

B. BARK SOUTH.

(i) Between 0308 and 0420, three L.C.T. (R)* carried out pre-arranged shoots on flank targets at the beaches.

(ii) After daylight H.M.S. WHADDON and EGGESFORD gave close support and three L.C.G. also fired a few rounds. H.M.S. LAFOREY also joined in the silencing of machine-guns at Portopalo Bay.

(iii) Later in the day ships of the Bombarding Squadron (H.M.S. NEWFOUNDLAND, ORION, LAFOREY, LOYAL, LOOKOUT) fired direct shoots at areas five miles inland including Rosolini and Spaccaforo.

C. BARK EAST.

L.C.S. and L.C.F. replied with effect to the machine-gun fire and sniping encountered by the assault craft on beaching.

H.N.M.S. SOEMBA and FLORES engaged a battery 2,000 yards north of Pachino at 0533, which with five guns of 100 mm. had been firing at the rate of one round per gun per minute a defensive barrage on a line about 200 yards off the beaches. The two ships under way and keeping station on dan buoys, at ranges of 7,000 and 7,800 yards respectively, fired in periods until 0645 when the battery was virtually neutralised.

D. ACID SOUTH and NORTH.

Bombardments were carried out as follows:—

(i) By H.M.S. MAURITIUS.

(a) at 0600, fire was opened on a coast defence battery which had been worrying How and Jig beaches. After thirty-six rounds had been fired no further shelling occurred from this direction although great difficulty was experienced in locating the target.

(b) at 0840, in response to a call, a defended area was bombarded for five minutes, the shells appearing, from visual observation, to hit the required area.

(ii) By H.M.S. ESKIMO.

(a) at 0545 at a range of 10,000 yards, five salvos were fired at a battery concealed among trees north-east of Avola which had been dropping shells on How sector. The battery ceased fire.

(b) at 0610, at another battery shelling How beaches. The battery quickly ceased fire but opened up again soon after. The bombardment was resumed at 0715 and after the sixth salvo there was an explosion and fire at the position of the battery from which nothing further was heard.

(iii) By H.M.S. TETCOTT.

(a) at 0510, opened fire at a battery which had been shelling Jig beaches, and drew its fire which was very inaccurate.

(b) at 0559, changed target to another battery giving trouble at the beaches, but as H.M.S. MAURITIUS opened fire at about the same time, reverted to first target so as not to confuse her, the first battery having again come into action. The battery ceased fire as a result.

(c) at 0641, opened fire at a third battery of three guns, which ceased fire.

(iv) By H.M.S. TARTAR.

(a) at 0410, fire was opened at two searchlights in the vicinity of Avola, which were extinguished.

(v) By H.M.S. EREBUS.

(a) at 1415, fire was opened on an infantry defended post with six pill boxes. Target reported destroyed after twelve rounds at 12,600 yards had all been spotted and corrected upon the target, including two direct hits and seven within one hundred yards of the centre of the target.

(b) at 1945 at a range of 18,700 yards, six rounds fired at another infantry defended post. Five direct hits and target reported by Forward Observation Officer as destroyed.

Enemy Air Activity.

Prior to the landings enemy air activity against the expedition was non-existent and it was only slight throughout D day. Some details were as follows:—

A. BARK WEST.

Shortly after 2200, an attack was made on the anchorage in the course of which a stick of bombs fell close between H.M.S. HAMBLEDON and H.M.S. WALLACE. Flares dropped by the aircraft were effective but the anchorage was heavily protected by smoke and no damage was sustained.

B. BARK SOUTH.

There were indications of air activity, but no bombs were dropped. One low-flying aircraft was shot down after dark.

C. BARK EAST.

(i) At 0550 two Me. 109 made a cannon-fire attack on RED beach; one stoker of an L.C.S. was wounded.

(ii) From 2010 to midnight there were intermittent attacks on the ships and H.M.S. ALYNBANK was near missed by a dive attack, two ratings being killed.

D. ACID NORTH and SOUTH.

While waiting to cover the later flights two L.C.S. (M) were machine-gunned by an aircraft and some minor casualties were suffered; the aircraft was seriously damaged. Then between 0630 and 0700 fighter bombers appeared overhead but no bombs were dropped. Next, at 1015 about ten Ju. 88 and some F.W. 190 dropped bombs in the vicinity of shipping. During the afternoon two L.C.T. were damaged by near misses and in further intermittent attacks, including an attack by forty aircraft at 1630, near misses on S.S. BERGENSFJORD and L.S.T. 407 were the only incidents of note.

Night attacks began soon after 2100 and a considerable number of bombs scored no direct hits until 2200, when the hospital ship TALAMBA, lying illuminated five miles to seaward of GEORGE sector, was sunk in a deliberate attack. Another hospital ship, ABA, was attacked at the same time, but escaped damage.

D + 1 DAY.**Sunday, 11th July.**

Weather.—Weather and sea conditions continued to improve at all sectors, though

Admiralty footnote:

* L.C.T. (R)—Landing Craft, Tank (Rocket).