

*Capt Report*

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200

27 SEP 58

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File No.

BB59 / A16

Serial: /007)

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

**SECRET**

November 13, 1942.

*Capt Report*  
*Orin*

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: Commander Task Group 34.1  
(Commander Cruiser Division SEVEN.)

Subject: Report of engagement with JEAN BART, shore batteries, and vessels of the French Fleet on November 8, 1942 off Cassablanca, French Morocco.

Reference: (a) Atlantic Fleet Comf. Circular Letter 701-42.  
(b) Articles 712 and 874, U.S. Navy Regulations 1920.

Enclosures: (A) Chronological Order of Events  
(B) Photostatic reproductions of Track Charts.  
(6 photostats).  
(C) Report of Personnel Losses.  
(D) Casualties and Damage Caused by Own Gunfire.  
(E) Damage Inflicted by Enemy Gunfire.  
(F) Damage Estimated to have been Inflicted on the Enemy.  
(G) Conduct of Personnel.  
(H) Recommendations and Lessons Learned During Operations.  
(I) Executive Officer's Notes.  
(J) Medical Department Preparation Report.  
(K) General Remarks.

1. The enclosures are submitted from a compilation of the best information available in the MASSACHUSETTS. Wherever they do not agree an attempt has been made to reconcile them through conference held between officers and men of the ship who were in a position to see.

2. It is the consensus of opinion on this ship that the JEAN BART only fired five or six salvos during the engagement. In all probability she was receiving electrical power from ashore and fairly early in the engagement the power was cut by shell fire from this vessel. We know she was hit at least once as the aviator observed it. Before we commenced firing on her she put up a smoke screen probably generated from the deck and kept it over her throughout the day so that all fire was indirect and spotting from aircraft was difficult.

3. Toward the end of the first run I was informed that El Hank had not replied for a period of four or five minutes and the consensus appeared to be that El Hank was out of commission. This later proved totally in error. El Hank also was covered by a large dust cloud or used a smoke screen. We believe that shells from this force probably temporarily disabled El Hank causing the crew of the battery to seek shelter. After we had ceased firing they

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repaired whatever damage took place and through the remainder of the day continued to fire spasmodically whenever we were in range.

4. This vessel ceased firing with 16" shells at JEAN BART and El Hank when the total number remaining was approximately 40%. Later we engaged enemy cruisers and destroyers and used up another 5%.

5. The final 7 rounds fired at El Hank from a range of about 33,000 yards were fired in order to unload the guns through the muzzle. This salvo apparently caused a large explosion and it is possible that it destroyed one of the ammunition dumps.

6. In the future if it is intended for men of war to bombard land fortifications the ships so doing must be equipped with bombardment ammunition as armor piercing shells as presently do not accomplish extensive damage unless they make a direct hit.

7. I personally do not believe we will ever know (unless the French tell us) just which ships sank vessels of the French Navy. They were under fire from the AUGUSTA, BERGHEIM, at the same time as MASSACHUSETTS, WICHITA and ESCALONIA were engaging them. On only one occasion did I observe a salvo from this vessel land directly on a ship. When the smoke and splash had cleared away that ship was no longer present. At the time I remember being quite annoyed at the gunnery officer because he could not find the target to continue firing.

8. I am submitting a letter of recommendation for letters of commendation by separate correspondence.

9. The MASSACHUSETTS completed her shakedown cruise with a big "bang bang".

10. Copies of enclosures (I), (K), and (L) are being forwarded direct to ALABAMA, INDIANA, SOUTH CAROLINA, WASHINGTON, MARY CAROLINA, and Commander Battleship Division SIX.

F. E. M. WHITING.

note: there are no pages 3-5

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U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS OF THE BATTLE OF CASABLANCA

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
0545	COMMENCED PHASE I. Went to General Quarters.	Steaming on course 245°(T) at a speed of 15 knots.
0550	Ammunition up. Order "Set Material Condition "ZED" ". Radio silence broken.	
0555	All battle stations manned and ready for battle and condition "ZED" set.	
0605	Changed speed and standard speed to 20 knots.	
0618	Catapulted one plane to port.	
0620	Catapulted one plane to starboard.	
0628	Order "We will fire in a few minutes."	
0630	Hoisted Battle Flags.	
0634	Blanketed gasoline tanks and paint locker with CO <sub>2</sub> as a safety precaution.	
0635	Changed course to 180°(T).	
0640	Changed course to 090°(T).	
0641	Changed speed to 24 knots.	
0642	Order from Task Force Commander, "Play Ball". (Commence Attack.)	
0648	Changed speed to 20 knots.	
0650	From plane: "Two submarines standing out of harbor". (Casablanca).	
0651	From plane: "There is an antiaircraft battery opening up on me from beach. One burst came within 12 feet. Batter up!"	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
0652	Changed course to 105°(T). From plane: "Cannot get in close enough for good spotting but can spot the first salvo".	
0653	From plane. (Dougherty). "Have encountered hostile aircraft".	
0655	From plane. (Deerflinger). "Have encountered hostile aircraft. They are coming in over you. Stand by!"	
0659	From plane. (Deerflinger). "Am coming in on starboard bow with couple hostile aircraft on my tail. Pick them off - I am the one in front".	
0700	Changed course to 155°(T).	
0702	Changed course to 090°(T). Commenced firing on hostile aircraft.	Target - two fighter planes following own plane (Deerflinger). Altitude very low. Range about 6,000 yards. Course - various in general direction of ship. Mounts 1 and 3 on Director 1 firing in automatic control fired a total of 35 shots. Target turned away. Ceased firing.
0703	JEAN BART and shore batteries on El Hank Point were observed to have opened fire on us.	Three salvos from enemy guns (JEAN BART and El Hank) landed close to this ship, Flagship of Commander Task Group 34.1.
0704	Changed course to 050°(T). Received from Commander Task Group 34.1 order, "Play Ball". Commenced firing on JEAN BART.	Target - JEAN BART. Director fire, indirect following stable vertical and range keeper using a basic bearing that had been obtained on El Hank lighthouse. Fire nine salvos of from six to nine shots, each. Plane spot was used when fall of shot was observed. Enemy smoke screens and haze obscured the target. At least one hit on target and two on Mole du Commerce were reported during this period. Radars were inoperative during these salvos. No ranges were obtained. At "commence firing" the navigational range to JEAN BART was 24,400 yards -

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
		on bearing 131.5°(T). The navigational range to El Hank was 29,200 yards on bearing 139.7°(T). The range to BART decreased to 23,200 yards at 0711 and then increased to 29,600 yards at 0710.
0706	Changed speed to 24 knots.	
0707	Changed course to 060°(T).	
0710	Changed course to 080°(T).	Shot was observed to fall close aboard to starboard. The splashes were white, red, purple, yellow and green. The white were small while the yellow and green were very large.
0711	Changed course to 060°(T).	
0713	Shot was observed to fall close aboard to port.	
0714	Changed course to 050°(T) and speed to 27 knots.	
0717	Divided fire of main battery. Checked fire with Turret 3.	Continued firing on JEAN BART with Turrets 1 and 2. Fired thirteen salvos of from three to six shots each. At this point the navigation range was 23,700 yards. The bearing was 155°(T).
0720	Commenced firing with Turret 3 on the shore batteries on El Hank Point.	Target - four shore batteries on El Hank Point, director fire. Fired five salvos of from one to three guns each. Plane spot was used when fall of shot was observed. These batteries were temporarily silenced. The navigational range to El Hank was 22,900 yards on bearing 173°(T). The range then increased to 39,400 yards at 0740.
0721	Commenced firing on hostile aircraft.	Target - one fighter plane following cruiser plane. Altitude about 1500 feet. Range about 5,000 yards. Course - various on WICHITA'S port quarter. Mounts 8 and 10 on director 4 firing in automatic control fired a total of 4 shots. Target turned away. Ceased firing.
0729	Changed course to 070°(T).	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
0803 (Cont'd)	on both bows during this period. Opened fire again with Turret 3 on the shore batteries on El Hank Pt.	Target - shore batteries on El Hank Point. Director fire. Fired eleven salvos of from one to three shots each. Plane spot was used when fall of shot was observed. The navigational range was 24,000 yards on bearing 190.5°(T). The range increased to 28,900 yards at 0818 and then decreased to 27,400 yards at 0831.
<b>SECRET</b>		
0805	Sighted U.S. submarine that was acting in conjunction with this Task Group.	
0811	From plane: "BART is firing secondary battery".	
0814	Changed course to 270°(T).	
0816	Changed course to 250°(T).	
0817	Two enemy submarines leaving the harbor.	
0819	Changed course to 230°(T).	
0825	Changed course to 210°(T).	
0828	Fall of shot observed close aboard on port bow. Concentrated fire of all turrets on El Hank.	Fired 3 salvos of from six to nine shots each with all turrets. The navigational range was 27,600 yards on a bearing of 141°(T).
	Plane reports that enemy are blowing up ammunition dumps, inland.	
0829	Changed course to 250°(T).	
0830	Fall of shot observed close aboard on port bow and beam.	
0832	Changed course to 340°(T).	
0833	Ceased firing. END OF PHASE I.	The navigational range to El Hank was 27,600 yards on a bearing of 134°(T).



<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
0835	Commander Covering Group sent to Comtaskfor 34 the following: "Have ceased firing in order to clear situation in case French resistance ceases. El Hank still firing".	
0840	Changed speed to 20 knots.	
0845	Changed speed to 25 knots.	
0855	COMMENCED PHASE II-A Changed course to 106°(T) to proceed to the assistance of AUGUSTA and transports who were being threatened by enemy cruisers near Fedala. Colors reported to have been pierced by enemy shell (Commissioning Flag).	
0859	Changed course to 110°(T) and speed to 27 knots.	
0914	Received orders from Commander Task Force to destroy enemy cruisers between Casablanca and Fedala.	
0916	Observed on bearing 140°(T) three French cruisers that were firing.	
0918	Commenced firing on enemy ships.	Targets - six enemy ships, DLs and DDs. Visibility reduced by haze and smoke. Fired thirty-five salvos of from three to nine shots each. At "commence firing" navigational range was 19,400 yards on a bearing of 147°(T). The range decreased to 11,500 yards, at 0935 and then increased to about 30,000 at 1016.
0921	Enemy ships returned our fire.	The six enemy ships were divided into two divisions of three ships each. They were steaming on a northeasterly course away from Casablanca. At that time we were about 14 miles bearing 349°(T) from Casablanca. The enemy were about six miles from Casablanca. They turned to starboard and began a series of evasive tactics by making many large changes of course and speed. Each time a ship emerged from the -

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
0921 (Cont'd)		Smoke she was immediately taken under fire. It is believed that at least one ship was sunk and two were badly damaged during this phase. Their shots fell from 1000 yards short to 50 yards over.
	<b>SECRET</b>	
0923	Observed first hit on enemy ship.	
0924	Changed course to 128°(T).	
0925	Enemy shells were falling short. Changed course to 138°(T).	
0933	Changed course to 100°(T).	
0935	Changed course to 280°(T), because of restricted waters.	
0940	Changed course to 270°(T).	
0943	Enemy shells were falling within fifty yards of the ship on both sides.	
0945	Changed course to 285°(T). Shell fragments were falling close aboard.	
0951	Lost all targets in smoke. Changed course to 260°(T). Fall of enemy shells becoming heavy.	
0953	Opened fire on another target.	
0959	Changed course to 250°(T).	
1000	Received one hit on main deck at frame 48, three feet inboard of sheer strake.	Shell exploded when it hit second deck and damaged compartment A-208-L. Flanking on main deck caught fire and was quickly extinguished by a damage control party.
1002	One enemy ship was observed to be sinking.	
1003	Sighted four torpedo wakes on port bow.	Ship was maneuvered to avoid the torpedoes by passing between No. 3 and 4 in the spread counting from the left. No. 4 passed about 15 feet from the starboard side. Torpedoes were running very shallow and were apparently near the end of -



<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1003 (Cont'd)		- Their run. Believe that submarine fired torpedoes from a range of between 4,000 and 5,000 yards. Appropriate emergency signals were made to cruisers astern.
1004	Changed course to 230°(T).	
1009	Came to course 240°(T) after avoiding torpedoes.	
1011	Observed enemy ship and submarine on port quarter.	
1016	Observed enemy ship on which we had been firing burning from stem to stern. Broke off action. END OF PHASE II-A.	
1018	Changed course to 090°(T).	
1021	Observed fire in our direction from El Hank Point and from enemy ships. Sighted torpedo wake to port.	The torpedo was apparently fired by the submarine sighted at 1011. It passed clear to port by about 100 yards.
1022	Changed course to 060°(T). Proceeding to engage PRIMAGUET and 2 DLs who left Casablanca Harbor to join DDs remaining from previous engagement which had been broken off at 1016.	
1030	COMMENCED PHASE II-B. Opened fire with main battery on enemy ships. Same ships were engaged at about this time by BROOKLYN and AUGUSTA which were to northeastward. Enemy ships were thus placed in cross-fire between the MASSACHUSETTS, BROOKLYN and AUGUSTA.	Targets - 1 GL, and 4 or 5 DLs or DDs. Director fire collective. Range at "commence firing" was 30,000 yards on bearing 086°(T). Ranges decreased to 22,000 yards at 1105. Twenty-three six to nine gun salvos were fired.
1035	Main battery went to rapid fire.	Engaged DD of L'ALCYON class at about this time. Ceased firing on this ship when 4 hits with two burst on stern were observed and ship had listed over to beam ends with stern awash. Also, large cruiser came into view at that instant.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARK</u>
1038	Changed course to 240°(T).	
1040	Changed course to 200°(T).	
1045	Changed course to 160°(T).	
1046	Enemy retired to eastward.	
1049	Changed course to 050°(T).	
1050	Shell splashes were observed moving closer to the bow.	
1052	Changed course to 030°(T). Shells hitting about 25 yards of starboard beam.	
1057	Received hit on starboard quarter at frame 85. Shell ricocheted from deck and burst over 20 MM group 13	Small fire caused by burst brought immediately under control by Damage Control Repair party. No personnel casualties were sustained as personnel at group 13 had previously been shifted to unengaged side.
1100	A direct hit was observed on an enemy DD. Another destroyer emerged from smoke, range approximately 13,000 yards, target angle 45°, bearing 100°(relative).	
1101	Starboard 5" battery opened fire using secondary battery director 1.	Target DD. Fired with mounts 1,3,5, 7, and 9 on Secondary battery director No. 1 in automatic. Expended 105 rounds.
1103	Ceased firing with the Secondary Battery Director No. 1.	
1104	Reported to Comtaskgroup 34.1 that we had expended 59.2% of our 16" ammunition and had 53 rounds per gun remaining of which there was immediately available to Turret 1, 114 rounds, Turret 2, 138 rounds, and Turret 3, 129 rounds. The rest of the ammunition was in the reserve stowage in Turret 2 and would require some time for distribution. A later recheck showed that we had two more rounds than was first reported.	

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARK</u>
1105	Opened fire with starboard 5" battery using Secondary Battery Director No. 3. Changed course to 340°(T), withdrew to recover plane and to conserve ammunition.	Expended 77 rounds. Target reversed course and withdrew from the action.  Plane (Doerflinger) was out of gas and had landed to await recovery. Other plane (Dougherty) could not be located.
1106	Ceased firing. END OF PHASE II-B.	
1108	Changed speed to 20 knots.	
1110	Changed speed to 15 knots. Changed course to 160°(T). Commenced maneuvering to recover plane. Nuncator reading for fuel oil tank B-32 F reported to indicate gain of fuel oil in this space and possibility of rupture.	
1130	Recovered plane (Lt. Doerflinger).	
1132	Changed course to 250°(T) and speed to 20 knots.	
1140	Changed course to 220°(T).	
1147	Changed course to 270°(T).	
1155	Piped crew to dinner by watches.	
1225	De-gaussing cable reported ruptured by previous hit on port bow.	Damage Control Repair Party undertook repairs which were satisfactorily completed within one hour.
1239	Changed course to 160°(T).	
1245	Commander Covering Group sent following despatch to Commander Task Force 34: "Flagship has 53 16" projectiles and charges per gun remaining while WICHITA and TUSCALOOSA have 20% of their allowance main armament remaining. Shall I retain 16" for probable sortie of RICHELIEU or reduce El Hank".	
1301	Changed course to 080°(T).	

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1310	COMMENCED PHASE III-A. Sounded General Quarters. Changed speed to 27 knots.	<b>SECRET</b>
1336	Catapulted one plane, port catapult. Pilot Ensign J.A. Cotton, U.S.N.R.	
1340	Commenced firing on enemy ship with main battery.	Target - DD. Fired two salvos. Second one was close miss ahead. Range for both salvos was 22,000 yards on a bearing of 136°(T).
1341	Batteries on Point El Hank opened fire.	
1345	Changed course to 040°(T). Commenced firing on El Hank.	Fired all turrets director fire collective. Fired 7 nine gun salvos. Three of these salvos were observed to fall on the target (Point El Hank), three near the target, and one short. Range to El Hank 19,000 yards, bearing 171°(T). The range increased to 23,300 yards.
1346	Shots from El Hank reported falling close aboard.	
1350	Plane dropped smoke bomb and MAYRANT reported submarine contact.	
1351	Ceased firing on Point El Hank. END OF PHASE III-A.	
1353	Conn gave orders to search for other targets.	
1405	Enemy ship observed on fire was beached in the harbor.	
1408	Reduced speed to 20 knots.	
1415	Changed course to 300°(T).	
1423	Comtaskgroup 34.1 received from Comtaskfor 34 the following: "Your 1245 retain for possible sortie of RICHELIEU".	
1425	Changed course to 260°(T).	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARK</u>
1426	Continued feeding the crew by watches.	
1505	Plane (Ensign Cotton) reconnoitered harbor, reported JEAN BART moored in original position, no serious damage visible on topside. Three enemy ships just outside harbor. One of these, a DD, is on fire. No visible activity on Point El Hank.	SECRET
1510	Changed course to 350°(T).	
1515	COMMENCED PHASE III-B. Sounded General Quarters.	
1520	Changed course to 260°(T).	
1522	Condition "ZED" set throughout the ship.	
1524	Changed course to 170°(T).	
1525	Two enemy submarines surfaced off Point El Hank. One of these headed for Harbor entrance (Casablanca).	
1533	Both submarines submerged after attack by aircraft.	
1542	Plane (Ensign Cotton) reported one enemy DD standing out of Harbor.	
1553	Changed course to 080°(T).	
1558	Opened fire on Point El Hank batteries. Fired one gun ranging salvo from Turret II followed by a six gun salvo from Turrets 1 and 3. This latter salvo hit and exploded a quantity of military stores, probably an ammunition dump. Range to El Hank 30,300 yards on bearing 140.5°(T). These shots were fired to unlead loaded guns through the muzzle.	
1601	Changed course to 070°(T). Ceased firing.	
1605	Changed course to 040°(T). Secured from material condition "ZED". Secured from General Quarters. Recalled plane.	

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1617	Changed course to 280°(T).	
1618	Changed speed to 15 knots.	
1625	Hoisted in plane number 5805.	

**SECRET**

END OF PHASE III-B AND BATTLE  
OF CASABLANCA

Upon completion of the Battle we had expended 786 rounds of 16"/45 cal. in 134 salvos for an average of 5.86 guns per salvo. This includes 17 salvos limited to three guns because of divided fire which can only be considered as an excellent performance in every respect. At the end of the engagement every gun on the ship was in service and ready to fire. At the end of the Battle Turret 1 had 84 rounds, Turret 2, 110 rounds available and 94 rounds in reserve, Turret 3, 99 rounds. The reserve ammunition was distributed to the three turrets in amounts to equalize their supply. The distribution required slightly in excess of 14 hours which is entirely too long for a condition of continuous engagement. The problem of ammunition distribution during battle should be given serious consideration for future ship design.



File No.  
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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

- 0651 - Plane bearing 085° position angle 25.
  - Plane reports that he cannot get in close enough for good spotting but can spot the first salvo.
- 0652 - Hostile planes encountered by ship's plane.
  - Shore batteries opened fire.
- 0655 - Aircraft are approaching ship.
- 0700 - Opened fire on hostile planes.
  - Come to course 155°. "Play ball" on all enemy planes.
- 0701 - From Comtaskfor 34.1 "To this force 'Batter up'".
- 0703 - Coming to course 090°.
  - Commence firing.
- 0704 - Plane down dead ahead.
- 0705 - JEAN BART has opened fire.
  - Changed speed to 24 knots.
- 0706 - "AA" Battery opened fire to starboard.
- 0708 - Coming right to 055°.
- 0709 - Steady on 055°.
- 0710 - Changing course to 060°.
- 0711 - Coming to 080°.
- 0712 - Changed course to 060°.
- 0713 - Change speed to 27 knots.
- 0715 - Range 23,350 on JEAN BART.
  - Splash to starboard.
- 0716 - No change from plane looks very good.
  - Torpedo planes approaching from the eastward.
- 0718 - Opening fire on Point 31 Bank.
  - Eight planes on the port bow.
- 0720 - Plane sighted broad on the port bow.
  - Enemy planes on the port bow.
  - "Down 100 on JEAN BART".
- 0721 - From Force Commander to Covering Group "Play Ball."
  - Left 200 no change on JEAN BART.
  - Four Destroyers on starboard bow.
  - Bomber coming in from 095°, 18,100 yards.
  - 5 ships bearing 113° T, 16,000 yards range.
  - 28,500 range on JEAN BART.
- 0725 - Coming right to course 070°.
- 0728 - Seven ships bearing 275°.
- 0730 - Changed course to 090°. Spot: up 100 left 15.
  - 1 transport and 1 destroyer bearing 345°.
- 0732 - Aircraft coming in on port bow.
- 0735 - Range on JEAN BART 29,000 yards.
  - Ship on the horizon bearing 315°.
- 0736 - Plane bearing 310°.

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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

I - Executive Officer's Notes:

Notes taken in Battle XI by personnel detailed for that purpose. During this action the Executive Officer was stationed on the "catwalk" as Officer-of-the-Deck. These notes were taken entirely from telephones, and times may not be accurate.

- 0545 - Went to General quarters.
- 0550 - Radio silence broken.
- 0552 - Main battery manned and ready.
- 0558 - Radar reported submarine contact 1500 yards astern.
- 0600 - All departments manned and ready for general quarters. Making 45 turns standard speed course 244°.
- 0601 - Went to 20 knots.
- 0605 - Condition "Zed" set throughout the ship.
- 0609 - U.S.S. MIKE opened fire on Fycels Point.
- 0610 - Sighted black smoke bearing 300°. Preparing to launch aircraft.
- 0611 - 2 planes catapulted from the U.S.S. TUSCALOOSA.
- 0612 - Sighted 2 white lights bearing 260° blinking.
- 0613 - Sighted plane bearing 210° no lights showing, passed into black cloud.
- 0615 - Plane sighted bearing 215°.
- 0616 - Catapulted 1 plane to port.
- 0618 - Catapulted 1 plane to starboard.
- 0622 - 2 red flares in the air astern. Fighter planes bearing 215° in squadron formation.
- 0623 - Star shell fired off the port quarter.
- 0624 - Standby to open fire.
- 0626 - Plane bearing 352° true.
- 0632 - Plane bearing 170° true.
- 0634 - Changed course to 180°.
- 0639 - Went to 24 knots, 150 turns.
- 0641 - Changed course to 090°.
- 0642 - From Combatgroup 34.11 "Play ball".
- 0645 - Small boat on horizon bearing 005°. Plane bearing 128° elevation 2. Play ball commence center attack only.
- 0646 - Slow down to 20 knots.
- 0647 - Small boat dead ahead. From the plane "None of our objectives are firing as yet".
- 0648 - Plane bearing 203°.
- 0650 - A ship identified as a submarine is leaving the harbor. Small ship on the horizon bearing 030° appears to be a fishing boat. Have opened fire on planes. Change course to 105°.

ENCLOSURE "I" (1)

**SECRET**

## U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

File No.

BB59/

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- Shore batteries opened fire.
- 0655 - Aircraft are approaching ship.
- 0700 - Opened fire on hostile planes.
- Come to course 155°. "Play ball" on all enemy planes.
- 0701 - From Comtaskfor 34.1 "To this force 'Batter up'".
- 0703 - Coming to course 090°.
- Commence firing.
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- 0709 - Steady on 055°.
- 0710 - Changing course to 060°.
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- 0732 - Aircraft coming in on port bow.
- 0735 - Range on JEAN BART 29,000 yards.
- Ship on the horizon bearing 115°.
- 0736 - Plane bearing 110°.

ENC. I (2)

File No.  
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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

- 0740 - Ceased firing on the main battery.  
Spot "no change, no change."
- 0741 - Coming back to course 390°.  
Landing barge on port bow.
- 0744 - Come to course 270°, slow to 20 knots.
- 0745 - From plane, "it appears they are blowing up the jetty".  
Four landing barges on the port quarter.  
Control will control firing to port.
- 0746 - Aircraft on the port bow and port beam.
- 0747 - Commenced firing to port at JEAN BART.
- 0748 - 713 plane is destroyed.
- 0750 - Spot: "up 200, no change".
- 0751 - Right 100 up 100.
- 0752 - Army has captured one sector. Plane reports that he cannot observe.
- 0753 - WICHITA sheered to starboard. Spot: "right 150, down 100".
- 0754 - 2 motored bomber bearing 285° position angle 3.
- 0755 - Spot: "short 500, right 200".
- 0800 - Spot: "right 200, down 100".  
FUSCALOUSA TBS out, can receive cannot acknowledge.  
Spot: "down, 200, right 200" from plane.  
Speed 24 knots, execute.
- 0801 - FUSCALOUSA maintaining watch on TBS will "R" by light.
- 0802 - Coming to course 300°.  
Up 500, no change.
- 0803 - Up 500.  
Down 100, left 100.
- 0805 - Down 50, we scored a hit on the stern of the JEAN BART.
- 0806 - Left 100 on RI bank.  
WICHITA has reversed course.
- 0807 - No change.  
Coming left to 280°.
- 0810 - TBS went out.  
right 100, no change.  
speed 23.6 knots.
- 0811 - Down 100, no change.  
McFARLEY sighted a friendly sub bearing 300 from them.  
JEAN BART is firing secondary battery.  
Down 200° on RI bank.  
Up 300 on JEAN BART.
- 0812 - Coming left to 270°. Ship on the horizon appears to be a submarine.  
Right 100, no change.
- 0813 - Steady on 270°.
- 0814 - Sub is signalling to us.

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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

- 0815 - No observation.  
El Hank is not firing.  
Coming left to 250°.  
Submarine appears to be friendly, D-2 class.  
2 enemy submarine leaving the harbor.  
Right 100 down 100.
- 0817 - El Hank resumed fire, coming to 230°.
- 0818 - Right 200 on the JEAN BART.
- 0820 - 21,000 range 4 miles ahead.  
Ships leaving Casa Blanca under cover of smoke screen.
- 0821 - Coming to course 210°, right 200 down 200.  
Range 29,700 on the JEAN BART.
- 0824 - What appears to be a transport bears 295°.
- 0825 - Coming right to 250°.
- 0826 - Plane reports that enemy are blowing up ammunition dumps.
- 0830 - Down 500, right 200.  
The Admiral has received word from the beach that the army is receiving no resistance and that the navy is killing the townspeople.  
Down 500, right 100 on El Hank.
- 0832 - Ceased firing.
- 0834 - Coming right to 340°. "AA" battery on beach still active, uncertain as to from what point.
- 0835 - "AA" battery on El Hank opened fire on plane.
- 0839 - 68 rounds expended from "AA" battery.  
All "AA" battery is in commission.
- 0850 - USS LUDLOW hit twice.  
Increased speed to 25 knots.  
Transport attacked by French Cruiser.  
Coming to course 095°.
- 0852 - Going after enemy cruiser that attacked transport. Aircraft carrier bearing 310° believed to be the USS BANGOR.
- 0855 - We are going to the assistance of the USS BANGOR.  
Speed 27 is in the air, steady on 104.
- 0900 - Making 27 knots.
- 0905 - Requested bearing on enemy cruisers from Fidela, am coming full speed.
- 0910 - Plane can not get close enough to El Hank to determine damage done.  
From CVF 34 destroy cruiser between Casa Blanca and Fidela and report when contact is made.
- 0915 - Ship on starboard beam.  
3 enemy destroyers bearing 160 from the MAYRANT.



22A

Memorandum  
was Bd

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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

- 0916 - From the plane - planes on the starboard bow are firing at us.
  - Opened fire on enemy cruiser.
- 0918 - Four cruisers running down the coast.
- 0920 - Coming to course 135.
  - Scored one hit on enemy cruiser.
  - Range 20,250 on cruiser.
- 0927 - Deacon 8 reported 3 French destroyers bearing 312.
- 0928 - Down 300 right 200. El Hank bears 162T.
- 0930 - Enemy cruisers are turning to the left.
  - P.D. Radar equipment out of commission.
- 0931 - Coming to course 100.
- 0932 - Steady on 112.
- 0933 - Coming left to 090.
- 0935 - Steering casualty.
- 0935 - BROOKLYN ordered to return and cover the transports.
  - Steady on 280 shifting battery to port. Steering casualty restored, conn has control. Ceased firing.
- 0936 - Range to enemy cruisers 19,100 yards.
- 0939 - Commenced firing on cruisers on the port bow.
- 0940 - Coming left to 270, steady on 270.
- 0941 - Turret III temporarily out of commission.
  - No change on leading cruiser.
  - New course 285.
- 0942 - Range on cruisers 15,250.
  - Up 200 on leading cruiser.
  - Steady on 285.
- 0945 - We have hit two cruisers.
  - Range 16,500 yards, no change.
  - Range decreased to 15,500.
- 0947 - Ten planes off the port bow.
- 0948 - Shallow wake on starboard bow distance 5000 yards.
  - Range 16,800.
  - Coming to course 270.
- 0950 - Plane on the starboard beam all submerged except the wings.
  - recommenced fire, range 22,050.
- 0951 - Down 500.
- 0952 - Range 20,300. Ship on the horizon bearing 335° appears to be a destroyer.
  - Leading enemy cruiser is turning left approximately 100th.
- 0956 - 260 course, range 21,400.
- Destroyer bearing 360 heading this way, unidentified.
- 0957 - Range 21,250, check fire.

ENC. I (5)



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**SECRET**

U. S. S. MASSACHUSETTS

- 0958 - Down 300 leading cruiser has a bad hit astern.
  - Coming left to 250°.
  - Target bears 261° relative.
- 0959 - Recommended fire. Down 500.
- 1000 - Enemy shell hit opposite #2 turret on the port side.
- 1002 - One enemy cruiser is sinking bearing 242°.
- 1003 - Come left to 230°, enemy bears 230°. Check fire.
- 1004 - USS TUSCALOOSA just sunk enemy destroyer.
  - Wake in water bearing 315°.
- 1005 - Three torpedoes coming on port bow.
  - Three torpedoes missed by very narrow margin.
- 1009 - Opened fire.
- 1010 - Up 200, enemy cruiser dead in the water 1000 yards North, of Jetty, appears to be on fire.
- 1011 - Submarine on the port bow bearing 205° unidentified.
  - No change.
  - Enemy cruiser turned right dead slow and headed for the harbor.
- 1012 - Ship bearing 305° relative is firing.
- 1012 - No change.
- 1013 - Merchant ship bearing 310°, small craft bearing 308°.
- 1014 - Cruiser is changing course to left speed 3 knots.
- 1014 - Up 300.
- 1015 - 25,300 range.
- 1016 - Small fire from shell hit forward put out.
- 1016 - BROOKLYN and AUGUSTA engaging enemy cruisers.
  - One enemy cruiser burning from bow to stern.
- 1017 - WICHITA reports 2 cruisers about 1 1/2 miles out of harbor do not seem to be stopped.
  - Check fire all turrets are loaded.
- 1020 - Come to 060°. Torpedo wake off our port bow.
  - 4 cruisers and 4 destroyers at the entrance to the harbor -
  - 2 cruisers are badly afire. Ships are firing AA fire.
  - Plane in water bearing 320°.
  - We have expended 64 1/2 rounds of 16" ammunition per gun.
- 1021 - Destroyer under heavy black cloud of smoke appears to be damaged.
- 1026 - Course 060° speed 27.
- 1028 - 22,000 yards from target ready to open fire.
  - Commenced firing on cruisers bearing 45.
- 1028 - Merchantman bearing 142°.
- 1029 - Enemy DD leader bearing 059°.
- 1030 - Coming left to 030°.
- 1031 - Range 19,800.
- 1035 - Two ships 50° and 35° appear to be firing at us. Ship bearing 095° firing on us.