



SUPPLEMENT
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REPORT OF AN ACTION AGAINST AN ITALIAN CONVOY ON THE NIGHT OF THE 15TH/16TH APRIL, 1941.

The following Despatch was submitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the 8th June, 1941, by Admiral Sir ANDREW B. CUNNINGHAM, G.C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

*Mediterranean.
8th June, 1941.*

Be pleased to lay before Their Lordships the attached report by Captain (D), Fourteenth Destroyer Flotilla of the successful action fought by the division of destroyers under his command against an Italian convoy on the night of the 15th/16th April, 1941.

2. The search for the convoy was conducted skilfully and with sound appreciation. The action itself was conducted by all concerned with determination and gallantry and was completely successful, resulting in the annihilation of the convoy and escort.

3. These results reflect the highest credit on Captain P. J. Mack, Royal Navy, and the forces under his command. The fighting spirit and high standard of training of the ships concerned is amply demonstrated by this incident.

4. The loss of such a fine fighting unit as H.M.S. MOHAWK is much to be regretted but such losses by chance torpedoes in a mêlée are only to be expected, and it can be counted fortunate that Commander J. W. Eaton, Royal Navy, and a large proportion of his ship's company were saved.

(Signed) A. B. CUNNINGHAM,
*Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief.*

*Office of Captain (D),
Fourteenth Destroyer Flotilla,
H.M.S. JERVIS.*

19th April, 1941.

FOURTEENTH DESTROYER FLOTILLA—LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS 15TH-16TH APRIL, 1941.

SKIRMISH OFF SFAX.

I have the honour to submit the following report of the sinking of the Tripoli-bound convoy and escort on the night of 15th-16th April, 1941.

2. At 1800, on 15th April, 1941, JERVIS, NUBIAN, MOHAWK and JANUS* slipped and proceeded from Malta by the eastern searched channel to intercept the convoy reported in a signal from an aircraft timed 1157Z of 15th April, 1941.†

Single line ahead in the order JERVIS, JANUS, NUBIAN and MOHAWK was formed.

3. At a speed of 26 knots I could reach Kerkenah No. 4 buoy well before the convoy, assuming its speed to be 8 knots. At 1915, when clear of the searched channel, course 248 degs. was steered.

4. At 1925, I received Vice-Admiral, Malta's signal timed 1836 of 15th April, 1941,‡ confirming the convoy's course and speed of 8 knots.

Admiralty footnotes:—

* JERVIS—Capt. P. J. Mack, R.N. (Captain (D), 14th Destroyer Flotilla).

NUBIAN—Comdr. R. W. Ravenhill, R.N.

MOHAWK—Comdr. J. W. M. Eaton, R.N.

JANUS—Comdr. J. A. W. Tothill, R.N.

† Signal 1157 of 15th reported five enemy merchant ships, escorted by three destroyers, off the Tunis Coast in the vicinity of Capé Bon and on a southerly course at an estimated speed of nine knots.

‡ Signal 1836 of 15th gave the position of the convoy and escort at 1700, its cruising disposition, and its course and speed as south, 8 knots.