

REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

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15/9/42 M. S. ...

Reinforcements of men and supplies have arrived in Egypt to support the Eighth Army in its next battle. We have heard from Mr. Churchill how a great convoy was already well on its way when Rommel made his drive to El Alamein; it was good to hear also that despite its heavy losses our Western Desert Army is now stronger than ever before.

A Liberator landing at the airport at this time brought a representative American in the form of Wendell Willkie. His genial and forceful personality seems to radiate enthusiasm and determination. He was met by Mr. Casey, our Minister of State in the Middle East and others who are guiding our destiny in this sector of the war.

At the Residency Mr. Willkie met Admiral Harwood, now Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet. We've come a long way, since that epic battle of the River Plate when Admiral Harwood's cruisers defeated the Graf Spee, but his offensive spirit remains ~~undimmed~~ undimmed.

It's a long flight from North Africa to the south, but it is well to remember that the Navy is just as busy round the Cape as it is by Alexandria. Convoys are constantly passing along this route; this ~~long and arduous route~~ <sup>key airway</sup> is daily becoming more important in the long-term strategy of our life-and-death struggle.