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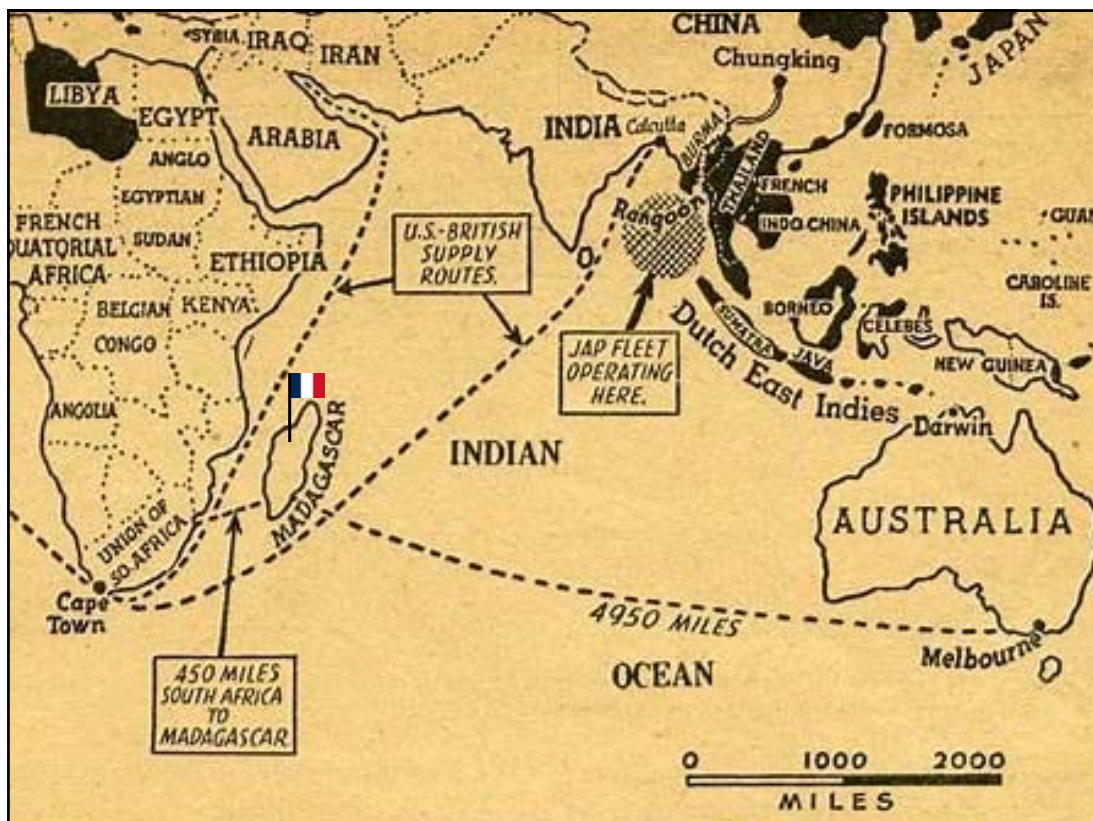
2

MADAGASCAR

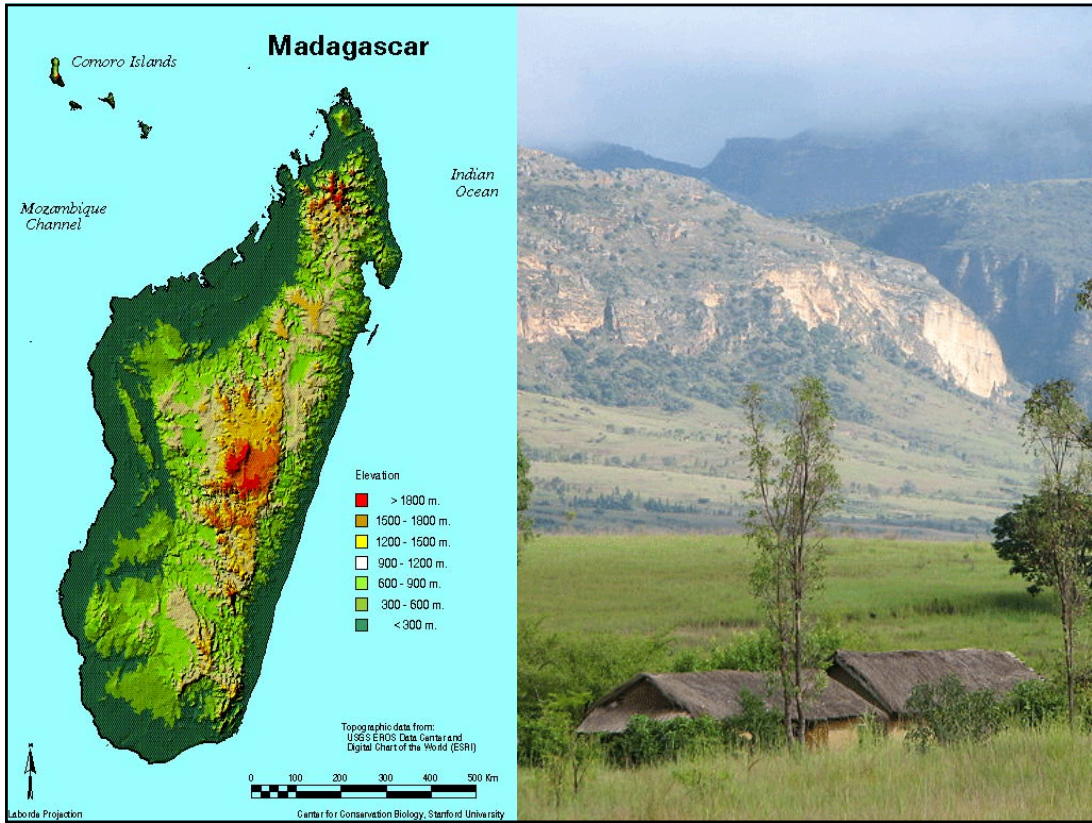
- Throughout the early years of the Second World War, the British would be forced into violent confrontations with the Vichy French. These included the successful attack on the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir in Algeria during Operation Catapult in 1940 and, in the same year, at Dakar in Senegal during the debacle that was Operation Menace.
- British and French troops would come to blows again in 1942 during Operations **Ironclad** and **Steam Line Jane**, codenames given for the seizure of Madagascar, the largest Allied combined land, sea and air operation of the war up until that point.



3



4



5



6

Colonie de Madagascar et dépendances

- In 1942 the nation island of Madagascar was under the control of Philippe Pétain's Régime de Vichy. Pétain, however, was little more than a puppet of Adolf Hitler, and this greatly worried the Allies.



Pétain meets Hitler at Montoire on 24 October 1940

7

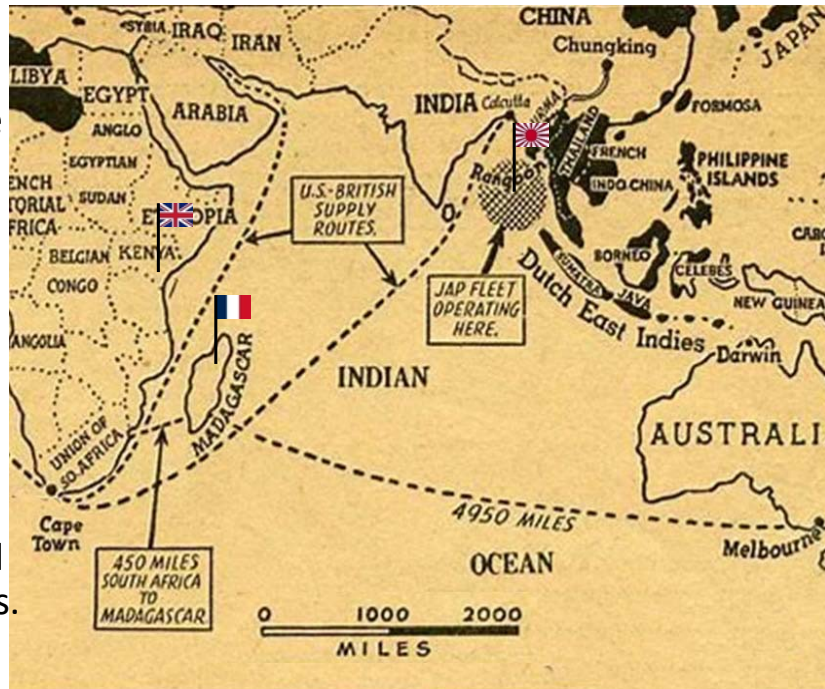
- Vichy France gave permission to Japan to enter French Indo-China, from where Japan had conquered much of Southeast Asia by early 1942. Japanese submarines prowled northern and eastern areas of the Indian Ocean. In March the Japanese conducted carrier borne raids on shipping in the Bay of Bengal and Allied bases at Ceylon.

Akagi, Sōryū, Hiryū, Hiei, Kirishima, Haruna, Kongō, and Zuikaku, 30 March.



8

- The Royal Navy ordered its Eastern Fleet to withdraw to an alternative base in Kenya.
- The Allies worried that the Japanese would establish forward operating bases in Madagascar, threatening the Eastern Fleet as well as vital Allied supply routes.



9

- In November 1941, the Allies had discussed the possibility of Madagascar becoming a Japanese base. The only realistic option seemed to be to invade it before the Japanese did.

General de Gaulle had urged a Free French operation against Madagascar as early as December 16, 1941, after the entry of Japan into the war. He wrote again to me on February 19, 1942, pressing for a decision, and also submitted a plan to our Chiefs of Staff for a Free French expedition in co-operation with British air and naval support. I had always been favourable to the idea of installing the de Gaullists in Madagascar.

Winston Churchill



10

However...

- Churchill did not want de Gaulle's Free French troops involved in a joint operation with British forces following the debacle at Dakar in 1940. In March 1942 Churchill wrote:

I agree that Madagascar must still have a low priority. Whatever happens, we must not have a mixed expedition. Either it must be Free French only, once they have been put ashore, or British Empire only.

- Nevertheless, Churchill soon agreed for a British Empire invasion of Madagascar to go ahead:

In the end the threat which was developing in the Bay of Bengal and the peril to Ceylon resolved us to secure the control of the invaluable harbour of Diego Suarez. The rest of the enormous island was of less strategic importance, but to let the Japanese establish a submarine flotilla working from Madagascar would be a disaster.

11

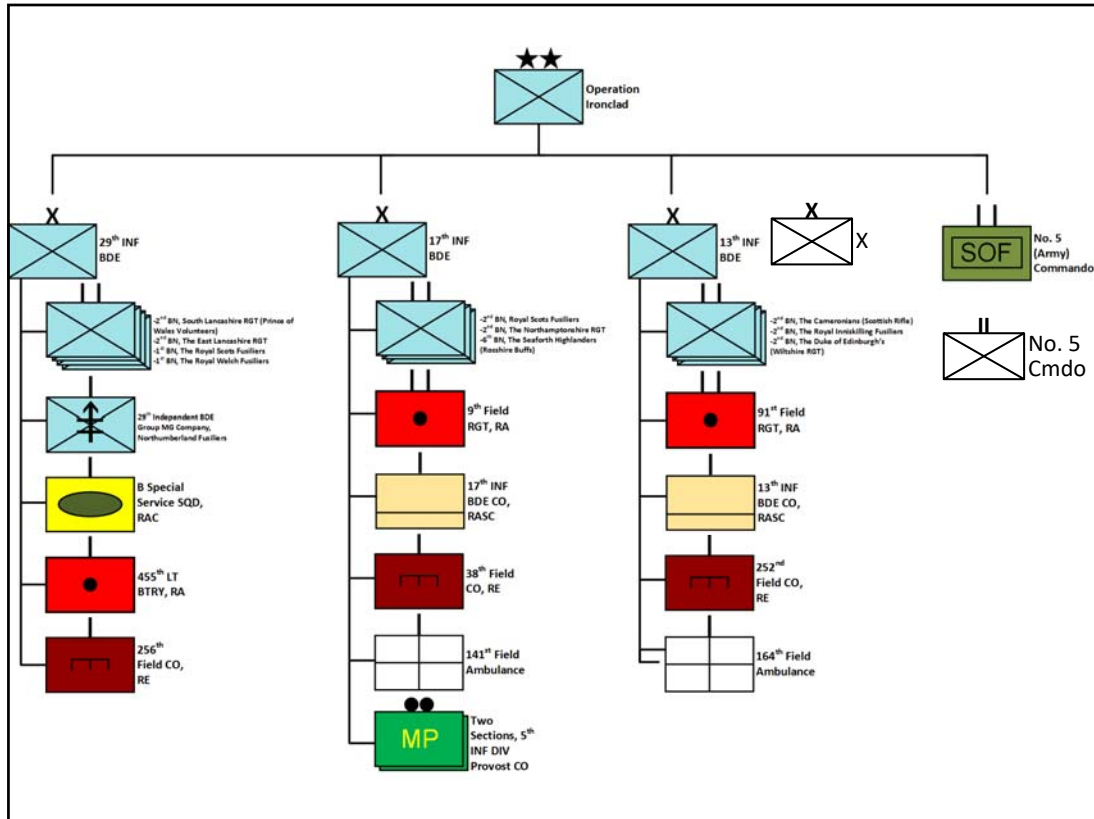
- **Force 121** was established on 14 March 1942 under Major-General Robert Sturgess, Royal Marines. Rear-Admiral Edward Syfret would command **Naval Force H** in support.



MG Robert Sturgess
Royal Marines

- Force 121 departed from the Clyde in Scotland on 23 March for Freetown in Sierra Leone, where it was joined by the ships under Syfret's command. From here the force sailed to Durban in South Africa, where the 13th Brigade of the 5th Division joined.
- Sturges now had three infantry brigades under his command, while Syfret's Naval Force H had the battleship Ramillies, the aircraft carriers Illustrious and Indomitable, the cruisers Hermione and Devonshire, eleven destroyers, six minesweepers and six corvettes.

12



13

Operation Ironclad conference on board HMS Ramillies at Madagascar.



Left to right:
 Brigadier T W Festing;
 Rear Admiral Syfret;
 Maj-Gen Sturgess;
 and
 Captain Howson, RM.

14

The Battle of

MADAGASCAR

The first large-scale operation by the Allies of WW II that combined sea, land and air forces.

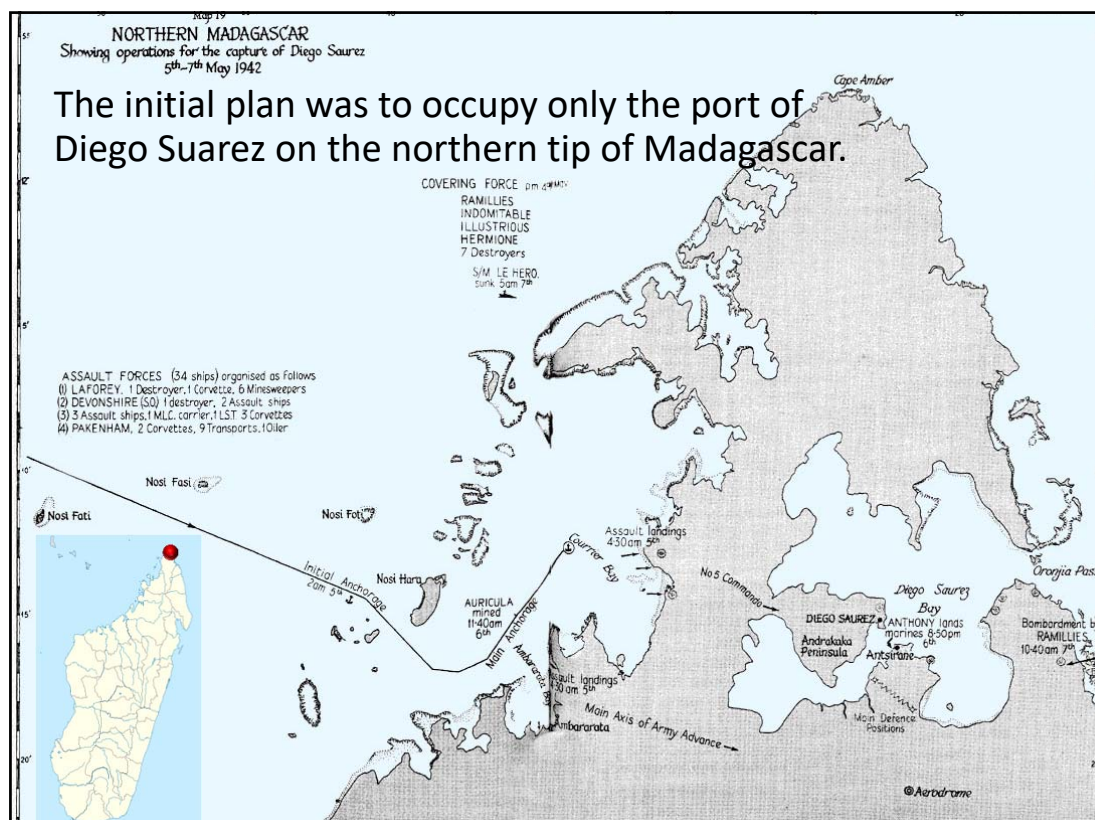
Operation IRONCLAD

- Seizure of the port of Diego-Suarez (now Antsiranana) near the northern tip of the island, commencing on 5 May 1942.
















Operation STEAM LINE JANE

- Secure the entire island of Madagascar, commencing 10 September 1942. The Allies broke into the interior linking up with forces on the coast and secured the island by the end of October. Fighting ceased and an armistice was granted on 6 November.

15



16

Battle of Madagascar			
Belligerents			
 United Kingdom	 Vichy France		
 India	 Madagascar		
 Northern Rhodesia	 Japan (naval) 8 th Submarine Squadron		
 Southern Rhodesia			
 Tanganyika			
 South Africa			
 Australia (naval)			
 Netherlands (naval)			
Commanders and leaders			
 MG Sir Robert Sturges, Royal Marines	 Armand Annet, Vichy Gov.-General		
 Rear Admiral Sir Edward Syfret, RN	 Rear Admiral Ishizaki Noboru		
Strength			
10,000–15,000 soldiers	Vichy France:	Japanese Navy:	
6 infantry tanks	8,000 soldiers	4 cruise submarines	
22 destroyers	6 tanks	3 midget submarines	
6 light tanks	35 aircraft		
8 corvettes	4 warships		
1 aircraft carriers			
1 monitor			
1 seaplane carrier			
1 minelayer			
2 battleships			
4 minesweepers			
6 light cruisers			
5 assault transports			

17

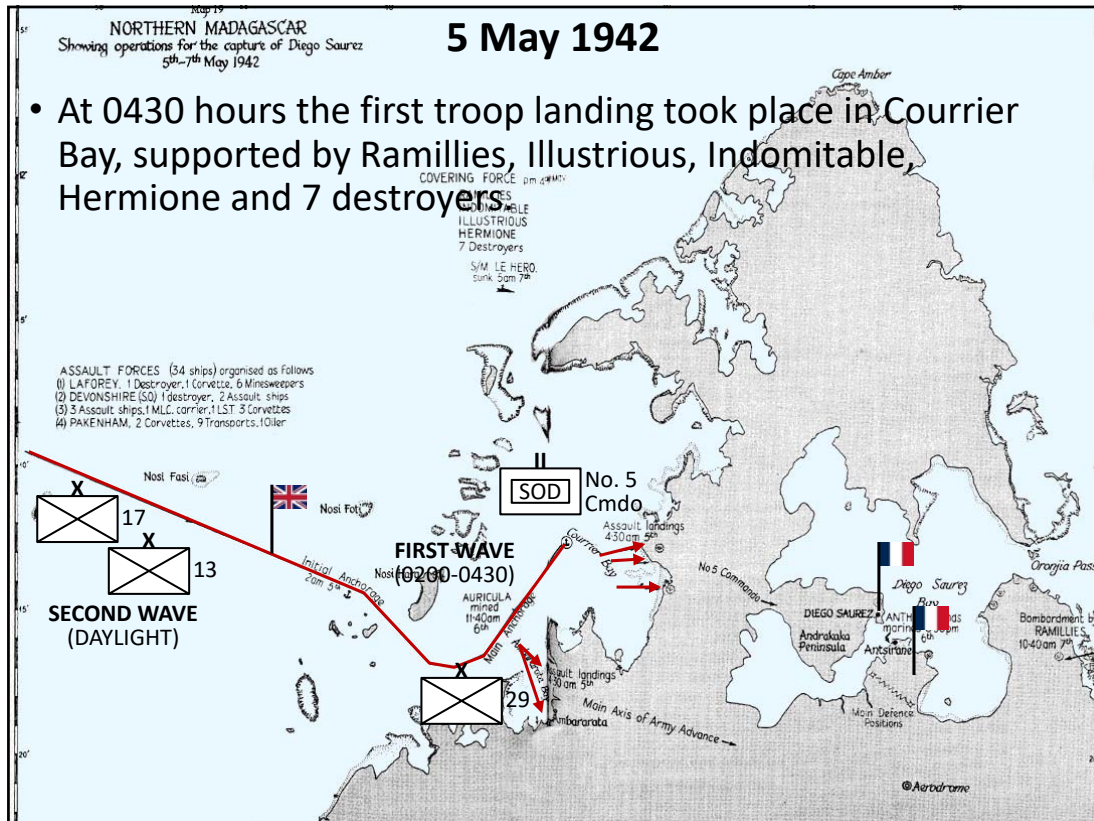
March and April 1942

- The South African Air Force (SAAF) conducted reconnaissance flights over Diego Suarez: e.g., on 12 March Major Ken Jones and Captain M. J. Uys flew a specially-equipped Maryland aircraft through tropical storms to photograph the area in and around Diego Suarez, discovering six merchant ships, a cruiser and two submarines in the harbour.
- To support the landings, Nos. 32, 36 and 37 Flights were redirected to Lindi in Tanganyika, while additional Bristol Beaufort torpedo bombers and Martin Maryland medium bombers were also made available in a support role.



Five SAAF Martin Marylands overfly maintenance at Ma'aten Bagush, Egypt.

18



19

- Fairey Albacore and Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers mounted diversionary attacks on Vichy ships.
- An estimated 3,000 colonial soldiers, including Malagasy and Senegalese tirailleurs, were deployed in or around Diego Suarez itself. The port was defended by eight coastal batteries, several armed merchant ships, and five submarines.
- The huge harbour of Diego Suarez and Port of Antsirane were primary objectives, all protected by strong seaward defences, mainly French 75mm gun emplacements.
- The Vichy Government considered attack from the rear of the harbour unlikely as the coastline was extremely rocky and virtually un-navigable for many miles.
- D-Day landings were virtually unopposed.



20



Reg Voller, Royal Navy

“The landing and occupation was scheduled for the night of 5 May 1942 at 0200 hrs which, fortunately was a very calm sea and pitch black. There was no moon. The five unlit assault ships, leaving their protective Royal Navy screen, headed towards the coast proceeding slowly and on line ahead. Orders were given. “Lower all Assault Crafts complete with Commando Forces and Mechanised Units to within six feet of the waterline.”



Reg Voller, Royal Navy

“Anchors released as quietly and slowly as possible and orders given simultaneously in all ships, complete drop and release all landing craft. They in turn, fully loaded with Commandos and equipment headed for faint guide lights on shore. Off load, and thereafter, making return trips to and fro with soldiers and equipment.”



21



Unnamed member of No.5 Commando

“Above us on cliffs 50 feet high was a battery of Gin guns. We climbed the cliffs and caught the Vichy gunners by surprise. They were asleep and Amen to that! There were French Officers, NCOs and Malagash and Senegalese troops who were herded together and guards put on them.”



22

- The men of 17th Infantry Brigade at Courier Bay pushed their way through swamps and thick bush before entering Diego Suarez, seizing the port with ease and taking several hundred prisoners in the process.
- Meanwhile, the 29th Infantry Brigade landed at Ambararata Bay before advancing on the naval base at Antisarane. As the troops advanced they encountered some resistance, especially when they reached the naval base which was found to be heavily defended.
- It was decided to launch an assault on Antisarane the following day, but following loss of three Valentine tanks and two Tetrarchs the attack was called off.



Tank, Infantry, Valentine, Mk II

23



Major Jocelyn Simon

“The two leading Tetrarchs were hit, and immediately caught fire. In one, the commander, Corporal Watkins, was killed, the gunner so severely burnt that he died subsequently of his wounds, and the driver also badly burnt. In the other the driver and gunner were wounded.”



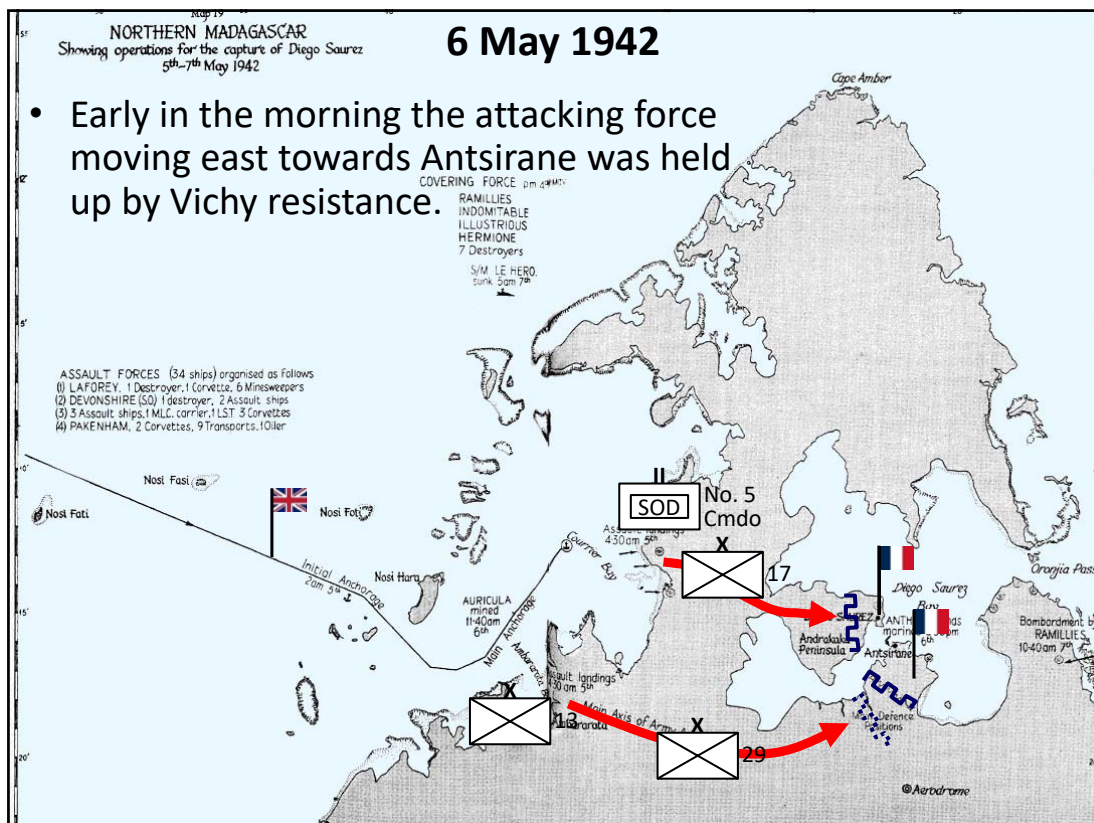
Tetrarch, Light Tank Mk.VII, A17
w/Littlejohn adapter fitted to 2-Pounder

Armour	14 mm maximum
Main armament	QF 2 pounder (40 mm) 50 rounds
Secondary armament	7.92 mm Besa machine gun 2,025 rounds
Engine	Meadows 12-cylinder petrol 165 hp (123 kW)
Suspension	Coil spring
Op. range	140 miles (230 km)
Speed	40 miles per hour (64 km/h), off-road 28 mph (45 km/h)

24



25



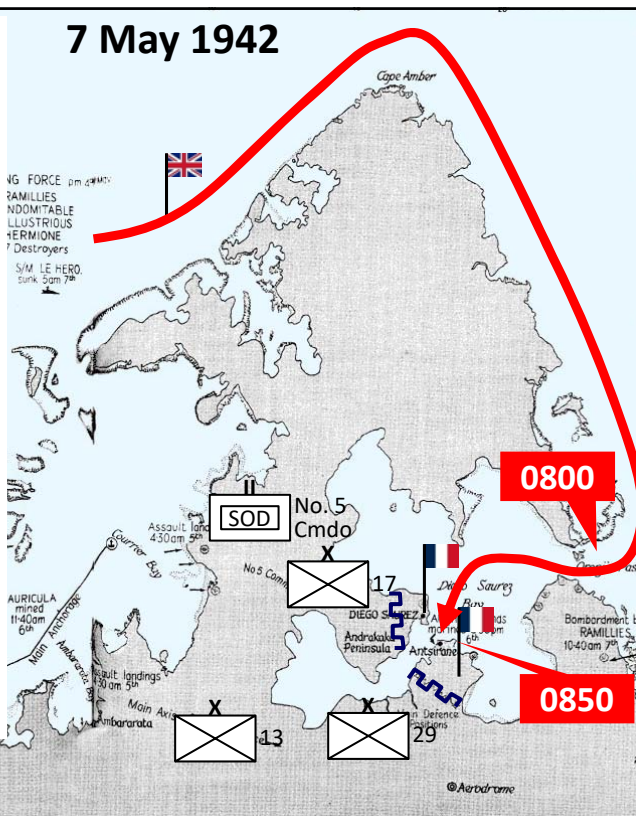
26

- Following a conference on Ramillies, the land commander, General Sturges asked if it would be possible to land a small force in the enemy's rear. The destroyer *Anthony* was called alongside Ramillies and 50 Royal Marines from Ramillies, under Captain M Price RM transferred to *Anthony*.
- At 1545 hours *Anthony* cast off and proceeded at high speed around Cape Amber heading for the Oronjia Pass at the entrance to Diego Suarez harbour. Ramillies and her escorting destroyers then set off after *Anthony*.

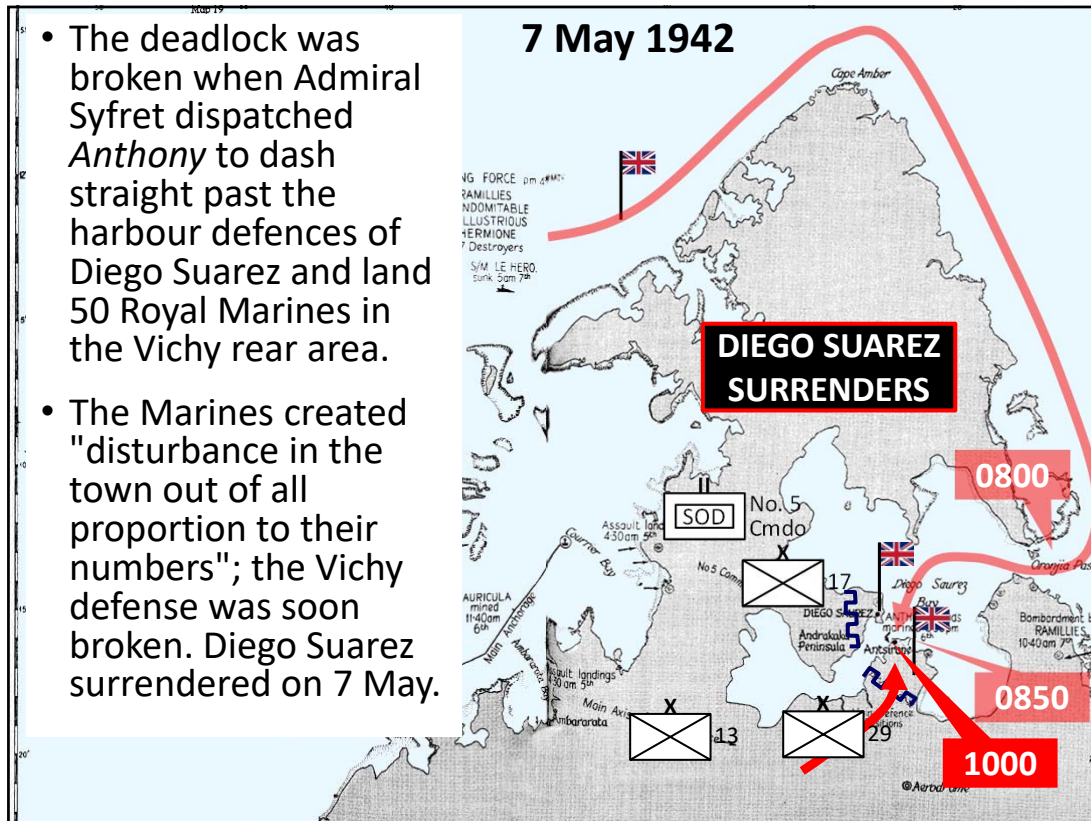


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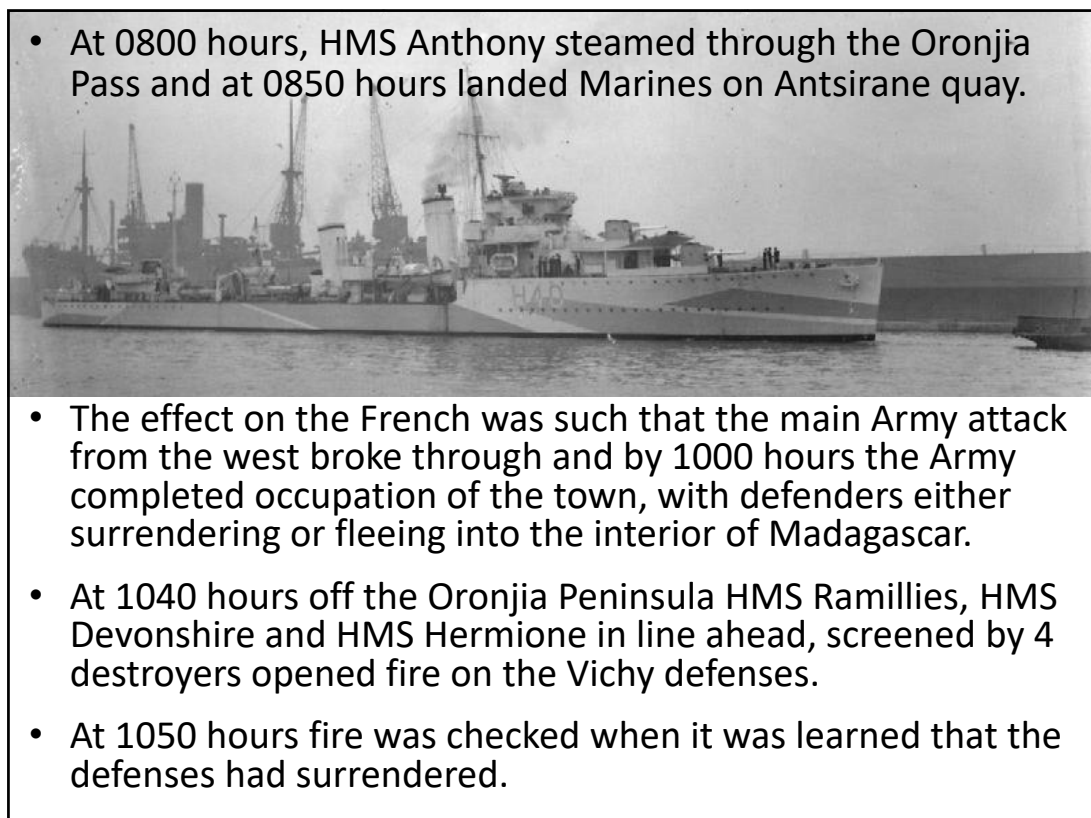
- The deadlock was broken when Admiral Syfret dispatched *Anthony* to dash straight past the harbour defences of Diego Suarez and land 50 Royal Marines in the Vichy rear area.
- The Marines created "disturbance in the town out of all proportion to their numbers"; the Vichy defence was soon broken. Diego Suarez surrendered on 7 May.



28



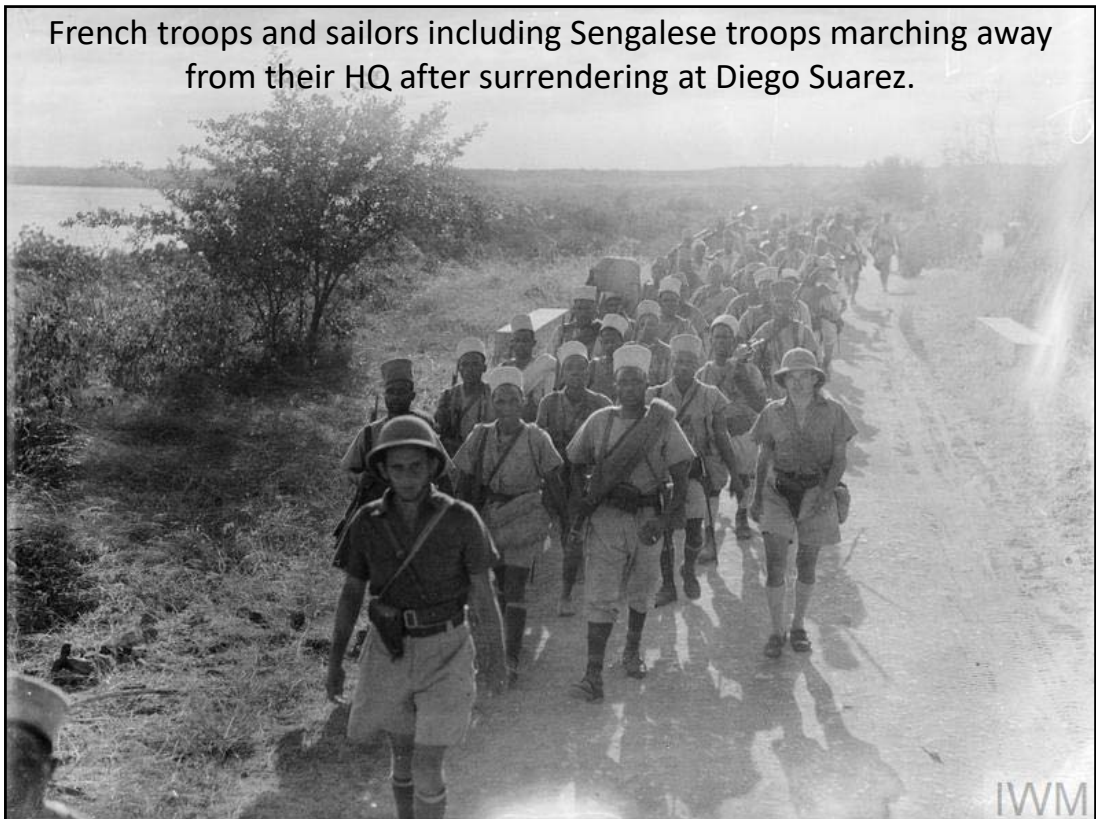
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34

Operation Ironclad was a success, achieving the Allied objective of Diego Suarez with relative ease. The Poms went on defense.



35

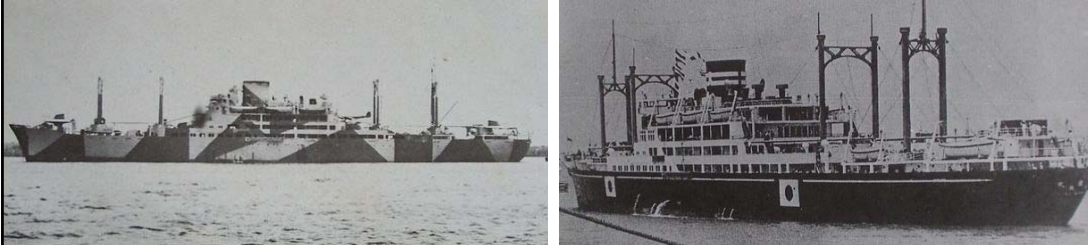


36



Early May 1942

- Japan's 8th Submarine Squadron's 1st Division swept from Aden down East Africa's coast to Madagascar. It consisted of Cruiser submarines (Types A1, B1 and C) accompanied by auxiliary cruisers *Aikoku Maru* (l) and *Hōkoku Maru* (r).



- Cruiser submarines Type-C could be used as *Kō-hyōteki* (midget sub) or *Kaiten* (manned torpedo) mother ships.
- Cruiser submarine Types A1 and B1 were mounted with catapults for the floatplanes.
- During the sweep the cruisers captured the Dutch tanker *Genora* 480 miles SSE of Diego Suarez on May 9.

37

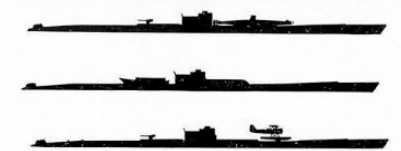
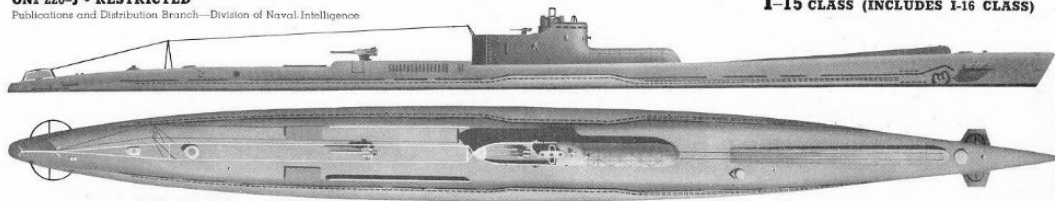
I-Class Type B-1 Japanese Cruiser Submarine

Type A-1 (e.g., I-10) were similar except with communication facilities to allow them to operate as command ships for groups of submarines.

ONI 220-J • RESTRICTED

Publications and Distribution Branch—Division of Naval Intelligence

I-15 CLASS (INCLUDES I-16 CLASS)



Drawing and photos are of the I-16 as it appeared at St. Nazaire in 1943. The hangar forward houses a collapsible floatplane. Photo on the left, showing one of this class submerging, illustrates the Rising-Sun recognition device sometimes painted on decks and conning towers.

NOTES:

Operational use	Long-range cruiser-type submarines for Fleet operations and patrol, also capable of refueling and supplying short-range submarines. Certain units carry aircraft, midget submarines, or landing craft, while others have been converted to minelayers and transports.
Dimensions	Length 357-359' o. a. Beam 30'6". Draft 16'.
Displacement	Surface 1,950-2,190 tons. Submerged ?
Armament	One 5 1/2 deck gun aft (removed when landing craft are carried), one 25 mm. twin AA mount.
Torpedoes	6 bow tubes (8 reported), twenty 21" torpedoes carried.
Mines	3 units are known to be minelayers. Aircraft, 1 floatplane carried in hangar forward of CI, launched on elevatable bow catapult.
Midget SS	1 carried on deck in place of hangar (I-16 only).
Landing craft	1 or more Type A, B, or F carried on deck aft, depending on operational assignment.
Speed	Surface, 22 kts. (I-15-46); 23.6 kts. (I-16-24). Submerged, 7 kts. (I-15-46); 8 kts. (I-16-24). Actual speed is probably 20 kts. maximum (surface).
Diving	328' safe tested depth. Endurance, 14,000 miles @ 16 knots.
Machinery	Two 10-cylinder Diesels, Kampon Mk. 2, Model 10.
Horsepower	6,000 total. Motors, 2 electric @ 2,000 HP. total @ 169 RPM.
Batteries	240 cells—Mark 2, Type 5.
Fuel	816 tons oil, probably carried for refueling other submarines.
Equipment	Radio—Transmitter—Special 3, Mk. 4, Receiver—Type 4. Telephone—Super Mk. 3. RDF—T4. Sonic gear—Hydrophones—Type 93, Echo ranging gear—Type 93. Radar—Installed on all units.
Complement	101-115, depending upon duties.

27

38

I-Class Type C-1 Japanese Cruiser Submarine

Type C-1 (e.g., I-16, I-18 (photo), I-20) was utilized as mother ships for the *Kōhyōteki* midget submarines and the *Kaiten* suicide torpedoes.



Drawing and photos are of the I-16 as it appeared at St. Nazaire in 1943. The hangar forward houses a collapsible floatplane. Photo on the left, showing one of this class submerging, illustrates the Rising-Sun recognition device sometimes painted on decks and conning towers.

NOTES :

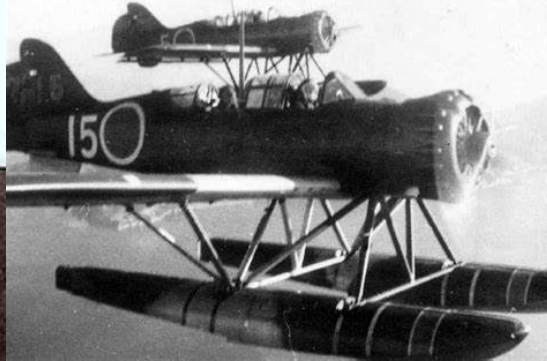
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39

Yokosuka E14Y "Glen" floatplane

Reconned Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington, Auckland and USA. Bombed Oregon (Sept 42)



40

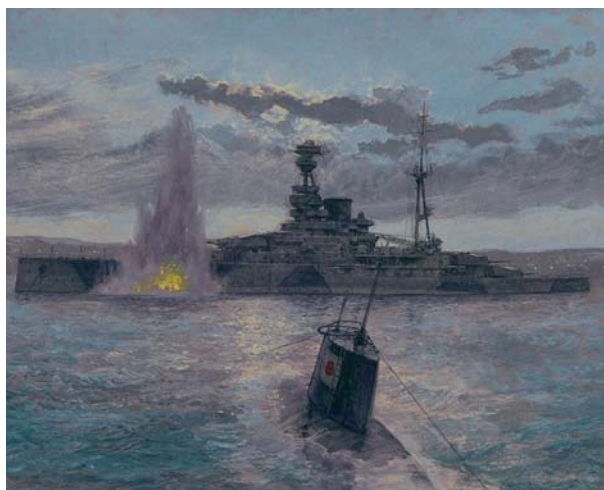
Evening 29-30 May 1942

- The aircraft returned to Japanese submarine I-10 about 9 nautical miles east of Diego Suarez and reported to Captain Ishizaki. Mother submarines I-16, I-18, and I-20 were ordered to attack on HMS Ramillies and HMS Frobisher at 0230 hours that evening.
- I-18's midget sub malfunctioned, but I-16 and I-20 launched at 1710 hours.
- Meanwhile, HMS Ramillies and Frobisher raised steam and weighed anchor.
 - HMS Frobisher put to sea (right).
 - HMS Ramillies steamed around the harbour.
- An air search to 200 miles sighted no enemy ships, so HMS Ramillies anchored close to the 6,994 ton tanker MV British Loyalty.



43

- After launching, I-20's midget submarine, M20b crewed by Lieutenant Saburo Akieda and Petty Officer Masami Takemoto entered Diego Suarez Harbour undetected.
- At 2025 hours, M20b fired one of her two 450mm Type 98 torpedoes with a 350kg warhead at HMS Ramillies.
- The torpedo hit and holed the bulge and bottom plating opening a 30-ft by 30-ft hole in the port bulge forward of A turret, damaging the electrical system and cutting power throughout the ship.
- The six-inch armor belt above the site of the explosion was displaced and the forward magazines and shell rooms (15-inch main guns and 4-inch AA) flooded.



44

- At 2120 hours M-20b fired her second torpedo at HMS Ramillies.

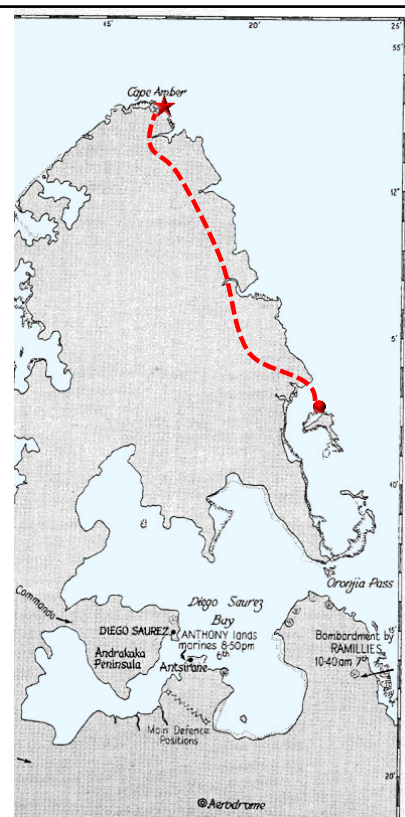
- But following the first hit on the Ramillies, the 6,994 ton tanker British Loyalty sought to move away from the burning battleship.



- Alas, her movement took her into the path of Akieda's second torpedo, which struck aft of the engine room and killed six. The British Loyalty soon sank, but was refloated several months later to use as fixed berth bulk fuel storage.
- The crew of Ramillies worked tirelessly and successfully controlled both fire and flooding. She then weighed anchor and moved to a narrow arm of the harbour, bows seaward, to present the least possible target to any further attack.

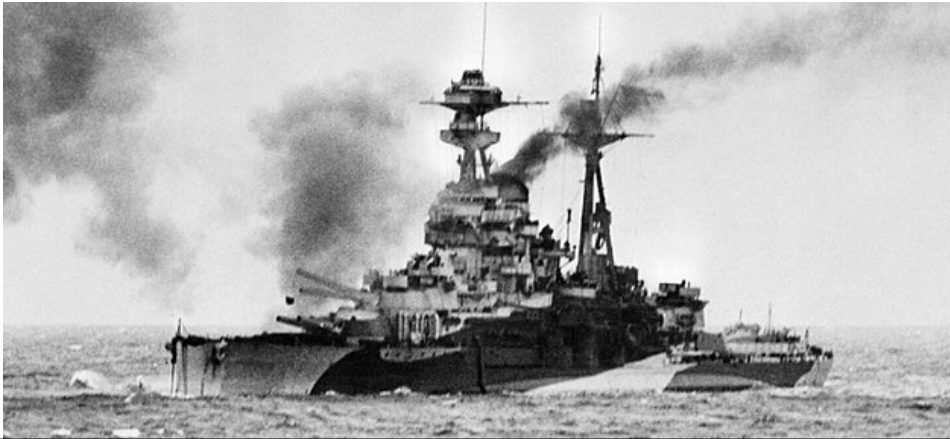
45

- With both torpedoes gone and two corvettes in pursuit, Lieutenant Akieda escaped the harbour and later beached near a small island called Nosy Antaliky. Akieda and Takemoto then trudged towards a pick-up point near Cape Amber, the northernmost tip of Madagascar.
- Along the way they bought food in a village. The villagers reported their presence. Three days later Lieutenant Saburo Akieda and Petty Officer Masami Takemoto were located and killed in a firefight with a Royal Marines' patrol.
- Their mission was the most successful of any Japanese midget submarine in the war.
- For example, M-16b, the midget sub from I-16 also on the mission, disappeared without trace.



46

- The Japanese issued a communiqué, claiming that they had sunk a cruiser of the Frobisher class and torpedoed a battleship of the Queen Elizabeth class which had been left sinking.
- The Admiralty “**truthfully**” countered this by stating no cruiser of the Frobisher class was sunk (it was an oil tanker) and that no battleship of the Queen Elizabeth class had been at Diego Suarez (but HMS Ramillies, a Revenge-class super-dreadnought battleship, had been badly damaged and was out of service until Sept. 1943).



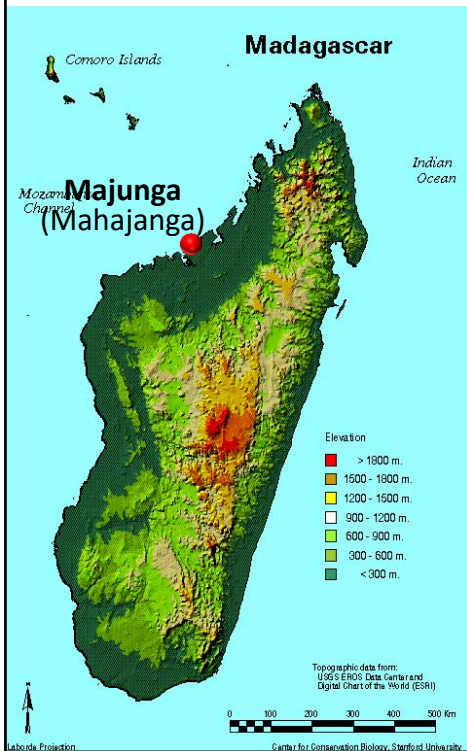
47

Operation Steam Line Jane

- Although the Allies controlled the port of Diego Suarez, Vichy forces continued to operate elsewhere on the island and brief skirmishes continued to erupt for several months.
- Nevertheless, the British began to wind down their troop numbers, with, on 19 May, two brigades of the 5th Infantry Division being sent to India.
- However, the Allied garrison on Madagascar would subsequently benefit from the arrival of the 22nd (East Africa) Brigade on 8 June, followed by the 7th South African Motorised Brigade on 24 June.
- It was further boosted by the landing of the 27th (North Rhodesia) Infantry Brigade on 8th August. These colonial troops would later allow the Allies to conduct the conquest of the whole of the island, in a campaign that was codenamed Operation Steam Line Jane.
- Steam Line Jane was in fact three separate operations, namely ‘Steam’, ‘Line’ and ‘Jane’. Steam took place on 10 September, when 29th Brigade and 22nd Brigade Group conducted an amphibious assault against Majunga, a port on the western side of the island. Leading the attack was No. 5 Commando, the men of which were greeted by a hail of machinegun fire. Despite this, the commandos were able to work their way up and along the quayside and take the governor’s house where they hoisted a Union Jack to signal its capture.

48

Operation Steam, 10 September



Steam took place on 10 Sept., when 29th Brigade and 22nd Brigade Group conducted an amphibious assault against Majunga (now Mahajanga), a port on the western side of the island.

Majunga is now a busy port of 132,000.



49

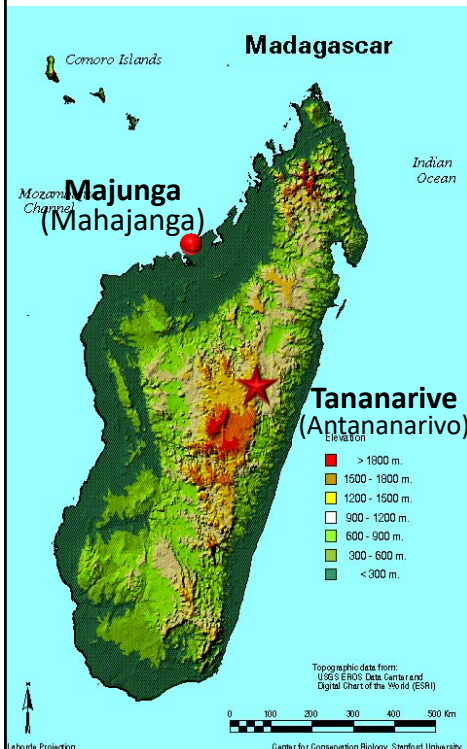
Operation Steam, 10 September

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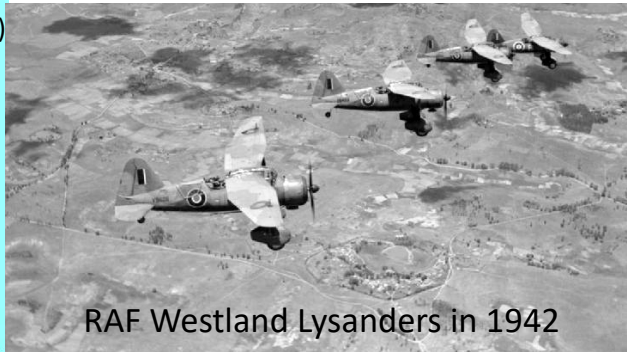
50

Operation Line, 10 September



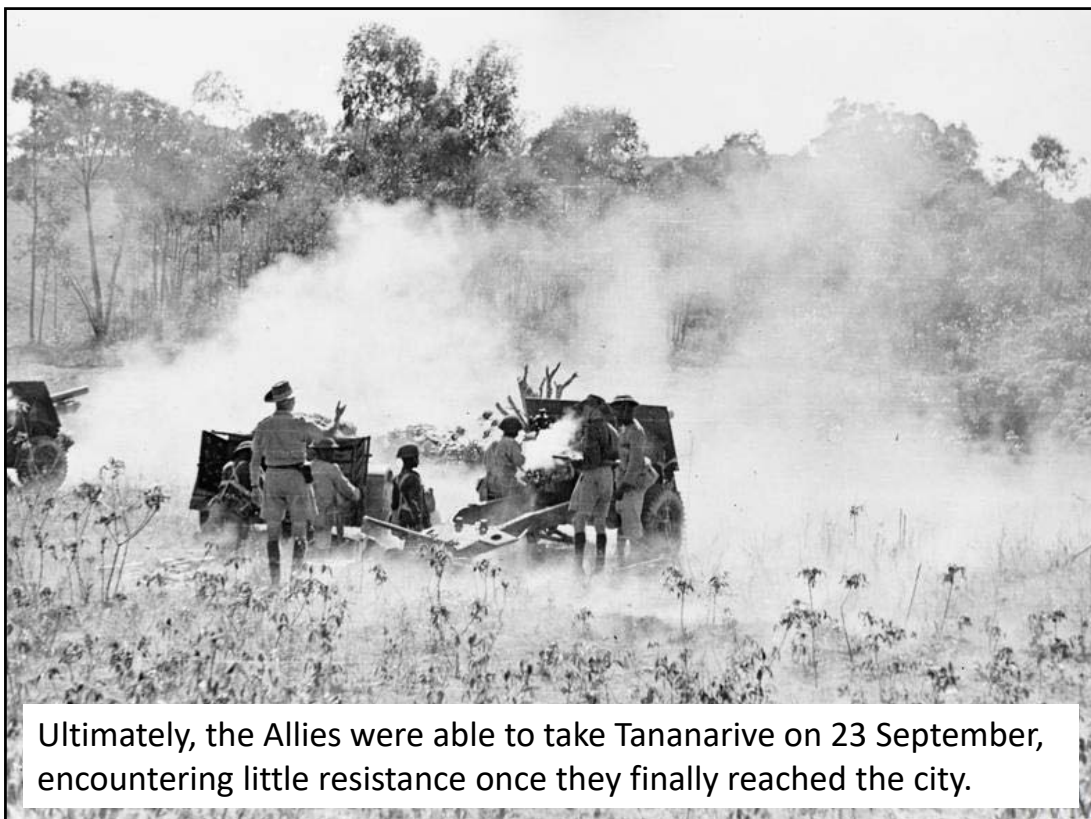
Line was the advance of Allied forces from Majunga to the French capital of Tananarive ("Tana"), an inland city at 1,280 metres ASL.

The advance proved to be a difficult one, with Vichy forces slowing the Allies down wherever they could, erecting obstacles and carrying out small scale attacks.



RAF Westland Lysanders in 1942

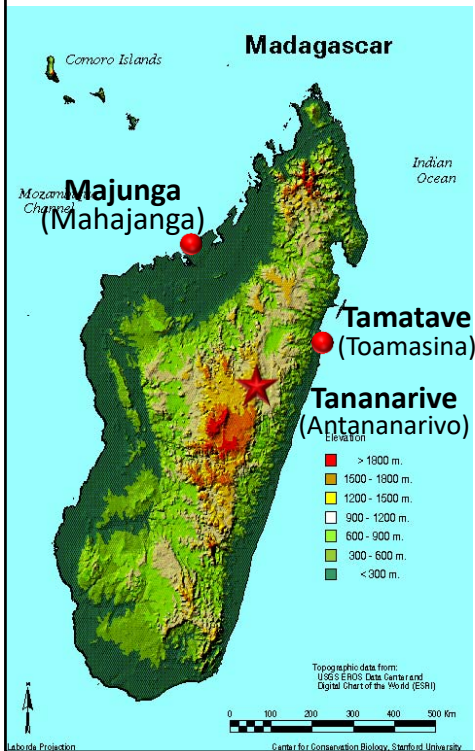
51



Ultimately, the Allies were able to take Tananarive on 23 September, encountering little resistance once they finally reached the city.

52

Operation Jane, 18 September



Jane would take the form of another amphibious assault, this time on the east coast port of Tamatave on the 18th. The operation was made difficult due to the heavy surf, but after HMS Birmingham, a Town-class light cruiser, opened fire on the French shore batteries the defenders were quick to raise a white flag in surrender.
















With Tamatave in Allied hands, the South Lancashires and the Royal Welch advanced southwards to Tananarive then to Moramanga, linking up the King's African Rifles on the 25th.

53



With Tamatave in Allied hands, the South Lancashires and the Royal Welch advanced southwards to Tananarive then to Moramanga, linking up the King's African Rifles on the 25th.

54

Battle of Madagascar 5 May-6 Nov. 1942	
Belligerents	
 United Kingdom  India  Northern Rhodesia  Southern Rhodesia  Tanganyika  South Africa  Australia (naval)  Netherlands (naval)	 Vichy France  Madagascar  Japan (naval) 8 th Submarine Squadron
Commanders and leaders	
 BG Sir Robert Sturges, Royal Marines  Admiral Sir Edward Syfret	 Armand Annet, Vichy Gov.-General  Rear Adm. Ishizaki Noboru
Casualties and losses	
107 killed 280 wounded 108 died from disease 1 battleship heavily damaged 1 oil tanker sunk Total: 620 (of 10,000-15,000 soldiers)	152 killed 500 wounded (excludes disease) 1,000 captured 1 midget submarine destroyed 1 midget submarine lost at sea Total: 1,652 (of 8,000 soldiers)

55

Postscript

- Madagascar was briefly considered as the solution to the Jewish Question by Nazi Germany who openly floated deporting Europe's Jewish population to the island in 1940. This "Madagascar Plan" was foiled by the British takeover.
- The island was officially handed over from the British to Free France in 1943 under whose control it remained for the remainder of the war.
- At the Brazzaville Conference in 1944, Charles De Gaulle gave all of France's colonies, including Madagascar, representation in the French National Assembly as a way of securing their loyalty in the face of rising anti-colonial sentiments. RS1
- Madagascar's representatives in the National Assembly submitted a 1946 bill to grant Madagascar its independence from France. It was rejected.

56

Slide 56

RS1

Ray Sarlin, 19/02/2020

RS2

Malagasy Uprising, 29 March 1947

- Rejection led to a nationalist rebellion against French colonial rule in Madagascar, lasting until February 1949.
- The French increased troops to 18,000, and the military were ruthless in seeking to extinguish rebellion. They carried out mass execution, torture, war rape, torching of entire villages, collective punishment and other atrocities such as throwing live Malagasy prisoners out of an airplane (death flights).
- Armed resistance was defeated in February 1949, at a cost of 590 French soldiers, 240 French civilians and 1,900 loyalists. Estimates of Malagasy civilians and combatants killed range from 11,342 to 89,000.
- While independence was given in 1960, the French classified everything about the Rising until Jacques Chirac termed it "unacceptable" during an official visit to Madagascar in 2005.



57

Slide 57

RS2

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