

of the port party landed at the same time. The boom and gate were intact, though in poor condition in spite of the existence of spare gear on the spot. The town was almost deserted. There was no damage to port installations apart from that caused by our own aircraft on the night of the beach assaults. About 2130, Naval Commander Force "A" advised that all personnel ships of the convoys due on D+3 day should proceed to Syracuse to discharge.

*Pozzallo occupied.*—Following the bombardment by H.M.S. BRISSENDEN mentioned above, the white flag was hoisted and H.M.S. BRISSENDEN closed the town of Pozzallo. The Bombardment Liaison Officer and an armed party landed and accepted the surrender at 1315, returning on board with 98 prisoners. The port was found to be useless for unloading either vessels or craft.

*A.A. cruisers transferred.*—To strengthen the defence of the ACID anchorages which had so far borne the greater part of the enemy's air attacks, H.M.S. DELHI, hitherto at BARK WEST, was transferred to the orders of Naval Commander Force "A" from noon.

H.M.S. COLOMBO from Force "V" was transferred to the Western Task Force to reinforce the protection of Gela anchorage where enemy aircraft were also troublesome.

D+2 DAY.

*Monday, 12th July.*

*Weather.*—Weather continued fine, and on the whole less inconvenience was experienced from swell at the anchorages and beaches, though it still retarded the rate of discharge at the western end of the area.

*Situation at beaches.*

A. BARK WEST.

"G" Naval Commando moved from SUGAR sector to BARK SOUTH and "N" Commando took over SUGAR sector in addition to ROGER.

M.T. continued to come in on SUGAR RED I beach and a number of L.C.T. beached at SUGAR RED II. The exits from these beaches were only moderate, and the roads behind bad, while approximately one vehicle in three was "drowned" getting ashore. Accordingly it was decided that S.N.O.L. (S) should transfer to BARK SOUTH (QUEEN sector) and receive the follow-up convoy, while S.N.O.L. (R) remained to complete the discharge of the assault convoy over ROGER sector. Stores began to come in at about midday, and an urgent call for petrol in the evening was met by unloading from L.C.T. throughout the night.

B. BARK SOUTH and EAST.

At 0600 the first follow-up convoy of L.S.T. arrived at BARK SOUTH and commenced to beach and unload during the forenoon. All the original L.S.T. and L.C.T. completed unloading by the afternoon. The rocky ledge at the eastern end of AMBER beach had been levelled and improved by this time to an extent which enabled five L.S.T. to be discharged at a time.

Two M.T. ships from BARK WEST arrived at BARK SOUTH and commenced to discharge by means of D.U.K.W.

Naval Commander Force "B" decided that as soon as the M.T. ships of the assault convoy

were cleared BARK EAST beaches should be kept open mainly for 51 Division stores in L.C.T. which were becoming congested at BARK SOUTH and that S.S. DIOMED, the only follow-up ship destined for BARK EAST, should be diverted to BARK SOUTH.

Late in the evening the two Category "A" ships of the assault convoy completed unloading (the third had been sunk en route).

C. (i) ACID SOUTH.

Discharge was completed of the four Class "A" M.T. ships of the assault convoy and the stevedores thus released were transferred to the Class "B" ships.

(ii) ACID NORTH.

At 1900 an additional beach, called BLUE, was opened at the northern end of the sector and proved satisfactory for both L.C.T. and L.C.M. though inadequate approaches and shortage of labour precluded its use for landing stores.

*Gun Support.*

Supporting fire was provided by ships as and when required and opportunity offered.

H.M.S. MAURITIUS had a busy day and carried out shoots as follows:—

(a) from 0830 to 0900, in response to an urgent call for support, Mellili was effectively engaged.

(b) at 0930, a coast battery was engaged and gave no further trouble.

(c) at 1115, in response to an immediate call, a battery north of Priolo which was holding up the army's advance was effectively engaged. After a short bombardment the Forward Observation Officer reported the target destroyed.

(d) at 1205, fire, reported effective from direct observation, was again opened on Mellili.

(e) at 1251, a strong point near Augusta was bombarded at the request of the army.

(f) at 1340, Mellili was again bombarded, direct observation indicating that the fire was effective.

(g) at 1403, the target was another defended post and the Forward Observation Officer reported the shoot as particularly satisfactory.

(h) at 1500, an accurate and successful shoot on a defended area near Augusta.

(i) from 1532 to 1541, direct fire in the Augusta area.

(j) from 1834 to 1843, a successful shoot at a coast defence battery.

(k) at 2006, an effective shoot on Augusta defences in support of a commando landing from H.M.S. ULSTER MONARCH.

H.M.S. TETCOTT, in support of the commando landing from H.M.S. ULSTER MONARCH,

(a) at 1930, engaged and silenced a light high velocity gun on the ridge overlooking Augusta.

(b) at about the same time, effectively bombarded at a range of three cables with 4-inch pom-pom and Oerlikon a cement works near the shore from which machine-gun fire was observed.