

(b) The Eastern group of cruisers had closed to about 8 miles from the battlefleet at 1240 and thereafter probably followed astern of them. When attacked by the second T/B Striking Force at 1520 they were on an Easterly course South of Sardinia and at that time were screened by 4 destroyers. After the attack it seemed probable that one cruiser became detached and may have proceeded to

Cagliari. One ship of this group had been heavily hit aft by 6-inch fire.

(c) When the action ceased the Western group were a considerable distance to the North and West of their own battlefleet and the Eastern group, due to the direction of their retirement. It is probable that they then turned towards Cagliari and rejoined their battlefleet, but their movements are very uncertain.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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