

MEDITERRANEAN COMMUNIQUE NO. 59Allied Force Advance Headquarters20.3.44SEA

United States patrol craft operating west of Anzio and in the Ligurian Sea succeeded in sinking two enemy craft.

In an action west of Anzio a P.C. boat engaged an E-boat on patrol.

In the Ligurian Sea 3 P.T. boats encountered a convoy of 2 F lighters and 2 E boats. In the action that followed one of the lighters was torpedoed and sunk. Our forces suffered no casualties or damage in the action.

On March the 18th a British warship carried out a series of successful bombardments in the Anzio Area. In the course of their patrol in the Central Mediterranean French light forces encountered a small enemy convoy, sinking three ships and probably a fourth.

LAND

The enemy has succeeded in reinforcing his strong points in Cassino and has regained one lower hill feature.

Fierce fighting continues in the town and on the hillside below the monastery. Elsewhere on the main Fifth Army front and in the Fifth Army Allied bridgehead sharp local fights occurred but there were no important changes in the front lines.

Eighth Army troops engaged in active patrols clashing with the enemy at several points inflicting casualties and taking prisoners.

AIR

The airfield and adjacent factories and railroads at Klagenfurt, industrial installations at Graz and rail facilities at Knin and Metkovic were attacked yesterday by heavy bombers.

Medium bombers attacked the docks at San Stefano and Porto Ferrajo and rail facilities at Arezzo, Orvieto and Avezzano and at Vamontone and Fabriano. Fighter-bombers supported the ground forces and made shipping sweeps in the Adriatic last night. Medium and heavy bombers attacked the docks at Monfalcone during the day.

Yesterday, 32 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Seventeen of ours are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 1800 sorties. The enemy flew over 100 sorties in the battle area during daylight.

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