

September October 1940

Reinforcements

C/Wealth	London	LND3	Hampden	
	Plymouth	CV	"Formidable"	
	Manchester	FTR2	Spitfire II	
	Halifax	ASW 2xPilots		(to const pool)
USA	Los Angeles	CVP1	F4F-4	
		CV	"Hornet"	(to const pool)
	San Francisco	SUB		(to const pool)
		BB Pilot	"Indiana"	(to const pool)
USSR	Odessa	INF Pilot	45 (5-3)	
China	Cheng Tu	MIL	(4-3)	
		Warlord	(2-3)	
	Kunming	MIL	(2-2)	
	ChungKing	FTR2	P-36A "Mohawk"	(to reserve)
Japan	Tokyo	CL	"Asama"	
		CL	"Takao"	
Germany	Munich	LND3 MIL	Ju88A1 Hungarian (3-3)	
Italy	La Spezia	SUB		

For once China is calm – no disturbances reported (*I suspect we forgot to check this turn*)

Lending Resources

Oil trucks continue to labour through the dangerous and precipitous tracks that are grandly referred to as the "Burma Road". Construction of a makeshift oil pipeline between the Burma oilfields and Kunming is proceeding well, but for how long will the Allies have this backdoor access to China? Can the Chinese hold the critical city of Kunming?

Constructing a pipeline through the jungle is not easy – here the pipeline is slung over a small river



With the collapse of France and unexpected deal with General Franco, Germany's factories are now oversupplied with raw materials. Aware of Italy's weakness (particularly for oil), orders from the highest level direct massive amounts (2 resources and 2 oil) to help the production of equipment and the supply of Italy's fleet.

Initiative Axis dr = 1 Allies dr = 10 Axis do not challenge Allies elect to go first

Impulse 1 (Allies) Britain protects its lifelines

Weather dr = 8 R, R, F, R, F, F (2)*

Suspecting that the Kriegsmarine may attempt to break out to French ports, the Home Fleet leaves Scapa Flow and starts patrolling the North Sea. Other critical convoy lanes are not neglected, and the carrier "Formidable" takes responsibility for the Faeroes. The merchant fleet itself is already re-organising in preparation for a U-boat onslaught based on the French west coast.



Chinese troops enter the outskirts of ChungKing – will they be enough to hold back the triumphant Japanese?

Force H, the British fleet based in Port Said, has been strengthened (partly as a result of the removal of the raider threat from the Indian Ocean). It now sails to catch the small Italian fleet off the coast of Egypt, but fails to locate the elusive cruisers.

Despite the pouring rain, fresh reinforcements reach ChungKing. As usual for the Chinese, the exertion of moving over the difficult terrain means that the new arrivals are at less than normal combat strength when they arrive.

Impulse 3 (Axis) Battle of the Eastern Mediterranean

Japan starts to repair the damage done to its convoy lines by sending tankers and cargo ships to the China Sea.

Early British ship borne radar is obviously still under development, as in the heavy rain, the raiders "Hansa" and "Kormoran" slip out of Kiel and effortlessly avoid the carrier led blockade in the North Sea. They head north and end off the Canadian coast.

The Wehrmacht seems to have new plans. A strong garrison is railed to Brest, with several Geschwaders of Bf 110C fighter bombers. 1 Para moves to Paris, with its Junkers transport planes, while XXXVIII Motorised Corps heads south. Large numbers of fighters are rebasing to the Channel coast.

Of more interest to Allied Intelligence, however, is news that all the Luftwaffe's dive bomber units are heading east, as are some armour units.

Concerned at the presence of British submarines, Gabbiano flying boats start patrols along the Italian coast.

The main Italian effort, however is in the Eastern Mediterranean, where Operation “Nuova Alba” is intended to achieve twin objectives – deliver a crushing defeat to the Royal Navy and allow the guns of the Italian battleships to help Graziani and Balbo sweep along the coast. Virtually every ship that can reach the area leaves La Spezia and heads for a showdown to determine who will rule the Mediterranean.



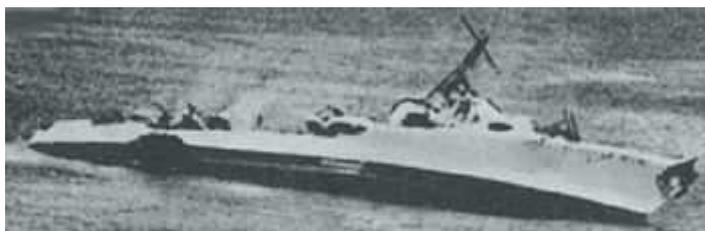
The battleship “Guilio Cesare” fires her guns to start the Battle of the Eastern Mediterranean

The engagement starts well for the Regia Marina, as the British are caught unawares and the Italians manage to isolate part of the enemy fleet. The British have an aircraft carrier, but due to incompetence in the Admiralty, it only has Gladiator fighters aboard and their Browning machine guns cannot influence the battle. Concentrating on the carrier “Glorious”, the Italian fleet (which although outnumbering the British 2 to 1 actually has nearly 4 times the firepower), presses home the attack. The “Glorious” takes critical hits but her fire control officers are able to save the ship, although she is severely damaged. The light cruisers “Dragon” and “Cairo” are not so fortunate, and are lost. To make matters worse, the “Repulse”, one of the few British battleships present, is forced to return to port, escorted by the cruiser “Berwick” and light cruiser “Caledon”.

Italian losses are minimal – the cruisers “Eugene de Savoia” and “Montecuccoli” take damage and the cruiser “Trento” breaks off from action. “Nuova Alba” has started well.

Flushed with success, the Italians remain at sea, hoping for another engagement. Although concerned that a repeat of the earlier battle could see considerable losses, the Admiralty orders Force H to contest the sea area. Wavell’s Army of Egypt cannot withstand an attack supported by naval bombardment. Unfortunately for the Regia Marina, this time the British gain surprise.

With the whole of Force H able to take part, the Italian superiority in numbers is reduced somewhat, although the British are still seriously outgunned. The effects of surprise balance this, however, and losses in this spiteful encounter are about even. Wisely, the “Glorious” is kept well to the rear, safe from any damage, but two more British ships, the cruiser “Sussex” and light cruiser “Ceres” are sunk by the Italian big guns. Another light cruiser (“Carlisle”) is only saved from sinking by desperate makeshift repairs which leave her crippled. The “Edinburgh” and “Cardiff” are forced to flee and will take no further part in the action.



A British destroyer (HMS “Bedouin”) in her final moments after being hit by salvos from the cruisers “Eugenio Di Savoia” and “Montecuccoli”.

These losses are offset by the damage inflicted on the Italians. The previously damaged “Eugenio de Savoia” takes further hits and explodes, and three cruisers, “San Giorgio”, “Pola” and “Garibaldi” and the light cruiser “Attendolo” are damaged. The cruiser “Fiume” runs for port, although apparently undamaged.

Mussolini is not happy with the way the fleet is performing, particularly in view of the amount of precious industrial production that has been directed to ship building. He orders Admiral Campioni to clear the seas and then assist in the land attacks. The British, on the other hand, are not concerned with the way that “Nuova Alba” is turning into a battle of attrition. They know that even if Force H is completely destroyed, the Admiralty has at least 3 other fleets of comparable size, while if the Italian fleet can be destroyed, the Mediterranean will be clear for years. Exchanging ships also has the effect of reducing the amount of support that the Regia Marina can provide to the Italian Army of Libya.



The battleship “Vittorio Veneto” in action shortly before returning to port for minor repairs. This will effectively put an end to operation “Nuova Alba”.

In what turns out to be the final engagement of the Battle of the Eastern Mediterranean, the British once again achieve complete surprise. Weakened slightly by Vice Admiral Cunningham’s decision to place all damaged ships behind a screen of seaworthy vessels, the British are extremely lucky in their hits, sinking, damaging or forcing to retire four Italian battleships. The ageing “Giulio Cesare” is destroyed, the “Conte di Cavour” is damaged and the “Littorio” and “Vittorio Veneto” return to La Spezia. In addition, the cruiser “Belzano” takes some hits that drastically reduce its effectiveness and will require major repair.

British losses are manageable, mainly due to superb design, as they take many hits that could have been fatal. The cruisers “Sheffield”, “Norfolk” and “Devonshire” are badly damaged, meaning that now more than half of Force H is crippled. Vice Admiral Cunningham signals that all ships should break off action and the battered remnants head for Port Said. Although the damaged ships all face long voyages to shipyards able to repair them, the Admiralty is more than happy at the result of the battle. The fleet, which could have been annihilated, is still a fighting force and most of its ships will return in time. Just as important, the Army of Egypt can face the Italians with more confidence.

The Italians, however, are less impressed. A golden opportunity to severely hurt the British and gain at least temporary supremacy in the Mediterranean has been lost. In addition, with 4 battleships out of the fleet, the effectiveness of shore bombardment has been reduced from critical to minimal. The long queue of damaged ships in La Spezia will be a drain on the struggling Italian economy for months if not years. Admiral Campioni faces a difficult interview when he has to explain why “Nuova Alba”, which started so promisingly, turned out to be a near disaster.

As a result, “Nuova Alba” is put on hold, and the only movement by Italian land units is some relocation in mainland Italy.

Impulse 5 (Allies) Russia on the move

Weather dr = 7 (+1) R, R, F, R, F, F (2)*

With morale high after its capture of Harbin during the brief but successful war with Japan, 2nd Siberian Corps boards trains and rails to the border with Persia. At the same time, large numbers of troops are moving into Eastern Poland and rumours are heard that several headquarters are being rebased forward.

The Chinese, still critically weakened by the heavy losses during Japan's summer onslaught, cannot see how their limited troops can do any more and decide to hold their positions. They hope that the weather will dissuade the IJA, which is also much reduced in size, from further attacks.

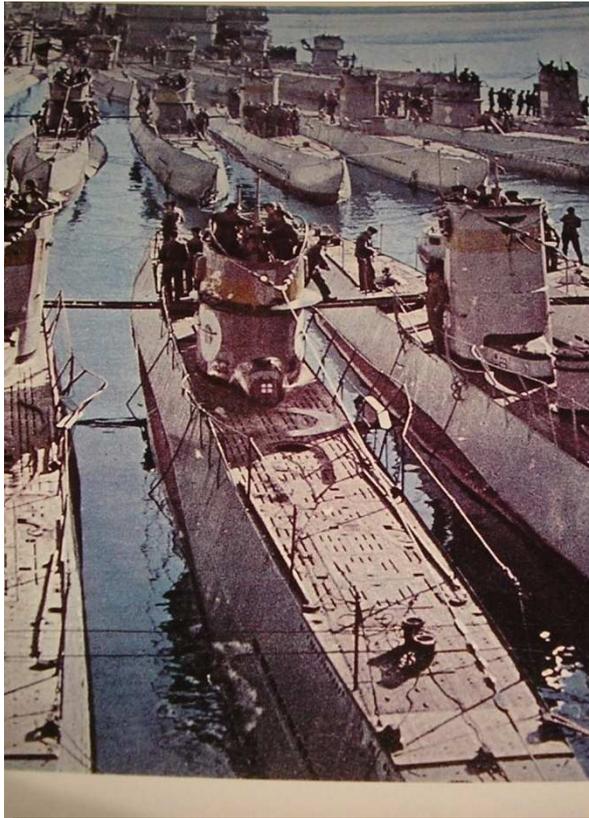


A British contingent of the 13th Indian Corps marches into the desert from its staging camp near Port Said. Although lacking air cover and armour, the British are confident after the recent naval action that they can hold Egypt – at least for the near future.

An Indian infantry corps leaves Port Said and marches into the desert to reinforce Wavell, who is feeling much more secure with the threat of massive naval bombardment removed.

Impulse 7 (Axis) The undersea war begins

More German fighters move to the coast, but several hundred Dornier 17s rebase to Hungary. An artillery formation is railed to Budapest, raising tension in the Balkans. MI5 tells Prime Minister Churchill that all the evidence is that an attack on Yugoslavia is being prepared, probably to take place next spring. Perhaps Hitler hopes that by attacking Yugoslavia he can persuade Rumania to ally with Germany.



Admiral Doenitz's Unterseebooten about to leave on their first major convoy raid. Confidence is high and Germany hopes to cripple British production

Churchill perhaps does not concentrate on the information from southern Europe, as more serious news is arriving from the Admiralty. U-boats have been reported leaving German ports and heading around the coast of Scotland to the convoy lanes of the Faeroes. The much vaunted "Battle" sub-hunting aircraft fail their first test as the submarines are not detected as they leave port and cross the North Sea.

At the same time, reports from Gibraltar confirm that Italian submarines are operating off Cape St Vincent.

Unfortunately for the Admiralty (and the civilian crews of the ships in the convoys), Commonwealth strategy is based on detecting surface raiders and not protecting the convoys themselves. As a result, the Axis submarines can attack with impunity. Only luck keeps losses to a minimum – about 50 ships lost in the Faeroes (2CP) and 20 or so off the Cape (1CP). Sadly, all the ships lost in the Faeroes belong to the Danish Merchant Marine – a brief but valuable contribution to the war effort. A large number of ships break for port in panic, and Britain's sea life lines are under threat.

The British immediately flood US newspapers with the news that the world's sea lanes are under attack, but it seems to fall on deaf ears – there is no detectable reaction. (US Entry 5, 6 rolled)

After the limited success of the U-boats, Admiral Raeder is not impressed when He-115C seaplanes sent to the North Sea with heavy fighter escort cannot locate a single ship.

Turn ends on 1, 10 rolled

Impulse 9 (Allies) Sea lanes protected

Weather dr = 8 (+1) St, R, R, St, F, F (2)*

Determined to prevent more convoy losses, the ports of Plymouth, Scapa Flow, Gibraltar and Belfast are scoured and every available ship is rushed to sea on convoy duty. The submarines will not have it all their own way if they attack again.

The "Queens" set out from Plymouth for Gibraltar. Aware of the threat of submarines (and even a sally by a fast cruiser force) they are escorted by a battleship task force. It is only later that the Admiralty recalls that the Queens will only be vulnerable to submarines if they are damaged (*we are using the revised submarine warfare system that, while giving submarines advantages in attacking convoys, restricts their ability in surface combats to attacking damaged ships*).

The aircraft carrier "Enterprise" leaves Los Angeles, bound for its new base in Hawaii.

Turn ends on 3, 6 rolled

Impulse 10 (Axis) The Wehrmacht moves east

Although troop movements are being kept to a low level (presumably to keep fuel consumption to a minimum), it is now clear that a major Wehrmacht force is being assembled in Hungary. Poland is also being reinforced with far more troops than would be required simply for anti-partisan operations. Only the various headquarters units are conspicuously still in France/Belgium – perhaps the senior officers are enjoying a last winter in relative comfort?

In China, the Japanese High Command has apparently given up hope that the weather will allow a resumption of the assault on the last factory cities. The headquarters units move forward, exhausting themselves in the process. An attack is unlikely now and the Kuomintang breathes a collective sigh of relief.

Italy does nothing, though comments are heard complaining that only luck has kept the British forces in the Mediterranean from being crushed on land and sea.

Turn ends on 5, 8 rolled

Impulse 11 (Allies) Russia bolsters the border

Weather dr = 10 (+1) Sn, St, R, St, R, R (3)**



USS "Raleigh" (CL-7), an Omaha class light cruiser, heads for Pearl Harbour to support the capital ships already there

Aware that the new fleet based in Hawaii contains only capital ships, the USA dispatches the light cruiser "Raleigh" to Honolulu.

The Admiralty admits that the damage sustained in the Eastern Mediterranean in conjunction with the demands on its resources as a result of the U-boat offensive is causing problems. As a result, the cruiser "Emerald" is ordered from Tricomalee in Ceylon and heads for Egypt.

More and more Russian combat units are entering Poland and the Baltic States. For the first time a headquarters (that of Marshal Timoshenko) is spotted in Galicia, and it is reported that General Yeremenko has left Moscow and is heading west.

Turn ends on 7, 10 rolled

Impulse 13 (Axis) Italy probes Wavell's defences

The foul weather stops most military operations around the world, but in the deserts of North Africa the sun is still shining. Graziani decides to probe the British defences (after a successful bombing raid by the "Cicognas" disrupts the II Infantry Corps) but Wavell orders the II Corps (assisted by an Egyptian territorial unit) to counter-attack. With every British fighter needed in the United Kingdom, the Italians have uncontested control of the air. Even so, the determined British beat off the attack easily, inflicting heavy losses on Graziani's own armoured forces which lead the attack (3BPs). The victory was not without cost as the Egyptians are wiped out and II Corps takes some casualties (1BP).

Turn ends on 8, 7 rolled

Initiative remains even between the Axis and Allies

Partisans

Partisan dr = 9 China

Garrison = 19 Partisan number = 20 dr = 4 Failure

There is an attempted uprising in China but, with no offensive in the autumn rain, Japanese units are free for garrison duties and the dissidents are easily crushed.

US Entry

Chit to Japanese Pool



A British freighter sinks beneath the waves – President Roosevelt is alarmed by the start of the U-boat offensive and takes immediate action

Although the sinking of Allied convoys had no effect on the general population, President Roosevelt manages to convince Congress that the Royal Navy needs assistance to keep the world's sea lanes open. A vote is carried that has the effect that the US "gifts" a large number of destroyers to the Commonwealth. This will mean a much lower cost to the British for building and repairing its squadrons, as only the capital ships will occupy the dry docks. *(The next 10 pts of SCS construction and repair of SCS will be free)*. Germany is not pleased with this immediate response to its aggression and tension rises. *(dr = 2, 7 needed)*

Having successfully animated the US lawmakers, the President also introduces a Bill designed to restrict Japanese expansion. Congress passes the Bill without amendment and the supply of resources across the Pacific is reduced slightly. *(USA reduces by 1 resource its trade with Japan)*. Japan ignores the warning. *(dr = 10, 5 needed)*

(In the last report I forgot to include the US Entry phase – one chit went to the Japanese pool and no options were taken.)

Return to Base

As the weary British sea patrols head back to port to refuel and refresh, the raiders “Hansa” and “Kormoran” seize the opportunity to race across the Atlantic and take refuge in Angola.

Germany, having installed a friendly Vichy Government, tests its new creation’s loyalty by demanding that it hand over the aircraft carrier “Bearn”. It will never be known what General Petain’s response would have been, as news of the demand is leaked and her commander scuttles her just outside Marseilles harbour. Her full complement of F4F fighters goes down with her.

Production

	Base (Resource/Oil)	Imports	Less Oil	PPs	Multiple	BPs	Trade	Losses/Enemy*	Total BPs
Germany	22/4	+1	-1	26	.75	20	-2		18
Italy	6/3		-1	8	.75	6			6
Japan	12/4	+1	-1	15	1	15	-1		14
Vichy Fr	1/-			1	.75	1			1
UK	7/7	+3	-3	14	.75	11			11
Canada	2			2	.75	2			2
Australia	1			1	.75	1			1
India	2			2	.75	2			2
France	-								
China	4/1			5	.5	3			4
USA	22/18		-1	39	.25	10	+1	-/+1	11
USSR	19/8			25	.5	13	+2		15

*Losses: in Home Country, receive ½ of all BPS lost defending, ¼ of all BPS lost attacking

*Enemy: receive 1BP if an enemy unit in Home Country at Production phase

USSR (15BP)	On map On chart	Dnepropetrovsk	Fortifications (1)	(1)
		Vitebsk	AT 45mm (1)	
	Kiev	MOT 5 (1)		
	Dnepropetrovsk	LND4 Pe-2 (TB-7) (1)		
	Moscow	ARM 2 (1)		
		MECH 4 (1)		
	Krasnodar	MTN 1 (1)		
		Pilot (1)	(7)	
	Start	Leningrad	GARR 3 rd Guard (1)	
			FTR2 I-15bis (1)	
		Odessa	LND3 SB-2 (1)	
			INF 33 (2)	
		Moscow	LND4 TB-3 (1)	
		Pilot (1)	(7)	

USA

The Truman Commission turns its attention to the Navy and is horrified to discover plans to construct a 1925 design submarine. The blueprints are destroyed – getting rid of this sort of maladministration is the purpose of the Commission. (*Scrap 1925 SUB (3-7-0-0)3/3*)

(11BP)	On map	Boston	TRS Shipyard (1)	(1)
		Washington	BB "North Carolina" (1)	
	On chart	Boston	LND3 A-22 "Maryland" (1)	
		New York	ASW (1)	
		Chicago	MOT XXIII (1)	
		San Francisco	MOT XXXVIII (1)	
	Start	Washington	BB "Wyoming"	
			BB "Alabama" (1)	
			Pilot (1)	(7)
			INF XXXIII (1)	
		Pilot (2)	(3)	
China (4BP)	On chart	Lan Chow	INF 1 (1)	
		Kunming	INF 1 (1)	
		Cheng Tu	ART 105mm (1)	
		ChungKing	INF 17 (1)	
C/wealth (11BP)	On map	Edinburgh	Synthetic Oil (1)	
		Dakar (Fr W.Africa)	Factory (2)	
	On chart	Repair 11 th INF (1BP)		(4)
		London	PARA 1 Airborne (1)	
		Manchester	LND3 Wellington (1)	
		Belfast	ART 4.5in (1)	
	Start	London	CV "Implacable" (1)	(4)
		Southampton	FTR3 Whirlwind (1)	
			FTR3 Beaufighter MkII (1)	
			Pilot (1)	(3)
	Gift of Destroyers			
Start	Newcastle	CL "Cleopatra" (1) (from const)		
	Liverpool	BB "Queen Elizabeth" (1) (from repair)		
	Glasgow	CA "Nigeria" (1) (from const)		
	Plymouth	CL "Hermione" (1) (from const)		
Start	London	BB "King George V" from const)		
		BB "Anson" (1) (from const)		
		CL "Curacoa" (1) (from repair)		
		CL "Naiad" (1) (from const)		
		CL "Dido" (1) (from const)		
		CL "Euryalus" (1) (from const)		
		CA "London" (1) (from repair)		
India (2BP)	On chart	Calcutta	MOT 4 Indian (1)	
	Start	Calcutta	CP (1)	
Canada (2BP)	On chart	Halifax	MOT 1 Canadian (1)	
	Start	Halifax	ASW (from const) (1)	

Australia (1BP)	On chart	Sydney	MOT	1 Australian (1)	
Germany (18BP)	On map	SE of Berlin		Synthetic Oil (1)	
		SW of Berlin		Synthetic Oil (1)	(2)
	On chart	Berlin	HQ (A)	Rommel (1)	
		Essen	MECH	2 nd Div (1)	
		Cologne	FTR3	BF 110E (1)	
		Hamburg	INF	XXVI (1)	
		Munich	MTN	XLIX (1)	
		Vienna	NAV3	F300C "Condor" (1)	
			NAV3	F300C "Condor" (1)	
			Pilotx2	(2)	(9)
Start	Kiel	SUB	"Milch Cow" (1)		
	Berlin	FLAK	105mm (1)		
	Stettin	CA	"Prinz Eugen" (from const)		
		CA	"von Mackenen" (1) (from start)		
	Amsterdam	GARR	SS Holland (free)		
		Pilot	(1)		
		Offensive pointsx3	(3)	(7)	
Vichy France (1BP)	Start		TERR	Algeria (1)	
Italy (6BP)	On map	Milan		Synthetic Oil (1)	
		Repair Graziani HQ(A)	(3BP)		(4)
	On chart	La Spezia	BB	"Roma" (1)	
	Start	Genoa	BB	"Andrea Doria" (1) (from repair)	
		La Spezia	CL	"Magno" (0) (from repair)	
		La Spezia	CL	"Sila" (0) (from repair)	
	La Spezia	CL	"Augusto"		
Japan (14)	On map	Tokyo		Synthetic Oil (1)	
			SCS Specialisation	(1)	(2)
	On chart	Nagoya	MAR	Imperial Guard (1)	
			INF	15 (1)	
		Hiroshima	MAR	SNLF (1)	
			MTN	1 (1)	
			ENG	1 Div (1)	
		Osaka	MECH	3 Div (1)	
			Pilot	(1)	(7)
	Start	Tokyo	BB	"Yamato" from const	
			"Musashi" from scratch (1)		
		CP	(1)		
	Osaka	NAV3	G3M2 "Nell" (1)		
	Kyoto	CVP1	B5N1 (1)		
	Fukuoka	SUB	from const (1)	(5)	

Losses: September-October 1940

C/wealth	Territorial	Egypt (3-2)	(2BP)
	CA (sunk)	"Sussex" (3-6-1-1)6/6	(3BP)
	CLx3 (sunk)	"Dragon" (2-8-0-0) 5/2	
		"Ceres" (1-8-0-0) 5/2	
		"Cairo" (1-8-1-0) 5/2	(5BP)
	CV (damaged)	"Glorious"	(2BP)
	CAX3 (damaged)	"Sheffield", "Norfolk", "Devonshire"	(3BP)
	CL (damaged)	"Carlisle"	(1BP)
	CPx3 (2 Danish)		(3CP)

II INF took 1BP

Total Commonwealth losses 20BP

Italy	BB (sunk)	"Guilio Cesare"	(4BP)
	CA (sunk)	"Eugenio Di Savoia"	(3CP)
	BB (damaged)	"Conte di Cavour"	(2BP)
	CA (damaged)	"San Giorgi", "Pola", "Garibaldi", "Belzano"	(4CP)
	CL	"Montecuccoli", "Attendolo"	(2CP)

Graziani HQ(A) took 3BP

Total Italian losses 18BP

Vichy	CV	"Bearn" (1-7-1-2) 6/2	(4BP)
	CVP	F4F-3	(1BP)
	Pilot		(2BP)

Total Vichy losses 7BP