

*Friday, 15th August (D.5).*

31. After an epic struggle by her gallant Master and escorts, S.S. OHIO entered Grand Harbour at 0755.

32. Force X's withdrawal was uneventful in the initial stages. When off Cape Bon at 0130 they were attacked by E-Boats. These were engaged and an explosion was seen which was believed to be an E-Boat blowing up.

33. At 0450 when off Fratelli Rock a U-Boat attacked the force, H.M.S. ASHANTI being just missed. H.M.S. KENYA sighted the submarine and made an attempt to ram but the submarine was inside her turning circle.

34. At daylight the force was S.S.E. of Galita Island and shortly afterwards the first snoopers appeared.

35. At 0912 the first of a long series of air attacks commenced with a number of JU.88s. H.M.S. KENYA was near missed at 0942 and a small fire in "A" boiler room entailed a short reduction in speed.

36. From 1000 to 1300 attacks were almost incessant, and included dive bombers, high level bombers, torpedo bombers and dropping of mines or circling torpedoes by low-flying aircraft. Fortunately, however, Force X came through untouched and at 1800 joined Force Z in position 37° 29' N., 03° 25' E.

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