

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	13
The task—The Mediterranean situation in May 1941—Flight to Malta—Size and population—Importance of Gibraltar	
CHAPTER II	23
Review: Headquarters: Aerodromes: dispersal and radar: petrol and other installations—Airmen and aircraft available—Strength of German and Italian Air Forces—Attack on <i>Illustrious</i>	
CHAPTER III	33
Need for dispersal—Achilles—Labour—Fall of Crete—Lessons from Norwegian campaign and Crete—Living quarters—Operations in Iraq and Syria—Importance of our oil—Reinforcement aircraft; fighters; trans-African route	
CHAPTER IV	41
Fighter operations, June and July—"E" boat and one-man submarine attack on Grand Harbour—Night fighter defence—Method of attack on shipping by Blenheims and Swordfish—Shipping operations—"Life and Habits" of Axis shipping—The Marylands—Photographic record—Battle of Supply	
CHAPTER V	56
Attack on Palermo, Tripoli, Lampedusa and Syracuse—Wellington operations—Axis shipping losses, June, July and August—Expansion of aerodromes—Underground accommodation and operations rooms—Air defence operations rooms: offices	
CHAPTER VI	71
Blenheim casualties and operations—Axis shipping losses for September—Wellington attacks on Tripoli—Malta climate—Recreation—Beau-fighter operations to cover convoys—Hurricane operations over Sicily and elsewhere	
CHAPTER VII	83
Axis shipping route along Balkan coast—Coasters, Tripoli to Benghazi—Attacks on the Desert Road—Message from Secretary of State—Inhabitants of the "Ditch"—Archbishop Caruana—Imtarfa Hospital—Attacks on Naples: warning of land battle in Cyrenaica: directif—Axis decision to prepare Malta for capture—Comparison of forces—Napoleon and Hitler	

BRIEFED TO ATTACK

	PAGE
CHAPTER VIII	97
Opening of Axis attack—Change in the weather—Blenheim operations— <i>Aurora</i> and <i>Penelope</i> —Castel Benito—Effect of rain on the aerodromes—Reinforcement aircraft—Opening of land battle in Cyrenaica, 18 November 1941—Wellington operations and maintenance	
CHAPTER IX	108
Axis attacks in December—First of the "battleship" convoys—Capture of Tobruk and Benghazi—Axis attacks in January: the problems on the aerodromes—Second and third "battleship" convoys—Attacks on Axis shipping and aerodromes in Sicily—Arrival of January convoy	
CHAPTER X	121
Rommel's attack at El Agheila, 21 January 1942—Kesselring's attacks on Malta—Fall of Tobruk—Air attacks on Egyptian ports—Convoys and food—Maintenance	
CHAPTER XI	130
Axis attacks in January—Aerodromes and the rain—Attacks on Takali and Luqa—Tonnage of bombs dropped in February—Shortage of airmen—Work on aerodromes—Use of soldiers—Attacks on Axis shipping—Hurricane maintenance, and other types of aircraft—Axis shipping losses, November to February—Attacks on Grand Harbour and Hal Far—Delayed action bombs	
CHAPTER XII	145
Tonnage of bombs dropped in March—Arrival of Spitfires—Maintenance—Attack on Takali—Army help—Pens—Axis fighter tactics—Publicity—Loss of February convoy—The March convoy and its destruction in harbour—Tonnage unloaded—Conclusions	
CHAPTER XIII	161
Tonnage of bombs dropped in April—Area compared with London—Bombing of <i>Penelope</i> and the submarines—Fighter strength—A.A. Defences—Telephones—Jamming of radar—Spoofs and decoys—Morale—Visit of Tedder—Award of George Cross	
CHAPTER XIV	173
Glider airfields in Sicily—Work of the Army on the aerodromes—Reinforcement traffic: problems and figures—Weather forecasting—Effects of the bombing—Arrival of forty-seven Spitfires on 20 April—Conclusions on the April fighting—Organization to receive sixty Spitfires on 9 May—Arrival of <i>Welsbman</i> on 10 May—Air fighting	

BRIEFED TO ATTACK

	PAGE
CHAPTER XV	189
<p>Fighting end of May—Regianne 2001—Night fighter operations— German change in night attacks—Need for convoys: conditions on the Island—Petrol—Starvation and surrender dates—"Vichy" Council —Departure of Ford and Dobbie—Arrival of Gort—Ideas to avoid surrender—Decision to send two convoys—Fighting in early June</p>	
CHAPTER XVI	204
<p>The June convoys—Enemy dispositions—Wellington attacks on naval bases—Requirements for sailing the convoys—Aircraft available— Italian fleet—Beaufort, Albacore and Wellington strikes—Cruisers from Palermo</p>	
CHAPTER XVII	216
<p>Conclusions on June convoys—Airmen available—Petrol available and how used—Axis shipping losses in April and May—Attack on Axis convoys in June—Axis reaction—Investiture.—Bombing in June— Fighting in July—Axis and own problems—Total Axis losses.</p>	