezia.

It has been left to U 593's discretion to extend his former operational area between 31° and 24° 30' E westwards to U 205's former operational area (see V.b) between 24° 30' and 22° E as well as to the operational area vacated by U 375's return passage, as far as 21° E.

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U 458 was ordered to concentrate in his operational area off Alboran.

U 83 has been assigned CH 76 southern half and CH 79 as his attack area.

The boats were informed at 1950 that the "Rodney" and the "Nelson" have put in to Gibraltar.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

We must presume U 443, U 562 and U 205 lost.

U 205 on 19, 20, 21 and 23 February,

U 443 on 25, 27 February and 1 March,

U 562 on 22, 24 and 25 February

were requested for position reports. None of the position reports requested were received.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

3 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 68,

U 602 CH 82,

U 596 CH 84,

U 458 CH 75,

U 371 CJ 13,

U 83 CH 67.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 92.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put in to Spezia at 0900.

U 77 put out from Spezia at 1615.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 596: 1122 CH 8287 1 "London" class cruiser, easterly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Cape Spartel	1100	}	4 transports of 12,000-18,000 GRT, 2 passenger-carrying freighters of 10,000-12,000 GRT, 1 torpedoboat, all carrying troops, passed bound for the Mediterranean.
Tangier	1200		
Ceuta	1330		

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 593: 1) 1209 CP 7177) 5 steamers, 6
2) 2340 CP 7436) escorts, easterly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) One convoy westbound, probably from Alexandria.
- 2) Enemy unit near Ras el Tin in the morning and early afternoon.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 458, U 602 and U 593 were requested to report their positions during the night. At 2140 U 458 reported from CH 7465, at 2207 U 602 from CH 8235.

U 593 reported a success (see V.a) and requested permission to return to Salamis as he had one stern torpedo left.

U 81 has had a collision with a Greek tug in Salamis, when casting off for operations. Port external fuel tank 2 is damaged, so that the boat must go into dock.

At 2349 the western boats were informed of the convoy as in III.A.d.

At 1758 an enemy aircraft reported a submerged U-boat in CH 5896, course 90⁰, speed 3 knots (probably U 602).

V. a) Successes:

At 2340 on 3 March U 593 gained a probable hit in CP 7436 on a 4,000 GRT freighter in an east-bound convoy of 5 steamers and 6 escorts.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

CONFIDENTIAL

4 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CH 39,
U 602 CH 82,
U 596 CH 84,
U 458 CH 75,
U 83 CH 79,
U 77 CJ 41.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CP 74.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh, sea area around and west of Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 596: 2352 CH 8448 convoy of not more than 5 steamers.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1511 CJ 7737 unit reported: Formation attacked by enemy aircraft, course 127°, speed 26 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) One convoy in Mersa Matruh area, probably westbound.

2) Assumption that units of the Cruiser Division Command are at sea has been confirmed by radio traffic.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 593 was ordered at 0845 to proceed to Salamis.

U 77 has been assigned CH 94 as his attack area at 1705.

U 596 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.

Enemy aircraft reported attack with depth charges at 1012 and one possible hit on a U-boat in CH 8153. At 2014 the boats were informed of forces in harbors of Gibraltar, Philippeville, Bone, Bougie, Tobruk, Port Said and Suez.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

CONFIDENTIAL

5 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 565 CJ 16,
U 602 CH 82,
U 596 CH 84,
U 458 CH 75,
U 83 CH 76,
U 77 CH 68.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 69.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 565 put in to Spezia at 1115.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Derna.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1011 CH 8274 4 fast motor minesweepers, southerly course, moderate speed.

1305 CH 9557 2 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, no course or speed given.

c) By radio intercept service:

0711 5 March CH 8346 escort unit reported one Ju 88 on convoy, course 288°.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0708 5 March CN 6735 13 merchant ships, westerly course.
- 2) 1400 CN 6722 12 merchant ships. (Position probably incorrect.) This is probably the convoy in 1) which was later (see 3) sighted en route for Malta.
- 3) 1800 CN 6188 12 merchant ships, no course or speed given.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 1810 CN 6194 convoy (see III.B.b.3) was attacked by aircraft.
- 2) 1335 CN 6458 escort unit reported reconnaissance aircraft, course 34° , speed 9 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

In order to give the boats in the Western Mediterranean greater freedom of movement inside their operational areas, the boats operating there - U 458, U 83, U 596, U 602 and U 77 - received orders to occupy the sea area stipulated in agreement with Supermarina for the German boats - west of $4^{\circ} 30' E$, from $3^{\circ} W$ to $4^{\circ} 30' E$ in the above order in north-south lanes of equal width as attack areas, concentrating on the enemy traffic route in the south.

U 593, homeward bound, was ordered to proceed to Salamis if only slight repairs were necessary, if not to proceed to Toulon. Reason: U 375 has overloaded the repair capacity of Salamis. Extensive repairs to another boat would delay the completion of U 375 considerably. When he was ordered to report his plans, the Commander of U 593 decided for Salamis. U 602 has commenced return passage and requested permission to put in to Spezia. The boat was ordered to put in to Toulon as the first boat since the U-boat base there became in working order on 1 March. After U 602's departure U 458, U 83, U 596, U 77 were ordered to extend their operational area accordingly.

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Naval Communications Officer Toulon reported that he has been receiving on Mediterranean wave 2 since 5 March.

At 1528 the western boats were informed of the enemy convoy according to III.A.c.

At 2102 2 enemy units were ordered to proceed to CH 9544, where a U-boat was sighted (possibly U 77 or an Italian boat).

V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.

b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

6 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 602 CH 91,
U 596 CH 83,
U 77 CH 94,
U 458 CH 78,
U 83 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 64.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 81 put out from Salamis at 1600.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Tobruk, reconnaissance west and southwest of Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to agents' reports, battleships took on provisions, ammunition and stores. We may therefore count on their putting to sea shortly as protection for stronger convoy traffic.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1 convoy in Port Said area.
1 convoy in Sollum area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 2000 U 602 reported from CH 6872 that he intends to cross 42° N at 0100 on 8 March, and at 0114 reported that he was 30 hours from the rendezvous.

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The western boats were informed at 1330 of the stores going aboard the battleships in Gibraltar.

- V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.
- b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

- VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

7 March 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 602 CH 65,
U 596 CH 83,
U 77 CH 94,
U 458 CH 78,
U 83 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 29,
U 81 CO 28.

- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

- II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the sea area south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh. Reconnaissance around Cyprus as far as the Levant.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) U 596: 0745 CH 8435 25 steamers, westerly course, speed 7 knots.
- 2) U 77: 2138 CH 9465 11-15 steamers, course 270°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0900 Ceuta: 9 laden freighters, 1 tanker, 1 destroyer, 3 patrol vessels, bound for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 1900 Cape Spartel: 44 freighters, 20 warships, bound for the Mediterranean, 7 of the freighters put in to Gibraltar.
- 3) The "Formidable" and all the destroyers lying in Gibraltar have taken on supplies of fuel, ammunition and provisions.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) At 1948 an enemy aircraft reported from CO 5494 that a steamer was being attacked.
- 2) Units of the Alexandria forces are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 received the area east of 31° E as his attack area. Having regard to the fact that the port Diesel of the boat is only working to limited capacity, the operational area with probably the simplest operational conditions has been assigned to the boat.

U 458 was informed of the projected recall of the boat in the middle of next week.

U 81 at 1716 reported crossing 35° N to the south.

U 77 at 2138 reported a convoy according to III.A.a.2.

U 596 reported a convoy according to III.A.a.1 and success (see V.a).

U 458 reported that he will probably have to put in to port as the result of a depth charge attack by an eastbound convoy in CH 7598.

U 602 reported that he will be at rendezvous at 1600 on 8 March.

The following reports of enemy movements were sent to the boats:

0913 as in III.A.d.3.
2330 convoy as in III.A.a.2.
2353 convoy as in III.A.d.1.
0106 8 March, convoy as in III.A.d.2.

V. a) Successes:

At 0745 on 7 March U 596 heard a hit on a steamer after an attack on a westbound convoy in CH 8435.

b) Losses:

U 301 was reported missing with effect from 1 February. (C-in-C U-boats G 2760 A5 of 4 March 1943.)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

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8 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 602 CH 39,
U 596 CH 83,
U 77 CH 94,
U 458 CH 78,
U 83 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CH 89,
U 81 CO 67.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put in to Salamis at 0900.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Derna.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 596: 2207 CH 8436 convoy of 11-15
steamers, course 240°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1145 CH 8367 2 transports, 2 escorts,
southwesterly course.

2) 1752 CH 8391 9 merchant ships up to 5,000
GRT, unknown number up to
10,000 GRT, 4 escorts, course
260°, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) Urgent radio traffic to 11 escorts is
probably connected with considerable
shipping movements in the Straits.

2) 2220 CH 8337 convoy, course 268°, speed
17 knots.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1930 7 March. Convoy as in War Diary for 7 March, III.A.d.1 passed south of Alboran. In spite of exhaustive reconnaissance it was not intercepted again, so it has probably put in to Oran.
- 2) 0900 8 March. 8 troopships of 16-20,000 GRT each (carrying troops), 5 destroyers, 2 corvettes, 1 submarine passed Tangier bound for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 1015 the convoy was reported by Ceuta, with 7 escorts, bound for the Mediterranean.
- 4) 1400 a convoy of 55 units passed Cape Tres Forcas, easterly course. (See War Diary for 7 March, III. A.d.2.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1525 CO 4977 2 merchant ships, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 602 was ordered by the Officer-in-Charge Toulon base to wait at sea for orders to put in to port, as the weather does not permit of an escort being provided.

At 2207 U 596 reported by short signal as in III.A.a.

U 458 commenced return passage.

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It can be deduced from the radio intercept service:

- 1) That a destroyer half squadron has been ordered to hunt a U-boat sighted in the Oran area.
- 2) From late afternoon of 7 March until night, light British units hunted a U-boat in the Bougie area.

The following reports of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats:

1419	convoy	as	in	III.A.c.2.
1434	"	"	"	III.A.b.1.
1806	"	"	"	III.A.d.4.
2222	"	"	"	III.A.b.2.
2245	"	"	"	III.A.a.
2342	"	"	"	III.A.d.2.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

7 and 8 March 1943

In the following teleprint message German Naval Command Italy Most Secret/S.O.s only 67/43, German Naval Command Italy transmitted an order from C-in-C South to German Naval High Command, Naval War Staff, for information to Captain U-boats Italy:

"With regard to a possible enemy landing in Sardinia in March, C-in-C South, through teleprint F.A.I.A. (M) 39/43 Most Secret S.O.s only, ordered a concentration of U-boat operations in the Western Mediterranean as well as immediate preparations for the transfer of 3rd and 7th E-boat Flotillas to Sardinia with makeshift bases."
Captain U-boats Italy to report plans.

A. Present U-boat situation:

- 1) Concentration of U-boat operations in the Western Mediterranean has been ordered at present (in Naval War Staff Most Secret 3570/43 of 5 February). As a result the boats are now allocated as follows:

a) Western Mediterranean:

3 boats
U 83
U 596
U 77

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U 596 has only 4 torpedoes left
(probably 3 bow, 1 stern).

U 83 put out from Spezia on 1 March,
U 77 on 3 March.

One boat, U 458, is approaching Toulon
on return passage from the Western
Mediterranean.

One boat, U 602, put in to Toulon at
1250 from the Western Mediterranean.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

1 boat
U 81

After a complete operation U 81 was sent
to Salamis to replenish and put to sea
again on 6 March.

This boat will only be able to carry out
a short operation, since it was in
Salamis only to take on fresh supplies
and for a short time in dock; in addition,
one engine is working only to limited
capacity (breakdown, fouled blower, could
not be repaired during the short period in
dock at Salamis). The boat will operate
in the eastern part of the Eastern
Mediterranean because of its engine trouble.

c) Dockyard situation:

1) Spezia:

7 boats are at present in Spezia for
repairs.

U 380	put in on	6	February
U 755	" " "	20	February
U 407	" " "	26	February
U 371	" " "	3	March
U 97	" " "	29	August 1942
U 565	" " "	5	March
U 73	" " "	13	January.

The following boats will be ready in
March:

U 380	on	10	March
U 407	probably on	20	March
U 371	" "	24	March
U 755	" "	26	March but this is doubtful

U 97 on 29 March

U 565 on 31 March

U 73 will be ready in April (probably on
3 April).

2) Pola:

4 boats are at present in Pola for repairs.

U 561 put in on 15 January
U 431 " " " 8 February
U 617 " " " 13 February
U 453 " " " 16 February.

The following boats will be ready in March:

U 561 on 11 March
U 431 " 11 March
U 617 " 18 March
U 453 will be ready in April (probably on 3 April).

3) Salamis:

2 boats are at present in Salamis for fresh supplies and short repairs.

U 375 put in on 2 March
U 593 " " " 8 March 1943.

Both boats will be ready in March:

U 593 on 13 March
U 375 on 17 March.

4) Toulon:

Both the boats lying in Toulon

U 602
U 458

will probably not be ready till April.

B. Captain U-boats' plans:

- a) In maintenance of the present ruling in force, concentration in the Western Mediterranean.

The boats becoming ready in Spezia and Pola (Spezia 6 boats, Pola 3 boats) will operate in the Western Mediterranean.

The two boats becoming ready in Salamis in March will operate in the Eastern Mediterranean.

These two boats (U 593 and U 375) have carried out a fairly long operation and will probably be able to stand up to another short operation. More boats ready in April must be sent to the east depending on the situation.

As the successes gained in the Eastern Mediterranean during February show, the operations of our U-boats in this area have been worthwhile.

The following were sunk:

- 1 "Dido" class cruiser
- 1 tanker of 6,671 GRT
- 3 steamers totaling 12,000 GRT
- 5 cargo-carrying sailing ships of approximately 150 GRT each
- 1 drifter.

The following were torpedoed:

- 1 tanker of 5,000 GRT
- 1 freighter of 4,000 GRT
- 2 freighters probably torpedoed.

After these and the series of successes in previous months the enemy has obviously stopped traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean and introduced an intensified U-boat hunt; U 205 and U 562 probably fell victim to this.

It is however assumed that the enemy cannot dispense entirely with his supply traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean, and that this traffic will revive again in the immediate future, especially since we are expecting greater activity against Tunisia.

It therefore seems worthwhile to have the two boats coming from Salamis operate in the Eastern Mediterranean. Another factor is that 6 days are a dead loss in operations in the Western Mediterranean while the boats are proceeding to the operational area there.

b) With all available boats operating in the Western Mediterranean.

If Naval War Staff orders all available U-boats to operate in the Western Mediterranean, the two boats being made ready in Salamis will operate in the west. U 81, who is already operating in the eastern part of the Eastern Mediterranean will remain there until his operational effectiveness is exhausted, for the reasons given in A.l.b. and because it would not be worthwhile for him to undertake the passage from his present operational area off the coasts of Syria and Palestine to the operational area in the Western Mediterranean.

c) German Naval Command was informed of Captain U-boats' plans in the following letter (Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret S.O.s only 37/43):

"Reference: German Naval Command Italy Most Secret/S.O.s only 67/43 of 9 March 1943.

- 1) At present the order is for U-boat operations to be concentrated in the Western Mediterranean. In accordance with this 3 boats are in the western, 1 boat in the eastern operational area.

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- 2) The following will be ready for operations in March:
 - a) 5 boats from Spezia.
 - b) 3 boats from Pola.
 - c) 2 boats from Salamis.
- 3) Plans:
 - a) With the concentration in the Western Mediterranean, boats as in 2.a and b will operate in the Western Mediterranean, as in 2.c in the Eastern Mediterranean. Both groups of boats can probably only stand up to a short operation.
 - b) If Naval War Staff orders all available boats to operate in the Western Mediterranean, the two boats from Salamis will also proceed to the west. The boat at present operating in the east will be left there until its operational capacity is exhausted, as passage into the Western Mediterranean is no longer worthwhile."

(Signed) Frauenheim.

9 March 1943

- I.
 - a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
 - A. Western Mediterranean:
 - U 602 CH 36,
 - U 596 CH 85,
 - U 77 CH 94,
 - U 458 CH 76,
 - U 83 CH 84.
 - B. Eastern Mediterranean:
 - U 81 CO 93.
 - b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
 - U 602 put in to Toulon at 1250.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 596: 1845 CH 8428 eastbound convoy of 25 steamers.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0741 CH 8452 37 merchant ships up to 8,000 GRT, 12 escorts, mean course easterly (see War Diary for 8 March III.A.d.4).

2) 1905 CH 8285 position of large convoy.

II. 1) 0741 CH 8429 8 troopships up to 10,000 GRT, 6 escorts (see War Diary for 8 March III.A.d.2), mean course easterly.

2) 1215 CH 8295 12 merchant ships, easterly course.

3) 1905 CH 9472 position of convoy (troopships) off Algiers.

c) By radio intercept service:

1305 CH 8436 escort unit reported: One shadower on convoy (see III.A. b.I.1), course 59°, speed 6 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 8 March 1900 4 laden British merchant ships, 2 gunboats eastbound from Gibraltar.

2) 9 March 1700 4 freighters, 2 escort vessels put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 458 was ordered to proceed to Toulon.

U 83, U 596 and U 77 in that order from west to east were given operational areas between 3° W and 4° 30' E in north-south lanes of equal width. U 83 was requested to report his position by short signal during the night. Report was not received. U 596 reported a success (see V.a) and commenced return passage for replenishing. The boat was ordered to proceed to Spezia.

The following reports of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats:

1022	convoy	as	in	III:A.b.I.1	and	III:A.b.II.1.
1116	"	"	"	III:A.d.1.		
1630	"	"	"	III:A.b.II.2.		
2225	"	"	"	III:A.b.II.3.		
0120	"	"	"	III:A.d:2.		

At 0550 on 9 March an enemy aircraft reported to Gibraltar: Contacted probable U-boat in CH 7595 at 0235. (Probably U 83.)

V. a) Successes:

At 1845 on 9 March U 596 sank 2 steamers totaling 11,000 GRT from an eastbound convoy of 25 steamers in CH 8428.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

10 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CH 59,
U 77 CH 94,
U 458 CH 67,
U 83 CH 76.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 put out from Spezia at 1500.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, south of Cyprus as far as the Levant.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1755 9 March 1 merchant ship of 15,000 GRT, 2 merchant ships of 10,000 GRT each, 3 destroyers putting in to Algiers.

2) 0710 CH 9447 1 convoy.

3) 0815 CH 7564 1 merchant ship of 5,000 GRT, easterly course.

4) 1400 CH 9459 6 destroyers, westerly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an agent's report we can expect the "Formidable" to put out from Gibraltar on the night of 10/11 or on 11 March.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1340 CN 2249 2 unidentified naval targets located, course 64⁰, speed 30 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 83 and U 77 were ordered to occupy jointly the operational area vacated by U 596's departure. U 83 was requested, for the third time, to report his position. Report was not received.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1039 convoy as in III.A.b.2.

1303 1 merchant ship as in III.A.b.3.

1636 the "Formidable" probably put to sea as in III.A.d.

1806 6 destroyers as in III.A.b.4.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

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11 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CH 68,
U 77 CH 94,
U 380 CJ 17,
U 458 CH 36,
U 83 CH 76.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 458 put in to Toulon at 1330.
U 431 and U 561 put out from Pola at 1435 for the Western Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters between Alexandria and Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0835 CH 9554 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course, high speed.

2) 1352 CJ 7728 12 ships, strong fighter cover, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 0658 CH 9643 unit reported shadower on convoy, course 96° , speed 9 knots.

2) 1000 CH 9429 unit reported shadower on convoy, course 228° , speed 15 knots.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) According to an Italian agent's report the following put out from Gibraltar at 1430 bound for the Mediterranean: the "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Formidable" and 10 destroyers.
- 2) 2030 the whole formation put in to port again after firing practice.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) A convoy which is probably important will be in the Mersa Matruh area tomorrow; it put out from Alexandria on 10 March.
- 2) 1 convoy in the Benghazi area.
2 convoys in the Tripoli area.
- 3) Increasing radio traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean is probably connected with convoy movements.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 83 and U 77 were requested to report their positions by short signal during the night. No reports were received. U 83 has therefore been unsuccessfully requested for a position report three days running (9, 10 and 11 March). We are therefore becoming anxious about this boat.

U 83, U 77 and U 380 in that order received as their operational area, the area between 3° W and 4° 30' E in north-south lanes of equal width.

U 380 was ordered to report passing the upper edge of CH 68 by short signal as soon as possible. The signal was received at 0633.

U 431 reported that at 0700 on 15 March he will be at point S1 to proceed through the Straits of Messina.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1132 convoy as in III.A.b.1.

1342 " " " III.A.c.2.

1916 the heavy formation put out from Gibraltar and at 0710 on 12 March put in again.

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V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.

b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

After a conversation with S.O. 6th Escort Flotilla and according to experience gained when the first boat was escorted to Toulon, the necessary orders were issued for German U-boats putting in to Toulon.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

12 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 596 CH 16,
U 77 CH 82,
U 380 CH 68,
U 83 CH 76.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 431 CJ 37 } proceeding to the Western
U 561 CJ 62 } Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put in to Spezia at 1115.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Sollum, north and south of Cyprus, around Crete.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- I. 1) 0712 CH 9662 8 merchant ships, 3 escorts, easterly course, speed slight. Position inaccurate because of fighter attack.
- 2) 1250 CJ 7844 8 ships, possibly eastbound.
- II. 0702 CH 8367 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 GRT, southerly course, speed slight.
- III. 0746 CH 8257 6 steamers, 3 patrol vessels, course 90°, moderate speed.
- IV. 1) 0825 north of Bougie, 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2 destroyers, easterly course.
- 2) 1325 CH 9636 2 transports, 3 escorts.
- V. 1405 CH 9453 5 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 4 escorts, bound for Algiers, speed 15 knots.
- VI. 1525 CH 9652 1 convoy, westerly course.
- VII. 2012 CJ 7843 4 destroyers, easterly course, high speed.
- VIII. 2016 CJ 7598 1 cruiser, high speed, northeasterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 0826 CH 9644 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2 destroyers, course 87°, speed 15 knots (unit reported 1 reconnaissance aircraft on convoy). (See also III.A.b. IV.1.)
- 2) 2055 CJ 7675 naval forces located. (Probably the cruiser as in III.A.b.VIII.)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1720 the "Rodney", the "Nelson", the "Formidable" and 10 destroyers put out from Gibraltar bound for the Mediterranean.

2) 0745 12 March. Tangier: 2 large troopships over 20,000 GRT; 4 freighters of approximately 8,000 GRT, destroyers and escort vessels bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

2210 CJ 7662 3 destroyers, high speed
(sighted by one of our E-boats).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1306 1 unknown naval target located in
CN 2254, course 87°, speed over
30 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 reported that in the morning during exercises in the Canale di Veglia (south of Fiume) he was fired upon with gunfire and machine gunfire by a steamer, in spite of offering recognition signal. Boat sustained hits on the upper deck, external fuel tank leaking because of splinters. Boat is putting in to Pola at 1235. Date of completion (scheduled for 18 March) will be delayed by 8 days. No casualties.

U 561 reported that at 0700 on 14 March he will be at point S1 to proceed northward through the Strait of Messina.

U 77 and U 83 were requested to report their positions during the night. U 77 reported at 0508 from CH 8257. No report was received from U 83.

U 380 was ordered to concentrate in the west of his attack area.

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The following reports of enemy movements were sent to the boats:

1246 convoy as in III.A.b.III.
1728 " " " III.A.b.IV.
1913 heavy formation as in III.A.d.1.
2246 convoy as in III.A.b.VI.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

The unit engineer officer - Lieut.(s.g.) (E) Diplomingenieur Gottwald - drafted to Captain U-boats on 1 March commenced his duties in Rome.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

13 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 82,
U 83 CH 76,
U 380 CH 94.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 431 CJ 66 } proceeding to the Western
U 561 CK 75 } Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put out from Salamis at 1600 on 13 March.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

South of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Tripoli area, inshore waters from Sollum to Derna. Around Crete as far as the coast of the Levant.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1136 CH 7682 2 battleships, 1 aircraft carrier, 10 destroyers, easterly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0710 CO 5472 1 small freighter on a westerly course.

2) 0726 CO 5493 3 medium-sized freighters, 4 escorts, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) According to radio traffic, considerable units of the Alexandria forces are believed to be at sea.

2) Convoys were intercepted in the Mersa Matruh, Benghazi and Syrte areas.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 was requested to make a short weather report during the night. Report was not received.

U 77 and U 380 were assigned as their attack areas the western and eastern halves of the area between 3° W and 4° 30' E.

U 431 was requested to report his position at 1300. (A U-boat was sighted then in CK 4727, i.e. 20 miles northwest of Brindisi.) According to his

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report, the boat was in CK 4499 at 1300, submerged.

U 593 at 0432 reported passing 35° N and was assigned 46, 49, 54 and 55 as attack area. The first watchkeeping officer of U 559 (Lieut.(j.g.) Herziger) reported on 24 December 1942 from captivity: "2 sailing ships sunk. Bombs near convoy. 170 depth charges. Gunfire. Boat sunk." (Teleprint message Admiral Commanding U-boats P2 of 12 March 1943.)

The boats were informed of the sighting of a heavy formation as in III.A.b.

At 0805 Algiers reported a submerged U-boat in CH 8292 (probably U 77 or U 380).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 372 was reported missing for the last time with effect from 4 August 1942 according to Naval War Staff/C-in-C U-boats Operations - Secret 3175 A5. (No new information about the loss, the whole crew are in enemy hands.)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

14 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 84,
U 83 CH 76,
U 380 CH 94.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 431 CK 7815 } proceeding to the Western
U 561 CJ 9855 } Mediterranean.
U 593 CO 52.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Tara - Derna, Mersa Matruh - Alamein, around Crete, south and north of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Italian U-boat: 1024 CH 9636 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, westerly course, speed 18 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1205 CH 9416 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer, no course and speed given.

II. 1350 CH 9526 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer, course 270°, high speed.

III. 1205 CH 9287 1 transport of 3,000 GRT, course 270°.

IV. 1020 CH 8458 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 4 escorts, westerly course, speed slight.

V. 0820 CH 9593 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course, moderate speed.

VI. 1) 1130 CJ 7742 2 destroyers, 2 transports, easterly course, moderate speed.

2) 1640 CJ 7763 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 1 escort, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

I. 1) 0823 CH 9615 from unit: 1 shadower over convoy.

2) 1235 CH 9392 convoy, course 96°, speed 15 knots (gave air raid warning).

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II. 1) 1208 CH 9384 convoy (attacked by aircraft).

2) 1356 CH 9531 convoy, course 255^o, speed 25 knots (attacked by aircraft).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0930 3 destroyers put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

2) A convoy is due to proceed from Gibraltar to Malta on 15 March with troops, provisions and war material.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 2200 CP 5915 1 unidentified British ship.

II. 0720 14 March CO 5574 8 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 2 escort vessels, 6 patrol vessels, westerly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) Alexandria forces are probably in the Benghazi - Tripoli area.

2) Several convoys were intercepted by radio off the coast of Cyrenaica.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1824 from CP 5950 U 81 sent the short weather report requested on 13 March.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0950 convoy as in III.A.b.V.
1040 " " " III.B.b.II.
1250 formation as in III.A.a.

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1707 convoy as in III.A.b.IV.
1915 " " " III.A.d.2.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

15 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 84,
U 380 CH 94,
U 83 CH 76,
U 561 CJ 59.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54 } proceeding to the Western
U 431 CJ 98 } Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 380: 1845 CH 8374 large westbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0945 CH 9567 2 merchant ships, easterly course, speed slight.

2) 0955 CH 9549 3 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 GRT, easterly course, speed slight.

II. 1232 CJ 7757 4 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 1 torpedoboat, 5 escorting vessels, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 0959 CH 9551 unit reported aircraft warning for convoy, course 267° , speed 15 knots.

2) 1200 CH 9466 the same report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0842 CO 4772 12 merchant ships, course 270° , speed 10 knots.

2) 0931 CN 6868 6 merchant ships, 8 destroyers and torpedo-boats, 4 tankers.

3) 1130 CN 6961 position of convoy.

4) 1550 CN 6675 13 merchant vessels, 7 escort vessels, course 315° .

5) 1730 CN 6839 16 merchant ships, course 260° .

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II. 0755 CO 9347 2 small merchant ships,
4 small ships, 5 escorts,
westerly course,
moderate speed.

III. 0755 CO 9348 2 freighters, 1 tanker,
1 escort vessel, 1 patrol
vessel, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

I. 0759 CO 9266 unit reported shadower on
convoy, course 110° ,
speed 6 knots.

II. 1) 1450 CN 6953 unit reported one
shadower on convoy.

2) 1645 CN 6951 unit reported shadower
on formation, course
 180° , speed 8 knots.

III. 2211 CN 6816 unit reported shadower on
convoy.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 561 was ordered to make for CH 6875 via CJ 7175
after passing Entrance Point West. Passage
through the Italian U-boat operational area is
thus avoided.

U 380 at 2351 reported a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were
transmitted to the boats:

1051 formation as in III.A.b.II for 14 March.
1305 convoy as in III.A.c.1.
1825 " " " III.B.b.II.
1905 " " " III.A.b.II.
1921 " " " III.A.c.2.

V. a) Successes:

At 1845 on 15 March U 380 sank an 8,000 GRT
steamer from a westbound convoy in CH 8374.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Frauenheim.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 MARCH, 1943

PG/30930

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16 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 84,
U 380 CH 83,
U 431 CJ 58,
U 83 CH 76,
U 561 CH 69.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria and reconnaissance of inshore waters as far as Cape Kanais. Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 77: 1212 CH 8473 westbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1405 CH 9546 from unit: One shadower on formation, course 94° , speed 15 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) At 0830 12 steamers, 3 destroyers put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

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2) At 2030 a "Cairo" class cruiser put out from Gibraltar, bound for the Mediterranean.

3) On 18 March or during the night 18/19 March a convoy of troopships from New York is due to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar, speed 13 knots.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

2030 CN 6198 10 merchant ships, 10 escorts, bound for Malta.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 2030 CN 6144 convoy was attacked by aircraft.

2) 0839 air raid warning for a convoy in the Mersa Matruh area.

3) 1815 aircraft warning for a convoy in the Benghazi area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

15 ships are expected from Egypt in Beirut and Tripoli (Syria) on 18 or 19 March.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 77, U 380, U 561 and U 431 in that order from west to east were assigned the area between 3° W and 4° 30' E in north-south lanes of equal width as their attack area.

U 77 reported a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1606 convoy as in III.A.d.1.
2002 " " " III.A.d.3.
1902 " " " III.B.d.

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V. a) Successes:

U 77 torpedoed 2 steamers of 5,000 GRT each from a westbound convoy in CH 8473 at 1212 on 16 March.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

The following directive was received under reference Naval War Staff/1st Division I U (U-boats) 1803/43 Most Secret S.O.s only of 16 March:

"Because the number of boats occupying the Western Mediterranean is small, operational areas and boats are to be interchanged at definite periods, in order to simulate a greater number of boats."

(Signed) Kreisch.

17 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 83 CH 76,
U 431 CJ 71,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 49.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 375 put out from Salamis at 1545 to proceed via the Strait of Messina to the Western Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

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b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Sollum, reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) U 77: 1040 CH 7686 11-15 steamers, course 80° (probably the convoy which put out from Gibraltar at 0830 on 16 March).
- 2) U 380: 0200 CH 8165 eastbound convoy (probably the same convoy).

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

The battleship "Malaya" with 2 destroyers and 1 gunboat put in to Gibraltar at 1215 from the west.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 77 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.1.

U 380 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.2.

U 375 was ordered to proceed to the Western Mediterranean, an alteration to the previous plan (operations in the Eastern Mediterranean). The boat reported that he will be at Entrance Point East at 1030 on 19 March.

The following reports of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats:

1147 convoy as in III.A.a.1.

0410 " " " III.A.2.

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V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Survey by C-in-C Navy, Grand Admiral Dönitz. Formal verbal report by Captain U-boats Italy on the U-boat situation in the Mediterranean. The following conclusions were reported after an exposition of the special conditions and limitations under which U-boats operate in the Mediterranean:

- 1) The "use of U-boats to attack enemy supplies bound for North Africa in the Western and Eastern Mediterranean - concentrating on the Western Mediterranean - as well as attacks on enemy naval forces" cannot, as experience has shown, either prevent large-scale landings or strike a decisive blow at enemy supply traffic. U-boat operations can, however, inflict considerable damage on enemy naval forces and supplies, thereby forcing the enemy to make considerable allowances for the danger from U-boats. Forces are thus tied up which would otherwise be free to attack Axis supply traffic in the Strait of Messina or which could operate for anti-submarine defense in other sea areas.
- 2) The figure of merchant shipping tonnage sunk to date is relatively small at about 550,000 GRT; the number and importance of the warship units however - 1 battleship, 2 aircraft carriers, 8 cruisers, 16 destroyers and 14 escort vessels - adds considerably to its value. This has already furnished a decisive contribution towards the attainment of naval mastery in the Central Mediterranean. While enemy naval forces are concentrated in the Mediterranean the U-boat has opportunities to damage the British Fleet to an extent which can scarcely be expected in any other theater of war.
- 3) The U-boat is the only instrument of war which is in a position to inflict damage on the enemy west of Algiers and consequently before he reaches his main bases in North Africa.
- 4) In order to attain the aim mentioned in 1) it is necessary for U-boats to be present in the operational areas of the Western and Eastern Mediterranean in such strength that their influence constitutes a serious threat to the enemy. According to the considerations mentioned by Captain U-boats it is therefore necessary to maintain 7 or 8 boats in the Western Mediterranean and 3 boats in the Eastern

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Mediterranean. Experience has shown that a pool of 30 boats in all is required in the Mediterranean in order to attain the figures named at the enemy's expense, as the boats in the operational area become exhausted in a relatively short space of time. At present only 18 boats are available.

- 5) The breakthrough through the Straits of Gibraltar was carried out successfully without any hitch or loss by the 15 boats which attempted this between October and January. No experience can be drawn on for the summer months. It therefore seems expedient to utilize the April new moon period for the transfer of boats.

(Signed) Kreisch.

18 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 81,
U 83 CH 75,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 49,
U 375 CO 27 proceeding to the Western Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as west of Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria, inshore waters of Mersa Matruh, from Sollum to Bomba.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0640 CH 8293 5 destroyers, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 0740 CH 9631 5 ships, no details of course and speed.
- 3) 1415 CH 8359 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 2 escort vessels, course 270°.
- 4) 1320 CH 9537 3 destroyers, course 290°.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 1408 CH 9517) unit off Algiers: 1 air-
- 2) 1426 CH 9426) craft shadowing formation.
- 3) 1323 9565 from unit: Reconnaissance aircraft over formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0730 10 miles northwest of Cape Spartel, 1 possible battleship, 1 transport of approximately 6,000 GRT, 3 transports of approximately 5,000 GRT each, 1 destroyer, 2 escort vessels, bound for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 2200 7 large troopships, 6 medium-sized steamers, 4 destroyers, 2 fast motor minesweepers, 1 gunboat from Gibraltar to the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 593: 0834 CO 5811 3 steamers, 4 escort vessels, easterly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1310 CO 5942 1 destroyer, course 120°, high speed.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 was requested to report the situation as soon as possible. Signal was not received.

U 593 reported a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were transmitted to the boats:

1024 forces as in III.A.b.1.

1438 convoy as in III.A.b.2.

1531 forces as in III.A.b.4.

1715 convoy as in III.A.b.3.

V. a) Successes:

U 593 reported having sunk 2 steamers of 4,000 GRT each at 0834 on 18 March in CO 5811 (2 miles north of Ras el Hilal).

b) Losses:

In Naval War Staff/2nd Division C-in-C U-boats Operations Secret 3449 A5 of 17 March we were informed that Ensign Dankworth of U 224 is a prisoner of war in British hands. (Boat was reported temporarily missing on 15 February, see War Diary for 17 February. Nothing had been known until now of the fate of the boat.)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

19 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54 } proceeding to the Western
U 375 CN 33 } Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Cyprus and Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 431: 1046 18 March CJ 9289 3 destroyers,
2 steamers of 2,000 GRT each,
course 260° , speed 10 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0941 CH 9642 8 ships, 6 escorts,
easterly course
(position inaccurate).

2) 1318 CH 9652 position of convoy.

II. 1035 CH 7913 14 merchant ships, several
destroyers, easterly course,
moderate speed.

III. 1323 CH 9639 2 merchant ships up to
5,000 GRT, 1 destroyer, no
details of course or speed.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Italian aircraft:

1) 0925 CP 5372 3 auxiliary sailing vessels.

2) 0830 CP 5272 1 medium-sized steamer,
course 30^o, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 was requested to report his position by short signal during the night. At 2350 the boat reported the situation requested on 18 March.

U 431 reported a convoy as in III.A.a and a success (see V.a).

U 593 requested that he might put in to Salamis for a short time for replenishing, as he had 2 bow and 2 stern torpedoes left and limited use of armament only is possible because of the weather. The boat was ordered to proceed to Salamis.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0715 convoy as in III.A.d.2 of 18 March.
1327 " " " III.A.b.2.
1651 " " " III.B.b.2.

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V. a) Successes:

U 431 reported that at 1046 on 18 March he heard a hit on a steamer in CJ 9289, in a convoy of 3 destroyers and 2 steamers, of 2,000 GRT each, course 260°, speed 10 knots.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

20 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 375 CJ 91,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Cyrene.

CONFIDENTIAL

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 380: 1700 CH 8193 westbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1119 CH 7753 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 GRT, 2 escorts, course 270°, speed moderate.

2) 1125 CH 9639 8 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 7 escorts, course 90°, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

1124 ? 7728 unit reported enemy reconnaissance aircraft on convoy, course 85°, speed 8 knots (see III.A.b.2).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0700 20 March south of Alboran, 20 steamers, easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0730 20 March CO 5957 3 destroyers, 1 escort vessel, 1 freighter of approximately 5,000 GRT, course 290°, speed 12 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Radio traffic shows further supply activity off the coast of Cyrenaica.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 380 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1159 convoy as in III.B.b.
1603 " " " III.A.b.1.
2020 " " " III.A.d.

At 1215 an American aircraft reported a periscope in CH 8357, course 340^o, speed 4 knots. It attacked with depth charges. (This was possibly U 561.)

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats went to Germany on a duty trip and leave. Lieut. Commander Frauenheim, S.O. 29th U-boat Flotilla, is acting as deputy.

(Signed) Kreisch.

21 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 375 CJ 76,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31^o E.
U 593 CK 8979.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put in to Salamis at 1030.
U 755 put out from Spezia at 1500 to proceed to the Western Mediterranean.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Mersa Matruh to Alexandria. Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0756 CH 9466 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, easterly course, moderate speed.

2) 0835 CH 8295 12 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1812 CH 9472 1 aircraft shadowing formation.

2) According to radio traffic units of the "Nelson" group are probably at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1630 Ceuta reported 12 steamers, 4 tankers, 2 destroyers, 4 escorts, bound for the Mediterranean.

2) 0130 Ceuta: 8 large units possibly transports, 5 escort units, probably destroyers, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0730 CO 5973 2 patrol vessels, course 105°, moderate speed.
- 2) 0753 Derna - Apollonia area, 1 formation of ships with 3 aircraft as escort.
- 3) 2250 CN 5179 1 possible destroyer, 5 torpedoboats, westerly course. (Gabes was subsequently bombarded by this formation.)

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, light units, perhaps cruisers also, of the Alexandria forces are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 was ordered to proceed from Entrance Point West to CH 6885 via CJ 7185. This route leads to the north round the attack area of 2 Italian U-boats.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1221	convoy	as	in	III.A.b.2.
2102	"	"	"	III.A.c.1.
2237	"	"	"	III.A.d.1.
0417	"	"	"	III.A.d.2.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

22 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 81,
U 375 CH 91,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83,
U 755 CJ 41.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as 60 miles west of Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Alexandria, inshore waters from Benghazi to Tobruk.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0905 CH 7677 (60 miles west of Oran)
12 merchant ships, 8
destroyers, easterly course,
moderate speed.
- 2) 1802 CH 7699 6 merchant ships, 3 escorts,
putting in to Oran.
- 3) 2040 CH 7685 7 merchant ships, 6 escorts,
easterly course, moderate
speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0916 CH 7754 from unit: 1 reconnaissance
aircraft on formation.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0813 CO 7253 possibly 1 cruiser (probably of the "Arethusa" class), 2 destroyers, course 40°.

2) 1145 CO 5587 1 freighter of approximately 3,000 GRT, easterly course, moderate speed.

3) 1202 CO 5981 2 escort vessels, easterly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 0848 CO 4595 from formation leader: 1 aircraft shadowing formation, course 95°.

2) Radio traffic once again leads us to suspect that units of the Alexandria forces are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 was assigned U 561's former operational area between the meridians of CH 8275 and 8361 as his attack area, concentrating on the western half.

U 561 was assigned the eastern half of his former operational area as his attack area.

U 755 was assigned U 77's operational area between the meridians of grid squares 7544 and 7656 as his attack area, concentrating on Alboran.

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1132 tanker putting out from Iskanderun on 22 March.

1150 convoy as in III.A.b.1.

2201 convoy as in III.A.b.3.

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

- 1) 1143 CH 7672 course 180°, speed 8 knots.
- 2) 1230 CH 7598 (both probably U 77).
- 3) 0216 CH 9174 (probably U 431 or U 755).
- 4) 0235 CH 8336 northerly course, speed 15 knots (probably U 561 or U 431).
- 5) 0430 CH 5896 (probably U 375, U 561 or U 755).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

23 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 81,
U 375 CH 82,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83,
U 755 CH 91.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put out at 1400 for the Western Mediterranean.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Bomba. Photographic reconnaissance of Benghazi and Alexandria, reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0830 CH 9481 7 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 4 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.

2) 0930 CJ 7848 1 destroyer, easterly course.

3) 1450 CH 5945 1 merchant ship up to 10,000 GRT, easterly course, high speed.

4) 1640 CH 9549 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 2 destroyers, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1556 CH 9456 } 1 aircraft shadowing
2) 1645 CH 9549 } formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

At 0800 3 French transports, 1 freighter and 3 escorts put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0725 CO 9138 9 freighters (3 over 5,000 GRT), 2 destroyers, 2 escorts, course 280°.

2) 0825 CP 7276 3 merchant ships of 8,000 GRT each, 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, course 280°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The western boats were informed of the convoy as in III.A.d.

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

1300 and 1400 CH 8357 (probably U 561).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

24 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 375 CH 82,
U 596 CJ 41,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83,
U 755 CH 75.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

1215 CH 9528 1 aircraft shadowing the formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0750 24 March. Ceuta: 42 freighters of all sizes, including 3 with engines aft, about 8 escort units, bound for the Mediterranean.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0848 CO 9291 10 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 5 escorts, westerly course, moderate speed, fighter cover.
- 2) 1515 CN 3742 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers, southwesterly course, high speed.
- 3) 0310 CN 2888 1 possible cruiser, southerly course, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, supply traffic is running on the coast of North Africa.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

At 1241 the western boats were informed of the convoy as in III.A.d.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

25 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 81,
U 375 CH 82,
U 596 CH 91,
U 431 CH 94,
U 561 CH 83,
U 755 CH 75.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put out from Pola at 1400 for the Western Mediterranean.

U 593 put out from Salamis at 1600 for operations in the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Benghazi to Sollum, around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) U 77: 0731 CH 7683 large eastbound convoy.
- 2) U 431: 2345 CH 8283 the same convoy.
- 3) 0042 CH 8264 the same convoy.
- 4) 1519 CH 8359 20 steamers, 3 destroyers, course 300°.
- 5) 2345 CH 8258 the same convoy.
- 6) U 755: 0212 CH 7551 1 steamer.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1335 CH 8418 31 merchant ships (3 of them up to 20,000 GRT), 3 escorts, course 120°, speed 8 knots.
- 2) 2345 CH 8286 30 ships, easterly course (the same as b.1).

c) By radio intercept service:

0630 CH 8349 convoy attacked from the air, course 75°, speed 8 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1200 CO 5993 4 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, 4 escort vessels, course 270°.
- 2) 1130 ? 8316 1 light cruiser, course 45°, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

1030 CP 8263 aircraft on the formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 was assigned as his attack area the area between the meridians of CH 7656 and CH 8275, concentrating on the west.

U 380 was ordered to operate in the same attack area, concentrating on the east.

U 77 reported the large eastbound convoy as in III.A.a.1.

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U 431 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.4, also convoys as in III.A.a.2 and III.A.a.5, and a success (see V.a) on an eastbound convoy as in III.A.a.3. The boat commenced return passage as it had fired its torpedoes.

U 561 reported damage from aircraft attack and was ordered to proceed to Toulon.

U 755 reported a success (see V.a) on a convoy as in III.A.a.6.

U 593 reported crossing 35° N to the south at 0428.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1317 convoy as in III.A.a.1.
1441 cruiser as in III.B.b.2.
1848 convoy as in III.A.b.1.
2137 " " " III.A.a.4.
0152 convoys as in III.A.a.2 and III.A.a.5.

V. a) Successes:

U 755 sank a single ship of 4,000 GRT in CH 7551 at 0212 on 26 March.

U 431 obtained 2 hits on a steamer of 6,000-8,000 GRT from an eastbound convoy in CH 8264 at 0042 (probably sunk) and torpedoed 1 steamer of 5,000 GRT.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

26 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 81,
U 375 CH 82,
U 596 CH 84,
U 431 CH 82,
U 561 CH 83,
U 755 CH 75.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

U 593 CO 52, } proceeding to the Western
U 617 CT 63 } Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from
0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N, as far as
the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from
Alexandria to Benghazi, around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1) U 77: 1850/26 March CH 7676 westbound
convoy, speed 8 knots.

2) 0130/27 March CH 7546 eastbound
convoy, approximately 20
vessels.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1100 CH 9653 2 merchant ships up to
5,000 GRT, 3 escorts,
westerly course, speed
slight.

2) 1920 CH 9456 10-15 merchant ships,
easterly course.

3) 0626 CH 9656 possibly 20 ships or even
more, several escorts,
easterly course, speed
slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

1443 CH 9533 unit reported aircraft
shadowing the formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1200 1 French troopship, 16 landing
ships (tank) put out from
Gibraltar on an easterly course.

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2) 1545 the "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Formidable" and 8 light units put in to Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0805 CO 9349 3 freighters of 6,000 GRT each, 6 freighters of 3,000 GRT each, 2 destroyers, 3 escorts, course 270°, moderate speed.

2) 1005 CO 4459 1 merchant ship up to 5,000 GRT, easterly course, no escort (probably the hospital ship "Llandoverly Castle").

3) 1055 CO 4868 2 M.T.B.s.

4) 1645 CO 5195 2 medium-sized, 3 large freighters, course 290°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 431 was assigned Toulon as port of destination.

U 375 was assigned the area between the meridians of CH 8275 and CH 9516 as his new operational area.

U 617, proceeding to the Western Mediterranean, reported that he would reach Point S1 at 0530 on 28 March.

U 755 reported an attack on 2 overlapping transports at 0413 in CH 7551, and a hit heard after one minute, without any effect being observed on the target.

U 380 and U 375 were requested to report their positions by short signal. At 0119 U 380 reported

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from 8422 and at 0606 U 375 from CH 8276.

U 77 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.1, III.A.a.2 and a success (see V.a) and requested permission to return as he had one stern torpedo left. The boat was ordered to proceed to Spezia.

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

- 1) 1040 CH 8235 depth charge attack (this may be U 375, U 431 or U 561).
- 2) 1605 CH 8390 U-boat submerging (probably U 375).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0840	convoy	as	in	III.A.c,	War Diary for 25 March.
1046	"	"	"	III.A.a.3,	War diary for 25 March.
1325	"	"	"	III.A.b.1.	
1543	"	"	"	III.B.b.1.	
1855	"	"	"	III.A.c.	
2100	"	"	"	III.A.d.1.	
2227	"	"	"	III.A.b.2.	
0543	"	"	"	III.A.a.2.	

V. a) Successes:

At 1850 on 26 March U 77 torpedoed a 6,000 GRT steamer on a westerly course in CH 7676.

b) Losses:

U 562 was reported missing with effect from 22 February.
(Naval War Staff/2nd Division C-in-C U-boats Operations G 3709 A5 of 25 March 1943.)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 76,
U 380 CH 84,
U 375 CH 82,
U 596 CH 84,
U 431 CH 59,
U 561 CH 68,
U 755 CH 75.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.

U 593 CO 54, } proceeding to the
U 617 CK 78 } Western Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from
0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as
the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance north and south of Cyprus.
Inshore waters from Mersa Matruh to Cape Ras
el Hilal.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1) U 596: 1200 CH 7692 eastbound convoy,
5 transports, 4
steamers, 3 escort
vessels.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0921 CH 7569 15 merchant ships up to
10,000 GRT (probably tank
landing ships), 26 landing
craft, 6 escorts, easterly
course, moderate speed.

2) 1308 CJ 7743 20 merchant ships, course 90° ,
speed 10 knots.

3) 1610 CJ 7757 convoy, course 180° , speed
5 knots.

4) 1726 CJ 7741 3 merchant ships, several
escorts, easterly course,
speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The boats were allocated the following new attack areas:

U 755 between the meridians of CH 7573 and CH 7675.
U 596 between the meridians of CH 7645 and CH 8195.
U 380 adjoining as far as the meridian of CH 8375.
U 375 as far as the meridian of CH 9546.

U 596 reports convoy as in III.A.a.

U 593 reported a westbound convoy as in III.B.a and a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1252 convoy as in III.A.b.1.
1944 " " " III.B.b.

V. a) Successes:

U 593 reported 2 ammunition steamers sunk, one of 4,000 GRT and the other of 5,000 GRT, at 1624 on 27 March in CO 5811.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 91,
U 380 CH 82,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 431 CH 68,
U 561 CH 33,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CJ 98.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 561 put in to Toulon at 1230 on 18 March.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras el Hilal to Benghazi, around Cyprus, around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1448 CH 9567 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, easterly course, speed 6 knots.

2) 1515 CH 9459 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, course 250° , speed 6 knots.

3) 1705 CH 9448 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 3 torpedoboats, course 270° , high speed.

4) 0300/29 March CJ 7729 about 15 ships, no details of course or speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing special to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 reported a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1742 convoy as in III.A.b.2.
2113 formation as in III.A.b.3.
0741/19 March convoy as in III.A.b.4.

Enemy reports of our boats:

- 1) 1125 CH 5782 depth charge attack.
- 2) 1450 CO 5483 (U 593).

V. a) Successes:

U 81 reported sinking a steamer carrying depth charges at 2202 on 28 March in CP 8341. One sailing ship was also sunk.

b) Losses:

U 205 was reported missing with effect from 19 February (Naval War Staff/2nd Division C-in-C U-boats Operations G 3714 A5 of 27 March 1943).

VI. General situation:

At 0200 on 29 March the clocks were put forward one hour for the introduction of summertime.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 77 CH 54,
U 380 CH 57,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 431 CH 33,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CJ 81.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

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- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 431 put in to Toulon at 1310.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

- b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

- A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

- b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0835 CJ 7717 10 merchant ships, 5 escorts, westerly course, speed slight.

2) 0920 CJ 7754 12 merchant ships of 5,000 GRT, 1 destroyer, no details of course or speed.

3) 1145 CH 9663 10 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 6 destroyers, westerly course, speed 9 knots.

II. 0911 CH 9648 5 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 2 destroyers, 2 escorts, westerly course.

III. 1) 0755 CH 8371 2 destroyers, 5 escorts, 2 tankers of approximately 10,000-12,000 GRT each, course 90°, moderate speed.

2) 1205 CH 8364 2 tankers, 3 escorts, southeasterly course.

IV. 0750 CH 8269 3 destroyers, course 220°, high speed.

- c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1215 CH 8357 unit reported aircraft shadowing convoy, course 88°, speed 9 knots.

2) 2045 CH 9469 formation attacked by aircraft, course 90°, speed 9 knots.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0915 CP 5929 2 freighters of 4,000 GRT each, 3 small ships, 1 destroyer, northerly course.

2) 1145 southeast of Malta, 4 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, 2 torpedoboats, bound for Valetta.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The eastern limit of U 375's attack area has been fixed at 4° E. (By request of the Italian Navy. This boundary is only temporary.)

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1125 convoys as in III.A.b.I.1 and III.A.b.II.
1351 convoy as in III.A.b.I.3.
1455 " " " III.A.b.III.2.
1606 " " " III.A.c.1.
1711 " " " III.B.b.1.
1900 formation as in III.A.b.IV.
1927 convoy as in III.A.b.III.1.

Enemy reports of our boats:

1) 0200/29 March CH 8169 aircraft over submerging U-boat.
2) 0940 CH 5573 aircraft over submerging U-boat, course 280°, speed 8 knots (probably U 380).

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- 3) According to radio intercept report, British aircraft and auxiliary vessels were deployed to chase a U-boat at about 1500 on 28 March, bearing 315° , 25 miles from Apollonia. (U 593, see War Diary for 28 March.) Source: Italian radio intercept situation report for 29 March.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

On 28 March 1943 an enemy aircraft reported making a depth charge attack at 1125 on a submerged U-boat in CH 5782, course 45° , speed 6 knots.

At 1700 another aircraft reported a submerged U-boat in CH 5739.

This was probably U 77, who is on return passage from the Western Mediterranean to Spezia. This supposition was confirmed by U 77's report, time of origin 1700, according to which the boat was in CH 5575, unable to submerge. As it is at present assumed that the boat can continue its return passage surfaced, we intend to request air cover for tomorrow.

The U-boat base at Toulon was ordered to request air cover from the 2nd Fliegerdivision after first light, attention being drawn to the fact that at first light U 77 will be in the area west of Majorca. U 77 was informed of this plan, was requested to report course and speed at 0400, and was ordered to proceed to Toulon for repairs.

U 431, on return passage to Toulon, asked from 4425, with time of origin 1742, whether he was to go to U 77's aid.

As there is the considerable distance of 350 miles between them, U 431 has been ordered to continue his return passage.

At 1910 a war distress signal was received from U 77 from CH 5575, from which it appears that the boat has again been attacked. The boat reported bomb hits and that he has destroyed his confidential books.

U 380, who is operating in the area around Cape Tenes, has been ordered to proceed towards CH 5575 to the damaged U 77. Simultaneously Naval War Staff requested help from the Spanish Navy by telephone. At about 2015 Naval War Staff informed us that the matter was in hand and that further information would follow. U 77 was informed of this. At 2140 Captain U-boats received another radio intercept service report,

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according to which U 77 was attacked at 1900 in CH 5739 by bombs from a low-flying enemy aircraft, and was severely damaged by 4 hits. U 380 was informed of this report especially because the position reported by the enemy aircraft differs from the position of U 77's war distress signal. It lies about 30 miles southwest of the position reported by U 77.

Towards 2125, Naval War Staff informed us that one Spanish minesweeper, 1 gunboat and 1 trawler would put out from Soller on 29 March to give help. At 2215 this communication was altered by Naval War Staff to the effect that a Spanish minesweeper 40 miles away was ordered to lend assistance, and that on 29 March one destroyer and one trawler were to give further help.

U 77 was informed of the help requested from the Spanish minesweeper, and was ordered to make an attempt to tow the boat in to a Spanish port and to report its being picked up by the Spaniards.

At 2220 Captain U-boats received the following radio message from U 77: "Bombs. Everything broken down. Still afloat. Shadowed until twilight. Am 15 miles south of Cape Nao. Main motor will last out so far. Am steering there. Request orders."

At 2230 Naval War Staff was informed by telephone of U 77's new position. It is planned to send U 77 under his own power to the port of Denia, if the boat can do this. No other port can be considered because the distance is too great.

U 77 was therefore ordered to proceed under his own power to Denia.

Because of U 77's report about the damage to the boat we cannot expect the boat to be ready to put to sea again within a short time. It is therefore planned that as many as possible of the crew should be taken on by U 380 and only enough men left on board to navigate the boat and to take it in to port. U 380 will then take the crew to Toulon.

Corresponding orders were sent to both boats at 2320.

Naval War Staff was informed by teleprint that U 77 had been ordered to put in to Denia and was requested to report the boat's impending arrival there.

At 0055 on 29 March, Captain U-boats received a new position report from U 77 from CH 5491. This was due south of Cape Nao.

Since it must be assumed that there is no longer acute danger for the crew of U 77 in the immediate

CONFIDENTIAL

vicinity of the coast and on the other hand U 380 cannot be expected to catch up with U 77 until first light, the transfer of the crew is scheduled for the following night in order not to expose U 380 to the danger of being surprised by enemy aircraft during the day while carrying out his task.

- The following radio message was therefore transmitted:

- 1) The plan is to take 40 men of "Hartmann"'s crew on Röther's U-boat to Toulon during the night 29/30 March. Transshipment by tug or a similar vessel. "Röther" will therefore be 1 mile off the north mole beacon, bearing 270°, from 2200 on 29 March until 0100 on 30 March.
- 2) "Röther" will report his position by short signal.
- 3) Assignment cancelled for tonight.

An order from Naval War Staff for U 77, to request permission from the Spanish Navy to stay to repair damage caused by the sea, was transmitted to the boat by radio message.

At 0407 U 380 reported his position from CH 5732.

Since no further reports were received from U 77, the Toulon U-boat base was ordered on the morning of 29 March to request air reconnaissance from 2nd Fliegerdivision in the area around Cape Nao and over Denia.

Naval War Staff was requested to ask the Spanish Government whether U 77 put in to Denia. About 1430 Naval War Staff informed us by telephone that U 77 had not put in to port, but that 9 of the crew had reached land alive, one of them severely wounded. We must presume the boat is lost; the cause of the loss is not yet known.

Toulon U-boat base reported by teleprinter at 1230 that the area between Cape Nao and Iviza had so far been combed without success and that it was planned to continue the search at 1500 with 2 aircraft.

Since on the grounds of Naval War Staff's telephonic communication we had to assume that the boat was lost, Toulon U-boat base was informed that the air cover arranged was to be cancelled.

At 1505 U 380 was relieved of the assignment scheduled for the night of 29/30 March, and was ordered to re-occupy his previous operational area.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 82,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 93.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Bomba to Tolmaide and Tobruk to Sidi Barrani, around Cyprus and Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1000 CH 8289 3 destroyers, easterly course, high speed.

2) 1357 CH 7697 2 destroyers on a westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

At 1500 the "Malaya" and 2 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean, put in to port again at 2400.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0759/30 March CO 5488 2 patrol vessels, course
230⁰, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

0612 CN 2649 1 aircraft shadowing formation,
course 100⁰, speed 29 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 was assigned as his attack area the area between the meridians of CH 7675 and 8166, concentrating on the east.

U 596 was assigned the same area, concentrating on the west.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1132 formation as in III.A.b.1.

1540 formation as in III.A.b.2.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

31 March 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 82,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Shershel to Mostaghanem.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Mersa Lukk to Derna, around Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) U 596: 2015/30 March CH 8292 westbound convoy of 20 steamers.
- 2) U 380: 1830/30 March CH 8269 westbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1035 CH 9554 2 patrol vessels on a westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

At 0850 the "Formidable" with 8 destroyers put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean and at 0030 on 1 April put in to port again with 3 destroyers.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

0712/31 March CN 2646 1 aircraft shadowing the formation, course 100^o, speed 20 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.1 and a success (see V.a).

U 380 reported a convoy as in III.A.a.2.

U 81 reported return passage. (Boat has been at sea since 6 March.)

At 1136 the boats were informed that the "Formidable" had put to sea.

V. a) Successes:

U 596 reported sinking an 8,000 GRT tanker and a 6,000 GRT steamer at 2015 on 30 March from a westbound convoy of 20 steamers in CH 8292.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

Summary for March 1943

- 1) The month of March was passed under the threat of a possible enemy landing in the Italian area.

Indications of this are, among other things, the increase in the traffic of war supplies and troops in the Western Mediterranean and the repeated appearance of transport landing ships and tank landing craft, especially during the latter half of the month. Further, since 17 March there has been a third battleship, the "Malaya", in Gibraltar.

On 8 March, C-in-C South directed that U-boat operations should be concentrated in the Western Mediterranean, with regard to a possible enemy landing in Sardinia. Captain U-boats' plans are given in the War Diary for that day.

In order to give the boats greater freedom of movement within the operational area in the Western Mediterranean between 3° W and 4° 30' E, after 5 March this area was divided into north-south lanes of equal width according to the number of boats operating there. This disposition produced good results.

- 2) The number of boats in the operational area during March was on the following dates:

	<u>In the Western Mediterranean</u>	<u>In the Eastern Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward or outward bound</u>
1 March	3 boats	1 boat	3 boats
10 March	1 boat	1 boat	2 boats
20 March	4 boats	2 boats	1 boat
31 March	5 boats	2 boats	-

On an average in these periods there were daily:

from 1-10 March	3.3 boats	0.5 boats	2.7 boats
11-20 March	2.5 boats	1.6 boats	2.0 boats
21-31 March	4.9 boats	1.5 boats	1.7 boats

On a monthly average there were in the operational area daily:

	3.6 boats	1.2 boats	2.1 boats
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3) The following successes were gained during March:

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>No. of ships</u> <u>Sunk</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>	<u>No. of ships</u> <u>Torpedoed</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>
1	U 77	2	11,000	1	5,000
2	U 81	1 + 1 sailing vessel	500	-	-
3	U 380	1	8,000	-	-
4	U 431	2	13,000	1	2,000
5	U 593	4	17,000	1	4,000
6	U 596	4	25,000	2	10,000
7	U 755	1	4,000	-	-
		15	78,500	5	21,000

Result: Each boat at sea during March sank, in an average of 15 days at sea, 5,233.3 GRT, i.e. 348.8 GRT per day at sea.

Losses: U 77 was lost on 29 March near Cape Nao as a result of severe damage inflicted during an aircraft attack on 28 March.

We must presume the loss of U 83 in the Western Mediterranean.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
1 - 15 APRIL, 1943
PG/30931

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1 April, 1945

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 580 CH 82,

U 375 CH 94,

U 593 CH 76,

U 755 CH 75,

U 617 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E,

U 593 CO 49.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0300 to 0800:

U 453 put out from Pola at 1400 for the Western Mediterranean.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Hilal to Benghazi, around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1127 CH 7697 2 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 1 escort, course 280°, speed 14 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0730 13 steamers, 1 tank landing craft and 6 escorts put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh, around Crete. North and south of Cyprus, in the Benghazi sea area.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 755: 1624 CH 7566 1 steamer.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1110 CH 7663 convoy.
1112 CH 7663 17 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 8 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 1112 CH 8454 3 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 escorts, northerly course, speed 5 knots.
- 3) 1722 CH 8452 10 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 5 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 5 escorts, easterly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0130 on 2 April the "Rodney" and 3 destroyers put in to Gibraltar again from the east.
- 2) 1330 the "Nelson", 1 destroyer, 4 gunboats, put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- 3) 0045/3 April put in to Gibraltar again.
- 4) 1830 21 landing craft (infantry) put out from Gibraltar for the east.

c) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 593: 0700/2 April CO 5839 eastbound convoy.

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3 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 67,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CO 6250,
U 593 CO 58,
U 453 CO 75 proceeding to the
Western Mediterranean.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as 60 miles west of Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Benghazi to Mersa Matruh, around Crete, probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 596: 0617/4 April CH 7617 1 steamer,
1 destroyer, course 80°.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1100 a "Dido" class cruiser,
2 destroyers and 2 submarines put out
from Gibraltar for the east.
1430 the cruiser and 2 destroyers put
in again.

2) 2010 landing ship (tank) "Queen Emma" put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1135 CO 5997 2 tankers, 1 escort vessel, course 90°, speed 8 knots. (Tanker sunk by Italian aerial torpedo).

1145 CO 6717 2 tankers, 1 escort vessel, easterly course. (Probably the same convoy).

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio traffic one cruiser and one other light unit are believed to be at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 reported a convoy as in III A a). After a depth charge attack on 3 April the boat's main periscope was only clear with restrictions and he has been operating withdrawn to the north.

U 81 received courses and times for passage through the Adriatic to Pola.

U 453 received orders not to cross zone D6 before 1900 on 4 April because an important convoy escorted by aircraft was putting out from Messina. He later received orders not to cross 18° E to the west before 2000 on 4 April, an alteration to the previous instruction.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1220 the "Nelson" put in to port as in III A d) 3) of 3 April.

1851 and 2137 the "Dido" class cruiser as in III A d) 1).

0018 the "Queen Emma" as in III A d) 2).

Enemy reports of our own boats:

1450 depth charge attack (position inexact...30' N.... 05'.....)

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- V. a) Successes:)
b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

- VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 April, 1945

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CJ 41,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CO 52,
U 593 CK 89,
U 453 CK 78.

- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Ras Azzaz to Benghazi.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1700 Cape de Fer 14 merchant ships, easterly course.
- 2) 0530 CJ 7919 2 M.T.B.s.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1530 the "Rodney", the "Nelson", the "Formidable", 10 destroyers and 1 ocean-going tug put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

-Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1114 CO 5478 8 small merchant ships, 3 destroyers, 2 torpedoboats, course 250°.
- 2) 1250 CN 2646 1 destroyer, course 280°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 380 received orders to put in to Spezia on 5 April without a pilot and has been informed that an Italian U-boat is putting in at the same time.

U 453 was informed that 18° E may not be crossed to the west after 2000. He received orders to keep at least 10 miles off the coast when approaching Point S1 because of our anti-submarine measures. At 1817 the boats were informed of the sailing of the heavy formation as in III A d).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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5 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CJ 13,
U 375 CH 94,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 84,
U 453 CJ 98.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CJ 78.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 put in to Spezia at 0800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Azzaz to Cape Kanais, Crete to inshore waters of Alexandria, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

I. 1) 0945 CH 9625 30 units, westerly course.
2) 1400 north of Bougie 40 units, westerly course.
3) 1825 CH 9591 20 merchant ships, several destroyers, making for Bougie.

II. 1555 CH 8459 2 probable tankers up to 2,000 G.R.T.

III. 1645 CH 8296 2 escorts, probably in tow, 1 merchant ship up to 10,000 G.R.T., westerly course, speed slight.

IV. According to a photographic evaluation the "Rodney", the "Nelson" and 1 aircraft carrier, also probably 1 battleship of the R class are in Oran.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0830 3 submarines and 1 cableship put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.
- 2) 1630 2 tankers and 2 escorts put out from Gibraltar on an easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1215 CO 9391 1 freighter of 3,000 G.R.T.,
3 escorts, course 280°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Traffic running on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 proceeding from Messina to the Western Mediterranean, received orders not to cross 40° N to the north before 2200 on 5 April because of a convoy of ours.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1509 convoy as in III A b) I 1).

1645 putting in to port of heavy formation as in III A IV.

1909 convoy as in III A b) II.

1740 sailing of 3 submarines as in III A d) 1).

1817 convoy as in III A b) III.

6 Apr. 0225 convoy as in III A d) 2).

0540 convoy as in III A b) I 3).

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

- 1) Aircraft sighting report at 1030 in 8186, at 1100 in the same position submerged, at 1110 aircraft attack (presumably U 596 or U 617).

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0845 off Arzeu 11 merchant ships of 6000 - 8000 G.R.T., 4 of them course 45°, speed slight.
- 2) 0847 CH 8473 2 escorts, course 330°, high speed.
- 3) 1118 CH 7673 2 probable tankers, 2 destroyers 1 escort vessel, course 90°, speed 15 knots, 1 guardboat 12 miles astern.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 602 received orders to make for CH 6559.

U 453 received orders to make for CH 9138 from Entrance Point West and was informed of the operational area of 4 Italian U-boats between Majorca and Cape de Fer.

U 375 and U 617 were ordered to report their positions.

No signals were received.

U 602 reported crossing 42° N to the south at 0037.

U 755 reported a locating enemy submarine at 2338 in CH 7525.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1657 convoy as in III A b) 3).

1826 convoy as in III A b) 1) and 2).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 443 was reported missing with effect from 25 February.

(Naval War Staff 2nd Div. C-in-C U-boats Ops. G.3879A5).

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

7 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 75,
U 617 CH 84,
U 453 CJ 73,
U 602 CH 62.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 CJ 23.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 81 put in to Pola at 1600.
U 371 put out from Spezia for the Western Mediterranean at 1945.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance south of 39° N as far as the Greenwich meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Alexandria and inshore waters from Mersa Matruh to Ras Hilal.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0905 CH 8337 3 merchant ships, 4 destroyers, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 1045 CH 9652 8 merchant ships, easterly course, speed slight.
- 3) 1052 CH 9681 7 small merchant ships or landing craft, no details of course or speed.
- 4) 1120 CH 9463 1 probable destroyer, high speed, course 70° .
- 5) 1255 CJ 7753 4 merchant ships of 3,000 - 5,000 G.R.T., westerly course, speed slight.
- 6) 0415 CJ 7695 3 ships, no details of course, or speed.

- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing special to
- e) By naval forces:) report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing special to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 reported his position at 1356 from CH 8511 and U 375 at 2328 from CH 5970.
As U 755 has at present only 1 bow and 1 stern torpedo left it is intended to send him to Toulon to take on fresh supplies. As U 453 is expected in the operational area, the following new attack areas have been ordered.
U 617 between the meridians of 7544 and 7945.
U 602 between the meridians of 7648 and 8169.
U 596 will operate in the same operational area on the northern route.
U 453 between the meridians of 8465 and 8372.
U 602 started the return passage to Toulon from 6295 owing to a leaking air supply head valve. The western boats were informed of shipping in ports in the Western Mediterranean and of the convoy as in III A b) 1).

Enemy reports of our U-boats:

- 1) 0100 CH 9314 (probably U 453).
- 2) 0101 CH 6578 1 U-boat submerged (probably U 602).

- V. a) Successes:)
- b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

8 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- U 375 CH 59,
- U 596 CH 31,
- U 755 CH 75,
- U 371 CH 17,
- U 617 CH 75,
- U 453 CH 91,
- U 602 CH 62.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put out from Salamis for the Eastern Mediterranean at 1600.

U 565 put out from Spezia for the Western Mediterranean at 2345.

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus, inshore waters around Benghazi.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0718 CH 9652 12 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., (including tankers and landing craft), 6 destroyers, 6 escorts, easterly course.

2) 1130 CH 8285 2 merchant ships, 1 torpedo-boat, westerly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence units of the "Nelson" formation are at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

) Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, units of Alexandria forces are at sea including several cruisers (probably in the Benghazi - Tripoli sea area).

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an agent's report an aircraft carrier is said to have put in to Tripoli (Syria) and continued in the direction of Cyprus on 10 April.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 has commenced the return passage to Spezia as the flood valves of both "Q" tanks (quick-diving tanks) are leaking. U 755 has commenced the return passage to Toulon.

1620 radio message to the western boats on the sighting of the enemy convoy as in III A b) 2).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

9 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 81,
U 371 CJ 13,
U 617 CH 75,
U 453 CH 82,
U 602 CH 36,
U 565 CJ 15.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 26.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0900:

U 371 put in to Spezia at 0930.

U 602 put in to Toulon at 1445.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Apollonia, around Crete, around Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1018 CH 8522 3 landing craft,
westerly course.

2) 1045 CH 8519 3 destroyers,
northerly course.

3) 1135 CH 7519 7 destroyers,
easterly course.

4) 1615 CH 7696 1 probable merchant
ship up to 10,000
G.R.T., 5 escorts,
moderate speed,
easterly course.

5) 1915 CH 7699 2 battleships,
1 aircraft-carrier,
2 cruisers and
1 probable cruiser off
harbor entrance.

6) 12 merchant ships 3 - 5,000 G.R.T.,
stopped, in Oran
roads.

7) 1750 CH 9455 3 destroyers, course
210°, high speed.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

The "Malaya" out of dock
in Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1010 C0 5812 1 freighter, hove to.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North
African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 593 reported passing 35° N to the
south at 1217.

U 565 (proceeding from Spezia to
the Western Mediterranean) and U 755
(returning to Toulon) received orders
to proceed via CH 6559 as Italian U-boats
are southeast of there.

The following reports of enemy movements
are passed on to the boats:

1505 1 freighter as in III B b).

1553 landing craft as in III
A b) 1).

1618 destroyers as in III A
b) 2) and 3).

2245 convoys and warships as in
III A b) 4) - 6).

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V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.

b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

10 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83,
U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 65,
U 617 CH 75,
U 453 CH 82,
U 565 CH 65.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 55.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 371 put out from Spezia for the Western Mediterranean at 0900.

U 97 put out from Spezia for the Eastern Mediterranean at 1515.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Bone - Algiers sea area.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Sollum, south and north of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 617: 1400 CH 7546 1 "Fiji" class cruiser, 1 destroyer, easterly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0939 CJ 7741 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 G.R.T., 2 escort vessels.
- 2) 0955 off Bone 10 units, course 330°, high speed.
- 3) 1145 CH 7645 15 merchant ships, 6,000 - 8,000 G.R.T., 5 escorts, westerly course, moderate speed.
- 4) 1635 CH 9674 2 merchant ships of 2,000-3,000 G.R.T., 1 escort vessel making for Bougie, moderate speed.
- 5) 0210 CJ 7766 about 15 ships.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0835 1 "Fiji" class cruiser, 1 "Tribal" class destroyer put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 reported a success (see V a).

U 565 received as his attack area the area between the meridians of CH 7676 and CH 8436.

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1403 convoy as in III A b) 1).
1459 convoy as in III A b) 2).
1910 convoy as in III A b) 3).
2028 formation as in III A d).

V. a) Successes:

U 617 sank a "Fiji" class cruiser and torpedoed a "Tribal" class destroyer at 1400 on 10 April 20 miles, bearing 45° from Alboran.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

11 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83, U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 65, U 371 CH 39,
U 617 CH 75, U 453 CH 82,
U 565 CH 81, U 97 CJ 54.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 602 put out from Toulon for the Western Mediterranean at 0800.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Mersa Matruh to Ras Hilal.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0932 CJ 7844 2 patrol vessels stopped.
- 2) 0945 CJ 7755 1 tanker, 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 1 destroyer with barrage balloon at 400 meters, easterly course.
- 3) 1000 CH 9662 6 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 7 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 destroyers, 3 escorts, speed slight.
- 4) 1620 CJ 7826 4 destroyers, easterly course, high speed.
2100 CJ 8743 the same destroyers, course 130°.
2300 CJ 8813 the same destroyers.
- 5) 1835 CH 9557 18 merchant ships, 6 escorts, westerly course.
- 6) 0006/12 April CH 9542 12 ships, easterly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence the "Nelson" group is in the Oran area (in port according to aerial photographs).

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0715 landing ship (tank) "Queen Emma" with 2 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- 2) 1430 5 freighters, 2 tugs, 4 escorts, put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 1615 Tangier: easterly course, approximately 40 freighters.
- 4) 0020 - 0045 Ceuta: easterly course, 24 units.
0100/12 April Ceuta: easterly course, 12 units.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1245 CO 9135 2 medium-sized, 3 small freighters, 4 escorts, course 90°.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 1313 CO 9217 1 aircraft shadowing the formation.
- 2) According to radio traffic there are 5 convoys between Alexandria and Tripoli.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 97 received orders not to make for Entrance Point East direct from Point Sl, in contrast to the route laid down in Spezia, because of our anti-submarine measures in the sea area around Spartivento but to proceed on a new route arranged with Supermarina under the Sicilian coast to approximately the latitude of Augusta and from there out to Entrance Point East.

U 602 reported at 1705 passing 42° N parallel to the south.

U 596 has requested permission to return as his main periscope has failed entirely. The boat received orders to make for Spezia.

Because U 596 is returning and U 371 and U 602 are outward bound, the operational area of the boats is ordered as follows:

U 602 between the meridians of CH 7675 and CH 8436 concentrating on the east.

U 565 in the same area concentrating on the west.

U 453 between the meridians of CH 8436 and CH 8345.

U 375 adjoining, as far as the meridian of CH 9445 and U 371 adjoining as far as the meridian of CH 9519.

U 414 coming from the Atlantic, reported his position from CH 67 at 0342 and received orders to make for Spezia. The following reasons determine our intention to fetch the boats just arriving from the Atlantic in the Mediterranean to Spezia first:

- 1) The present situation in the operational area does not demand an immediate operation by the boats.
- 2) It is worthwhile to instruct the Commanders thoroughly in Mediterranean conditions before they operate and to furnish them with all information as well as to instruct the crews.
- 3) The boats at present in the operational area will have used up their fighting capacity by the end of the month. The two newly arrived boats must be withdrawn by the same date at the latest. By then, however, only 3 boats will be ready for operations. A

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short overhaul now and complete equipment of U 303 and U 414 therefore serves the expedient direction of the whole operation of the U-boats.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1027 transport as in III A d) 1).
1143 convoy as in III A b) 3).
2050 convoy as in III A d) 2).
2144 convoy as in III A b) 5).
0550 convoys as in III A d) 4).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 77 is reported missing with effect from 29 March (see also War Diary for 29 March). The boat was sunk at 0100 on 29 March off the Spanish coast. 9 members of the crew were saved, of the remainder over 20 were found dead, including the Commander and Engineer Officer.

(Naval War Staff 2nd Div/C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.3886 A5 dated 12 April).

In Naval War 2nd Div/C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.4373 A5 it is reported that Ordinary Telegraphist Handke (U 205) has written from a prisoner of war camp. For loss of U 205 see War Diary of 28 March 1943.

VI. General situation:

Lt. (s.g.) Brandi, Commander of U 617, has received from the Fuehrer the award of the Oak Leaves to the Knight's Cross as the 224th recipient in the German Armed Forces.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83, U 596 CH 76,
U 755 CH 36, U 371 CH 91,
U 414 CH 58, U 617 CH 75,
U 453 CH 82, U 565 CH 76,
U 97 CJ 92, U 602 CH 68.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54.

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b) U-boats homeward and outward
bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 97 put in to Messina at 0930.
U 97 put out from Messina at 1215.
U 755 put in to Toulon at 1130.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from
Alexandria to Derna, around Crete,
north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 617: 0710/13 April CH 7466 several
large troopships, easterly course,
speed 18 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0840 CJ 7913 4 ships, course 180°.
- 2) 1020 CJ 7596 4 ships, westerly course.
- 3) 1115 CH 8298 22 merchant ships, 6 escorts,
stopped.
- 4) 1807 CH 8382 convoy of 10 merchant ships
up to 10,000 G.R.T.,
approximately 8 destroyers
and escort vessels, course
and speed not reported.
- 5) 2028 CJ 8769 2 probable destroyers,
course 90°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) Between 0935 and 1200 10 probable tank
landing craft apparently passed Tangier
bound for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 1130 5 submarines put out from Gibraltar
for the east.
- 3) 2200 14 large ships, including 1 aircraft
carrier, put out from Gibraltar for the
Mediterranean.
- 4) According to amplifying reports received,
2 eastbound convoys are running in the
Western Mediterranean:

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- 1) 29 merchant ships, 1 tanker, 12 escorts.
- 2) 2 tankers, 12 liberty ships, 13 fairly large and 5 small freighters, 8 landing ships (tank) 16 landing craft (infantry).

Assuming a speed of 9 knots, the first convoy will be 30 miles northwest of Oran at 1715, the second one at 2230 on 12 April.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1620/11 April CO 9252 1 important convoy, units not determined.
- 2) 0812/12 April CO 9392 1 medium-sized and 4 small freighters, 4 escorts, course 270°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

A cruiser which put out from Alexandria on 11 April and a destroyer formation were in the Benghazi area at 1200 on 12 April, westerly course, high speed.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 303 (Lt. s.g. Heine) reported his position from CH 67 at 0307 and received orders to proceed to Spezia.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 1323 convoy as in III A b) 3).
- 1457 convoy as in III B b) 2).
- 2257 convoy as in III A b) 4).
- 0114 convoy as in III A d) 4).
- 0718 submarines as in III A d) 2).
- 0729 convoy as in III A d) 3).
- 0118 convoy as in III B b) 1).

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V. a) Successes:

U 617 CH 7466 at 0710 on 13 April obtained 3 hits on one of several large eastbound transports.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

13 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83, U 596 CH 67,
U 371 CH 94, U 414 CH 39,
U 303 CH 67, U 617 CH 75,
U 453 CH 82, U 565 CH 76,
U 602 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54,
U 97 CO 14.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Derna, Alexandria. Reconnaissance around Crete, Cyprus, on the Palestine coast.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0415/13 April CH 8427 20 ships, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 0455/13 April CH 8279 15 ships, course and speed not reported.
- 3) 1055 7642 convoy, no details of course and speed.
- 4) 1640 CH 8355 convoy.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0130/13 April Ceuta: 8 large units (6 of them with 3 funnels and 1 probably a cruiser), easterly course.
- 2) 0730/13 April Alboran: 2 probable transports, 1 tanker, 10 freighters, 7 escorts, easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1120 CO 5995 1 minesweeper, 2 escort vessels course 120°, speed slight.
- 2) 1248 CP 5951 1 freighter, approximately 5000 G.R.T., making for Haifa.
- 3) 0126 CN 2222 3 destroyers, course 20°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio traffic, units of the Alexandria forces are in the Mersa Matruh - Tripoli area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 received orders to proceed to Toulon because of restricted diving depth after the attack of 0710/13 April.

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U 565, U 602, U 453, U 375, U 371 in this order from west to east received as attack areas the area between 3° W and 4° 30' E in equally broad north-south lines.

U 97 received as his attack area the whole sea area east of 31° E and free maneuver there as well as permission to attack submarines.

U 593 reported a success (see V a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1105 convoys as in III A b) 1) and 2).

1117 convoy as in III A a), 12 April, 1943.

V. a) Successes:

U 593 sank a 3,500 G.R.T. steamer and torpedoed another of 4,000 G.R.T., from an eastbound convoy in CO 5957 (25 miles northwest of Tobruk) at 0022 on 11 April.

b) Losses:

U 83 is reported missing with effect from 9 March, 1943. (Naval War Staff 2nd Div. C-in-C U-boats Operations G.3891 A5 dated 13 April).

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

14 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83, U 596 CJ 41,
U 371 CH 94, U 414 CJ 13,
U 617 CH 81, U 303 CJ 41,
U 453 CH 82, U 565 CH 76,
U 602 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 59.
U 97 CO 55.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 414 put in to Spezia at 1215 on 14 April.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Tolmaide. Reconnaissance south of Crete as far as Nile Delta, north and south of Cyprus, Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1130 the battleship "Malaya" with 3 fast escort vessels put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

2220 CJ 7925 2 M.T.B.s, easterly course.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0925 CP 5597 1 destroyer, course 30°, speed 16 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence, units of the Cruiser Division are operating in the Malta - Tripoli area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0610 CN 2236 1 destroyer, southeasterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) The "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Formidable" put in to Gibraltar at 1000, the "Malaya" at 1215.

2) 3 destroyers put out from Gibraltar at 1730 in to the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

7th E-boat Flotilla: 2224 3 M.T.B.s CJ 7931, course 00.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1200 CN 5923 (2 miles east of Tripoli)
10 merchant ships, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1628 Battle group "Nelson" put in as in III A d) 1).
1631 convoy as in III B b).
0204 destroyer as in III A d) 2).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

1) According to teleprint message Naval High

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- . Command General Navy Office (Naval Defense) V1 AH 6630/43 Secret dated 13 April, Lt. (j.g.) Bürgel (Commander of U 205) and 41 other members of the crew are in British hands. U 205 was reported missing with effect from 19 February (see War Diary of 28 March 1943).
- 2) U 605 is reported missing for the last time with effect from 11 November 1942. It must be assumed to be a total loss. (Naval War Staff 2nd Div. C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.3893 A5 dated 15 April).

VI. General situation:

29th U-boat Flotilla has reported that the air attack on Spezia on the night 13/14 April caused large fires in the town and dockyard and 5 fire bombs were put out in buildings in the U-boat base. No special damage in the base.

0800 Captain U-boats to Spezia on a duty trip. At the request of C-in-C U-boats (Operations) the following experiences of the Commanders of U 303 and U 414 during the breakthrough of the Straits of Gibraltar were reported.

- 1) No anti-submarine measures.
- 2) Weak patrols off Spartel and on the Ceuta - Gibraltar line.
- 3) No aircraft sightings because of fog. Locations on frequencies of 145, 148, 150, 152 and 172 cm. All horizontal, definitely shore stations.
- 4) Route of breakthrough.
 - A. U 414 from 2216 on 8 April 8 miles southwest of Cape Spartel proceeded surfaced in fog. 0110 submerged from escorts abreast of Gibraltar. 0520 surfaced. Proceeded surfaced until dawn at 0620.
 - B. U 303 abreast of Cape Spartel at 0628 on 9 April. Proceeded submerged. 1400 passed Gibraltar - Ceuta line submerged. 2135 surfaced. Continued surfaced.
- 5) It is possible to pass through Straits of Gibraltar even during unsuitable lunar phase.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
16 - 30 APRIL, 1943
PG/30931

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16 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83, U 371 CH 94,
U 617 CH 68, U 453 CH 82,
U 565 CH 75, U 602 CH 76.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 55,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Benghazi. Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0949 CH 8437 1 destroyer, 1 escort vessel, course 100°, speed 18 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0445/16 April at least 15 ships, probably more off Gibraltar making for the east. (Inexact because of bad visibility).

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2) 1125 1 "Fiji" class cruiser and
3 destroyers put out from Gibraltar
into the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0612/16 April CO 4938 3 medium-sized
freighters, 1 destroyer, 2 escorts,
course 60°.

2) 0625 CO 4958 1 freighter, course 60°.

3) 0630 CO 7312 4 unidentified warships.

4) 1015 CN 2496 1 destroyer, course 60°,
speed 25 knots.

5) 2218 CN 2463 5 M.T.B.s, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Supply traffic running on the whole of the
North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 was ordered to report his position by short
signal at night. Report was received at 0606
from CH 8512.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed
on to the boats:

1218 convoy as in III b) 1) and 2).

1330 formation as in III A b).

1516 formation as in III A d) 2).

2256 convoy as in III A d) 1).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats back from duty trip to Spezia
at 1700.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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17 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 83,
U 371 CH 94,
U 617 CH 36,
U 453 CH 85,
U 565 CH 75,
U 602 CH 36.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put in to Toulon at 1030 on 17 April.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Tobruk, Nile Delta, reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1120 CH 8383 1 merchant ship,
2 destroyers, easterly course.
CH 8439 2 escort vessels, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1830 from Gibraltar to the east 21 tank landing craft, 2 armed French merchant ships, 1 tug, 1 escort vessel.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Italian Air Force reported:

0826 CN 3444 2 destroyers, course 98°.

0827 CN 2695 5 M.T.B.s, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence at least 5 convoys are in the Alexandria to Tripoli area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 commenced return passage as potash cartridges were needed. The boat has been at sea since 17 March. It was intended to recall U 375 on the night of 19 April. The boat received orders to make for Toulon.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1807 convoy as in III A b).

2220 convoy as in III A d).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

18 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 91, U 371 CH 94,

U 453 CH 85, U 565 CH 75,

U 602 CH 76.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Kanais to Tobruk.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1250 CH 7682 15 merchant ships, course 70°, 4 destroyers, 5 escort vessels.
- 2) 1742 CJ 7847 3 merchant ships 3,000 - 4,000 G.R.T., in Bone roads.
- 3) 1745 CJ 7859 2 merchant ships, 10,000 and 6,000 G.R.T., easterly course, high speed.
- 4) 2217 CJ 7414 1 destroyer, course 240°.
- 5) 0025 CH 8417 10 ships, no details of course and speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1559 CH 9472 unit (unidentified) reported 1 aircraft shadowing it.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1430 3 submarines of the "Shark" class and 1 of the "Triton" class put out from Gibraltar for the east.
- 2) 1530 Tres Forcas reported 21 tankers, 1 auxiliary cruiser, 1 destroyer. (Probably the 21 tank landing craft which put out from Gibraltar at 1830 on 17 April).
- 3) 1030 1 "Dido" class cruiser put in to Gibraltar from the east, 1730 put out from the west.

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e) By naval forces: Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0845 CO 9227 15 units, no details of course or speed.
- 2) 1447 CO 6775 5 merchant ships, 3 escort vessels, (the same as the formation in 1), inexact because of the weather).

c) By radio intercept service:

0500/18 April CN 2488 formation reported air attack.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565, U 602, U 453, U 371 in that order from west to east received new attack areas between 3° W and 4° 30' E in north/south lines of equal width.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 1509 convoy as in III B b) 1).
- 1816 convoy as in III B b) 2).
- 2143 4 submarines as in III A d) 1).
- 2343 1 destroyer as in III A b) 4).
- 0150 convoy as in III A d) 2).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 660 has been reported missing for the last time with effect from 12 November 1942. (U 660 was lost on 12 November 1942; 45 men including the Commander are prisoners of war). Naval War Staff 2nd Div. C-in-C U-boats (Ops) G.4591 A5 dated 18 April 1943.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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19 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 375 CH 36,
U 371 CH 94,
U 453 CH 82,
U 565 CH 76,
U 602 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 54,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 375 put in to Toulon at 1245 on 19 April.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Apollonia, Nile Delta, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

- 1) U 565: 2210 CH 7498 eastbound convoy, speed 10 knots.
- 2) Italian U-boat: 1430 6599 convoy. (Air reconnaissance operating later did not sight enemy).

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1005 CH 8375 1 probable merchant ship up to 3,000 G.R.T., easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 0115 CJ 9651 2 destroyers, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0730/19 April the carrier "Formidable" and 5 escorts, put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 0945 26 steamers, 8 tankers, 1 French transport carrying troops, unidentified number of escorts passed from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. (1 tanker, 2 light units put in to Gibraltar at 1230). 4 steamers which put out from Gibraltar at 1130 joined the convoy. Final composition: 30 steamers, 1 troopship, 7 tankers, unidentified number of escorts.
- 3) 1100 from the Atlantic in to the Mediterranean:
4 French steamers, 1 gunboat, 2 submarine chasers, 1 patrol vessel.
- 4) 2345 Alboran reported 8 steamers, 3 tankers, 2 destroyers and coastal guardboats 3 miles north of the island.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0540/19 April CP 7318 4 merchant ships of 3,000 G.R.T. each, 1 escort, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 0615/19 April CN 2289 4 M.T.B.s, westerly course.
- 3) 1700 CO 7547 1 merchant ship up to 3,000 G.R.T.
- 4) 2252 CN 2281 3 destroyers, northerly course.
- 5) 0558 CN 2128 5 small ships, course 45°, speed 10 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence several convoys are on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

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Attack was carried out by 50 to 60 bombers at an altitude of 1500 to 4500 meters. About 200 explosive bombs and innumerable incendiaries were dropped.
29th U-boat Flotilla received orders to transfer U 596 to Pola and U 303 to Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

20 April, 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- U 371 CH 91,
 - U 453 CH 82,
 - U 565 CH 75,
 - U 602 CH 81.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
- U 593 CO 54,
 - U 97 east of 31° E.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
- Nothing to report.
- II. Air reconnaissance:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- Reconnaissance as far as 1° 30' W.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
- Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Kanais to Tobruk. North and south of Cyprus, south of Haifa to Port Said and Alexandria, around Crete.
- III. Reports on the enemy:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- a) By U-boats:
- 1) U 565: 0752/20 April CH 7682 eastbound convoy.
 - 2) U 453: 2130 CH 8513 eastbound convoy, course 70°.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1940 CH 8439 15 merchant ships of 5,000 - 10,000 G.R.T., 5 escort vessels, easterly course, speed 8 knots.
- 2) 0035 CJ 8853 5 enemy units, course 70°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1030 the aircraft carrier "Formidable" put in to Gibraltar from the east.
- 2) 2300 the "Malaya" and 2 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 593: 0937/19 April CO 5839 westbound convoy, 12 steamers, 10 escort vessels.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0812 3 freighters of 2,000 G.R.T. each, course 55°, speed 6 - 8 knots, putting out from Port Said.
- 2) 0812 CP 8183 1 steam trawler of 500 - 600 G.R.T. hove to with barrage balloon.

c) By radio intercept service:

Traffic running on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 was ordered to report his position by short signal at night. Signal was received at 0113 from CH 9542.

U 453 reported an eastbound convoy as in III A a) 2).

U 565 reported a convoy as in III A a) 1) and a success (see V a).

U 593 reported a convoy as in III B a).

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1555 the "Formidable" put in as in III A d) 1).
1604 convoy as in III B b) 1).
2318 convoy as in III A b) 1).
2336 convoy as in III A a) 2).
0433 the "Malaya" put out as in III A d) 2).

V. a) Successes:

U 565 reported: sunk at 0752 on 20 April
in CH 7682 from eastbound convoy:
1) 1 troopship (2 funnelled liner of 12,000
G.R.T.).
2) 1 ammunition freighter of 6,000 G.R.T.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

As there is still no teleprinter or telephone communication with Spezia, the 29th U-boat Flotilla has been ordered to give a fuller report on the situation by radio.

(Signed) Kreisch.

21 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 95,
U 565 CH 76,
U 453 CH 85,
U 602 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 59,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 put out from Spezia for the Western Mediterranean at 1415.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Derna, Nile Delta, around Crete, Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

) report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0800/21 April 4 fast escort vessels and 2 submarines put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 1030 17 landing craft (infantry) put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 3) 1300 the "Rodney" with 5 fast escort vessels put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean, 2100 put in again.
- 4) 1535 1 "Dido" class cruiser put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 5) 2300 15 small vessels, probably landing craft, 1 destroyer, 1 gunboat, from the west making for the Straits of Gibraltar.
- 6) 0245/22 April Ceuta: 10 transports with 7 escorts, 1 American coast-guard cutter, making for the Mediterranean.
- 7) 0045 6 large, 2 medium-sized troopships, 4 steamers, 2 aircraft carriers, 2 probable cruisers, 8 destroyers or gunboats from the Atlantic making for the Straits of Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1200 CP 5636 2 apparent merchant ships,
2 M.T.B.s, northerly course.

CONFIDENTIAL

- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.
- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 593 requested permission to return as the boat was only clear with restrictions for great depths since a depth charge attack on 19 April. He intended to spend one day in Salamis dock before making for Pola as planned. Boat received orders to make for Pola and only call at Salamis if he could not otherwise carry out the voyage to Pola. The Commander decided to put in to Salamis. On the strength of a Naval War Staff directive that successes are at present more important in the Western and Central Mediterranean than in the Eastern, and therefore boats intended for the Eastern Mediterranean are to operate in the central part, noting the fact that U 593's present operational area (between the meridians in CO 4914 and CO 5966) seems likely to bring success, U 97 received orders to occupy this operational area after U 593 returns.

U 407 intends to be off Point C at 0600 on 22 April to carry out repairs to the destroyed grease pipe of the air supply trunk. After another deep diving test without faults U 407 has continued his outward passage and intends to be off Point North at 2200 on 22 April.

U 453 reported a success on the eastbound convoy (see V a). The damage caused by depth charge pursuit after his attack, particularly to the main periscope and ship's side valve has made it uncertain whether the boat is still fully operationally fit. U 453 therefore received orders to make for Toulon if the main periscope was out of action or depth diving was restricted and to report his intentions.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1630 departure of the "Malaya" for the Atlantic.
1835 and 0800 vessels and convoy as in III A d) 2) and 6).
2005 and 0332 the "Rodney" putting in and out.

V. a) Successes:

U 453 sank 1 large freighter, which broke up, and obtained 2 definite hits on an eastbound convoy at 2243 on 20 April in CH 8288.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

S.O. Flotilla arrived in the afternoon from Spezia by air to report on the air raid of 18/19 April. According to S.O. Flotilla, Spezia is at present

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not ready to undertake repairs to U-boats. It is necessary to move U 596 and U 303. Both boats have been made ready to sail. U 414, U 73 and U 380 still in Spezia will be delayed about 1 week in being made ready. Also the minelaying of the Spezia approaches carried out by enemy aircraft is considerable with regard to the insufficient Italian minesweeping gear. So far 12 mines (ground mines) have been swept. 2 magnetic mine sweeps are available. Other sweeping gear is required by the German Staff on Supermarina.

(Signed) Kreisch.

22 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 95,
U 453 CH 82,
U 407 CJ 16,
U 565 CH 76,
U 602 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CO 55,
U 97 east of 31° E.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 561 put out from Toulon for the Western Mediterranean at 1900.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 565: 1240 CH 7546 eastbound convoy, 10 large troopships, course 90°, speed 13 knots.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1105 CH 8427 13 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 4 escorts, southwesterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 0015 CJ 8817 3 enemy warships, course 110°, high speed.
- 3) 0210 CH 8381 10 ships, course and speed not known.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0925 the "Nelson" with 5 escort vessels put out from Gibraltar for the east.
1500 the "Nelson" put in again.
- 2) 2200 1 "Dido" class cruiser with 3 escorts put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1105 CO 5494 4 apparent medium-sized freighters, escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 1120 CO 5587 4 units not more closely identified, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Brisk convoy activity in the Egypt - Cyrenaica sea area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 was ordered to concentrate on the western edge of his attack area (meridian 2° 30' E) and to operate on the convoy reported by U 565 (see III A a).

U 453 reported that he intended to operate until he has used up the potash cartridges and would probably return on 28 April (boat was ordered to report his plans, see War Diary 21 April).

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1506 convoy as in III A b) 1).
1757 convoy as in III B b) 1).
2002 and 0253 movements of the "Nelson" and the "Dido" class cruiser as in III A d) 1) and 2).
0447 convoy as in III A b) 3).

V. a) Successes:

The sinking of the destroyer torpedoed on 10 April by U 617 may be taken as definite after a verbal amplifying report from the Commander. The troopship sunk on 13 April was of the "Orcades" class, 23,456 G.R.T.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

The conference between Captain U-boats and Supermarina (Vice Admiral Giartosio and Rear Admiral Varoli) on active operation by Italian U-boats, ordered in teleprint message Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) 1A 11681/43 Most Secret dated 21 April produced the results reported in the teleprint below:

- "1) 24 combat boats available, 8 of these operationally ready, 4 in Leros not under Supermarina's command.
- 2) Situation strained by the breakdown of the main repair bases.
- 3) The main task of U-boat operations is the prevention of landings in Sardinia. For this a conservation of forces and disposition in patrol lines southwest of Sardinia. Danger of landing chiefly in view of the phase of the moon until 28 April approximately.
- 4) Captain U-boats recommended a disposition of Italian U-boats
 - a) in the Western Mediterranean from 4° 30' E to Bone,
 - b) in the Central Mediterranean from Tripoli to 19° 40' E.
- 5) Their use for offensive missions is being considered by Supermarina to 4a after 28 April, to 4b Supermarina is already requesting Supreme Command (Italian) for the operation of Leros U-boats."

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

23 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94,
U 565 CH 76,
U 455 CH 82,
U 602 CH 84,
U 407 CH 63,
U 561 CH 63.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CK 89,
U 97 CP 73.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 303 put out from Spezia for Toulon at 1530 on 23 April.
U 593 put in to Salamis at 1015 on 23 April.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0425/23 April CH 8376 eastbound convoy, probably put in to Algiers as it was not spotted again further eastward.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1625 17 landing craft (infantry), 1 destroyer put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1002 CG 9218 5 freighters, 2 escorts,
easterly course, moderate
speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African
coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following new operational areas were
ordered:

U 565 between the meridians of CH 7574
and CH 7675.

Adjoining to the east:

U 407 to CH 8445.

U 602 to CH 8275.

U 453 to CH 8374.

U 561 to CH 9445.

U 371 to CH 9516.

U 453 received orders to make for Pola
after he has exhausted his combat
potentiality. (See War Diary of
22 April).

U 97 and U 602 were ordered to report their
positions by short signal at night. No
signals were received.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

1620 convoy as in III B b).

2018 landing craft as in III A d).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

24 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 571 CH 94, U 453 CH 82,
U 407 CH 58, U 303 CH 36,
U 565 CH 75, U 602 CH 84,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 73.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 303 put in to Toulon at 1330 on 24 April.
U 593 put out from Salamis for Patras at
1400 on 24 April. Put in to Patras
at 2130.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from
Alexandria to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 2025 CH 9564 1 destroyer, 1 guardboat,
1 tanker, course 90°, speed
slight.
- 2) 2103 CH 8365 15 merchant ships, course 90°.

c) By radio intercept service:

2030 CH 9458 unit reported aircraft shadowing
the formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0652/24 April CN 2341 3 M.T.B.s.
0000/25 April CN 2259 3 M.T.B.s,
westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 97 and U 602 were ordered to report their positions by short signal at night.

U 97 reported at 2321 from CO 6771. No signal from U 602.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

2255 convoy as in III A c).

2354 convoy as in III A b) 2).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

25 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94, U 453 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76, U 565 CH 75,
U 602 CH 84, U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CO 59,
U 593 in Patras.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put out from Patras at 1700.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Ras Amer, southwest of Crete, north and south of Cyprus, Nile Delta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
 - b) By air reconnaissance:)
-) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio intelligence brisk enemy traffic in the Gibraltar area. Concentrating outside the Straits.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1530 26 landing craft, 4 gunboats from the west to the Straits.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0514/25 April CO 4952 6 units, course 180°. (One of these a freighter of 4,000 G.R.T., sunk by aerial torpedo).

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

e) By naval forces:)

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 602 was ordered for the third time to report his position by short signal at night. No signal was received. Serious concern is felt about the boat.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

According to Naval High Command General Navy Office Naval Defense I AH 7252/43 Secret dated 24 April, so far 28 dead, including the Commander, have been recovered from U 77 which was lost on 29 March as a result of serious damage caused by an air attack, according to the Naval Attaché Madrid.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

26 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94, U 453 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76, U 565 CH 75,
U 602 CH 84, U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 593 CK 7213,
U 97 CO 59.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put out from Spezia for Pola at 1500 on 26 April 1943.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

0030/26 April CJ 8733 2 enemy ships,
course 120°.
0225 CJ 8827 2 enemy ships, course 120°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 2220/25 April Tangier: 12 freighters,
3 minesweepers, 1 guardboat, bound for
the Mediterranean.
- 2) 2350/25 April Ceuta: 3 presumed freighters,
2 presumed escort units, bound for the
Mediterranean.
- 3) 0200/26 April Tangier: 40 large vessels,
several of them believed to be transports,
bound for the Mediterranean.
1730 Tres Forcas: 3 transports, 40 freighters,
5 destroyers, bound for the Mediterranean.
- 4) 2400 the "Formidable" with 8 escorts put out
from Gibraltar on an unknown course.

e) By naval forces:

M.T.B.s of 0323 in CN 2114 were presumably
destroyers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 616 proceeding from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean,
received orders to report by short signal when he has
passed 1° W. This contradicted Operational Order
No. 10 which provided for the first position report
from CH 67 after the boat had broken through the Straits
of Gibraltar and a continual passage to Spezia.

U 616 put out from an Atlantic port on 19 April, is
expected to enter the Mediterranean directly. It is
intended to have the boat operate in the area round
Cape Ivi.

U 602's former operational area.

The utmost concern is felt about this boat as there
has been no reply to the third request for a position
report. The U-boat which has just reached the
Mediterranean will have to operate as 1) we must
reckon with the loss of U 602 and the probable return
of U 453 on 28 April. 2) U 565 will probably have
used up his combat potentiality at the beginning of
May and therefore the operational area will not be
occupied in strength. 3) The loss of Spezia and the
overcrowding in Toulon at present puts a great strain
on the base situation.

CONFIDENTIAL

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1515 the "Formidable" put in to Gibraltar.
- 2) 0230/27 April convoy of unidentified units to Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1730 CN 2695 2 submarines, 1 destroyer.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys in the area along the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 was informed of a possible movement of 3 of our destroyers.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0803 sailing of the "Formidable".

2225 putting in to port again of the "Formidable".

2315 convoy as in III A d) 2).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 259 (Köpke) has been reported missing for the last time with effect from 16 November. It is presumed a total loss.

(Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 2nd Div. C-in-C U-boats (Operations) Ref. No. G4585 A5 dated 13 April

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

28 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94, U 453 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76, U 596 CJ 95,
U 565 CH 75, U 602 CH 84,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CO 54,
U 593 CJ 23.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put in to Pola at 0930.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as the Greenwich Meridian.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus, reconnaissance of inshore waters of Cyrenaica.

III. Reports of the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1225 CH 9644 11 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., 2 merchant ships up to 20,000 G.R.T., 3 escorts, easterly course.
- 2) 2245 CJ 8858 4 M.T.B.s, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 2250 the "Nelson" and the "Rodney" with 5 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the east.

CONFIDENTIAL

2) 1830 3 gunboats, 1 destroyer, 1 merchant ship put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 and U 561 were ordered to report their positions.

U 561 reported at 0531 on 29 April from CH 8366.

No signal was received from U 371.

U 453 commenced return passage to Pola after exhausting his combat potentiality (potash cartridges) and reported a success (see V a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0022 enemy formation as in III A d) 2).

0127 enemy formation as in III A d) 1).

V. a) Successes:

U 453 shot down an aircraft, Handley Page type, in CH 8241 (54 miles northwest of Cape Tenes) at 0012 on 24 April.

b) Losses:

Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations) announced in teleprint message 2845 dated 28 April: According to a letter from Lt.(Engineer) Georgi U 205 went down off the African coast on 17 February.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94, U 453 CH 83,

U 407 CH 76, U 565 CH 75,

U 602 CH 84, U 561 CH 83.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CO 54,
U 596 CK 75.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters off
Alexandria, Kanais to Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:;

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 565: 0130/30 April CH 7562 eastbound
convoy, course 100°, speed 9 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1145 CH 7685 2 patrol vessels,
easterly course.
- 2) 1643 CH 7573 2 merchant ships,
westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

0836 CJ 7586 1 aircraft shadowing
formation, course 228°,
speed 20 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- I. 1) 0910 the "Rodney", the "Nelson",
2 destroyers and 5 escort vessels
at firing practice east of Gibraltar.
- 2) 1110 the "Formidable" put out from
Gibraltar, for the Mediterranean,
joined the "Rodney" and the "Nelson".
Formation continued east.

II. 1000 26 landing craft (tank), 1 landing
craft (infantry), 1 freighter, 3 destroyers,
2 American chasers put out from Gibraltar
for the Mediterranean.

c) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 97: 0805 CO 5839 eastbound convoy,
20 - 30 ships, course 140°, speed 11 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1238 CP 7254 1 freighter, 8,000 G.R.T.,
5 escort vessels, easterly course.
- 2) 1315 CO 9354 1 cruiser, 2 destroyers,
westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

e) By naval forces:)

) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 371 and U 407 were ordered to report their positions during the night. U 371 reported success on 27 April (see V a). No signal was received from U 407.

U 453 received instructions to proceed to Pola via Messina.

The western boats received the following new attack areas:

U 565 between the meridians of CH 7574 and CH 7655. Adjoining to the east: U 407 to CH 8435, U 561 to CH 8356, U 371 to CH 9516. U 371 to concentrate in the west.

U 97 commenced return passage because of damage from depth charges, to repair which he requires more assistance in dock. The boat was ordered to make for Pola.

U 565 reported an eastbound convey as in III A a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1133, 1440 and 0012 movements of the "Rodney", the "Nelson" and the "Formidable" as in III A d) 1).
1515 convoy as in III A d) II.

V. a) Successes:

U 371 sank 1 freighter of 4,000 G.R.T. at 1429 on 27 April in CH 9469 (10 miles eastnortheast of Cape Bengut).

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

- 1) Since U 97 has had to leave his operational area early (sailed 10 April) because of depth charge

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damage, there are no boats in the Eastern Mediterranean at present. U 380 due to put out on 30 April and detailed for the Eastern Mediterranean, will not be operationally ready until 5 May because of the serious dockyard situation in Spezia since the air raid on 18/19 April. The Eastern Mediterranean will therefore remain unoccupied for about 10 days. With the small number of boats in the Mediterranean area (at present 18, as we must assume U 602 is lost), it is not always possible to operate in both the Western and Eastern Mediterranean. As has been the case before, the Western Mediterranean with its heavy enemy traffic requires special consideration for U-boat disposition.

2) Another query to Supermarina on the result of the agreed examination of offensive operations by Italian U-boats in the Mediterranean (see War Diary of 22 April) brought the following teleprint message in reply:

1) "Supermarina presents the view that the danger of an enemy landing in Sardinia does not permit the Italian U-boats' waiting positions to be moved to the traffic route along the African coast and thereby abandoning a patrol disposition off Sardinia.

2) The following fact speaks against the proposed use of Leros boats between Benghazi and Tripoli, namely that these boats were provided for a defensive disposition towards the south and south-east at the express desire of Germany. For any other purpose the consent of Naval Group South or Naval War Staff must be obtained."

Naval Group South has been requested to comment on 2).

(Signed) Kreisch.

30 April, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94,
U 453 CH 92,
U 407 CH 84,
U 565 CH 75,
U 561 CH 82.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CO 52,
U 596 CJ 37.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put in to Pola at 1700 on 30 April.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Nile Delta, Cape Kanais to Ras Azzaz.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1505 CJ 7753 5 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., northeasterly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0025 Tangier: 10 units, including 8 large transports, making for the Mediterranean.

2) 0130 Gibraltar: 4 large tankers, 3 escort vessels, easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1135 CO 9136 11 merchant ships up to 4,000 G.R.T., 1 large merchant ship, 6 destroyers, 9 escorts, westerly course.

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Dodecanese U-boats in the achievement of very close cooperation and under the terms of unofficial direction, intended in practice by Group South and Admiral Aegean, of the control of the war at sea. Group South is thereby trying to arrange U-boat operations in the Anatolia - Cyprus - Syria and Palestine area as offensive support to the conduct of U-boat warfare in the Mediterranean and as replacements in the area occupied by Captain U-boats Italy. Group South, by operations against enemy traffic, which is only weakly guarded there, promises not only prospects of sinking shipping and so damaging any preparations for a breakthrough to the Aegean but also, by patrolling the probable approach area for the enemy offensive in the Aegean, intends to supplement weak air reconnaissance valuably as well as to create a diversion to relieve the Western and Central Mediterranean. Group South is of the opinion that operations by Italian U-boats in the Tripoli - Benghazi area will scarcely bring about any successes.

- 3) Comments by Admiral Dodecanese on the Survey of the Situation and Group's instructions are still outstanding. After agreement has been received, Group South will put the plans and recommendations before Admiral Dodecanese along with Captain U-boats' operational plans.

(Naval Group South Operations 292/43 Most Secret dated 30 April 1943).

(Signed) Kreisch.

Synopsis for April 1943

- 1). a) April indicated more heavy enemy supply traffic in the Western Mediterranean. Landing craft were being brought up continually or moved further east from Oran and Algiers.
b) According to Radio Intelligence the enemy displayed brisk convoy traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean in which Alexandria forces appeared in greater strength.
- 2). Air raids on 13/14 and 18/19 April on Spezia delayed the making ready of U-boats owing to the damage caused in the dockyard and necessitated the transfer of one boat to Pola and one to Toulon.
- 3). U 414 and U 303 broke through to the Mediterranean from the Atlantic on 11 and 12 April respectively.
- 4). The limit of the German U-boats' operational area was moved back from 4° 30' E to 4° E between 1 and 11 April at the request of Supermarina.
- 5). The number of U-boats occupying the operational area in April was as follows on certain dates:

	<u>Western</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>and out-</u> <u>ward bound</u>
1 March	5 U-boats	2 U-boats	-
10 March	4 U-boats	1 U-boat	2 U-boats
20 March	4 U-boats	2 U-boats	-
30 March	5 U-boats	1 U-boat	1 U-boat

	<u>Western</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Eastern</u> <u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>and out-</u> <u>ward bound</u>
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Daily average of U-boats in the periods:

1-10			
April	4.3 U-boats	0.5 U-boats	2.6 U-boats
11-20			
April	4.7 U-boats	1.5 U-boats	2.6 U-boats
21-30			
April	4.7 U-boats	1.2 U-boats	1.3 U-boats

Daily average for the month:

	4.6 U-boats	1.1 U-boats	2.2 U-boats
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6). The following successes were obtained in April:

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>U-boat</u>	<u>No. of ships sunk.</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>	<u>No. of ships torpedoed</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>
1.	U 371	1	4,000	-	-
2.	U 453	2	15,000	1	7,000
			1 aircraft shot down		
3.	U 565	2	18,000	-	-
4.	U 593	2	7,500	-	-
5.	U 617	1	23,456	-	-
			1 cruiser of the "Fiji" class.		
			1 destroyer of the "Tribal" class.		
6.	U 755	1	8,000	-	-
		9	75,956	1	7,000

The following were also sunk:

1 cruiser of the "Fiji" class and
1 destroyer of the "Tribal" class.

Result:

Each boat at sea in April 1943 sank 5,425.4 G.R.T. in 17.3 days on an average, i.e. 313.6 G.R.T. each day at sea.

Losses:

U 602 must be presumed lost in the Western Mediterranean.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

1 - 15 MAY, 1943

PG/30931

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1 May 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- U 371 CH 83,
 - U 407 CH 84,
 - U 453 CJ 73, (returning to Pola)
 - U 565 CH 75,
 - U 561 CH 82.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
- U 97 CK 87, returning to Pola.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
- Nothing to report.
- c) In port (at 0800):
- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 414.
 - 2) Salamis: No boats.
 - 3) Pola: U 81, 593, 596.
 - 4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
- II. Air reconnaissance:
- a) Western Mediterranean:
- Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.
- b) Eastern Mediterranean:
- Reconnaissance as far as the Nile Delta, around Crete.
- III. Reports on the enemy:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- a) By U-boats:
- U 565: 0758/1 May CH 7468 convoy of tankers, easterly course, speed 10 knots.
- b) By air reconnaissance:
- 1815 CH 7591 3 destroyers, course 110°.
- c) By radio intercept service:
- 1) 0230 CH 8292 the "Formidable" located, probably bound for Oran. The "Nelson" Group believed to be near the "Formidable".

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2) 1030 the "Formidable" located, bearing 180° from Palma to Majorca.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0025/1 May Gibraltar: 10 units, including 8 very large probable transports.

2) 0120 Ceuta: 4 units of medium tonnage, 4 probable destroyers, bound for the Mediterranean.

3) 0911 Tres Forcas: 20 medium-sized steamers, 3 small, 3 tankers, 3 destroyers, 1 coastguard vessel, northwesterly course.

4) 1450 Gibraltar: 17 landing craft (tank), 1 escort vessel, easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1245 CN 2199 1 British destroyer, T class, course 260°, moderate speed.

2) 1325 CO 5821 1 destroyer, westerly course.

3) 1345 CO 4932 25 merchant ships and escorts, course 270°, moderate speed.

4) 1400 CO 5482 1 merchant ship of 6,000-8,000 GRT, easterly course.

5) 1440 CO 4973 5 merchant ships, course 225°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys in the Cyrenaica area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 reported a success (see V.a).

U 371 and U 561 reported torpedoes required.

CONFIDENTIAL

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1738 convoy as in III.A.d.4.
1812) the carrier "Formidable" as in
2056) III.A.c.1 and 2.

V. a) Successes:

U 565 (Lieut.(s.g.) Franken) obtained one hit from a fan of 4 on an eastbound convoy of tankers at 0758 on 1 May in CH 7468 (15 miles westnorthwest of Alboran).

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

The operation of one U-boat with an experienced commander which has penetrated the exercise area of heavy British naval forces east of Gibraltar, denoted desirable in Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) I A 1300/43 Most Secret S.O.s only, is judged as follows by Captain U-boats:

The operation of one U-boat against the enemy's heavy forces (the "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Formidable") in their exercise area east of Gibraltar has been considered by Captain U-boats after the enemy recently carried out frequent maneuvers before leaving Gibraltar, in contrast to earlier occasions when he was only seldom seen or located or intercepted by radio in passage outside Gibraltar. A sortie by a U-boat and the use of an efficient commander seems worthwhile therefore in the present situation - presence of heavy units in Gibraltar.

(Pencil note in margin: Was now planned for U 458 (Diggins). But the boat had to commence return passage because of bomb damage. I.U.)

According to the experiences of the reliable commander of U 81 (Lieut.(s.g.) Guggenberger) in December, a fairly long stay in the area concerned was still possible; however, he stayed without success. As conditions have not changed fundamentally since then,

- a) the sortie cannot be spread out over too long a period, it must be made when a worthwhile target is available,
- b) it requires a well-trained crew with an able commander. Naval War Staff's query is answered as follows:
 - 1) At present the U-boat operation is not intended by Captain U-boats for the following reasons:

- a) According to the latest reports received, the heavy units are in the Oran sea area.
 - b) Of the boats now in the Western Mediterranean, only the commander of U 565 (Lieut.(s.g.) Franken) has had sufficient experience, but he is at the end of a strenuous operation.
 - c) 2 more U-boats are expected from the Atlantic. The possible effect of a U-boat alarm caused by the knowledge of a boat operating east of Gibraltar would be a great disadvantage to them.
- 2) The last experiences in the sea area east of Gibraltar of U 81 in December are as follows:

At that time the very reliable commander was able to stay there for a fairly long period, but without results.

A short operation, however, is considered practicable and full of prospects with the presence of heavy forces and the use of an efficient commander.

- 3) We therefore decide to operate a fresh, suitable boat after the heavy units return to Gibraltar.

Naval War Staff considers the operation of the Leros U-boats in the Tripoli - Benghazi area necessary as operations are at present concentrated in the Central Mediterranean and has authorized German Naval Command to take up the matter accordingly with Supermarina. (Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) I A dated 1 May, see also War Diary of Captain U-boats for 30 April).

The Führer has awarded Lieut.(s.g.) Jahn (commander of U 596) and Lieut.(s.g.) Franken (commander of U 565) the Knight's Cross.

(Signed) Kreisch.

2 May 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 83,
U 565 CH 75,
U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 82,
U 453 CJ 91 returning to Pola.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CJ 66 returning to Pola.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 414.
- 2) Salamis: No boats.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 593, 596.
- 4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria and Sidi Barrani to Derna.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1900 CJ 7834 3 small ships, easterly course.
- 2) 2050 CJ 7634 enemy destroyer.
- 3) 0510 CJ 7664 3 enemy destroyers.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1700 Gibraltar: 24 landing ships (tank), 7 landing craft (infantry), 6 probable submarine-chasers, 1 boom defense vessel, 2 unidentified gunboats, 1 medium-sized British merchant ship, 2 unidentified probably light units, easterly course.
- 2) 2000 the cruiser "Adventure" put in to Gibraltar from the west.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1450 CN 6915 23 ships, course 280°,
moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys were intercepted by radio in
the North African coastal area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 has been informed that the operation is due
to be broken off on the night of 5/6 May.

The western boats were informed of the convoy as in
III.A.d.1.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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3 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 83,
U 565 CH 74,
U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 453 CK 77 } both returning to Pola.
U 97 CJ 31 }

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 97 put in to Pola at 0830.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 414.
2) Salamis: No boats.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 593, 596.
4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Tobruk to Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0935 CH 7698 4 merchant ships up to 1,000 GRT, easterly course, speed slight.

2) 1745 CJ 7738 1 merchant ship of 5,000 GRT, 2 escorts, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

0510/4 May CP 7353 1 merchant ship of 2,000 GRT, course 90°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Convoy traffic on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The western boats were informed of the enemy sighting as in III.A.b.1.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

In accordance with Naval High Command Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) I A 11603/43 dated 3 May, the U-boats were granted full permission to use any weapons against all vessels in the area adjoining the blockade area between the North African coast and a line joining the following points: 38° 30' N, 6° E to 38° 30' N, 2° 30' E to 36° N, 2° 22' W to the boundary of the Spanish Protectorate of Morocco. Exceptions are specially reported ships, particularly grain ships for Greece bearing Red Cross markings.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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4 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 83,
U 565 CH 75,
U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 453 CK 44.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 414.
- 2) Salamis: No boats.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 593, 596.
- 4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1006 CH 7682 9 transports, 6,000 GRT.
- 2) 1016 CH 8438 2 transports with landing craft (mechanized) and landing craft (tank), course 110°, high speed.
- 3) 1512 CH 8359 3 transports, course 90°, speed 15 knots.
- 4) 1553 CH 7696 1 freighter of 3,000-4,000 GRT, 1 escort vessel, easterly course, moderate speed.

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5) 1605 CH 7923 11 tank landing craft, course 40^o, high speed.

6) 1930 CJ 7637 2 destroyers, course 90^o, speed 20 knots,

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1512 CN 2577 3 transports, course 90^o, speed 15 knots.

2) 1750 CN 2577 3 destroyers, course 70^o.

c) By radio intercept service:

5 convoys picked up by radio in the North African coastal area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 407 and U 561 received orders to cease operations in order to carry out a special assignment (see VI) and make for Entrance Point West. U 565 and U 371, still in the operational area after the other boats ceased operating, received the following attack areas:

U 565 west of the Greenwich meridian, U 371 east of it. They were then ordered to continue operating until they exhausted their supplies. The boats were informed of the area where they have full permission to use all their weapons immediately. (See War Diary of 3 May.)

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The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0251/5 May convoys as in III.A.b.4 and 5.
1325/4 May convoy as in III.A.b.2.
1419 convoy as in III.A.b.1.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats received the following teleprint message from Naval War Staff (Naval High Command Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) 12996 Most Secret dated 4 May) in connection with Naval War Staff's instructions by telephone (Lieut.(s.g.) Kuppisch):

"Have 3 U-boats operate immediately to supply fuel to Tunisia, namely U 380 and 2 other boats to be withdrawn from operations (U 407 and U 561). No conversions to these boats but fuel to be carried by means of canisters inside the pressure hull. Also 3 more U-boats to be prepared quickly to carry benzine in bunkers."

U 380 was due to put out from Spezia on 5 May for operations in the Western Mediterranean. 29th U-boat Flotilla in Spezia received orders to prepare U 380 to carry benzine, and remove all other dispensable equipment, particularly torpedoes (except 2 in bow tubes), and 8.8 ammunition. Livorno, Naples and Reggio will be loading ports for the transport mission. It is intended to send U 380 to Livorno on 5 May for loading. Naples is provided for U 407 and U 561. The danger from air attack is the same in all ports. So the decision is made having regard for the quickest dispatch.

U 407 and U 561 received orders to make for Entrance Point West as speedily as possible. It is intended to send both U-boats to Naples. U-boat base Toulon received orders to prepare U 755 and U 458 to carry benzine in bunkers as did Spezia for U 414. After the withdrawal of U 407 and U 561, two boats are still left in the Western Mediterranean operational area, both of which are at the end of their sea time. The first boat to reach the operational area after undergoing repairs will not arrive before 16 May. Whether and when the two boats coming from the Atlantic arrive and whether they are completely ready to operate, cannot be known with certainty beforehand. So it may happen that for a time there will be no boats in the Western

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Mediterranean operational area. It can be taken that the 6 boats will be absent from the operational area for a fairly long time.

(Signed) Kreisch.

5 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 82,
U 565 CH 76,
U 407 CH 82 } both boats returning to Naples.
U 561 CH 94 }

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 453 ? 2390.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 (Roether) put out from Spezia at 0900,
put in to Livorno at 1830.
U 453 put in to Pola at 1000.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 414.
2) Salamis: No boats.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 593, 596.
4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Alexandria and inshore waters as far as Ras Haluma, around Crete and north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

1710 CJ 4396 3 destroyers, course 60°.
1810 CJ 7674 3 destroyers, southerly course.
1845 CJ 7298 5 destroyers, course 90°,
high speed.
1910 CJ 7916 3 destroyers, southeasterly
course.
1822 CJ 7868 3 submarine-chasers, 2 M.T.B.s,
northerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

The "Nelson", the "Rodney" and the
"Formidable" are probably in Algiers.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0900-1000 77 units, including 16 Liberty
ships, 8 freighters of 8,000 GRT
each, 7 tankers of 7,000 GRT each,
1 tanker of 10,000 GRT, 15 landing
ships (tank), 21 American
submarine-chasers and several
escort vessels passed Ceuta.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 380 in Livorno received orders not to load yet
as Supermarina, who has assumed command of the
boats carrying the benzine, is not certain of
the route to be taken and the earliest date of
sailing has been scheduled for the time being
for 7 May. The boat is placed in unnecessary
danger by waiting with an unpleasant cargo of
benzine.

U 407 and U 561 reported their arrival at Entrance
Point West at 0600 on 7 May and received further
course instructions for the passage to Naples.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

1403 convoy as in III.A.d.
0713/6 May the "Nelson" formation as in III.A.c.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

VI. General situation:

In accordance with C-in-C U-boats (Operations) A 1 a Most Secret/S.O.s only 0501/43 dated 5 May, U 659 and U 447 will join the forces of Captain U-boats Italy. The boats will pass through the Straits of Gibraltar on about 8 May and will make for Toulon. When the signal reporting 3° W is passed has been received, command will pass to Captain U-boats. Further instructions on procedure after passing the Straits must be in the hands of C-in-C U-boats by 6 May for onward transmission to the boats.

The following instructions were sent to C-in-C U-boats in teleprint message Captain U-boats Most Secret/S.O.s only 73/43 dated 6 May:

- 1) After passing Straits proceed to Toulon via 7555, 8155, 6555, Entrance Point Northwest.
- 2) Report passing 3° W by short signal "yes". Report by short signal 30 hours before reaching Entrance Point Northwest.

(Signed) Kreisch.

6 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 82,
U 565 CH 76,
U 407 CH 93 } both boats proceeding to
U 561 CH 92 } Naples.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
- 2) Salamis: No boats.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
- 5) Livorno: U 380.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani, around Crete.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0915 CH 7693 14 landing craft (tank),
2 landing craft (infantry),
4 escort vessels, course 70°,
moderate speed.

2) 1750 CJ 7675 6 destroyers, course 60°.

3) 1824 CN 2364 2 unidentified ships, north-
westerly course.

4) 0945 CH 9657 1 merchant ship.
1000 CH 9644 7 merchant ships, 4 escort
vessels.

1015 9663 1 merchant ship, 1 escort
vessel.

All 3 sightings westerly
course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1930/6 May the "King George V" and
3 destroyers put in to Gibraltar
from the west.

2) On the morning of 6 May 1 British aircraft
carrier, 2 battleships (one the "Rodney")
put in to Algiers.

3) 1920/6 May 2 freighters of approximately
6,000 GRT each, 1 destroyer, 1 escort
vessel put out from Gibraltar for
the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 380 received orders to take on ammunition, not benzine, on the instructions of the Transport Command Staff of C-in-C South after reference to Captain U-boats. Time of sailing 1100 on 7 May. U 380 received at 2201 the timetable drawn up by Supermarina along with the order to be ready to sail at 1100 on 7 May.

Operational orders for U 380

1) Mission:

Carrying ammunition from Livorno to Tunis.

2) Reports on the enemy:

- a) In the north the enemy is directly off Bizerta which we have evacuated. In the south, in Enfidaville in the Gulf of Hammamet. Latitude $36^{\circ} 8' N$.
- b) Enemy controls the air over the Sicilian Channel. By day increased activity of enemy fighter bombers and fighters in the Sicilian Channel also in the Gulf of Tunis area and along the coast.
- c) British destroyers have appeared at the northern and southern entrances to the Sicilian Channel both from Malta and Bone.
- d) At night enemy motor torpedoboats operate on Axis supply routes. Already they have been ascertained to be close under the coast near Cape Bon.

3) Own situation:

- a) Situation on land. Our army forced into a narrow area and is suffering from a severe shortage of ammunition and fuel.
- b) The only transshipment port at present is Tunis. Sidi Daoud (southwest of Cape Bon) and Kelibia (south of Cape Bon) are to be prepared for lighters. At present not yet ready for use.
- c) Our supply traffic runs mainly on the "Zembretta Route".

4) Procedure:

U 380 will sail from Livorno at 1100 on 7 May. Course along the coast to Point "D" off Elba. Probably pass it at 1800 on 7 May. Then on a

CONFIDENTIAL

direct course to Point "T2" (see Pause).
Probably pass it at 1800 on 8 May.

There the boat will be steered by a pilot on the compulsory course to Point "T5" which will be reached at 2200 on 8 May. From here via Points 10 and 13 to Point 7 which must be reached at 0400 on 9 May. From here hug the coast and try to round Cape Bon before full light as enemy air activity does not allow surface cruising by day.

The minefield marked "S8" on the mine chart was laid in October 1942. It consists of mines set at 3 meters and anti-sweeping devices set at 6 meters which can be dived under in an emergency. Minefield "S11" consists of mines set at 3 meters with antenna mines 30 meters lower. Put in to Tunis at dark. Try to unload quickly and return at once on the Zembretta route according to instructions from German Naval Command Tunisia.

5) Appendices:

Mine chart with instructions.
2 pauses in the sailing instructions.
1 amendment to sailing instructions which comes into force on receipt of special orders.
Plan of Tunisian coast's lights.
Coastal recognition signals, Tunisia.

The mine chart of the Sicilian Channel and sailing instructions, plan of lights on the Tunisian coast and coastal recognition signals, Tunisia will be taken to the boat by a courier who will at the same time give further verbal explanations on the minefield situation.

At the conference with Supermarina, Italian experiences gained while carrying benzine canisters were reported. It appeared from these that the canisters can only be stowed in quarters evacuated by the crew, where no electric motors will be working. In spite of the gland constant ventilation is necessary. The Italians managed this by using transportable uncased bunker ventilators. While discharging the cargo insulating gear was necessary to enter the cargo holds, as the canisters gave off gas in spite of being tightly sealed. A fairly long voyage underwater is very dangerous. But the boat's mission cannot be executed without being a long time submerged. The Transport Command Staff's report that ammunition was more important than benzine will therefore speed up and ease the mission considerably.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

7 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 82,
U 616 CH 84,
U 565 CH 75,
U 407 CJ 75 } both boats returning to
U 561 CJ 75 } Naples.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 put out from Livorno at 1100.

c) In port:

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
- 2) Salamis: No boats.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
- 5) Livorno: U 380.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Benghazi to Ras Hilal, around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0955 CH 8296 10 merchant ships of 4,000-5,000 GRT, several escorts, course probably easterly.
- 2) 0957 CH 8374 1 destroyer, easterly course.
- 3) 1746 CJ 7586 3 destroyers, course 60°.
- 4) 1915 CH 9464 15 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 3 escorts, easterly course.

CONFIDENTIAL

5) 2300 CJ 8766 3 destroyers, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1100 the "Formidable" and 5 destroyers put in to Gibraltar from the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- 1) During the day discussions were held with the German Staff as to where U 380 was to unload, in view of the change in the situation (surrender of Tunis). Sidi Daoud and Kelibia are suitable. Neither harbor has a pier or bridge for the U-boat to lie alongside. Unloading must be carried out in the open roads. The decision regarding the choice of the port of discharge depends on the reply from Naval Command Tunisia to the query from German Staff on Supermarina. U 380 received orders to continue his voyage according to operational orders.
- 2) The change in the situation raises the question as to whether there is still any point in converting external fuel tanks on the 3 U-boats. The possibility of discharging liquid fuel in open roads will probably fail because of the lack of suitable unloading gear, according to information gathered so far. On the other hand, it will be possible to transfer benzine in canisters, even in open roads and without lighters. In the last resort the cans can be tied together and thrown into the water to be hauled ashore. The cans can be stowed in the internal fuel tanks, the compensating tanks, the torpedo compartments and the torpedo tubes. The quantity of the usable cargo in this case, according to a rough calculation, amounts to approximately 46 cbm. as compared with 58 cbm. if benzine is carried loose in the tanks. The question of carrying the cans in the external fuel tanks does not arise as the cans would be subjected to full hydrostatic pressure at considerable depths when the boat submerged and would in all probability be stove in if they were not filled absolutely full. If they are stowed in the internal fuel tanks the external tanks will be required for fuel for the U-boat itself. In this case the conversion of the external tanks ordered to carry benzine in

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liquid form would have to be changed back. German Staff is therefore requested to clarify the question of the possibilities of discharging a liquid cargo of benzine as quickly as possible. If it refuses, then the conversion of the external fuel tanks must be stopped and changed back.

- 3) U 407 and U 561 have received more detailed orders to put in to Naples and pick up their escort.
- 4) U 410 at 2225 reported breaking through the Straits of Gibraltar by short signal "yes" and received as his attack area, concentrating on the west, the area between the meridians of 8426 and 9513. U 371 is in the same area concentrating on the east. With the probable loss of U 602, at present there are 20 boats in the Mediterranean. 4 of them are in the operational area in the Western Mediterranean, 2 of these immediately before ceasing their operation. There are no U-boats in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Of the remaining boats, one is bound for Tunisia with ammunition, the others are allocated as follows:

Spezia	2
Toulon	6
Pola	5
Naples	2

The 2 boats in Naples, 2 from Toulon and 1 from Spezia are detailed to carry benzine in cans as well as ammunition to Tunisia.

- 5) The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0941 1 battleship of the "Nelson" class put in to port at 0120 on 7 May.
1235 convoy as in III.A.b.1.
1637 the "Formidable" put in to Gibraltar as in III.A.d.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

The following were reported missing for the last time:

- 1) U 331 with effect from 17 November 1942. The boat was lost on 17 November. Of the crew, 17 men including the Commander, are prisoners of war, 32 are unaccounted for. (Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G 4815 A 5 dated 7 May.)
- 2) U 559 with effect from 30 October 1942. Of the crew, 39 men including the Commander are

CONFIDENTIAL

prisoners of war, 7 men killed, 1 died in captivity. The U-boat was bombed and was scuttled after 170 depth charges and gunfire.

- 3) U 595 with effect from 14 November 1942. Of the crew, 43 men including the Commander are prisoners of war, 2 men not accounted for.
- 4) According to statements by prisoners from the British submarine "Sahib" destroyed off Milasso, the submarine sank U 301 at approximately 0900 at the end of January/beginning of February west of Sardinia with 3 torpedo hits. Of the crew U 301, Supernumerary Midshipman (S) (j.g.) Rahn was the only survivor rescued by the British submarine.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

8 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94,
U 410 CH 82,
U 565 CH 75,
U 616 CH 84,
U 380 CJ 82,
U 407 CJ 6745 }
U 561 CJ 6745 } proceeding to Naples.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 and U 561 put in to Naples at 1130.

c) In port:

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
- 2) Salamis: No boats.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 4) Toulon: U 303, 617, 755, 375, 431, 458.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Derna, around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 616: 0800/8 May CH 8422 3 tankers, 3 submarine-chasers, course 240°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1805 CJ 7661 6 light naval craft, course 70°.

2) 1830 north of Tabarca, 2 freighters of 4,000 GRT each, 1 escort vessel, westerly course.

3) 2010 CJ 8741 6 light naval craft, westerly course, high speed.

4) 2115 CJ 8729 position of destroyers.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1230 the cruiser "Adventure" put in to Gibraltar from the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

1) The German Staff on Supermarina ordered Naval Command Tunisia to prepare Kelibia for the unloading of U 380, after a renewed examination of the situation. 3 facts are against Sidi Daoud:

a) Severe northwesterly storm.

b) Presence of 3 war transports, the unloading of which is unfavorable for U 380's discharge.

CONFIDENTIAL

- c) The dangerous approach in shallow waters between the minefields and the coast near Cape Bon and south of it.

U 380 received orders to make for Kelibia at twilight and to discharge there or, if this is not possible, to pick up a pilot to make for another port of discharge.

As U 380 will be submerged as ordered after arriving off Kelibia on the morning of 9 May at approximately 0400 until approximately 2100 in the evening, or will be lying on the sea bed because of the very great danger from enemy fighter-bombers in the daytime, the boat has been ordered to be at very long wave reception depth at 1100, 1500 and 1800 to receive any urgent news. Naval Command Tunisia announced during the forenoon that unloading is not possible in Kelibia because of the lack of unloading gear and recommends Sidi Daoud. German Staff then gave orders to prepare Kelibia for unloading and have unloading gear ready. Naval Command Tunisia reported at night that it was impossible to unload U 380 on the evening of 9 May in Kelibia or the sea area nearby and repeated his message early on 9 May.

- 2) In reply to a query of German Staff on Super-marina regarding the possibility of unloading the liquid benzine cargo, German Command Tunisia reported that there were no facilities for unloading liquid fuel cargoes. The conversion to the external fuel tanks ordered to be carried out to the 3 U-boats, U 414, 458 and 755, lying in Toulon and Spezia ready to transport benzine, is therefore discontinued in agreement with German Staff and C-in-C South. On the other hand U-boats U 407 and U 561 lying in Naples are being prepared to carry benzine in cans in the internal fuel tanks, compensating tanks, torpedo compartments and torpedo tubes and ammunition in the boats' interior.
- 3) U 616 reported a 2-fan miss on the convoy in III.A.a.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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9 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 94,
U 410 CH 82,
U 565 CH 75,
U 616 CH 84,
U 380 CN 2190.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
2) Salamis: No boats.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
5) Naples: U 407, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1) U 565: 0352/8 May CH 8432 freighter attacked.
2) U 380: 0303/10 May CN 2248 destroyer group.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1015 CJ 7934 4 large ships, 5 escort vessels.
2) 1155 CH 9644 3 large ships, probably freighters, easterly course.
3) 1915 between Pantellaria and Cape Bon 3 destroyers and 5 ships, southerly course.

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4) 2000 20 miles northwest of Cape Bon
4 probable cruisers.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1630 6 American landing craft (infantry)
in Gibraltar.

2) 2200/8 May the minelaying cruiser
"Adventure" put out from Gibraltar
for the Atlantic.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

f) By shore stations:

1) Pantellaria: 1600 CN 2272 3 British
cruisers, course 180°.
1900 CN 2278 the same
cruisers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

1) In reply to the repeated report from Naval Command Tunisia that it would be impossible to unload U 380 in Kelibia, Naval Command Tunisia received orders from the German Staff on Supermarina to give further instructions to U 380 as a survey of conditions in the sea area around Kelibia can only be made on the spot.

Naval Command Tunisia received orders for U 380 to return. After Captain U-boats referred to German Staff on Supermarina, U 380 received orders to embark as many soldiers as possible at night and, if necessary, to jettison ammunition to make more room for men. The boat also received orders to make for Empedode. This port has been chosen so that the boat will have a short and comparatively safe approach route for another similar mission. U 380 reported at 0117 on 10 May having commenced the return passage after embarking 4 soldiers. On the return passage the boat fired his two torpedoes and missed a group of destroyers in CN 2248 at 0303.

2) Because of the situation which has meantime become more difficult for the U-boats' prospect of carrying cargoes, Naval War Staff ordered the boats in Toulon (U 458 and U 755) and Spezia (U 414) intended for this mission to be

CONFIDENTIAL

made ready again for operations. The boats (U 407 and U 561) lying ready in Naples to take on benzine and ammunition will remain ready for loading until after we have learned U 380's experiences.

- 3) The task of carrying supplies requires co-operation between the following commands: Captain U-boats, Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations), Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations), Admiral Commanding U-boats, Naval Dockyard Kiel, C-in-C South, German Staff on Supermarina, German Naval Command Italy, Naval Command Tunisia, Armed Forces Transport Command Staff, Superintending Sea Transport Officer Italy, Sea Transport Offices Naples and Cape Bon, 29th U-boat Flotilla, U-boat base Toulon, U-boats at sea. Apart from Naval Command Italy there is a regional separation of the many commands dealing with the matter. Unwelcome delays are caused by too many conferences, which are bound up with a great loss of time owing to long distances, and by innumerable telephone conversations. Because of the great number of stations involved the circle of those in the secret is dangerously large. The telephone conversations which have to be held in addition jeopardize the secrecy of the boats' mission.
- 4) U 371 and U 565 (in the operational area in the Western Mediterranean) received orders to report their positions.

U 565 reported a three-fan miss on a freighter in CH 8432 on 8 May and also that he was returning. The boat was ordered to make for Spezia. U 371 reported he was returning and will arrive at Entrance Point Northwest at 0430 on 11 May.

- V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.
- b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

- VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

10 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 371 CH 67,
U 565 CH 91,
U 380 CN 22,
U 616 CH 76,
U 410 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
2) Salamis: No boats.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
5) Naples: U 407, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Mersa Lukk.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1820 CJ 7854 5 large merchant ships,
5 small merchant ships,
8 escorts, easterly course.

2) Destroyers, motor torpedoboats and other light craft were reported several times in the Sicilian Channel.

CONFIDENTIAL

c) By radio intercept service:

0521/10 May CN 2217 1 aircraft shadowing formation, course 174^o, speed 16 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1625 Gibraltar: 17 landing craft (infantry),
2 American minesweepers.

2) 1740 Gibraltar: 21 landing craft (tank)
bound for the Mediterranean.

3) 1900 Cape Spartel: 16 large units probably
transports, 1 tanker,
8 escort vessels.

4) 2015 Tangier: the same convoy, bound for
the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- 1) C-in-C South has decided that no more supplies will be taken to Tunisia nor soldiers evacuated, with immediate effect. The Naval High Command has issued orders by telephone for U 380 to return. It is intended to fetch this U-boat back to Spezia. As it is dangerous to return on the coastal routes along the Sicilian coast in view of the uncertainty of the mine position, U 380 received orders to make for Entrance Point East from 37^o 10' N, 13^o 6' E via CN 2388, CN 2685, CN 6125, CN 6255, CN 3958. This route leads south clear of the location radius of Malta. U 380 reported that at 2200 he was in 37^o 20' N, 13^o 7' E.
- 2) After Captain U-boats referred personally to Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations), U 407 and U 561 were placed at his disposal for operations. Both boats were ordered to fit out for an operation. It is intended to have them operate in the Western Mediterranean.
- 3) U 565 reported his arrival at Entrance Point North at 2000 on 11 May.

U 410 reported he is returning from CH 5224 because of damage (gash in the forward end-plate of the pressure hull) as a result of an air attack in 7568. The boat received orders to make for Spezia. After U 410 returns, U 616 will be the only U-boat left in the operational area.

CONFIDENTIAL

- V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.
- b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

- VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

11 May 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- U 371 CH 36,
U 616 CH 76,
U 565 CH 65,
U 410 CH 29.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
- U 380 CN 26.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
- U 371 put in to Spezia at 1100.
- c) In port:
- 1) Spezia: U 73, 414.
2) Salamis: No boats.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
4) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
5) Naples: U 407, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as the neighborhood of Algiers.

- b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of the Nile Delta, north and south of Cyprus, inshore waters from Mersa Lukk to Ras Hilal.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1230 CH 9656 2 merchant ships up to 4,000 GRT and 2 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed, 1 merchant ship, 1 escort, westerly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 1230 CH 9683 1 freighter up to 2,000 GRT, westerly course, speed slight.
- 3) 1700 CJ 7754 4 merchant ships, easterly course.
- 4) Innumerable sightings of destroyers and M.T.B.s on varying courses in the Sicilian Channel.

c) By radio intercept service:

1630 CN 2284 5 cruisers, northerly course.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0800/11 May Tres Forcas: 23 landing craft, making for Mediterranean.
- 2) 1900/11 May Gibraltar: 1 American troopship, 2 American destroyers.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 380 reported his arrival at Entrance Point East at 0430 on 13 May.

U 410 reported his arrival at Entrance Point North at 2130.

U 565 requested medical assistance at Point C for an appendicitis case in a critical condition. M.O. was sent to meet him.

The western boats were informed of the troopship in III.A.d.2.

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V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats to Spezia at 1030.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CH 76,
U 407 CJ 82,
U 410 CH 62,
U 561 CJ 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 380 CN 62.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 565 put in to Spezia at 0425 on 12 May.
U 407 and U 561 put out from Naples at 2000 for the operational area in the Western Mediterranean.

c) In port:

1) Spezia: U 73, 414, 565.
2) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 371, 458, 617, 755.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Derna to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 616: 0027/12 May CH 7396 convoy, southerly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1625 CH 8449 20 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 3 escorts, westerly course, moderate speed.

2) 1720 CJ 7924 11 units, 7 of them merchant ships, course 260°, speed slight.

3) 0030/13 May CJ 7837 convoy.

4) 2320/12 May CJ 7852 6 ships, speed slight, course 60°.

5) Several sightings of destroyers and M.T.B.s in the Sicilian Channel.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0730/12 May convoy putting out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 616 reported a success (see V.a) and requested permission to return as he has only 1 electric torpedo and 7 acoustic torpedoes left. In view of the fact that U 616 is the only boat in the operational area, it is intended to recall him when new boats arrive there. The boat has therefore been ordered to stay in the operational area.

U 380, after reference was made to Supermarina, received instructions on the course from Messina to Naples.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1113 convoy as in III.A.d.

2015 convoy as in III.A.b.1.

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V. a) Successes:

U 616 obtained a hit on an unidentified south-bound convoy in CH 7396 at 0027 on 12 May.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats back from Spezia at 2000.

(Signed) Kreisch.

13 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CH 73,
U 407 CJ 82,
U 410 CJ 16,
U 561 CJ 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 380 CN 32.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 410 put in to Spezia at 1030.
U 414 put out from Spezia at 1600 for the operational area in the Western Mediterranean.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 414, 565.
2) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 371, 458, 617, 755.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Benghazi, around Crete, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0925 CH 9468 15 ships, easterly course.
These ships were later reported as 8 landing craft (tank) and 6 landing craft (infantry).
- 2) 1730 CJ 7935 3 large merchant ships, 2 small merchant ships, 5 escorts, course 90°.
- 3) 1820 CH 8262 4 destroyers, course 230°.
- 4) 1900 CH 9448 1 troopship, 2 escorts, southwesterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1730 the "King George V" and 4 destroyers put out from Gibraltar for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

Since, according to U 380's report, his rendezvous with his escort south of Messina has been delayed some 5 hours and the boat's position cannot be gauged from his signal, U 380 received orders to report his position and when he intends to reach Point C, i.e. 40° 40' N and 13° 50' E, immediately.

U 380 reported that he intends to arrive at C at 1800 on 14 May. In order to prevent U 380 from calling at Naples, as planned by the Italians, because of the delay and danger from aircraft connected with this, Supermarina has been requested to grant the boat permission to continue freely to Spezia. As this is not possible because of anti-submarine sweeps planned in the sea area between Corsica and the west coast of Italy, U 380 received orders, with the approval of Supermarina, to stop submerged until the receipt of new orders

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in an area bounded by the following lines:
40° 20' N in the north, 4° N in the south,
12° 40' E in the west and 13° E in the east.

The following reports of enemy movements were
passed on to the boats:

2138 the "King George V" sailed as in III.A.d.
2217 troopships as in III.A.b.4.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Captain U-boats reported to Naval High Command
at 1030.

(Signed) Kreisch.

14 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according
to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CH 81,
U 561 CJ 74,
U 407 CJ 74,
U 380 CJ 83,
U 414 CJ 41.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from
0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 410, 565.
2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Probing reconnaissance off Alexandria,
reconnaissance of inshore waters.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1610 1 destroyer putting out from Bone,
northerly course, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1300 the "King George V" put in to Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1335 CP 7185 1 freighter, 1 escort vessel,
2 destroyers, easterly course,
moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 407, U 414 and U 561, outward bound, in that order from west to east will occupy the area between 3° W and 4° 30' E in north-south lines of equal width as attack areas.

U 380 received further course instructions as far as Spezia.

U 616 requested permission to return from CH 5287 because of depth charge damage and was ordered to commence return passage.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

- 1) Captain U-boats replied as follows to German Naval Command's demand for a survey of the situation subsequent to the fall of the Tunisian bridgehead and his plans for U-boat operations:

Survey of the situation in the Mediterranean on
14 May 1943

The altered Mediterranean situation caused by the fall of Tunisia necessitates an examination with regard to a worthwhile U-boat operation.

I. Distribution of forces:

- 1) At present there are in the Mediterranean area 20 German U-boats whose duty is to attack enemy naval forces and enemy merchant shipping traffic.
- 2) The present distribution of the U-boats is as follows:
- a) In the operational area (Western Mediterranean) 1 U-boat.
- b) Outward bound for the Western Mediterranean 3 U-boats.
- c) Returning to Spezia 1 U-boat.
This boat was carrying 25 tons of ammunition for Tunisia. Because of developments in the North African situation it was no longer possible to discharge the cargo at the port of destination.
- d) 15 U-boats in the bases at Toulon, Spezia and Pola.

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- 3) Of the U-boats lying in bases for repairs, as far as can be foreseen, the following will be ready for operations:

1 boat on 16 May
1 boat on 18 May
1 boat on 19 May
1 boat on 20 May
1 boat on 24 May
1 boat on 31 May
2 boats on 5 June
1 boat on 12 June
1 boat on 15 June
1 boat on 17 June
1 boat on 26 June.

No war-readiness report has been received yet for the three boats not listed. They will probably be ready for operations in the first half of June.

- 4) 2 more U-boats are approaching the Mediterranean. These boats will first proceed to a base as they have no Mediterranean equipment on board (Standing War Orders, Operational Orders etc.), and will then operate on combat assignments. Provided that the boats are successful in breaking through the Straits of Gibraltar, they will probably be ready to operate at the end of May.

A further allocation of U-boats for the Mediterranean has been granted. We cannot expect these boats to arrive before the end of June.

II. Detailed considerations of the situation:

1) General:

With the end of fighting in North Africa a partial diversion of enemy supply routes and unloading ports may be assumed. As we must take into account not only the supplying of enemy forces in North Africa but also preparations for operations against Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica and perhaps the Aegean, in our opinion there will be a marked increase in traffic in the Sicilian Channel-Malta area. At which places and in which sea areas the need for intensified U-boat operations will arise, must be awaited.

2) Operational possibilities in detail:

a) Sicilian Channel

Operations by our boats in the Sicilian Channel is not advisable because of our minefields and those of the enemy which he has laid or may lay soon. U-boat operations

on the coast of Tunisia, south of Cape Bon and west of the longitude of Tripoli are made very difficult by the shallowness of the water. Time will show whether supply traffic to the two principal ports of Susa and Sfax will be sufficiently great to justify U-boat operations in comparatively shallow waters. U-boat operations in the sea area between Pantellaria and Malta do not suffer from the disadvantage of shallow water and can be successful with heavy enemy traffic. The need for operations in this area has however still to be shown.

b) Western Mediterranean:

The U-boats' present operational area still seems the most favorable at present (the area between 3° W and $4^{\circ} 30'$ E). It remains to be seen how far the area east of $4^{\circ} 30'$ E to the entrance to the Sicilian Channel will bring particularly heavy traffic, as may result from preparations for operations against Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. In this respect it is very likely that the ports of Bougie, Jijelli, Philippeville, Bone and Bizerta will be used as jumping-off points. If traffic increases in this area the U-boats will be offered valuable opportunities for attack.

c) Eastern Mediterranean:

Traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean from east to west and vice versa will best be intercepted in the Cyrenaica area, i.e. in the area where our boats have already operated successfully.

III. Decision

- 1) The boats will operate where enemy traffic is strongest.
- 2) The small number of U-boats at present ready to operate (caused by the preparation of 6 boats to carry supplies for our forces in North Africa) forces us to limit our activity to only one area at first. The Western Mediterranean is believed to be the most profitable as the most important traffic - just arriving in the Mediterranean - will chiefly be intercepted here.
- 3) As soon as more U-boats are ready, the Eastern Mediterranean and later, depending on the situation in the Western Mediterranean, the area east of $4^{\circ} 30'$ E will be occupied.

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- 4) If there is a strong movement of enemy traffic to the area east of 4° 30' E - Sicilian Channel preparatory to a landing in Sardinia, operations will then be concentrated on the area south of Sardinia.
- 2) There was a plan (see War Diary of 1 May 1943) to send a suitable U-boat into the exercise area of the battleships and aircraft carriers east of Gibraltar when enemy heavy units which had sailed east returned to Gibraltar.

Even today, after the "King George V" returned to Gibraltar (the "Formidable" had already put in to port from the east on 7 May) we must abandon the plan of sending a boat to the area east of Gibraltar for the following reasons:

- 1) The only U-boat in the Western Mediterranean is U 616 who is still untried and not yet used to the difficulties of operating in this area owing to lack of experience in the Mediterranean. Moreover, he only has 6 acoustic torpedoes apart from 1 electric torpedo.
- 2) 2 more boats are expected again from the Atlantic which might have considerable difficulty in breaking through the Straits if an alarm of U-boats were raised.

(Pencil note in margin: Both boats were lost.)

(Signed) Kreisch.

15 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CH 53,
U 414 CH 67,
U 561 CH 94,
U 407 CH 59,
U 380 CJ 58.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

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c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 410, 565.
- 2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Kanais.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0200/15 May CJ 7726 4 medium-sized merchant ships, 3 escort vessels, westerly course, speed slight.

2) 1740/15 May CH 9651 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 GRT, easterly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1112 CP 7275 1 destroyer, course 80°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 616 reported his arrival at Entrance Point at 2045 on 16 May.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY

OF

CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY

16 - 31 MAY, 1943

PG/30931

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16 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CH 82,
U 407 CH 82,
U 380 CJ 1390,
U 414 CH 76,
U 561 CH 94.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 put in to Spezia at 0745.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 410, 565.
2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of the Nile Delta, Ras el Tin to Tolmaide, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1500 CH 9682 1 merchant ship up to 2,000 GRT, easterly course, speed slight.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1330 33 landing craft (infantry) put out from Gibraltar for the east.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0715/16 May CO 5995 3 merchant ships of 5,000 GRT each, 2 escorts, course 160°, moderate speed.

2) 0715/16 May CP 8163 4 medium-sized merchant ships, 3 escorts, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

1748 CN 2218 1 aircraft shadowing formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

2205 landing craft as in III.A.d:

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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17 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 616 CJ 16,
U 414 CH 82,
U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 94.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 616 put in to Spezia at 1030.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565.
2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Mersa Matruh to Mersa Lukk, probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0900 23 merchant ships of 5,000-10,000 GRT and 9 escorts putting in to Oran Bay from the west.

2) 1813 CJ 7918 1 destroyer, course 270°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 2300/16 May about 25 darkened ships, including 5 large tankers, 14 medium-sized steamers, 6 light craft entering the Straits of Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 2) a) 0110/17 May Tangier: 13 fairly large ships, 2 destroyers, 2 escort vessels making for the Mediterranean.
b) 0215-0245/17 May Ceuta: about 10 or more fairly large ships making for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 0710-0820 Ceuta: 74 vessels including 56 freighters, 1 transport making for the Mediterranean.
- 4) 0645/17 May Tangier: 22 large vessels including 2 tankers, 2 destroyers, 3 escort vessels making for the Mediterranean, put in to Gibraltar.
- 5) 0800/17 May Gibraltar: 3 medium-sized merchant ships, 1 cable ship, 1 boom defense vessel, 1 landing craft (infantry), 4 M.T.B.s, 6 gunboats.
- 6) 2030/17 May Gibraltar: 4 merchant ships, 3 destroyers.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 1020 convoy as in III.A.d.1.
- 1202 convoys as in III.A.d.2.b and 4.
- 1330 convoy as in III.A.d.3.
- 1500 convoy as in III.A.d.5.
- 0435 convoy as in III.A.d.6.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

18 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 94,
U 414 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 755 put out from Toulon at 1800.

c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755.
- 3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Kanais to Sidi Barrani, around Crete, probing reconnaissance of Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

a) By U-boats:

U 414: 2100 CH 8276 large eastbound convoy, course 80°, speed 8 knots.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0925 CH 7519 4 landing craft, 5 escort vessels, easterly course, moderate speed.

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- 2) 0935 CH 7542 40-60 ships, easterly course, speed slight, fighter cover.
- 3) 0955 CH 9454 3 ships, making for Algiers.
- 4) 1015 CJ 7911 1 freighter, 2,000 GRT, easterly course.
- 5) 1025 CJ 7753 1 freighter, 3,000 GRT, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

2025/17 May Tres Forcas: 42 large and 45 medium-sized steamers, 2 tankers, 5 fairly large naval craft, 4 destroyers, 3 gunboats.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0920 CP 7287 1 large and 5 medium-sized freighters, 7 escort vessels, making for Alexandria.

2) 0935 CP 7183 1 destroyer, course 60°, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 414 reported a success (see V.a).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

0858 convoy as in III.A.d.

1330 convoy as in III.A.b.2.

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V. a) Successes:

U 414 sank 2 steamers totaling 16,000 GRT from a large eastbound convoy in CH 8276 at 2100 on 18 May.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

19 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 561 CH 83,
U 414 CH 82,
U 755 CH 39.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 755 (Going) put in to Toulon at 1830
(main periscope jammed).
U 458 (Diggins) put out from Toulon at 1800.
U 458 (Diggins) put in to Toulon at 2300
(leaky diesel air valve).

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
2) Toulon: U 303, 371, 375, 431, 458, 617.
3) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters west of Algiers as far as Oran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

1) Between 19° and 22° E, 33° and 37° N.
2) East of Crete, Rhodes, Port Said, Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1745 CJ 7828 3 destroyers, course 270°.

2) 1845 CJ 8792 3 destroyers, course 90°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0815 8 troopships of the "Santa Elena" class put in to Gibraltar from an unspecified direction.

1330 convoy of 15 freighters, 4 tankers, forepart of destroyer G 93 put in to Gibraltar from the east.

1745 afterpart of destroyer G 93.

1510 convoy of 11 transports passed the Straits of Gibraltar from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, 1 transport put in to Gibraltar.

1530 American freighters put in to Gibraltar from the Mediterranean.

1100 2 British freighters put in to Melilla, 2 British freighters put out (cargo of ore).

1615 2 American tankers put out from Gibraltar for the west. Tankers joined the convoy which sailed at 1510.

1715 the cruiser "Colombo" put out from Gibraltar for the east.

1930 the "Colombo" put in to Gibraltar again.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1650 CP 7318 1 probable liner of 15,000 GRT, 3 freighters of 5,000 GRT each, 3 escort vessels, easterly course, speed slight.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

a) Enemy movements intercepted within the U-boats' operational area were passed on to the boats.

1) A delayed message was received reporting more than 40 merchant ships and escort vessels at 2220 on 18 May in CH 7667, course 65°, speed slight.

2) 2250/18 May CH 8433 2 freighters, course 250°.

3) 1715/19 May the "Colombo" put out from Gibraltar towards the east.

4) 1930/19 May the "Colombo" put in to Gibraltar from the east.

5) 1445/19 May CJ 1492 enemy submarine sighted.

b) U 755 (Göing) reported that the main periscope was jammed in the gland. Boat was returning to Toulon.

U 458 (Diggins) has had trouble with the Diesel air valve. He is returning to Toulon.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

20 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 76,
U 414 CH 8270,
U 561 CH 83.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 755 put out from Toulon at 2000.
U 431 put out from Toulon at 1830. Boat put in to Toulon again because of a fault in the connecting rod of main ballast tank 3.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
2) Toulon: U 303, 375, 431, 458, 617, 755, 371.
3) Pola: U 81, 453, 593, 596.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran and Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from El Hania to Cape El Tin.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 755 (Göing) sighted an enemy submarine in CH 3622 at 2248. At the same time the boat had a horizontal location on 138 cm.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) Delayed reports received (reports of the previous day):

a) 2249/19 May CH 9519 9 merchant ships, 6 escort vessels, westerly course.

b) 2250/19 May CH 9657 1 formation of landing craft. No details of course.

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c) 2300/19 May CH 9647 2 tankers, 4 destroyers, 2 light cruisers, easterly course.

2) Reports of 20 May:

a) 1820/20 May in the Gulf of Hammamet: 3 destroyers, making for Pantellaria.

b) 1830/20 May CN 2272 3 destroyers, northerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0545 1 freighter put in to Gibraltar from an unspecified direction.

0730 1 freighter, 6,000 GRT, laden, put in to Gibraltar from an unspecified direction.

11 May 12 freighters, 4 tankers reached Casablanca. Cargo not discharged, colored and white American troops embarked and convoy put out for Algiers on the same day. Escorted by 2 aircraft carriers, 10 destroyers, 6 submarines. Report is doubtful.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1235 CP 7521 1 freighter of 5,000 GRT, on fire.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

On 18 May 1 cruiser, 3 torpedoboats, 3 tankers carrying fuel oil, 2 submarines and 2 transports carrying war material put out from Alexandria for Tripoli.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following report of enemy movements was passed on to the boats:

Convoy as in III.A.b.1.a.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) . . Kreisch.

21 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 7600,
U 414 CH 8400,
U 561 CH 9400,
U 755 CH 6310.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 431, 458, 617, 303.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel, reconnaissance of inshore waters as far as Oran.

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b). Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters of Alexandria, Port Said. Reconnaissance Crete - Rhodes - Port Said.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

No sightings in the Western Mediterranean. In the Central Mediterranean freighters and destroyers were spotted by our aircraft in the Sicilian Channel.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1145 4 destroyers put in to Gibraltar from an unspecified direction.

2) 1500/19 May convoy (transports) west of Setubal, southerly course.

3) 0825 east of Gibraltar 7 vessels including 1 minesweeper, 1 survey ship, 1 transport, 4 freighters.

4) 0800 1 troopship, escorted by 2 submarines, put out from Gibraltar for an unknown destination.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1025 CP 8155 5 freighters of 5,000 GRT each, southerly course, fighter cover.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 1) Convoy as in III.d.3.
- 2) Convoy as in III.d.4.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 303 (Heine) received a fan of two from an enemy submarine during a trial run off Toulon. (Approximately 6 miles from Cape Cepet, bearing 335°.) Range approximately 400 meters. While avoiding the fan, the boat was hit aft and sank. Lieut.(E) Lüddecke, 17 members of the crew and 2 dockyard personnel were killed.

VI. General situation:

It was considered operating U 431 (Schöneboom) and U 303 (Heine) in the Eastern Mediterranean. One boat was to operate in CN 2600, the other off the coast of Cyrenaica. Because of the great delay in making several boats ready and in view of the possible development of the situation in the Western Mediterranean, "Schöneboom" has also been transferred to the Western Mediterranean. It is necessary to appear in as great a strength as possible on the main convoy route and always have something in reserve in case the enemy should open an offensive on the Italian islands.

(Signed) Kreisch.

22 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 7600,
U 414 CH 8400,
U 561 CH 9400,
U 755 CH 5890.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 431 (Schöneboom) put out from Toulon at 1800 for operations in the Western Mediterranean.

c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 375, 431, 458, 617, 371.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Algiers to Oran to Alboran, reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance Crete - Rhodes - Port Said, sea area west, southwest and southeast of Crete - El Kanais - Nile Delta. In addition Scarpanto sea area - east of Crete - El Daba - Rosetta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1400 CH 7674 20 merchant ships and 10 escorts, course 280°-290°.
- 2) In the Central Mediterranean naval vessels and merchant ships were observed in the Sicilian Channel and off the east coast of Tunisia.

c) By radio intercept service:

On the night of 22 May 4 M.T.B.s and 4 M.G.B.s were on patrol duties in the Straits of Gibraltar. At 0633 these forces received orders to investigate suspicious units located from the land by radio location sets.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1200. 1 British freighter, escorted by 1 patrol boat put in to Melilla.

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2) 1340-1445 convoy passing from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean observed from Ceuta.

Composition: 4 transports, 6 freighters, 2 tankers, 2 special freighters.

Escort: 1 cruiser, 9 destroyers, 4 minelayers.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

21 May the Greek steamer "Margarita" put out from Mersin for Port Said.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

a) The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1) Convoy as in III.A.b.1.

2) Convoy as in III.A.d.2.

b) U 407 (Brüller) reported: "After hydroplane unusable. Thread of guide shaft in the hollow shaft destroyed. Operations restricted to most simple conditions possible. 7552."

The boat will receive orders at night to cease operations and make for Toulon; for the boat will not achieve anything in the present circumstances.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

23 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 7550,
U 755 CH 7600,
U 414 CH 8200,
U 561 CH 9440,
U 431 CH 3900.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 375, 458, 617, 371.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Algiers to Oran to Alboran.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Scarpanto - El Daba - Rosetta mouth, inshore waters to Kanais and Alexandria. West of Crete - west of Stavarina - CO 4559 as far as El Hania.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

1540 5 or 6 ships putting in to Bay of Oran.

c) By radio intercept service:

1140 unit "y 7 J 8" received orders to remain in the U-boats' area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0700 the minelaying cruiser "Adventure" and 1 destroyer put out from Gibraltar towards the east.

2) 1000 Ceuta sighted a convoy consisting of 16 freighters and 2 tankers coming from the east.

1140 4 freighters from this convoy put in to Gibraltar.

3) 2330 convoy of 11 freighters and 1 tanker escorted by 5 destroyers, 1 corvette, 1 minesweeper put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

Central Mediterranean:

In the Central Mediterranean in the area of the Sicilian Channel, north and east coasts of Tunisia as far as Malta, our aircraft spotted brisk traffic (mainly escorts and destroyers) particularly close under the Tunisian coast.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

The Greek steamer "Margarita" did not put out on 21 May (see War Diary of 22 May under III.B.d).

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:
- 1) Convoy as in III.A.d.3.
 - 2) Cruiser as in III.A.d.1.
- b) U 431 (Schoeneboom) received the area between the meridians of CH 8445 and 8354 as his attack area concentrating on the east.
- U 414 (Huth) is operating in the same area, concentrating on the west.
- c) U 407 (Brüller) received orders to return to Toulon if the trouble reported yesterday could not be repaired.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

24 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 407 CH 7500,
U 755 CH 7500,
U 414 CH 8100,
U 561 CH 9400,
U 431 CH 5900.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

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c) In port (at 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 375, 458, 617, 371.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Nothing identified.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance of the area between CO 1366, CO 6699, CO 4667, CO 2519 and the area CO 2556, CO 5478 to Ras el Tin.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1800 CJ 7766 2 steamers, 1 destroyer, westerly course.
- 2) 1800 CJ 7848 3 destroyers, westerly course.
- 3) 1720 CJ 7938 3 destroyers, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

2104 aircraft based on Algiers reported: "An over enemy U-boat in 36° 52' N (maybe 25'), only periscope sighted."

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1300/23 May Alboran sighted the minelaying cruiser and destroyer, on an easterly course, which put out from Gibraltar at 0700 on 23 May. (See War Diary 23 May, III.A.d.)
- 2) 1800/24 May Cape Spartel sighted, at a distance of about 25 miles, a convoy of more than 40 ships making for the Straits of Gibraltar.
- 3) 2200/24 May a cruiser of the "Cardiff" class put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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Central Mediterranean:

- 1) Our aircraft sighted several small vessels, probably landing craft, along the Tunisian coast.
- 2) 1225 9 ships putting in to Valetta.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The report in III.A.d.3 was passed on to the boats (sailing of the "Cardiff" class cruiser).
- b) U 407 (Brüller) reported having commenced the return passage. The boat has orders to make for Toulon.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

25 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 755 CH 7500,
U 414 CH 8100,
U 431 CH 8200,
U 561 CH 9400,
U 407 CH 8100.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 458 (Diggins) put out from Toulon at 2130 to operate in the Western Mediterranean.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 458.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Inshore waters of Oran, Algiers, Bougaroni.
Aerial photograph of Tunis - Bizerta.
Reconnaissance of Susa - Cape Bon - Sicilian Channel.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of sea area Crete - Ras el Tin.
Aerial photograph of Port Said and Suez.
Reconnaissance north of Cyprus, inshore waters from Tobruk to the east. Sea reconnaissance from Rhodes to eastern Crete. Gulf of Arabia to Baltim. Inshore waters from Mersa Lukk to Derna.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0355 CJ 7841 17 large ships, 30 small vessels probably landing craft, easterly course.

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- 2) 1605 CH 9568 convoy of 16 ships, westerly course.
- 3) 1745 south of Galita 5 large ships, making for Bizerta.
- 4) 1715 CN 2193 1 destroyer, course 20°.
- 5) 1545 south of Galita 2 large ships, easterly course.
- 6) 1720 6 ships off the harbor installations at Bizerta.
- 7) 1730 CJ 7919 25 merchant ships, 15 escorts, easterly course.
- 8) 1955 500 meters east of Bizerta 11 ships, 6 of them approximately 2,500 GRT. Remainder coasting freighters all at anchor.
- 9) 0130 12 large units, including 11 probable transports, 1 aircraft carrier, 10 escorts in addition passed Ceuta from Atlantic to Mediterranean.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 1255 CH 9546 convoy "Hankey".
- 2) 0726 enemy aircraft reported: "Am over surfaced U-boat in CH 7558."

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 2225/24 May Tangier sighted 32 L.S.T. (tank landing ships), 4 tankers, 3 destroyers, 26 submarine-chasers, 2 special tugs, bound for the Mediterranean. This convoy was sighted by Ceuta from 0005 to 0040/25 May. According to an Italian report the convoy was 15 miles west of Tres Forcas at 1610.
- 2) 1000/25 May the transport "Mooltan" (21,000 GRT) put in to Gibraltar. The ship was carrying troops.
- 3) 1345/25 May the battleship "Prince of Wales" put in to Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1313 CO 5919 2 freighters of 10,000 GRT each, 2 freighters of 7,000 GRT each, 2 freighters of 4,000 GRT each, 8 escorts, easterly course.

Convoy was in CO 5959 at 1710.

2) 1610 10 medium-sized freighters, escorted by 3 or 4 destroyers, about 4 escort vessels, put out from Alexandria for the west.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

a) The reports as in

III.A.c.1.

III.A.b.2.

III.A.d.1.

III.A.d.3.

were passed on to the boats.

b) U 561 (Schomburg) was ordered to report his position by short signal. No signal was received.

c) U 407 (Brüller) reported that he intends to cross 42° N to the north at 0600 on 28 May.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

26 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 755 CH 7500,
U 414 CH 8400,
U 431 CH 8300,
U 561 CH 9400,
U 407 CH 6700,
U 458 CH 3900.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Oran and inshore waters as far as Algiers. Reconnaissance Bone - Tunis - Bizerta as well as inshore waters in the same area. Reconnaissance west and southwest of Sicily.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Coast of Cyrenaica as far as Benghazi. Inshore waters reconnaissance from Mersa Lukk to Derna. Sea reconnaissance between Crete and Rhodes, Nile Delta. Inshore waters reconnaissance from Tobruk eastward. Sea reconnaissance in the area of CO 6711, 9111, 9559, 6911.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

1) U 431: 1956 CH 8348 8 steamers, 5 destroyers, 3 corvettes, moderate speed, course 250°.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0900 CH 8451 1 escort vessel.

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- 2) 0925 CH 8278 2 escort vessels.
- 3) 1609 CJ 8786 1 destroyer, northerly course.
- 4) 1400 CN 2466 6 small craft, northerly course.
- 5) 1800 CN 2197 6 destroyers, northerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0720/26 May the "Nelson" was no longer in Gibraltar, probably put out during the night.
- 2) 1100/26 May convoy of 12 large vessels, probably transports, also 1 battleship presumably the "Nelson", 3 destroyers, 2 escort vessels, 1 submarine, making for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 0630 C0 9349 4 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 2 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 7 escort vessels, course 100°.
- 0420 C0 9367 1 cruiser, several destroyers, several steamers, course 90°.
- 1515 C0 9218 2 large, 5 medium-sized freighters, 6-8 escorts, westerly course.
- 1535 C0 6888 4 small, 8 medium-sized freighters, about 10 destroyers, course 280°.

c) By radio intercept service:

1529 C0 9224 aircraft shadowing formation.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The enemy sightings as in III.A.d.2 were passed on to the boats.
- b) U 561 (Schomburg) was again ordered to report his position. The boat reported from CH 9514 at 0507.
- c) U 755 (Göing) was attacked by an aircraft in CH 7518 at 0618. Boat damaged by heavy bombs. Unable to submerge. Able Seaman Zwacka killed by gunfire, Able Seaman Ortel seriously wounded and Midshipman (j.g.) Eichler slightly injured.
- d) U 431 (Schoeneboom) unsuccessfully attacked a westbound convoy of 8 steamers, 5 destroyers and 3 corvettes at 1956 in CH 8348. The boat was depthcharged after the attack and suffered damage.

Both boats (U 755 and U 431) received orders to go to Toulon for repairs.

- e) U 407 (Brüller) reported that he will be at the rendezvous at 1400/28 May.
- f) U 458 received his operational area by radio.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

As the conditions have now been fulfilled (see War Diary of 1 May), one boat (U 458) has been sent to the area due east of Gibraltar to attack enemy naval forces. Heavy warships at present in Gibraltar are 3 battleships and 2 aircraft carriers. According to our observations to date these put out to sea occasionally and carry out maneuvers east of Gibraltar. As long as U 458 is in this area, permission for him to attack is restricted to warships up to and including cruisers. Regarding merchant ships, attack is freely given on troopships and large tankers. As soon as the boat can no longer remain in the area because of anti-U-boat measures, he is to maneuver to the east and occupy the area between the meridians of CH 7585, 8445 south of the parallel of CH 7585 as an attack area. On withdrawal, attack freely all enemy targets.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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27 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 CH 8400,
U 561 CH 9514,
U 458 CH 5900,
U 755 CH 7300,
U 431 CH 5900,
U 407 CH 6500.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Cape Bon - Gulf of Hammamet - Lampedusa area. West of Malta as far as Alexandria.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras el Tin to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0840 11 merchant ships lying with steam up off Bizerta 500 meters east of the eastern mole.
2) 0840 5 M.T.B.s west of Bizerta.
3) 1715 convoy consisting of 30 ships north of Bone harbor entrance.

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4) 1730 3 merchant ships, northwesterly course, west of Philippeville harbor entrance.

5) 0458 CJ 7829 1 merchant ship, course 240°.

c) By radio intercept service:

1345 enemy aircraft reported to Algiers:
"Am over submerged enemy U-boat in
CH 5692. Have only sighted periscope."

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1520 C0 5579 15 freighters, 7 escort vessels.

2) 1520 C0 5462 6 vessels, northwesterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

a) U 414 (Huth) and U 561 (Schomburg) have occupied the area between the meridians of CH 7815 and 9246 as their operational area. U 414 the western half, U 561 the eastern half.

b) U 431 (Schoeneboom) has reported that he will reach 42° N at 0100 on 29 May. The boat will be at the rendezvous at 0700.

Escort and air cover have been arranged in spite of the Commander's request to the contrary.

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- V. a) Successes:
Nothing to report.
- b) Losses:
Nothing to report.

- VI. General situation:
Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 May 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 458 CH 7560,
U 414 CH 7660,
U 561 9440,
U 755 CH 5960,
U 431 CH 6810,
U 407 3680.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 407 (Brüller) put in to Toulon at 1600.

- c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617.

- II. Air reconnaissance:

- a) Western Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

- b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sollum to Alexandria and southwest of Crete.

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III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1135 CG 9645 1 aircraft carrier, 5 escort vessels, varying courses.
- 2) 1645 CN 2163 several large merchant ships, 25 small ships and 5 destroyers, course 100°.
- 3) 1910 CN 2514 8 merchant ships up to 10,000 GRT, 4 merchant ships up to 5,000 GRT, 26 probable landing craft and 6 destroyers, course 180°, moderate speed.
- 4) 1920 CJ 7935 15 vessels (landing craft and destroyers), course 50°, high speed.
- 5) 1925 CJ 8789 3 M.T.B.s, course 90°, high speed.
- 6) 2305 CN 2243 3 unidentified ships.
- 7) 2359 CN 2241 6 ships, course and speed not identified.

c) By radio intercept service:

2011 convoy formation "Margrull" was attacked by aircraft in CN 2349.
1920 vessel reported: "Am being attacked by enemy aircraft in CJ 7935."
2245 vessel reported: "1 aircraft with convoy formation "Harper"."

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0100/28 May convoy put out from Gibraltar. Convoy probably sailed west.
- 2) 1115/28 May the aircraft carrier "Formidable" and 5 destroyers put out for the east. The carrier took on aircraft east of Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- 1) Sightings as in III.A.b.1, III.A.d.2 were passed on to the boats.
- 2) U 407 (Brüller) at 1311 requested an escort quickly. The boat had reported that he would reach the rendezvous at 1400. U 407 put in to Toulon at 1600.
- 3) U 431 (Schoeneboom) was informed by radio that air cover and escort have been provided until he puts in to port. The boat will be escorted by an Italian aircraft from dawn until he reaches the rendezvous. From there he will be accompanied by escort vessels.
- 4) At 0209 U 458 (Diggins) reported that he had commenced the return passage because an aircraft shot up his periscope. The boat plans to be at the rendezvous at 0200 on 31 May. The boat is to put in to Toulon.
- 5) According to a radio intercept report an enemy aircraft reported a U-boat at 1228 in CH 3927.
- 6) According to an Italian report an enemy submarine was in CJ 1448 at 1345.

5 and 6 were passed on to the boats.

- 7) At 1025 U 755 (Göing) requested permission to cross 42° N at 0600 on 29 May. The boat plans to be at the rendezvous at 1100.

At 1400 a war distress signal "air attack", with no signature transmitted at 1353, was received from 5313. As there are no forces apart from our U-boats in this area, we must assume it was transmitted by one of our U-boats. U 431 (Schoeneboom) and U 755 (Göing) are returning to Toulon. No other boats are in the sea area mentioned. It is assumed that U 755 sent the message. After the previous operation this boat also chose the route west of the Balearic Islands.

At 1410, in order to clear up the question as to who originated the signal, U 431 and U 755 were ordered to report by short signal "No" if no message was sent.

A Most Immediate teleprint message was sent to the Officer-in-Charge U-boat base Toulon instructing him to ask 2nd Fliegerdivision for aircraft to assist in the area where the boat was attacked - reconnaissance and dropping life-saving apparatus.

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Assistance has been asked from Spain via Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations). At the same time C-in-C South tried, through Naval Liaison Officer, to have aircraft from the Sardinian area assist.

This plan cannot be put into force as there are no suitable aircraft available.

At 1500, according to a report from 2nd Fliegerdivision Headquarters, an enemy aircraft reported at 1340: "Am over enemy U-boat in CH 5317." This confirms that it was one of our U-boats which sent the war distress signal. According to a report received at 1855 from the main naval D/F station at Taormina, enemy aircraft F.A.V.M. sent the following to Algiers: "Enemy U-boat in 39° 59' N, 1° 41' E."

At 1915, as no further signal was received from U 755, he was ordered to report his position.

Officer-in-Charge U-boat base Toulon was asked at 1915 by Most Immediate teleprint message whether the 2nd Fliegerdivision's aircraft have been sent to help. Because communications between Rome and Toulon were bad, the teleprint message was not received by the teleprinter office of the German Naval Command in Berlin until 2255 and passed on to Toulon. It later transpired that the Officer-in-Charge U-boat base had still not received this message and another, with time of origin 2000, by 2315.

At about 2000 Duty Staff Officer informed C-in-C U-boats that Spanish destroyers had put out to assist. This was passed on to the boats by radio at 2039. Officer-in-Charge, U-boat base Toulon received this information by a Most Immediate teleprint message - which however had not arrived by 2315 - with instructions to inform 2nd Fliegerdivision, if their aircraft had taken off, that they must expect these Spanish destroyers. At 2156 U 431 reported "No" by short signal. So U 755 sent the war distress signal. U 431 spent the day underwater. Approximately 200 miles separate him from the last reported position of U 755. At about 2315 a telephone conversation was held with Officer-in-Charge U-boat base Toulon. He reported that one aircraft, with rescue equipment, was on the way and that more aircraft would take off next day.

At 0135 Officer-in-Charge U-boat base was informed that so far no further information regarding U 755 has been received and that aircraft are required from dawn onwards in the area reported by "Going" (U 755).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Because U 458 (Diggins) has had to return owing to aircraft gunfire damaging his periscope, the operation planned east of Gibraltar cannot be carried out at the moment. Of the two boats (U 561 and U 414) still in the operational area, U 561 (Schomburg) has been out since 22 April with a short break of 4 days. It therefore does not seem advisable to have this boat operate due east of Gibraltar as he is near the end of his fighting capacity. U 414 (Huth) has been at sea since 13 May. As this U-boat is on his first Mediterranean operation and is not yet familiar enough with Mediterranean conditions to carry out the operation planned and the crew is probably as reduced in fighting efficiency after 19 days in the operational area as U 561's crew, U 414 will not carry out the operation either. It is planned to detail the next U-boat to sail (U 617 - "Brandi") for this mission. After quite a long time in dock, the boat will be operationally ready on 31 May.

(Signed) Kreisch.

29 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 CH 7670,
U 561 CH 8370,
U 458 CH 5830,
U 755 ?
U 431 CH 3380.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 431 (Schoeneboom) put in to Toulon at 0900.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 407.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Sicilian Channel and Sardinia.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance in the area of Crete and inshore waters reconnaissance of Sollum, Alexandria, southeast and southwest of Crete, Alexandria - Kanais, Benghazi to Mersa Lukk, north and south of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0840 CH 8457 9 warships, possibly 1 heavy unit, easterly course.

2) 0835 CH 8484 8 merchant ships, 6 escorts, putting in to Arzeu.

Brisk traffic of small to medium-sized vessels and covering forces on the north and east coasts of Tunisia and in the Sicilian Channel.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0720/29 May Tangier sighted 5 landing ships (tank), 12 landing craft (infantry), 2 destroyers, 1 motor launch, bound for the Mediterranean.
0920 Ceuta sighted this formation.

2) 1730/29 May the "Formidable" and 5 destroyers put in to Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1336 CP 7521 1 freighter on fire.
- 2) 1450 CO 4939 3 freighters up to 2,000 GRT, course 250°.
- 3) 1458 CO 5475 1 small unit, course 260°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- 1) Sightings as in III.A.b.1 and 2,
III.A.d.1 and 2
were passed on to the boats.
- 2) No signals received from U 755 (Göing).
According to a telephone conversation with Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) (Lieut.(s.g.) Kuppisch) at 1100, the Spanish destroyers have so far found nothing. At 1500, if nothing has happened, the search will be abandoned. As the possibility that U 755 is continuing his return passage with radio out of action is not excluded, the U-boat base at Toulon has been instructed as a precaution to bear in mind the possibility of the surprise appearance of U 755, with regard to anti-submarine sweeps in the area off the south coast of France.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 CH 7680,
U 561 CH 8280,
U 458 CH 6760,
U 755 ?

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 407, 431.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

From Sardinia to Sicilian Channel. Inshore waters from Oran to Algiers to Cape Bougaroni.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters Benghazi - Derna, Tobruk - Sollum, north and south of Cyprus as far as the Levant.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1610 CJ 7923 1 M.T.B.

2) 1620 CJ 7654 5 ships, course 210°.

3) 1730 CJ 7931 2 M.T.B.s, easterly course. Intercepted in the Sicilian Channel.

4) 1315 CN 2861 3 destroyers, course 90°.

5) 1540 CN 2276 4 light naval craft, 1 merchant ship, course 180°.

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6) 1710 CN 2436 5 ships, course 85°.

7) 0125 CN 2225 1 unidentified ship.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0640/30 May 8 transports, 1 aircraft carrier probably the "Invincible", 1 auxiliary aircraft carrier, 2 destroyers, put out from Gibraltar for the Atlantic.

2) 0700/30 May 12 transports and 5 escort vessels have passed Gibraltar from the Mediterranean to the west.

3) 1 and 2 joined forces west of Gibraltar and continued into the Atlantic.

4) 1115/30 May the "Formidable" put out from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean. This report is not confirmed. The "Formidable" is later reported in Gibraltar.

5) 0730 3 transports, 1 freighter of 6,000 GRT, 2 American tankers of 8,000 GRT each, 1 destroyer put in to Gibraltar from the Mediterranean.

6) 1400/30 May Cape Spartel sighted a convoy of 6 destroyers and more than 20 freighters making for the Mediterranean.

7) 1730/30 May the convoy (see 6) put in to Gibraltar.

8) 1400/30 May the "King George V", the "Howe", 6 destroyers, 1 minesweeper, 3 escort vessels put out from Gibraltar for the east.

According to a report from Luftflotte 2 a formation (8 M.T.B.s or "V" or "W" destroyers) were 40 miles north of Mers el Kebir at 0907 according to a photographic evaluation. Another aircraft carrier, not so far reported, also appeared. Presumably the observations are correct. It is possible that the "Formidable" was not in port.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The reports in III.A.d.4,
III.A.d.8,
III.A.d.6
were passed on to the U-boats in the operational area. Reports received later revealed that III.A.d.4 and III.A.d.6 were false observations.
- b) The "King George V" and the "Howe" have been out on gunnery exercises east of Gibraltar.
- c) According to a radio intercept report, an enemy aircraft sighted a submerged U-boat at 0950 in CH 5596. It may have been U 458 (Diggins) homeward bound.
- d) U 414 (Huth) was ordered to report his position at night by short signal. No signal was received.
- e) Officer-in-Charge U-boat base Toulon granted U 458 (Diggins) permission to cross 42° N as requested. From dawn to the rendezvous, escort will be provided by an Italian aircraft. An escort vessel will pick him up at the rendezvous.
- f) The following reports on the search for U 755 (Göing) have been received:
 - 1) Teleprint message from Officer-in-Charge U-boat base Toulon. 2nd Fliegerdivision's operations:
 - 1) 28 May. One Ju 88 took off at 1834, landed at 2300. Result: U-boat not found. Patch of oil 200 meters long 50 meters broad in grid square 1189-4° E (CH 5315).
 - 2) 28 May. One Ju 88 took off at 1952, landed at 2354. Nothing special observed.
 - 3) 29 May. One Ju 88 took off at 0431, landed at 0943. U-boat not found. Grid square 2170 (CH 5322). Spanish destroyers on searching courses.
 - 4) 29 May. One Ju 88 took off at 1055, landed at 1610. 1215 to 1445 unsuccessful sea distress search carried out. Grid square 2170 (CH 5322) 2 Spanish destroyers on searching courses.
 - 5) As no result was expected from 2nd Fliegerdivision's search, U-boat base Toulon had Italian aircraft operate on 29 May. One aircraft followed the route rendezvous - Entrance Point - grid square of war distress signal, and several east-west strips there. The second aircraft followed the route rendezvous - grid square of war distress signal, and several north-south strips

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there. Result: Spanish destroyers on searching courses. On approach flight and strip flight several drifting objects were sighted which, in our opinion from the description, could not have been connected with "Göing".

2) Teleprint message from C-in-C U-boats:

Naval Attache Madrid reported at 0145 on 30 May 1943.

Subject: Search for U-boat. Naval Commander Palma on Majorca reported survivors found and picked up by the destroyer "Churruca". Still no details. Altogether 9 men rescued, search is being continued.

3) Teleprint message from C-in-C U-boats:

Subject: U 755. The 9 survivors will reach Valencia this afternoon on the destroyer "Velasco" on the minister's special orders to facilitate the disembarkation, because there was a strong British intelligence service on the Balearic Islands and once there it was impossible to transfer them to dry land unobserved. Names still not known, 2 men wounded, one of them in a state of extreme exhaustion because he was in the water for 20 hours. Survivors were found when the destroyers were returning from searching. The destroyer "Churruca" is continuing to search this morning with air support again.

Further information of the search for the boat must be awaited.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

As messages received recently on the heavy warships at present based on Gibraltar show, the decision to operate a U-boat due east of Gibraltar was correct.

On 29 May an aircraft carrier (the "Formidable") was on maneuvers with aircraft in the area due east of Gibraltar. On 30 May the "King George V" and the "Howe" put out from Gibraltar and were engaged in gunnery exercises in the operational area intended for the U-boat. The boat's periscope was damaged by gunfire from an aircraft as it approached the operational area. It therefore had to return.

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A pity that the operations planned could not have been carried out.

(Signed) Kreisch.

31 May 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 CH 7830,
U 561 CH 8350,
U 458 CH 3380,
U 755 ?

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 (Brandi) put out from Toulon at 2000,
put in again at 0030.

c) In port (at 0800):

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565; 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 407, 431.

II. Air reconnaissance:

a) Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Cape San Vito as far as CH 7286, Bone, Bizerta, Cape Bon, Mahedia, Lampedusa, CN 2935.

b) Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Cyrenaica, Port Said sea area, probing reconnaissance of Alexandria with inshore waters to Kanais and inshore waters from Benghazi to Derna with sea area northwest of Benghazi. Reconnaissance southeast of Crete. Probing reconnaissance of Alexandria, Kanais. Inshore waters reconnaissance of Benghazi, Ras el Hilal.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

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b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0900 CH 7676 convoy of 15 merchant ships, 6 escort vessels, course 120°, speed 17 knots.
- 2) Heavy traffic in the Bougie - Cape de Fer sea area, small vessels (M.T.B.s and landing craft).
- 3) Moderate traffic off the Tunisian coast and in the west coast of Tunisia - Malta area.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0340/31 May Tangier sighted a convoy of 59 vessels. There is a possibility that this convoy has further increased in strength. A later report gave 87 units. (Last number is doubtful.) The majority of this convoy put in to Gibraltar. One part passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on an easterly course. No exact details as to number.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1720 CO 4956 4 medium-sized merchant ships hove to.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The reports as in III.A.b.1 and III.A.d.1 were passed on to the boats.

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- b) U 414 (Huth) was again ordered to report his position. Request was not answered for the second time. Concern is felt for the boat.
- c) U 561 (Schomburg) reported that he had commenced the return passage because of stock of potash cartridges (45). It was planned to withdraw this boat from operations on Wednesday because he has been at sea since 22 April with one short break in Naples. The boat received orders to make for Naples. Because of the present great danger from aircraft he has been warned to proceed submerged if he seems likely to be surprised by aircraft.
- d) U 617 (Brandi) had put out from Toulon at 2000. At 2346 he reported that he was putting in again because of a fault in the starboard shaft. Boat put in to Toulon again at 0030.
- e) No further reports have been received of U 755 (Göing) apart from the names of the 9 survivors. The boat is definitely lost.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

- a) U 617 (Brandi), which put out from Toulon yesterday, was intended to carry out the operation which U 458 (Diggins) was unable to (operating against heavy enemy forces in the area due east of Gibraltar). Because U 617 had also to return, this operation must be put off again for an unspecified period; for the boats now putting out will not reach the area until an unfavorable phase of the moon. Whether, however, all the necessary circumstances will be reproduced in the next new moon period, must be awaited.

(Signed) Kreisch.

Synopsis for May 1943

- 1) As a result of the new situation created by the fall of Tunisia, brisk traffic in the Sicilian Channel and the setting to work of the ports of Bizerta, Tunis, Susa and Sfax by the enemy, the survey of the situation drawn up on 14 May has been confirmed in principle.
- 2) The following points for the operation of our U-boats result from enemy traffic which has been running up to now:
 - a) Enemy supply traffic in the Gibraltar - Algiers area and back has not slackened with the change in the situation. There has been consistently heavy traffic which is so great that it cannot be merely normal supplies for enemy forces in North Africa and building up of stocks lost in the fighting, but is probably also preparations for landings in Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily. In May, some 19 convoys of 230 ships equivalent to $1\frac{1}{4}$ million GRT passed through the Straits of Gibraltar to the east. It is moreover suspected that heavy traffic for the Near East will run, for which the enemy has already stopped traffic round Africa costing time and shipping space, perhaps because of the fall of Tunisia.
 - b) East of Bone and in the Sicilian Channel there is brisk traffic. Mainly landing craft, M.T.B.s, destroyers, escorts and small steamers. These targets are less valuable; U-boat operations in the Sicilian Channel and in shallow waters along the east coast of Tunisia encounter very great difficulties.
 - c) Traffic in the eastern part of the Mediterranean on the coast of Cretenaica has increased again recently. An appearance by U-boats here would appear worthwhile.
 - d) Because of unsatisfactory surveys and contradictory agents' reports we are not quite certain of traffic on the coast of Palestine.
 - e) It follows from a - d that the main operational area continues to be the Western Mediterranean. An appearance of U-boats in the Eastern Mediterranean is worthwhile and likely to prove successful in splitting enemy defenses and because of enemy supply traffic there.
- 3) Attacks by enemy aircraft on our U-boats have continued to increase. Whether the enemy has succeeded in intercepting the boats more effectively than before by using new equipment, cannot be clearly determined yet. It happened that last month nearly every U-boat sighted by an aircraft was, with bewildering certainty, either destroyed or so seriously damaged that it had to cease operating.

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- 4) The overlong periods our boats stay in dock are causing great anxiety. They are caused by:
- a) transport difficulties,
 - b) air attacks and alarms,
 - c) not quite perfect handling in the recently established U-boat base at Toulon,
 - d) postponement of repairs to U-boats in Toulon in favor of the Escort Flotilla.
 - e) conversion of 3 boats to carry benzine.

5) a) Number of boats in May was the following:

<u>Date</u> <u>in</u> <u>May</u>	<u>In the</u> <u>Western</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>In the</u> <u>Eastern</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>& outward</u> <u>bound</u>	<u>In</u> <u>Port</u>	
1	4 U-boats	-	2 U-boats	12 U-boats	
2	4 "	-	2 "	12 "	
3	4 "	-	1 "	13 "	
4	4 "	-	1 "	13 "	
5	2 "	-	2 "	14 "	} 2 boats with- drawn from operations, 4 more held back to carry supplies to Tunisia.
6	2 "	-	2 "	14 "	
7	3 "	-	2 "	14 "	
8	4 "	-	3 "	13 "	
9	4 "	-	1 "	15 "	
10	2 "	-	3 "	15 "	
11	1 "	-	4 "	15 "	
12	1 "	-	2 "	17 "	
13	1 "	-	4 "	15 "	
14	1 "	-	4 "	15 "	
15	1 "	-	4 "	15 "	
16	3 "	-	2 "	15 "	
17	3 "	-	1 "	16 "	
18	3 "	-	./.	17 "	
19	3 "	-	1 "	16 "	
20	3 "	-	./.	17 "	
21	3 "	-	2 "	15 "	
22	3 "	-	1 "	15 "	
23	4 "	-	1 "	14 "	
24	4 "	-	1 "	14 "	
25	4 "	-	1 "	14 "	
26	4 "	-	2 "	13 "	
27	2 "	-	4 "	13 "	
28	3 "	-	3 "	13 "	
29	2 "	-	3 "	14 "	
30	2 "	-	2 "	15 "	
31	2 "	-	2 "	15 "	

b) Daily average in the periods:

<u>Period</u>	<u>In the</u> <u>Western</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>In the</u> <u>Eastern</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>& outward</u> <u>bound</u>	<u>In</u> <u>Port</u>
1-10 May	3.3 U-boats	0 U-boats	1.9 U-boats	13.5 U-boats
11-20 May	2 "	0 "	2.2 "	15.8 "
21-31 May	3 "	0 "	2.2 "	13.2 "

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Daily average for the month:

	<u>In the</u> <u>Western</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>In the</u> <u>Eastern</u> <u>Med.</u>	<u>Homeward</u> <u>& outward</u> <u>bound</u>	<u>In</u> <u>Port</u>
	2.8 U-boats	0 U-boats	2 U-boats	14.5 U-boats
i.e.	14.5 %	0 %	10.4 %	75.2 %

c) The following successes were obtained in May:

<u>Serial</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>No. of ships</u> <u>Sunk</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>	<u>No. of ships</u> <u>Torpedoed</u>	<u>G.R.T.</u>
1	U 565	-	-	1	12,000
2	U 616	-	-	1, hit on unidentified escort unit, probably the destroyer "Porcupine" towed in to Gibraltar on 19 May with stern torn off.	
3	U 414	2	16,000	-	-
		2	16,000	2	12,000

Result: Every U-boat at sea in May sank on an average 1,333 GRT in 12.2 days at sea, i.e. 109.3 GRT for each day at sea.

Losses: U 303 and U 755 were lost in May. U 414 must be presumed lost.

6) May was the blackest month in U-boat warfare in the Mediterranean as, with the low number of U-boats available, insufficient successes stand against particularly severe losses.

New information and lessons however cannot be drawn. The strength of enemy defenses is known. It was to be expected that they would be spread out as far as just outside the bases. The main enemy of the U-boat is still the aircraft as it always has been. Improvements in U-boat anti-aircraft weapons and radar interception sets are more urgently required than ever. As a result of the constant air threat the times taken by U-boats on their outward and homeward passage are becoming greater; thus their effective power will be reduced still further. The accumulation of repairs will also increase.

With the present number of available U-boats standing at 17, in the prevailing circumstances effective U-boat warfare on the enemy is no longer guaranteed. The Mediterranean is nevertheless considered to be a very valuable sea area for U-boat operations.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
1 - 15 JUNE, 1943
PG/30931

1 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 CH 7830,
U 561 CH 9150.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 407, 431, 458.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Inshore waters reconnaissance from Algiers to Oran to Alboran. From CJ 8839 via CH 9231, CJ 7912, CJ 8773, CJ 8884, CN 2139, CN 2227, CN 2275, CN 2287, CN 2226, CJ 8845.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters from Ras el Hilal to Benghazi. Alexandria to Ras Kanais. Benghazi to Toura to Tolmaide.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Nothing sighted in the Western Mediterranean. In the sea area off the east coast of Tunisia 1 cruiser, destroyers and mine-sweepers and off Cape Bon 5 merchant ships were sighted.

c) By radio intercept service:

2000 the formation "Swing" was attacked by aircraft in CN 2274.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1400/31 May Alboran reported: 4 tankers and 2 destroyers on an easterly course south of Alboran. In all probability the convoy sighted by Ceuta on 31 May.
- 2) 2015/31 May 1 British freighter, approximately 3,000 G.R.T., put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.
- 3) 1000/1 June 2 British landing craft (infantry) put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 4) Agents' reports that at the beginning of June a large number of tank landing craft at present in British ports will be formed into a convoy and are destined for North Africa.
- 5) 1645/1 June 16 landing craft (infantry) put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 6) 2040/1 June Convoy put out from Gibraltar. 55 ships so far. Making for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1230 CP 5666 1 destroyer, 1 medium-sized and 1 smaller freighter, course 15°.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The reports as in III A d) 1).
III A d) 6) were passed on to the boats.
- b) U 414 (Huth) was ordered for the third time to report his position. This request also remained unanswered. It must be presumed lost.
- c) U 561 (Schomburg) intends to cross 42° N to the north at 0100 on 3 June and to be at the rendezvous at 0700.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 755 (Göing) was lost in an attack by an aircraft on 28 May according to reports received.

VI. General situation:

In accordance with the Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 1st Division 1U (U-boats) 1206/43 Most Secret S.O.s only dated 21 April 1943. Successes in the Western and Central Mediterranean were considered at the time more important than ones in the Eastern Mediterranean. For these reasons operations in this area were abandoned then. Because of the present situation the operation of U-boats in all parts of the Mediterranean seems worthwhile for the following reasons:

- 1) Countering sharp enemy supervision of the Western Mediterranean by scattering U-boat operations all over the Mediterranean to split up enemy defenses.
- 2) An appearance in the Eastern Mediterranean after a fairly long pause seems likely to be successful as the enemy has not discovered any U-boats in these areas for weeks and we can presume fairly weak defenses at first.
- 3) Junge, not yet a fully experienced commander, will receive an easier operational area.

The plan is therefore: to have two Pola U-boats operate in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In detail: U 81 (Krieg) will occupy the area between Benghazi and Derna, U 97 (Trox) the area east of 31° E.

The foregoing considerations and plans were reported to Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 1st Division (Operations) and Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations) in Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret/S.O.s only 86/43.

(Signed) Kreisch.

2 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 414 ?
U 561 CH 6810.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Nothing to report.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 617, 407, 431, 458.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Catania - Susa - Catania. Marsala to Cape Bon to Galita. Inshore waters of Western Mediterranean to investigate large convoy.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Southern tip of Rhodes - east of Crete to Nile Delta.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1240 off Oran 2 probable cruisers, course 280° - 300°.
- 2) 1010 CJ 7818 2 light cruisers, 2 destroyers, course 30°.
Sighted in the Sicilian Channel by our aircraft:
- 3) 0200 CN 2371 4 enemy vessels, westerly course, bombarding the north coast of Pantellaria.
- 4) 1800 CN 2193 6 patrol vessels, northerly course.
- 5) 0120 CJ 8891 1 ship probably a destroyer, course not identified.
- 6) 0530 CN 2248 2 M.T.B.s, course 280°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) Apart from the convoy given in the War Diary of 1 June under III d) 6), consisting of 65

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not 55 units according to a later report, another large convoy of 71 units passed through the Straits of Gibraltar to the east at 0230 on 2 June. 29,000 G.R.T. tankers branched off from this convoy and put in to port.

- 2) 0810/2 June 22 tank landing craft put out for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 0930/2 June the minelaying cruiser "Adventure" put in to Gibraltar. Cruiser put out for the west at 2130.
- 4) 1220/2 June 1 freighter of 4,000 G.R.T. put in to Gibraltar from the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:)
- c) By radio intercept service:) Nothing to
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) report.
- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) The reports in III A b) 1) III d) 1) were passed on to the boats.
- b) U 561 returning to Toulon was informed that he might meet an Italian U-boat at night.
- c) U 561 was given permission to cross 42° N.

- V. a) Successes:)
- b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 1st Division (U-boat Operations) in Ref. No. 1U 1589/43 concurs with the recommendation made by Captain U-boats Italy in Captain U-boats Italy Most Secret/S.O. only 86/43 (see War Diary of 1 June). As we must presume U 414 is lost, there are at

present, and will be for a few days more, no U-boats in the operational area as a result of the 3 boats lost at the end of May, the falling out of U 659 and U 447 due in the Mediterranean on 5 May, the fault in U 617, the damage to U 458 on his outward passage, as well as the very long period in dock.

(Signed) Kreisch.

3 June, 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
U 561 CH 3380.
 - B. Eastern Mediterranean:
Nothing to report.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
U 561 (Schomburg) put in to Toulon at 0830.
- c) In port: (At 0800)
- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
 - 2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
 - 3) Salamis: U 371, 375, 617, 407, 431, 458.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Sea reconnaissance as far as 38° N. Gerbini - Cape Bon - north of Pantalleria southward abreast of Susa - Linosa.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters from Alexandria to Sollum.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0840 CH 8454 convoy of 80 - 90 ships, 20 - 30 escort vessels.

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2) 0840 off Oran harbor 35 ships probably putting in to Oran.

- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing
- e) By naval forces:) to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:)
- c) By radio intercept service:) Nothing
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) to report.
- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 561 put in to Toulon.

- V. a) Successes:)
- b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

4 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

- A. Western Mediterranean:)
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:) No boats at sea.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port: (At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616
- 2) Pola: U 81, 97, 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 431, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Flying route Sciacca - Cape Bon. Coast

of Africa to north of Sherggi Island, Pantellaria, Licata. Flying route Karsawa, Kagucite, Cape de Fer as far as south of Sardinia to Marsala. Inshore waters reconnaissance from Bone to Bizerta. Sea reconnaissance as far as 8° E. Inshore waters reconnaissance from Algiers to Cape Bougaroni.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters from Alexandria to Ras el Kanais.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1300 CH 8385 5 escorts, westerly course.
- 2) 1330 CH 8277 5 escorts, westerly course.
- 3) 2350 CH 9475 many ships. Further details not possible because of fighter defenses.
- 4) 1645 off Bizerta 20 ships of 4,000 - 5,000 G.R.T. at anchor.
- 5) 1735 CN 2116 1 patrol vessel, course 230°.
- 6) 1800 CJ 7931 2 patrol vessels, course 70°.
- 7) 2009 CJ 7916 1 destroyer, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1425/4 June 20 landing craft (infantry), making for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1305 CP 7145 1 destroyer, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) North coast of Tunisia and in the Sicilian Channel: traffic of small vessels.
- 2) 0635 CN 2296 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers, southerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) On 30 May 2 battleships (King George V class) 1 aircraft carrier and 10 destroyers were in 36° 12' N 4° 50' W (according to an agent's report).
- 2) 6 troopships bound for North Africa were supposed to have put out from Liverpool on 9 June.
- 3) A convoy bound for North Africa was believed to have left the Bristol Channel on 9 June.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

b) By air reconnaissance:

c) By radio intercept service:

) Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

e) By naval forces:

IV. Current U-boat operations:

Nothing to report.

V. a) Successes:

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

CONFIDENTIAL

6 June, 1943

- I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
U 431 CH 3970.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
U 97 CJ 6380.
- b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:
U 81 put out from Pola at 1330 to operate in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- c) In port: (At 0800)
- 1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 81, 458, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 458, 617, 561.
- II. Air reconnaissance:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
Trapani - CJ 7558 - Trapani. Sea reconnaissance Castelvetro - Pantellaria - Kelibia - Castelvetro.
Armed reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel.
- B. Eastern Mediterranean:
Inshore waters reconnaissance from Cape Kanais to Ras el Hilal.
- III. Reports on the enemy:
- A. Western Mediterranean:
- a) By U-boats:
Nothing to report.
- b) By air reconnaissance:
No enemy sightings in the Western Mediterranean. Moderate traffic in the Sicilian Channel.
- c) By radio intercept service:
Nothing to report.

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d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0750/6 June 6 destroyers put in to Gibraltar from the east.
- 2) 0755/6 June 4 apparently laden tankers, 8,000 G.R.T., each passed the line Tangier - Caraminal.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:)

b) By air reconnaissance:)

c) By radio intercept service:) Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) U 431 (Schoeneboom) reported that he passed a neutral steamer 500 meters distant which could be heard in the U-boat but not in the multi-unit hydrophones.

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

We can no longer count on the arrival this month of the three U-boats detailed for the Mediterranean. According to a notification from C-in-C U-boats (C-in-C U-boats Operations 00614/teleprint message A2) two U-boats probably abandoned the operation and withdrew westward because they were sighted. The third boat put out so late that he could not reach the area until the new moon period.

(Signed) Kreisch.

7 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 6810

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CK 7850.
U 81 CJ 6210.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 (Roether) put out from Spezia at 1400.
U 380 (Roether) put in to Spezia at 2015.
(Leaky ship's side valve).

c) In port:

(At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 73, 380, 565, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 458, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel.
Sea reconnaissance to the south and west and in the area around Malta, Pantellaria, Lampedusa.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters reconnaissance from Tobruk to Kanais.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

No enemy sightings in the Western Mediterranean. Moderate traffic in the Sicilian Channel - east coast of Tunisia - Malta area. Mainly destroyers and smaller craft.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:)
- c) By radio intercept service:) Nothing to report.
- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

- a) U 380 (Roether) put out from Spezia at 1400. The boat reported at 1835 that the inner and outer ship's side valve from the forward water inlet was leaking and he had commenced the return passage. U 380 put in to Spezia at 2015. Time taken for repairs cannot be foreseen.
- b) An Italian agent reported that on 16 May 52 German seamen were disembarked in Gibraltar. They are believed to be members of the crews of 2 sunken U-boats.
- c) U 81 (Krcig) received orders to occupy the area between the meridians of CO 4665 and CO 5564 south of the parallel of CO 5278 as his attack area.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 602 (Schüler) was reported missing for the first time in Naval High Command/Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations) 6141 A5 with effect from 23 April 1943.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Krcisch.

8 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 451 CH 5890.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 CO 2790,
U 81 CK 4870.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0800:

U 380 (Roether) put out from Spezia
at 0500 (to operate in the Western
Mediterranean).

c) In port:
(At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 380, 565, 73, 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 453, 593, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Flying route: Licata - Pantellaria.
Pantellaria - Linosa -
Lampedusa - Licata.
Flying route: Syracuse - CN 3199 -
coast of Malta.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters reconnaissance from
Benghazi to Ras el Hilal and from
Mersa Matruh to Alexandria.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

No enemy sightings in the Western
Mediterranean. Slight traffic in the
Sicilian Channel area and between Malta
and the east coast of Tunisia. A group
of 3 cruisers and 6 destroyers which
probably came from Malta and also returned
there, bombarded Lampedusa yesterday.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 0130/8 June 4 freighters, 1 probable
tanker and 1 destroyer put out

- from Gibraltar on an unknown course.
- 2) 1000/8 June convoy consisting of 3 medium-sized freighters, 1 destroyer making for the Mediterranean crossed the Tangier - Caraminal line.
- 3) 1315/8 June convoy in 2) put in to Gibraltar.
- 4) 1500/8 June convoy of 35 units from the Mediterranean passed through the Straits of Gibraltar. 11 ships put in to Gibraltar.
- 5) 1500/8 June 2 tankers, 5 freighters put out from Gibraltar for the Atlantic.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1315 C0 5489 1 destroyer, course 290°.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

Nothing to report.

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

9 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 7670,
U 380 CJ 1620 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 C0 6280,
U 81 C0 1610.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 565, 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 458, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Port reconnaissance from Tunis to Jijelli, sea area of Pantellaria and around Malta.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Hilal to Tobruk. Alexandria to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1830/9 June CJ 8742 3 destroyers, course 70°, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0933/9 June CP 7196 1 small freighter, 1 escort vessel, easterly course, speed slight.
- 2) 0940/9 June CP 9158 1 destroyer, 2 escort vessels, course 120°, moderate speed.
- 3) 1930/9 June CP 7175 3 escort vessels, course 285°, speed slight.

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c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) 0705/9 June CN 2133 convoy attacked by aircraft.
- 2) Several convoys intercepted in the Alexandria - Tripoli area.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 409 reported having broken through the Straits of Gibraltar by short signal "yes" from CH 67. The boat drove off 2 air attacks at 2336 on 6 June in CH 7532. As U 409 has only 30 potash cartridges, he received orders to make for Toulon. 0452 a boat reported his position from CH 6550. This is presumably U 409 who was ordered by C-in-C U-boats to report his position on Coastal Radio Service.

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

10 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 76.
U 380 CH 63 (outward bound),
U 409 CH 65 (homeward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 458, 561, 617.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance in the Peloponnesian -
Sicilian area, inshore waters from
Derna to Ras Azzaz, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1845/11 June CH 9595 4 merchant ships
putting out from
Bougie, westerly course.
CH 9647 2 probable destroyers,
course 280°, high
speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1900/11 June Gibraltar, 11 landing
craft (infantry) making
for the Mediterranean.
- 2) 0930/11 June Ceuta, 1 pontoon bridge
towed by an ocean-going
tug, escorted by 1 survey
ship (Admiral Mouchez class),
1 destroyer, 1 corvette,
1 "Agathe" class escort.

c) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0634/11 June CN 2438 3 probable destroyers,
8 merchant ships and
small vessels, north-
erly course.
- 2) 0940/11 June CN 2273 8 merchant ships and
escorts, easterly
course.
- 3) 1012/11 June CN 2282 30 large ships with
several small ones
in between.

CONFIDENTIAL

4) 1250/11 June CN 2294 1 cruiser and 15 to 20 naval vessels, speed slight and unidentified ships from Bizerta direction, making for Pantellaria.

5) 1540/11 June 10 km northeast of Pantellaria. 1 warship, southeasterly course, 2 small ships. At the northern tip of the island 40 vessels, including 25 landing craft and 15 escorts, speed 8 knots. West of Pantellaria about 25 landing craft and 15 escorts, westerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 2150/11 June CN 2281 aircraft attacked formation.

2) 2158/11 June CN 2257 aircraft attacked formation, course 258°, speed 28 knots.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 97 (Trox) received orders to hunt freely in the area east of 31° E and was free to attack submarines in the operational area. The enemy traffic reported in III A d) 1) and 2) was passed on to the western boats.

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

In the teleprint message dated 2 June, Naval Attache Madrid reported as follows on the loss of U 755 (Going):

1) Survivors from U 755 were granted permission by the Navy Minister to travel home, reached Madrid on Wednesday in inconspicuous lorries. They will probably leave on Friday.

2) One man has shell splinters in his back, one man is weak generally from swallowing sea water. It depends on the medical report whether they continue the journey.

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- 3) Boat received a hit from a bomb in the forward end of the Diesel engine room. 47 men left the rapidly sinking boat. German aircraft search failed as they flew over the place of sinking at very high altitude. Survivors made out the aircraft distinctly. Spanish destroyers approached within 2,000 meters at night. As the survivors had no means of signaling, they were not observed. If there had been watertight pocket lights or Very pistols in life-jackets, more men could have been saved. Survivors were observed by searching Spanish aircraft 30 hours later and were picked up by destroyers guided to them.

VI. Current U-boat operations:

Pantellaria was attacked on the morning of 11 June by a very strong formation of naval vessels (including heavy cruisers). A large number of merchant ships, smaller vessels, escort vessels and landing craft approached the island. Pantellaria surrendered unconditionally to the enemy at 1230 because of lack of water.

(Signed) Kreisch.

12 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 75,
U 380 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 73 put out from Spezia at 1615 on 12 June.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 73, 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561, 617.

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II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel, Sicily - Tripoli area.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0625/12 June CJ 7931 1 transport, 2 tankers, 6 landing ships (tank), 3 destroyers, easterly course, slow speed.
- 2) 0915/12 June CH 9649 3 merchant ships, approximately 5,000 G.R.T., westerly course, speed slight.
- 3) 0912/12 June CH 9595 1 merchant ship stopped.
- 4) 0927/12 June CH 9639 1 merchant ship stopped.
- 5) 1355/12 June CJ 7829 4 probable M.T.B.s, easterly course, speed moderate.
- 6) 1400/12 June CJ 7919 2 freighters, westerly course, moderate speed.
- 7) 1850/12 June CJ 7916 1 destroyer, easterly course, moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

2253/12 June CJ 7829 shadower with convoy.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

0425/12 June 28 vessels (number uncertain), making for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0920/12 June CP 7292 5 freighters, westerly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 0920/12 June 5 fairly large ships off Alexandria harbor.
- 3) 0952/12 June CO 9241 13 freighters, approximately 10,000 G.R.T. each, 12 escort vessels, course 290°, speed 8 - 10 knots.
- 4) 1928/12 June CO 5916 5 ships, course and speed not known.

c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the U-boats:

- 1907 convoy as in III B b) 3).
- 2021 convoy as in III B b) 1) and 2).
- 0140 convoy as in III B b) 4).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisich.

13 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- U 431 CH 78,
- U 73 CJ 17 (outward bound),
- U 380 CH 84.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 55.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put out from Pola for the Western
Mediterranean at 1345 on 13 June.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453, 593, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of African coast as far as
Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi
Barrani to Tobruk and from Ras el Tin to
Tolmaide. Reconnaissance of Sicilian
Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0942/13 June CH 7699 2 harbor tugs,
course 350°, high
speed.
- 2) 0952/13 June CH 8449 2 merchant ships
of 5,000 - 6,000 G.R.T.
each, 1 small escort
vessel, course 270°,
moderate speed.
- 3) 0959/13 June CH 8443 1 cruiser, 2 escort
vessels, course 280°,
moderate speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1730/13 June 18 landing craft (infantry)
put out from Gibraltar in to
the Mediterranean.

c) By naval forces: Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 81 (Krieg): 1434/13 June CO 5499
westbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0055/14 June CN 2511 convoy of
13 ships, 1
tanker, westerly
course.

2) 2340/13 June CJ 8894 3 ships, course
120°, speed 18 -
23 knots.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African
coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 (Krieg) reported a success (see V a).
The following received new attack areas:
U 380 (Rother) the area between the meridians
of 8445 and 8374.
U 73 (Deckert) eastward as far as 4° 30' E.

The following reports of enemy movements
were passed on to the boats:

1951 reports on the enemy as in III A b)
2) and 3).

V. a) Successes:

U 81 (Krieg) at 1434 on 13 June sank 1
transport of 6,000 G.R.T. from a westbound
convoy in CO 5499.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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14 June, 1945

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 78,
U 73 CH 68 (outward bound),
U 380 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 55.
U 593 CJ 63 (outward bound for Western Mediterranean).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 565, 616.
2) Pola: U 453, 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458,
561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Inshore waters from Sollum to Mersa Matruh.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

) Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1920/14 June Tangier 1 tanker of approximately
3,000 G.R.T., 37 freighters
(2,000 - 6,000 G.R.T.),
4 escort vessels.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1525/14 June CN 2166 4 large ships,
6 - 8 small
ones, easterly
course.

2) During the day several fairly large
and smaller vessels were sighted
around Pantellaria.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) Several convoys picked up on the
African coast.

2) According to broadcast traffic units
of the Alexandria forces were at sea.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

c) By naval forces:)

) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 593 proceeding from Pola to the Western
Mediterranean requested permission to put
in to Messina to repair the grinding-in
connecting rod of the port Diesel outside
the pressure hull. U 593 received orders
to proceed to Messina and limit his stay to
the shortest period possible.
The report of enemy traffic as in III A d)
was passed on to the western boats.

V. a) Successes:)

b) Losses:)

) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisich.

15 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according
to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 78,
U 73 CH 94,
U 380 CH 84.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E,
U 81 CO 55,
U 593 CK 75 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:
(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458,
561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Cape Tenes.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters Derna -
Tobruk, off Alexandria - Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.
- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1900/14 June 1 British auxiliary aircraft carrier, 2 destroyers put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic.
- 2) 0210/15 June 45 ships put in to Gibraltar (see also War Diary of 14 June III A d).
- 3) 0700/15 June Tangier, 6 freighters, 2 escort vessels course set for the Mediterranean, put in to Gibraltar at 1000.
- 4) 0900/15 June the battleship "King George V", 1 destroyer put in to Gibraltar from the Mediterranean.
- 5) 1000/15 June the aircraft carrier "Formidable" in Gibraltar.

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e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1130/15 June CP 7257 8 freighters,
making for
Alexandria harbor.

2) During the day several merchant ships
and small vessels as well as 4
destroyers sighted in the Sicilian
Channel.

c) By radio intercept service:

One convoy in the sea area of Benghazi
and one in the Tripoli area intercepted
by radio.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 431 (Schoeneboom) was ordered to report his
position during the night. No signal received.
The western boats were informed at 1846 of
enemy movements as in III A d) 2), 3) and 5).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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WAR DIARY
OF
CAPTAIN U-BOATS, ITALY
16 - 30 JUNE, 1943
PG/30931

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16 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 79,
U 73 CH 83,
U 380 CH 82.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 54.
U 593 CJ 98 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put in to Messina for repairs at 1000 on 16 June.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 565, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453, 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel, inshore waters from Cape Kanais to Sidi Barrani, north and southwest of Cyprus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1505/16 June CH 9367 1 light cruiser
northeasterly course,
moderate speed.
- 2) 1510/16 June CH 9596 1 large freighter
hove to.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1030/16 June 45 freighters, 2 tankers, 7 escort vessels, put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.

2) 1220/16 June Europa Point: about 68 freighters, 4 destroyers, making for the Mediterranean.

3) 1530/16 June the cruiser "Adventure" and 1 destroyer put out from Gibraltar for the east.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1719/16 June CO 9257 1 medium-sized freighter.

2) Several merchant ships in the sea area around Pantellaria on varying courses.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys were detected on the North African coast by radio traffic.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 431 and U 97 were ordered to report their positions. No signals were received. The utmost concern is felt about U 431. According to a radio intercept message the boat was spotted by an enemy aircraft in CH 7529 at 2200 on 11 June and has not answered the second request to report his position. Anxiety is also felt about U 97. Radio intercept service revealed that at 1340 on 16 June an enemy aircraft attacked a U-boat in CP 5911 and probably obtained 5 hits. This sighting report can only refer to U 97.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the U-boats:

1202 convoy as in III A d) 1).

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Sidi Barrani to Derna, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1910/17 June CN 9544 2 destroyers,
westerly course,
high speed.

2) 2015/17 June CJ 7925 7 units, 6 of them
probably of 10,000
G.R.T., westerly
course, moderate
speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1830/16 June Gibraltar: 3 freighters,
2 escort vessels, making
for the Mediterranean.

2) 1830/17 June the battleship "Howe",
3 destroyers, 1 corvette
put in to Gibraltar from the
Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 81 (Krieg): 0733/17 June CO 5498 eastbound
convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0257/17 June CO 9215 4 steamers, 2 destroyers,
a few small coastal craft,
course 290°, moderate speed.

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2) 0302/17 June CO 9134 1 destroyer,
course 290°,
moderate speed.

3) Several merchant ships and landing
craft in the sea area around
Pantellaria.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys are on the North African
coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 81 reported a success (see V a) and
requested freedom of action to the east
as the possibilities of the operational
area are exhausted. In agreement with
Supermarina U 81 has been granted freedom
of maneuver to the east as far as 31° E
with the remainder of the Italian U-boat
"Galatca"'s operational area between 23°
40' E and 27° E. Permission has been
granted to take avoiding action to the
west as far as the area around Benghazi.

U 596 (Jahn) reported a torpedo attack by
an enemy submarine at 1745 on 17 June in
CJ 3418.

The sailing of U 593 (Kelbling) has been
postponed as the anchor has been fouled by
a cable.

U 97 (Trox) and U 431 (Schoeneboom) were
ordered to report their positions. U 431
reported at 0405 from CH 7811. No signal
was received from U 97. Since U 97 has
not answered the second request for a position
report, the greatest concern is felt for
the boat (see War Diary dated 16 June).

The following reports of enemy movements
were passed on to the boats:

1240 enemy sightings as in III B b) 1) and 2).

V. a) Successes:

U 81 (Krieg) reported one hit on an eastbound
convoy at 0733 on 17 June. Because of sinking
noises and breaking bulkheads, the steamer
may be assumed definitely sunk.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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18 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 78,
U 73 CH 94,
U 380 CH 82,
U 565 CJ 17 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 97 east of 31° E.
U 81 CO 55.
U 596 CJ 62 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 593 put out from Messina for the Western Mediterranean at 1200 on 18 June.

c) In port:

(At 0800):

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561, 617.
- 4) Messina: U 593.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as the sea area around Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani. Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0910/18 June CH 9651 1 destroyer, 2 landing ships (tank), 2 M.T.B.s, southeasterly course, moderate speed.
CJ 7743 1 freighter of 6,000 G.R.T., 6 landing ships

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- (tank), 10 landing craft (tank), easterly course, moderate speed.
- 2) 1750/18 June CH 9473 convoy of 70 merchant ships, about 20 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 3) 1710/18 June CH 8511 3 merchant ships of approximately 10,000 G.R.T. each, 5 merchant ships of approximately 3,000 G.R.T. each, 8 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 4) 1730/18 June CH 8269 1 merchant ship of approximately 7,000 G.R.T., westerly course, high speed.
- 5) 1745/18 June Bay of Algiers.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) Dawn/17 June Alboran: 60 vessels, bound for the Mediterranean (see War Diary 16 June III A d) 2).
- 2) 1820/17 June Gibraltar: 1 freighter of 2,000 G.R.T., 1 corvette, bound for the Mediterranean.
- 3) 2130/17 June Gibraltar: 2 destroyers, making for the Mediterranean.
- 4) 1145/18 June Tangier: 30 tank landing craft, 1 freighter, 5 escort vessels.
- 5) 1520/18 June Gibraltar 32 landing craft (tank) bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

Several ships and smaller naval craft in the Sicilian Channel.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 565 (Fränken) received the area between the meridians of CH 7545 and 8445 north of the latitude of Alboran as his attack area, U 431 (Schoeneboom) the same area south of it.

U 97 (Trox) and U 380 (Roether) were ordered to report their positions. U 380 reported at 0212 from 8263, U 97 does not report. After three unsuccessful requests, the boat must be presumed lost on the strength of a radio intercept report of an aircraft attack with 5 probable hits (see War Diary dated 16 June).

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

2214 enemy sighting as in III A-d) 5),
2220 enemy sighting as in III A b) 2),
0024 enemy sighting as in III A b) 3),
0135 enemy sighting as in III A b) 4).

V. a) Successes:

Nothing to report.

b) Losses:

U 303 was finally reported missing with effect from 21 May 1943. (Naval War Staff 2nd Division/C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.6563 A5 dated 17 June).

U 755 was reported missing with effect from 28 May 1943. (Naval War Staff 2nd Division/C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.6569 A5 dated 17 June).

VI. General situation:

It is planned to send U 565 a few days after the full moon (full moon 18 June) on a sortie as far as off Gibraltar, to intercept heavy forces at present lying in the harbor which, according to our experience, carry out maneuvers in the sea area east of Gibraltar before putting out for the east.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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19 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 78,
U 73 CH 83,
U 380 CH 84,
U 565 CH 68 (outward bound),
U 593 CJ 84 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 between 23° and 31° E.
U 596 CK 75 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 617 put out from Toulon for the Western Mediterranean at 2100 on 19 June.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 453.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458,
561, 617.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) a) 1720/19 June CJ 7743 60 - 70 ships,
easterly course.
b) 1920/19 June CJ 7761 large convoy.
c) 0050/19 June CJ 7823 convoy, course
60°, speed slight.
d) 0355/19 June CJ 7838 convoy.

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- 2) 1200/19 June CJ 7766 3 landing craft (tank)
easterly course.
CJ 7848 landing craft (tank)
southerly course, moderate
speed.
- 3) 2100/19 June CJ 7766 7 ships.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1730/19 June an American cruiser of the "Savannah" class, 2 destroyers of the "Benson" class, entered the Straits of Gibraltar from the west.
- 2) 2030/19 June the "Formidable" put out from Gibraltar for the west.
- 3) On 18 June 250 ships are believed to have put out from Arzeu and Mostaghanem on an easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1116/19 June Off Sidi Barrani 9 freighters, 2 escorts, course 310°, moderate speed.
- 2) 1110/19 June CP 7149 5 freighters, 2 destroyers, 5 corvettes, course 300°, moderate speed.
- 3) 1130/19 June CP 7182 1 fast motor minesweeper, 4 patrol vessels, course 270°, moderate speed.
- 4) 1840/19 June CO 6774 9 medium-sized freighters, 6 escort vessels, course 200°, moderate speed.
- 5) 1615/19 June CO 5996 1 probable destroyer, easterly course, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) Convoy activity in the Alexandria - Benghazi area.
- 2) Unusual activity detected in the Apollonia zone.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

In Tripoli (Syria) 5 ships of 10,000 G.R.T. each, loading tanks and assault guns. Troop concentrations.

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c) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 (Jahn) received the area between the meridians of CO 4645 and CO 5564 south of the parallel of CO 5278 as his attack area. U 81 was requested to report his position and received orders to proceed eastward on the enemy's traffic route to the area east of 31° E (former operational area of U 97). U 81 reported at 0508 from what is probably CP 7175 (position not definite).

U 73 (Deckert) received the area between the meridians of CH 8344 and 9444 as his attack area, U 593 (Kolpling) adjoining eastward as far as the meridian of CH 9516.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1447 enemy sighting as in III A d) 3),
1631 enemy sighting as in III B b) 1),
1751 enemy sighting as in III B b) 2),
1943 enemy sighting as in III A b) 1) a),
2325 enemy sighting as in III A b) 1) b),
0545 enemy sighting as in III A b) 4).

V. a) Successes:) Nothing to report.
b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

According to an agent's report troops and landing equipment have been in process of loading on to ships since 17 June. The 82nd American Airborne Division is ready for immediate operation. In addition a considerable transfer of aircraft from west to east has taken place. An imminent attack on Sicily is spoken of. According to Naval War Staff 1st Division Operations 17621/Most Secret dated 20 June the Italian Air Attache in Madrid has learned through the General Staff of the Spanish Air Force that a landing operation against Sardinia will take place on the night of 20/21 June. 1 division of British parachute troops as well as about 1,000 ships, landing craft and escort vessels will take part.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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20 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 78,
U 73 CH 83,
U 380 CH 82.
U 565 CH 58 (outward bound),
U 593 CH 93,
U 617 CH 39.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 on the coast of Cyrenaica bound for the east.
U 596 CO 19 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0900:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800).

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 453.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras el Tin to Ras Azzaz.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0625/20 June CJ 7916 30 vessels, mostly freighters, easterly course, moderate speed.
2) 0715/20 June CJ 7919 26 ships, easterly course, speed slight.

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- 3) 1115/20 June CJ 7938 20 merchant ships, course 200°, speed slight.
- 4) 1210/20 June CN 2127 35 ships of all sizes, course 150°, slow speed.
- 5) 1340/20 June CN 2119 35 - 40 ships, course 100°, moderate speed.
- 6) 1940/20 June CN 2193 17 merchant ships and escort vessels, easterly course, speed slight.
- 7) 1830/20 June CN 2244. position of large convoy, south-easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0945/20 June 1 cruiser of the "Fiji" class put in to Gibraltar from the Atlantic. 1745 put out in to the Mediterranean.
- 2) The 250 ships reported in War Diary entry III A d) 3) dated 19 June are lying off Mers el Kebir, Oran and Arzew ready to sail.
- 3) 1215/20 June 10 landing craft (tank), 4 anti-aircraft landing craft, 17 landing craft (guns), put out from Gibraltar.
- 4) 1245/20 June 5 landing craft (tank) put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1733/20 June CO 5942 1 destroyer, 1 probable tanker, 2 escort vessels, course 330°, moderate speed.

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- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:) Nothing to report.
- e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat positions:

It is planned to send U 617 (Brandi), outward bound, to the former operational area of U 431 (Schoeneboom) between the meridians of CH 7545 and 8445, south of the latitude of Alboran and to dispose U 431 further east.

U 596 (Jahn) has commenced the return passage to Pola because of the failure of the starboard Diesel.

The following reports on enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

- 1333 enemy sighting as in III A d) 3) and 4).
- 2256 enemy sighting as in War Diary of 19 June, III A d) 3).
- 2341 enemy sighting as in III B b).
- 0030 enemy sighting as in III A d) 1).

- V.
- a) Successes:)
 - b) Losses:) Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

According to G.I.S. Station Norway all men on leave from the Swedish Army, Navy and Air Force have been recalled. No reason has been given. (The message was also given over the Swedish radio.) In naval circles the recall is connected with an enemy invasion of Norway.

(Signed) Kreisch.

21 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- U 431 CH 78,
- U 73 CH 83,
- U 380 CH 82,
- U 593 CH 94,
- U 565 CH 76,
- U 617 CH 59 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- U 81 east of 31° E.
- U 596 CO 43 (homeward bound).

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b) U-boats homeward and outward bound
from 0800 to 0800:

U 458 put out from Toulon for the
Western Mediterranean at 2100 on 21
June.

c) In port:
(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 453.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 458, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from
Tobruk to Sidi Barrani, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 73 (Deckert): 1137/21 June CH 8382
eastbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1425/21 June CJ 7496 1 destroyer, westerly
course, high speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1430/21 June Ceuta: the American
cruisers "Wichia" and
"Philadelphia", 1
coastguard cutter, 8
destroyers, 18 large
transports, 2 tankers,
3 freighters, bound for
the Mediterranean.

2) 0400/21 June Ceuta: 4 large, 6 medium-
sized vessels, 4 probable
destroyers, bound for the
Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By air reconnaissance.

Several merchant ships and naval craft on varying courses in the Sicilian Channel.

b) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

So far unconfirmed agent's report that 1 "King George V" class battleship and 2 aircraft carriers had put out from Alexandria for Beirut to escort a large supply convoy.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 (Jahn) reported his arrival at Entrance Point Adriatic at 0200 on 23 June.

U 73 reported a success (see V a).

New attack areas after the close of operations on convoys in III A d) 1) and 2) were ordered as follows:

U 617 (Brandi) the area south of the latitude of Alboran between the meridians of CH 7815 and 8445. (Former operational area of U 431).

U 431 the area between the meridians of CH 8445 and 8515, U 380 east of here as far as the meridian of CH 8344.

The following reports of enemy sightings were passed on to the boats:

1135/21 June convoy as in III A d) 2).

1840/21 June and 0113/22 June convoy as in III A d) 1).

V. a) Successes:

U 73 (Deckert) sank a 3,000 G.R.T. freighter 30 miles west of Cape Caxine at 1137 on 21 June 1943.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

0800 Captain U-boats on duty trip to Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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22 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 431 CH 84, U 73 CH 83,
U 380 CH 82, U 593 CH 94,
U 565 CH 75, U 617 CH 76,
U 458 CH 39 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 596 CO 15 (homeward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port: (At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 453.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 431: 0437/21 June CH 7813 westbound formation.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0735/22 June CJ 7834 1 probable cruiser,
6 probable destroyers,
6 probable gunboats,
easterly course.

2) 1035/22 June CH 8274 8 ships, 2 escorts,
easterly course,
high speed.

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- 3) 1357/22 June CH 9475 4 large ships,
11 small ships,
probably easterly
course.
- 4) 1338/22 June CH 9472 2 minesweepers,
4 small ships stopped.

c) By radio intercept service:

0840/22 June presumably Bone area, air raid
warning for convoy.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 2345/21 June Ceuta: 29 units, bound for
the Mediterranean.
- 2) 1300/22 June 1 "Fiji" class cruiser put in
to Gibraltar from the
Mediterranean.
- 3) 1330/22 June 2 "King George V" class
battleships put out from
Gibraltar in to the
Mediterranean.
- 4) 1330/22 June Alboran: 6 tankers, 6 steamers,
2 destroyers, easterly course.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1725/22 June CO 5831 1 unidentified naval
craft, westerly course,
high speed.
- 2) 1745/22 June CO 5833 7 steamers, unknown
number of unidentified
vessels, course and speed
not known.

c) By radio intercept service:

According to radio traffic several convoys on
the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

21 June the Greek steamer "Livathos" put out
from Mersin for Port Said.

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c) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 596 received route for return passage to Pola.

U 617 (Brandi) and U 565 (Franken) received orders to carry out a sortie westward from their operational area east of Alboran and to operate on the two battleships which have put out from Gibraltar.

U 431 (Schoeneboom) received the empty operational area of the two U-boats between the meridians of CH 7575 and 8445.

U 380 (Roether) again received his former operational area between the meridians of CH 8445 and 8344.

U 431 reported a success (see V a) and requested permission to return because of breakdown of starboard electric motor and periscope and other damage.

Boat received orders to proceed to Toulon.

U 458 (Diggins) received the area vacated on the return of U 431 (see above) as his attack area.

V. a) Successes:

U 431 heard 3 hits out of a fan of 4 on a probable "Frobisher" class cruiser at 0437 on 21 June in CH 7813. (According to an aerial photograph taken by the German Air Force on 17 June the light cruiser "Vindictive" lay in Oran, according to an agent's report a small cruiser was towed to Gibraltar by tug W 123 at 2115 on 21 June.)

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Lieutenant Commander Frauenheim, S.O. 29th U-boat Flotilla, arrived in Rome from Spezia to act as deputy in the absence of Captain U-boats.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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23 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 82, U 73 CH 83,
U 565 CH 74, U 593 CH 94,
U 617 CH 74, U 458 CH 59 (outward bound),
U 431 CH 75 (homeward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 596 CH 75 (homeward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0300 to 0800:

U 453 put out from Pola for the Eastern Mediterranean at 1400.

c) In port: (At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 453.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Benghazi. Sicilian Channel, southwest of Peloponnesus.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 593: 2130/22 June CH 9546 eastbound convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1015/23 June CH 8452 35 merchant ships up to 10,000 G.R.T., 8 escorts, easterly course, moderate speed.

2) 1944/23 June north of Tunis, 2 ships of 2,000 G.R.T. each, easterly course.

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c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1530/23 June the "Formidable" put in to Gibraltar from the west.

2) a) Until 1920/23 June the "Nelson", the "Rodney", 1 "Illustrious" class carrier and 6 destroyers put in to Gibraltar.

b) 2 battleships of the "Warspite" class and 4 destroyers passed through to the Mediterranean, put in to Gibraltar at 1930/23 June.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0505/23 June CP 7288 6 freighters,
3 destroyers,
2 escort vessels,
1 cruiser, 20 more
vessels, probably
at anchor.

2) 0545/23 June CO 9394 5 medium-sized
freighters, 2
destroyers,
1 escort vessel,
course 290°,
speed slight.

3) 1320/23 June CO 9266 6 freighters,
2 destroyers,
single escort
vessels.

c) By radio intercept service:

1) 1932/23 June CO 7144 aircraft shadowing
convoy, course 104°,
speed 8 knots.

2) Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

According to an agent's report 2 battleships (of approximately 31,000 G.R.T. each), 1 aircraft carrier (of approximately 18,000 G.R.T. obviously a former passenger ship) were in Alexandria on 6 June.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 431 (Schoeneboom) intends to cross 42° N to the north at 0200 on 27 June and reach the rendezvous off Toulon at 0700.

U 565 (Franken) and U 617 (Brandi) received orders to push ahead to due east of Gibraltar with permission to attack freely naval vessels up to and including cruisers, as well as troopships and large tankers.

U 593 (Kelbling) reported a success (see V a).

The following reports on enemy sightings were passed on to the boats:

1516 as in III A b) 1).

1851 as in III A d) 1).

2225 } as in III A d) 2) a) and b).
0300 }

0325 the two battleships of the "King George V" class (War Diary of 22 June, III A d) 3) were lying in Mers el Kebir according to a sighting report.

V. a) Successes:

U 593 (Kelbling) obtained 3 hits on 2 tankers, 6,000 G.R.T. each, in an eastbound convoy at 2130 on 22 June in CH 9546 (8 miles north of Cape Colbin). Both tankers probably sank.

b) Losses:

U 414 (Huth) was reported missing with effect from 30 May 1943 (Naval War Staff 2nd Division C-in-C U-boats (Operations) G.6578 A5).

VI. General situation:

1) C-in-C South issued the following statement:

The present concentration of 6 battleships, and, in addition, at least 2, possibly 3 aircraft carriers seems to show that the opening of important enemy offensive operations, which they hope will be decisive, is imminent. Attacks by enemy torpedo-carrying aircraft, which have recently started again, on our naval transports,

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heavy enemy air attacks on harbor and supply lines and increased enemy submarine activity with mines and torpedoes point in the same direction.

The amount of tonnage in the Western Mediterranean, including Gibraltar, of over 2 million G.R.T., including at least 34 troopships is the highest so far reached.

The great volume of troop and supply traffic in the last few days and the continual arrival of seaworthy landing craft in the Western Mediterranean underline the great dimensions of enemy preparations of forces for an impending landing operation for which at the present time troopships and cargo space would be quickly available in a very great quantity.

In the Eastern Mediterranean the discovery of 8 landing ships (tank), 13 landing craft (tank) and 35 landing craft (infantry) in Alexandria together with the reconnaissance of the coast of the Levant, insufficient until now, gives rise to the conclusion that a fairly large number of landing craft are in that area as has been proved. An operation with a limited target, e.g. the Dodecanese, is possible.

(Signed) Kreisch.

24 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 85,
U 565 CH 74,
U 617 CH 74,
U 73 CH 83,
U 593 CH 94,
U 458 CH 73 (outward bound),
U 431 CH 81 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 596 CK 44 (homeward bound).
U 453 CJ 62 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:
(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: No boats.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.
- c) By radio intercept service:)
- d) By G.I.S. stations:)

2000/24 June 4 tank landing ships put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.

- e) By naval forces:
Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:
Nothing to report.
- b) By air reconnaissance:
 - 1) 1735/24 June CO 5989.5 freighters,
2 escort vessels,
course 260°,
moderate speed.
 - 2) In the Sicilian Channel several
merchant ships and landing craft.
- c) By radio intercept service:
Along the North African coast several
convoys at sea.
- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

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heavy enemy air attacks on harbor and supply lines and increased enemy submarine activity with mines and torpedoes point in the same direction.

The amount of tonnage in the Western Mediterranean, including Gibraltar, of over 2 million G.R.T., including at least 34 troopships is the highest so far reached.

The great volume of troop and supply traffic in the last few days and the continual arrival of seaworthy landing craft in the Western Mediterranean underline the great dimensions of enemy preparations of forces for an impending landing operation for which at the present time troopships and cargo space would be quickly available in a very great quantity.

In the Eastern Mediterranean the discovery of 8 landing ships (tank), 13 landing craft (tank) and 35 landing craft (infantry) in Alexandria together with the reconnaissance of the coast of the Levant, insufficient until now, gives rise to the conclusion that a fairly large number of landing craft are in that area as has been proved. An operation with a limited target, e.g. the Dodecanese, is possible.

(Signed) Kreisich.

24 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 85,
U 565 CH 74,
U 617 CH 74,
U 73 CH 83,
U 593 CH 94,
U 458 CH 73 (outward bound),
U 431 CH 81 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 596 CK 44 (homeward bound).
U 453 CJ 62 (outward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

c) In port:
(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: . No boats.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Alexandria to Sidi Barrani.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
- b) By air reconnaissance:) Nothing to report.
- c) By radio intercept service:)

d) By G.I.S. stations:

2000/24 June 4 tank landing ships put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1735/24 June CO 5989 5 freighters, 2 escort vessels, course 260°, moderate speed.

2) In the Sicilian Channel several merchant ships and landing craft.

c) By radio intercept service:

Along the North African coast several convoys at sea.

- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
- e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0909/25 June off Arzeu harbor, about 30 ships hove to and off Mostaghanem, about 10 ships.

2) 1910/25 June 15 miles west of Cape Bon 4 merchant ships, 2 escorts, easterly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1825/24 June 2 British freighters, approximately 3,000 - 4,000 G.R.T. each, in ballast, put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean.

2) In Gibraltar harbor:

The "Nelson", the "Rodney", the "Queen Elizabeth", the "Warspite", the "Formidable", 1 "Illustrious" class cruiser, 1 American auxiliary cruiser, query 1 landing craft transport ship "Queen Emma".

In dock:

A cruiser of the "Amora" class.

3) 0740/25 June Alboran, 4 destroyers, 3 guardboats, bound for the Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1650 2½ miles east of Susa, 6 large ships, making for Pantellaria.

2) 1845 off Cape Bon, 3 merchant ships up to 3,000 G.R.T., 2 escort vessels, southerly course.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys are on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

c) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 453 (v. Schlippenbach) received as his attack area the area between the meridians of CO 4645 and CO 5564, south of the parallel of CO 5278.

U 565 (Franken) and U 617 (Brandi) received orders to revert to their old operational area (see War Diary 18 and 21 June) if enemy patrols and anti-U-boat measures are too strong in the area due east of Gibraltar. At present U 458 (Diggins) is in this area.

The following reports of enemy sightings were passed on to the boats:

2212 as in III A b) 1).

0358/26 June as in III A d) 3).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

1) As the present enemy situation in the Western and Central Mediterranean (see War Diary of 23 June) seems to show that a landing operation on the continent is imminent and, on the other hand, the operational area is comparatively strongly occupied by 6 boats in the Western Mediterranean, the two boats U 375 and U 409 operationally ready in Toulon on 26 June will be first held at immediate readiness in Toulon so that they may operate quickly in the event of an enemy landing in Sardinia, as it would probably waste time fetching the boats from their operational areas.

2) U 380 (Roether) has been operating since 9 June. The defense conditions in the operational area undermine the crew's strength. It is therefore reckoned that the boat does not require a long period of repair after this operation because of the previous longer periods in dock. It is therefore best to have U 375 relieve U 380 next week, on about 1 July, in the operational area and recall U 380 to Toulon where he will be ready to operate again after a short overhaul and replenishment in case an enemy operation forces us to operate all available boats quickly.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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26 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 85,
U 565 CH 74,
U 617 CH 74,
U 458 CH 76,
U 73 CH 83,
U 593 CH 94,
U 451 CH 65 (homeward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 453 CO 19 (outward bound).
U 596 CJ 31 (homeward bound).

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 596 put in to Pola at 0745 on 26 June.

c) In port:
(At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: No boats.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 617: 2030/26 June CH 7578 3 destroyers,
easterly course.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0835/26 June 25 miles northwest of Bizerta
a large convoy of 84 vessels, including
4 troopships totaling 24,000 G.R.T., several
landing craft, 5 large landing stages towed

by freighters, astern of the convoy
1 battleship, all turrets forward.
(Details of the battleship are
doubtful as the "Nelson" and the "Rodney"
are still in Gibraltar according to
an agent's report.) Also 1 probable
aircraft carrier with the convoy.
Convoy was spotted several times, last
report at 1750 12 miles eastsoutheast
of Cape Bon.

- 2) 1545/26 June 20 miles south of Bizerta
a convoy, last position 1740/26 June
6 miles north of Zembra of 14 large
vessels and 4 escorts, southeasterly
course.
- 3) 1655/26 June 30 miles north of La
Calle another convoy of 24 freighters,
1 cruiser on an easterly course.
- 4) Apart from these convoys, several
smaller groups of merchant ships
and small craft on various courses
mainly easterly, were sighted.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing special to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 1930/25 June 12 merchant ships, 2
gunboats put out from
Gibraltar in to the
Mediterranean.
- 2) 0625/26 June a "Fiji" class cruiser
put in to Gibraltar from
the Atlantic.
- 3) 1415/26 June a "Fiji" class cruiser,
3 destroyers, put out
from Gibraltar in to the
Mediterranean.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

- a) By U-boats:)
) Nothing to report.
- b) By air reconnaissance:)
- c) By radio intercept service:

- 1) According to radic traffic there was
a fairly large number of units of the
Alexandria forces at sea.

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2) Several convoys were intercepted by radio on the North African coast.

- d) By G.I.S. stations:)
e) By naval forces:) Nothing to report.

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 617 (Brandi) reported a success. The enemy sightings as in III A d) 1) and III A d) 3) were passed on to the boats at 1906 and 0009 respectively.

V. a) Successes:

U 617 (Brandi) at 2030 on 26 June in CH 7578 20 miles north of Cape Tres Forcas sank one of three eastbound destroyers.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

27 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 85, U 73 CH 83,
U 565 CH 74, U 593 CH 94,
U 617 CH 75, U 458 CH 76,
U 431 CH 3380 (homeward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 31 east of 31° E.
U 453 CO 55.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

U 431 put in to Toulon at 0830 on 27 June.

c) In port: (At 0800)

1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
2) Pola: U 596.
3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Oran.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of Sicilian Channel, around Crete, Alexandria - Port Said.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 73: 27 June 1704 CH 8348 westbound
convoy.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1255/17 June 35 miles northwest of Bone 8 landing ships (tank), 35 landing craft (infantry), 2 destroyers, 1 tanker of 8,000 G.R.T. approximately, easterly course.
- 2) 1125 CJ 7737 45 ships, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 3) 1005 CH 8386 6 merchant ships of 5,000 - 10,000 G.R.T., 2 tankers of 10,000 G.R.T. each, 5 destroyers, easterly course, moderate speed.
- 4) More units of small groups of medium-sized and smaller vessels in the Sicilian Channel on varying courses.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) 0930/27 June the "Formidable" and 1 "Illustrious" class carrier put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean; 2330 2 "Illustrious" class carriers put in to port, presumably the same ones.
- 2) 1700/27 June a "Dido" class cruiser put in to Gibraltar from the west.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

3. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

U 81: 1502/27 June CP 3724 1 steamer.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 1000 off Susa harbor 55 fairly large and medium-sized ships, including 1 probable cruiser, several ferries with escort vessels.
- 2) 1515 in the bay southeast of Susa 20 large vessels.
- 3) 0140/28 June 21 miles southsoutheast of Hammamet 4 merchant ships up to 5,000 G.R.T., southerly course.
- 4) Alteration in shipping in Alexandria since 15 June (aerial photograph): French units put out with 1 battleship, 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers, also all landing craft.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 73 (Deckert) reported a success and received orders to start the return passage as it is restricted in diving and working.

U 81 (Krieg) reported a success.

U 375 (Koenenkamp) put out from Toulon at 1600 to operate in the Western Mediterranean and put in again at 2100 as the starboard stern tube stuffing-box and control room periscope were leaking badly. Probably put out again on the afternoon of 28 June. The following reports of enemy movements are passed on to the boats:

1159/27 June and 0429/28 June as in III A d) 1),
1753/27 June as in III A b) 3),
0248/28 June and 0316/28 June as in III B b) 4).

V. a) Successes:

- 1) U 81 (Krieg) at 1502 on 27 June in CP 3724 sank 1 steamer of approximately 2000 G.R.T. also 3 sailing ships during the course of the operation.
- 2) U 73 (Deckert) at 1704 on 27 June in CH 8348 sank a tanker of 8,000 G.R.T. from a westbound convoy.

b) Losses:

Nothing to report.

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VI. General situation:

With the breaking off of U 73 (Deckert) and the delaying of U 375 by putting in to port again because of faults in submerging, the plan laid down on 25 June is altered insofar as U 409 will replace U 73. U 371 and U 380 are then still in reserve, the latter until he has put in to Toulon. By then another boat will be ready in Toulon.

(Signed) Kreisch.

28 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 85, U 565 CH 74,
U 593 CH 94, U 617 CH 75,
U 458 CH 76, U 73 CH 59 (homeward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 453 CO 55.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 375, 407, 409, 431, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of inshore waters from Ras Hilal to Benghazi.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0755/28 June CJ 7935 30 ships, including
1 aircraft carrier,
easterly course.
0810/28 June CN 2117 the same aircraft
carrier, easterly
course, high speed.
According to later
reports it was not a
carrier but a tanker.
- 2) 2345/28 June CJ 7676 20 merchant ships,
easterly course.
0845/28 June CH 9515 2 merchant ships, 2
escorts, course 260°.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

- 1) a) 1830/28 June 2 "Queen Elizabeth" class
battleships, the carrier "Formidable"
and 8 destroyers, put out from Gibraltar
in to the Mediterranean.
- b) According to agents' reports a formation
is out on gunnery exercises east of
Gibraltar.

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

In the Sicilian Channel and in the sea area
around Cape Bon single vessels and groups of
fairly small merchant ships and naval craft
were sighted several times on varying courses.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance of the whole of the North African coast and Sicilian channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 1348/29 June CH 9636 1 warship of 10,000 - 12,000 G.R.T., course 270°, high speed.

2) 1240/29 June Cape Blanc 10 ships lying off the coast.

c) By radio intercept service:

Nothing to report.

d) By G.I.S. stations:

1) 1110/29 June Tangier: 2 monitors of the "Erebus" class, 4 destroyers, 3 patrol vessels put in to Gibraltar.

2) 1330/29 June the "Rodney" and 4 destroyers put out from Gibraltar in to the Mediterranean;

1800/29 June put in again.

1800 2 battleships (the "Rodney" and the "Nelson") 1 aircraft carrier, 2 light cruisers lying in Gibraltar.

3) 1110/29 June Ceuta: 2 tankers, 10,000 and 12,000 G.R.T. each, 3 American destroyers, making for the Mediterranean.

4) 2040/29 June Tres Forcas: 18 unidentified ships, easterly course, speed 8 knots.

5) According to an agent's report the names of the two "Queen Elizabeth" class battleships in the Mediterranean are the "Warspite" and the "Valiant" and of the two aircraft carriers the "Formidable" and the "Indomitable". The "Aurora" class cruiser in Gibraltar is the "Galatea".

e) By naval forces:

Nothing to report.

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B. Eastern Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

1) 0750/29 June CN 2116 60 vessels.

2) 1825/29 June CN 2577 16 vessels, course
160°, moderate
speed.

c) By radio intercept service:

Several convoys on the North African coast.

d) By G.I.S. stations:)

) Nothing to report.

e) By naval forces:)

IV. Current U-boat operations:

U 375 (Koenenkamp) and U 409 (Massmann), both outward bound, received orders to make for CH 9127 to search for the crew of one of our aircraft which crashed there. Crew sighted at 2245 on 29 June in a rubber dinghy. U 73 (Deckert) also received orders to make for this grid square if he was still west of it on his return passage. U 593 (Kelbling) in the operational area east of Algiers was also to push on to the place of sighting if he was in a favorable position. U 73 (Deckert) intends to cross 42° N to the north at 0200 on 1 July and to be at the Toulon rendezvous at 0700.

The following reports of enemy movements were passed on to the boats:

1645/29 June and 2216/29 June as in III A d) 2).
1658/29 June as in III A b) 1).
2029/29 June as in III A d) 3).
0759/30 June as in III A d) 4).

V. a) Successes:)

) Nothing to report.

b) Losses:)

VI. General situation:

Nothing to report.

(Signed) Kreisch.

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30 June, 1943

I. a) Daily U-boat positions at 0800 according to naval grid squares:

A. Western Mediterranean:

U 380 CH 84; U 565 CH 74,
U 593 CH 94, U 617 CH 74,
U 458 CH 76, U 73 CH 68 (homeward bound),
U 375 CH 65 (outward bound),
U 409 CH 65 (outward bound).

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

U 81 east of 31° E.
U 453 CO 54.

b) U-boats homeward and outward bound from 0800 to 0800:

Nothing to report.

c) In port:

(At 0800)

- 1) Spezia: U 410, 616.
- 2) Pola: U 596.
- 3) Toulon: U 371, 407, 431, 561.

II. Air reconnaissance:

A. Western Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance as far as Algiers.

B. Eastern Mediterranean:

Reconnaissance from Alexandria to Benghazi, Sicilian Channel.

III. Reports on the enemy:

A. Western Mediterranean:

a) By U-boats:

Nothing to report.

b) By air reconnaissance:

- 1) 0837/30 June CH 8268 2 freighters, approximately 9,000 G.R.T. each, course 90°, moderate speed.
- 2) 0921/30 June CH 9165 1 freighter, approximately 5,000 G.R.T., 1 escort, course 90°, speed slight.

Synopsis for June 1943

I. The assumption that the enemy would attempt to carry supplies to the Near East in June in strong convoys by the shorter route through the Mediterranean has not yet been confirmed so far as could be seen. On the other hand a fairly large movement of transports through the Sicilian Channel was noted at the end of June.

The enemy's main activity was:

- 1) Further supplies of landing craft and war supplies to the ports of the Western Mediterranean.
- 2) Transfer of landing craft, war supplies and presumably troops also from the western ports of the Western Mediterranean to the eastern ports of the Western Mediterranean and to the ports on the east coast of Tunisia.

The following conclusions may be drawn from these facts:

- a) The supplies of landing craft which are still running, let it be assumed that the enemy has not yet completed his preparations for operations against the continent.
- b) The increase in heavy naval forces in the Western Mediterranean up to the end of the past month - two battleships of "King George V" class and one auxiliary aircraft carrier - by four more battleships (the "Rodney", the "Nelson", the "Valiant", the "Warspite") and two aircraft carriers of the "Illustrious" class, and also by an unknown number of cruisers, probably some American, as well as the heavy concentration of hospital ships in Gibraltar all indicate that the preparations might be practically complete.
- c) The main direction of the attack seems to be indicated by the transfer of landing craft to the east. It is not directed against Sardinia, but Sicily as we suspected.

The following possibilities must be taken into account:

- 1) That the transfer of landing craft to the east is being carried out to make room for more vessels to be brought from the Atlantic (either landing craft or freighters carrying war supplies).

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- 2) That with a further transfer of landing craft to the ports of the Eastern Mediterranean (Benghazi, Tobruk and ports on the coast of Palestine and Syria) operations are being planned against the Dodecanese, Peloponnesus and Turkey depending on the amount of supplies allotted for this. The landing craft confirmed to be at present in ports in the Eastern Mediterranean, in spite of scrappy reconnaissance and information, assume they are only diversionary and harassing attacks.
- 3) That, of the heavy units at present still in the Western Mediterranean, some will be transferred to Alexandria to support operations against the Peloponnesus, Dodecanese, Turkey and to strengthen the fighting power in the Eastern Mediterranean. This view is strengthened by the fact that the enemy was not able to replace until now the heavy units formerly based on Alexandria which were destroyed or damaged. After the French warships interned in Alexandria crossed over to the enemy these now form the main weight of naval strength in the Eastern Mediterranean.

II. Owing to the very long periods in dock, the causes of which are given in the synopsis for May, it happened that in the first half of June the operational areas were extremely weakly occupied. At times there were no U-boats at sea.

The operational areas were occupied in greater strength only after mid-June. Because of our information we concentrated on the Western Mediterranean. In accordance with earlier reported plans a few boats (1 or 2) operated in the Eastern Mediterranean. As the successes achieved in all operational areas show the apportioning and disposition were justified.

Because of

- 1) the greater number of boats in the Western Mediterranean from the second half of June,
- 2) the strong occupation of Gibraltar at times by heavy naval forces (four battleships, two aircraft carriers) which have put out as suspected for maneuvers and operations,
- 3) the failure of our boats to move through the Straits.

suitable conditions were offered for the execution of the frequently planned operation, a sortie due east of Gibraltar.

The less favorable phase of the moon will have been a disadvantage to the two boats U 617 (Brandi) and U 565 (Franken) assigned to this operation.

There are still no details of defensive measures in this area available because both boats are still at sea.



