



# SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY, 1948

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 com-  
mand 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 com-  
pletely 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 con-  
cerned 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 for-  
tunate 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 con-  
voy 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 re-  
ported 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,‡ con-  
firming 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 Cape 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.