

# Wargaming the Atlantic War



**[dstl]**

03 September 2017

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**Paul Edward Strong**



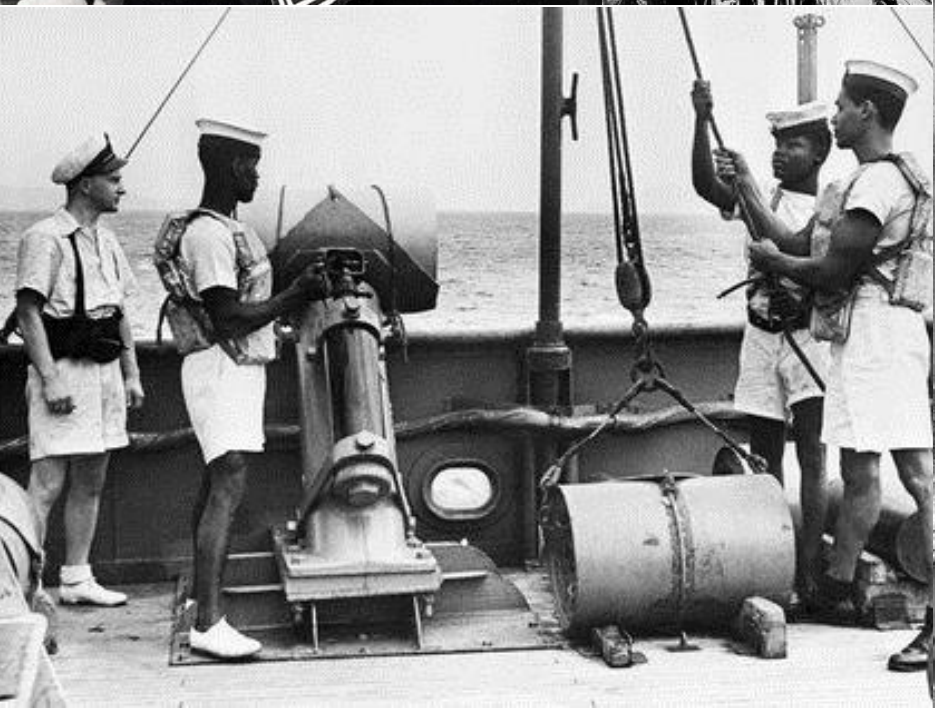
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# Supplying War

- Britain's war effort required the constant flow of Allied cargo ships to be maintained



# ASW Technology

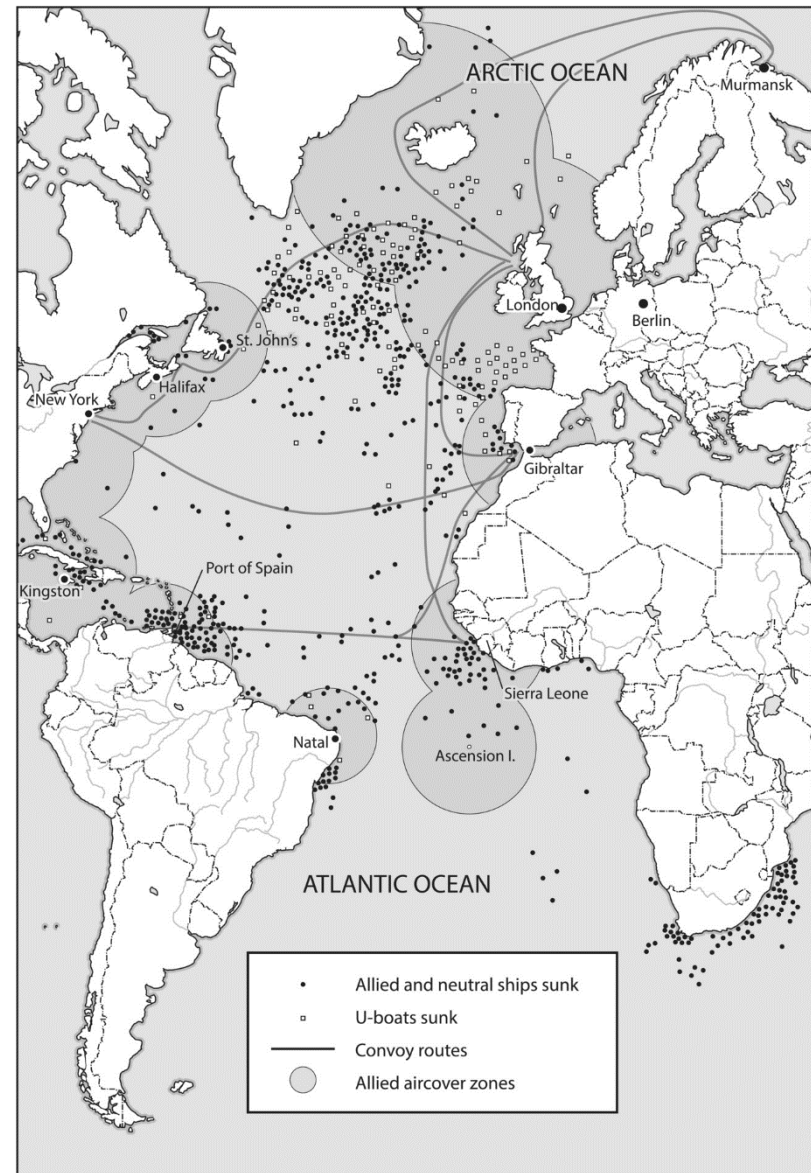
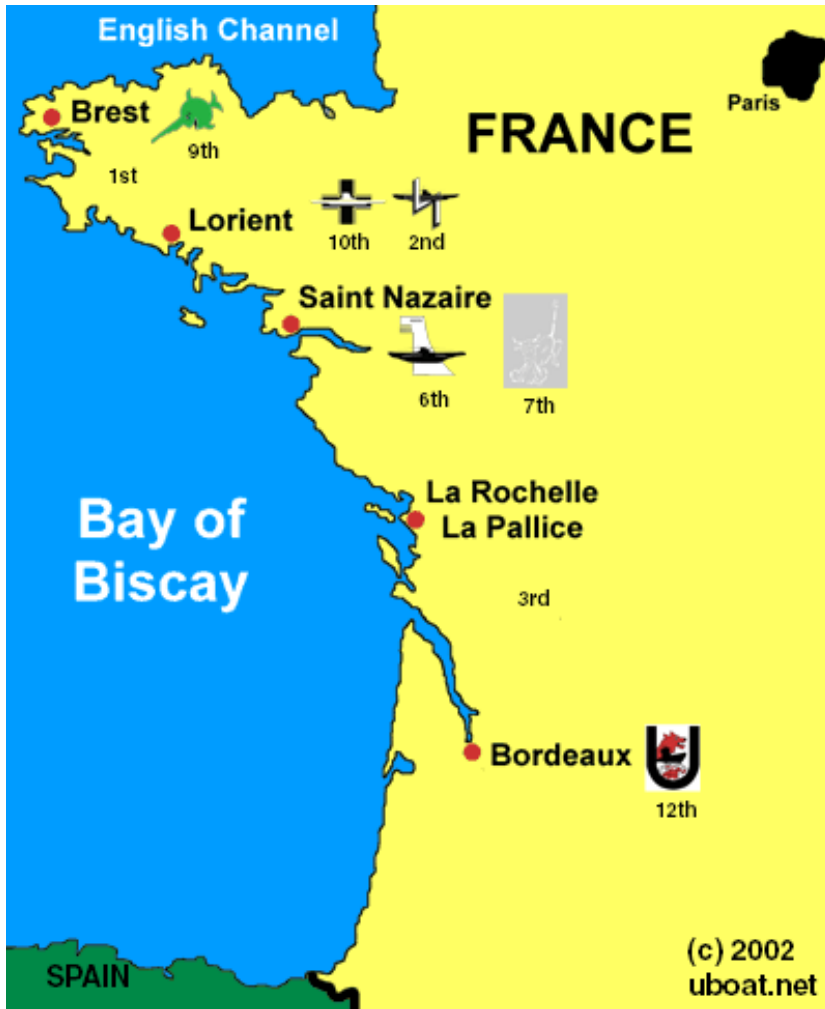


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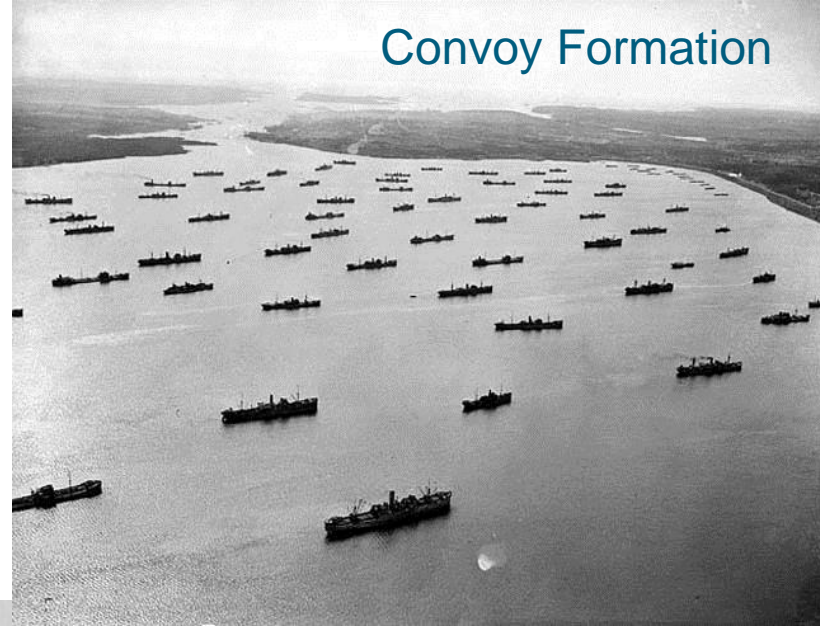
# The Fall of France



# The First 'Happy Time'

- Admiral Karl Dönitz needed more U-Boats to starve the UK into submission but the Mid Atlantic Gap enabled him to concentrate his limited forces

Convoy Formation



HMS Vimiera



RAF Short Sunderland



# Western Approaches Command - Liverpool



# Extending Protection: The Mid-Ocean Escort Force

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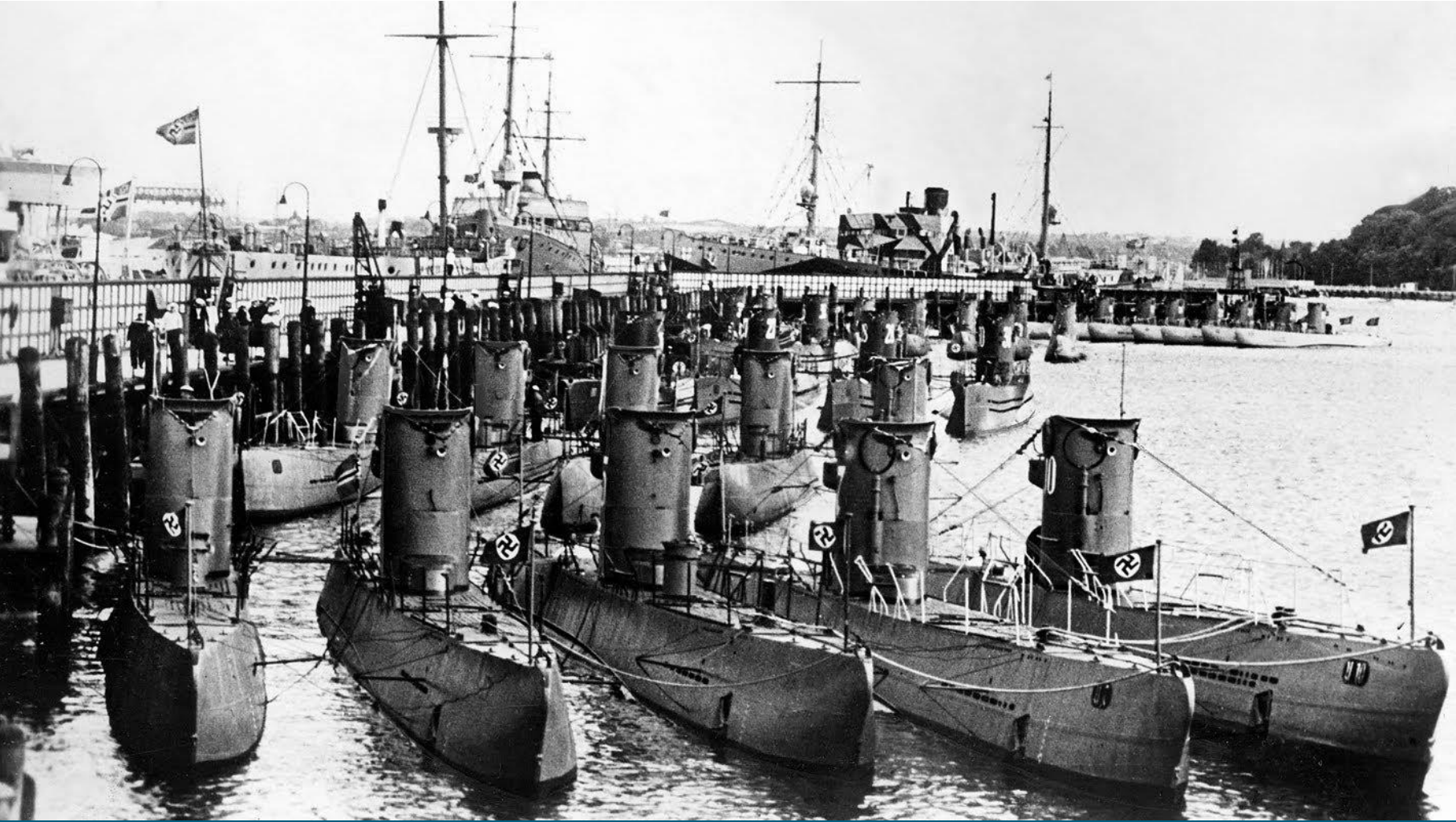
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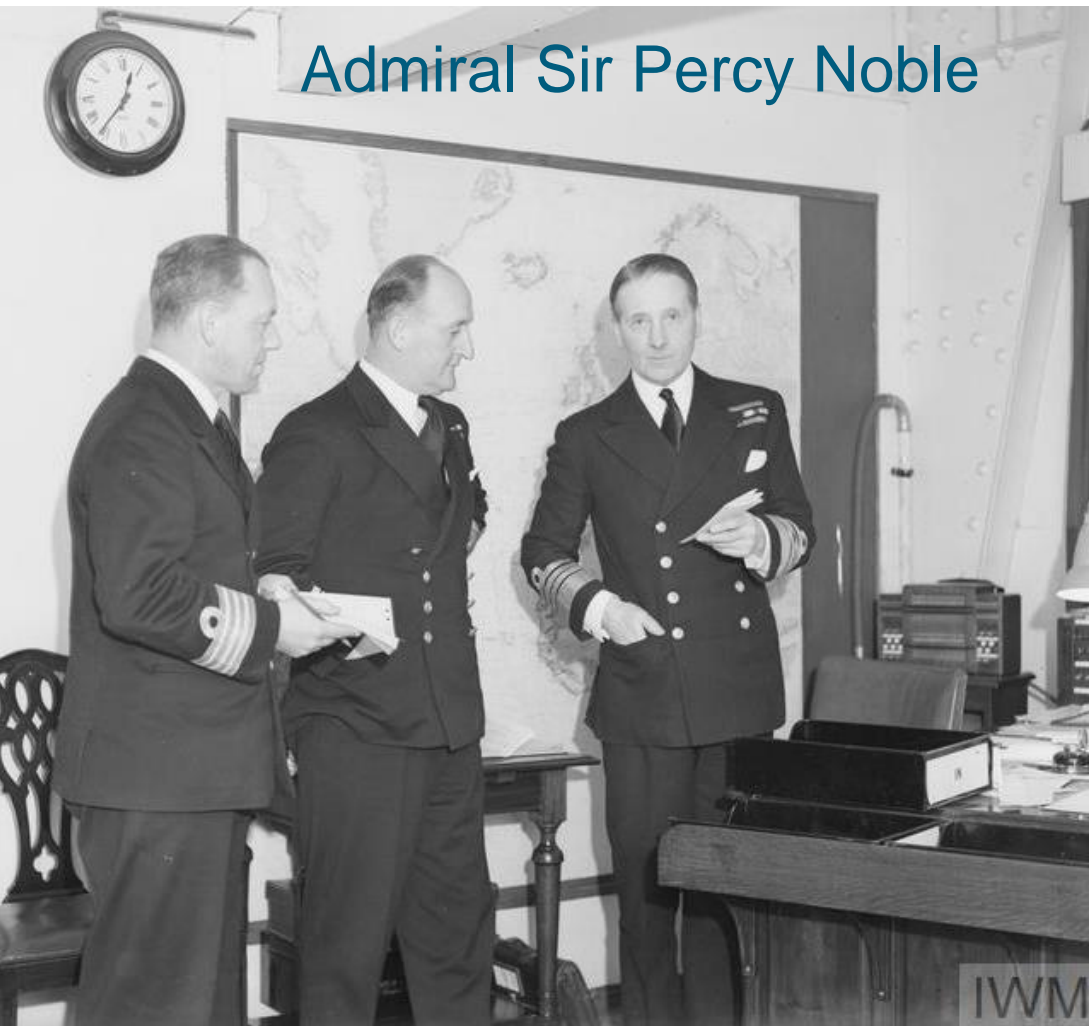
# The Second 'Happy Time'





# New Allies, New Challenges

Admiral Sir Percy Noble



Admiral Ernest J King

“Find out what is happening  
in the Atlantic, find ways of  
getting the convoys through,  
and sink the U-boats!”

Churchill - January 1942



IWM



Commander  
Gilbert Roberts

IWM

# The Western Approaches Tactical Unit



# 'The Game' – Understanding the Enemy





# 'The Game' – Orders

IWM

# 'The Game' – Processing the Turn





# ‘The Game’ – Briefing the Turn



*Nicholas  
Monsarrat*



*Eugeniusz Plawski*



*'Johnnie' Walker*



*Peter  
Gretton*



*Prince Philip*



*Pierre de Morsier*



# The Game – ‘Analysis’

- Wren Officer Jean Laidlaw

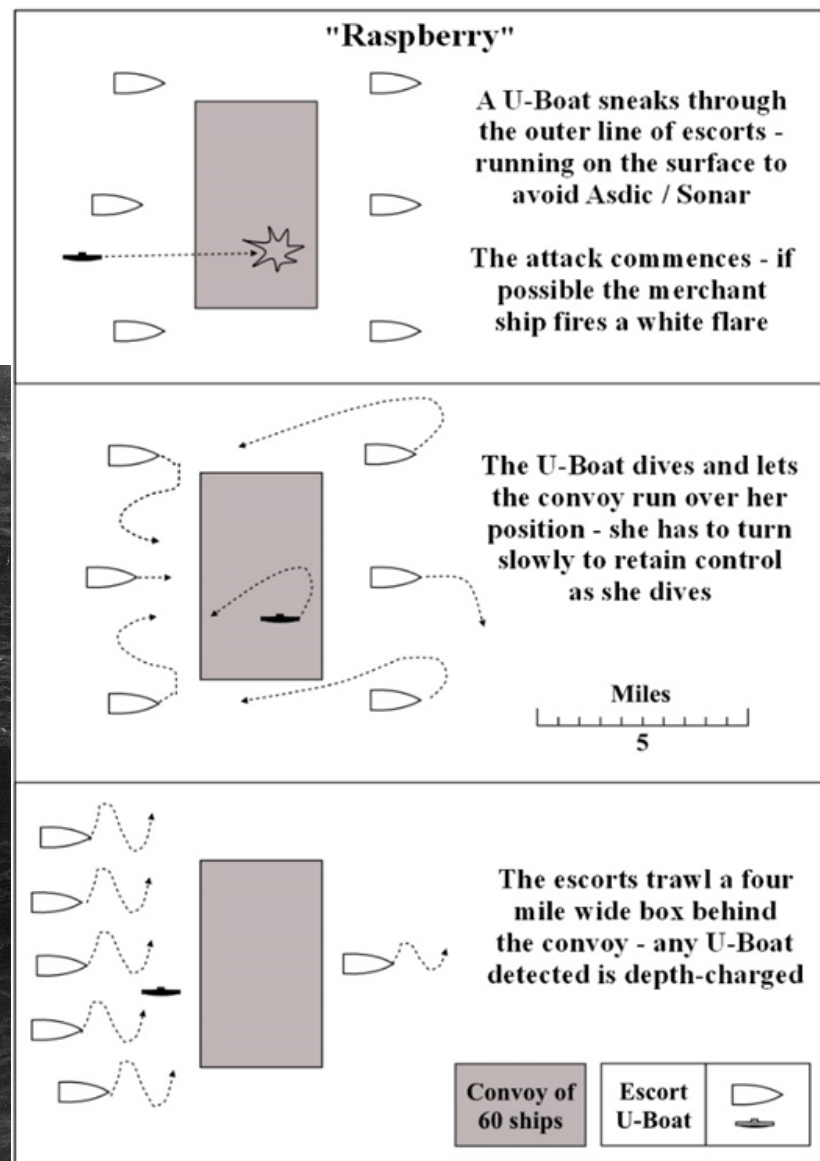


# The First Test

- How were U-Boats making their attacks?



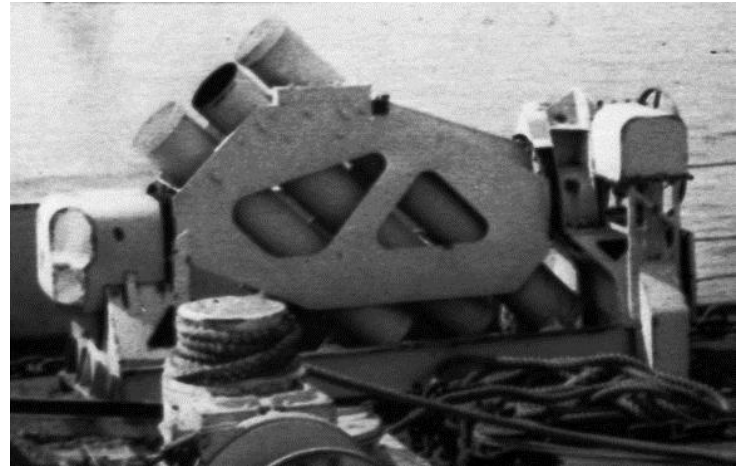
Stricken Type IX



# 'Chasing Shadows' - The Beta Search

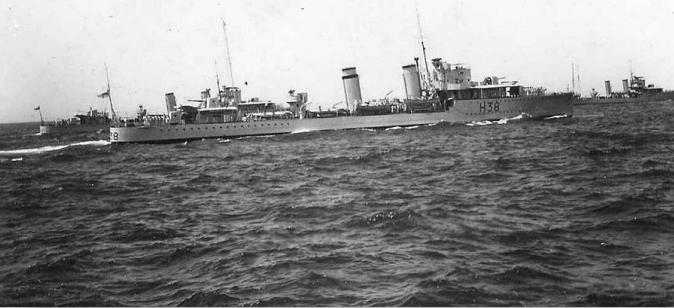


# New Technologies & Tactics



# Getting to the Church in Time Escort and Support Groups in Action

HMS Duncan (Convoy HX-231)



HMS TAY (Convoy ON-5)



Walker on HMS Starling (2<sup>nd</sup> Support Group)



# Dönitz Plots

## Revenge



# The T5 Acoustic Torpedo



Wolfpack Leuthen gathers in the Mid Atlantic Gap




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A photograph of a Flower Class Corvette, a small warship, sailing on the ocean. The ship is white with a dark hull and has a complex superstructure with various antennas and equipment. It is moving through the water, creating a white wake. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

They are going  
for the escorts!

Flower  
Class  
Corvette

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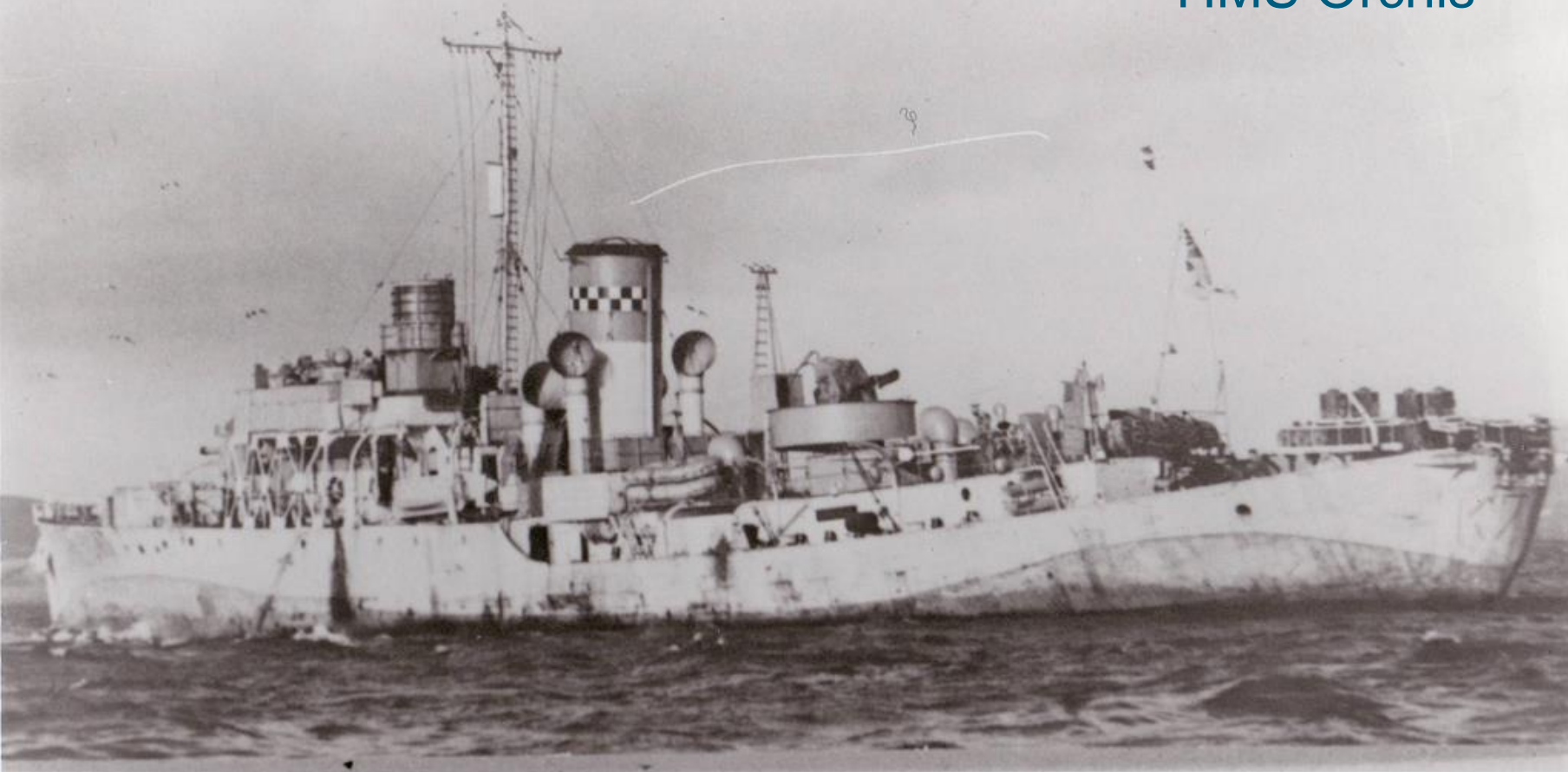


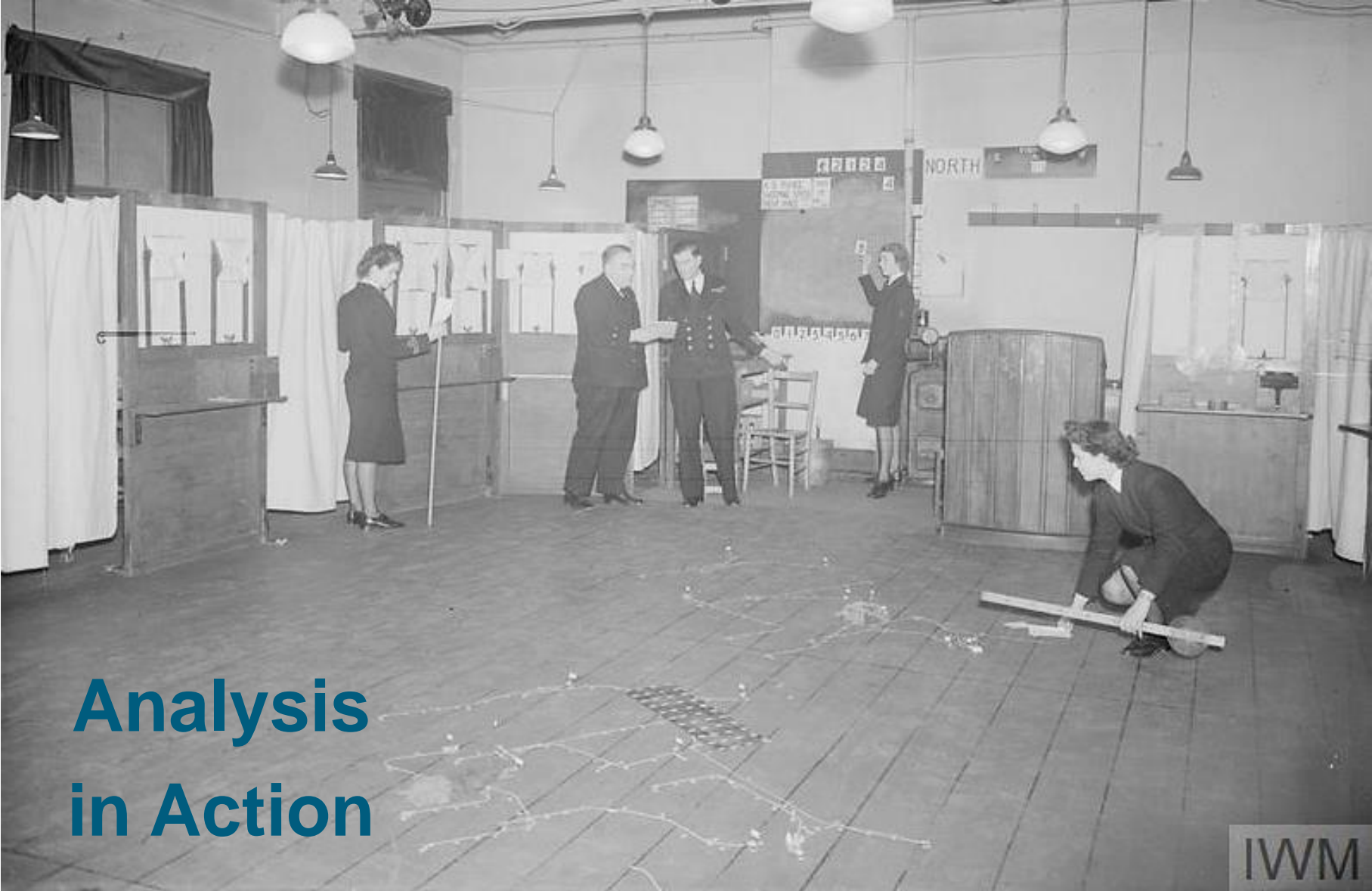
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# Tooley Hawkings Reports...

HMS Orchis





# Analysis in Action

IWM



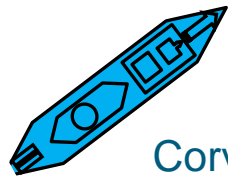
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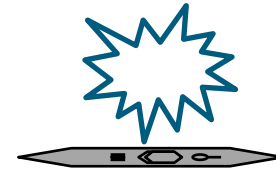
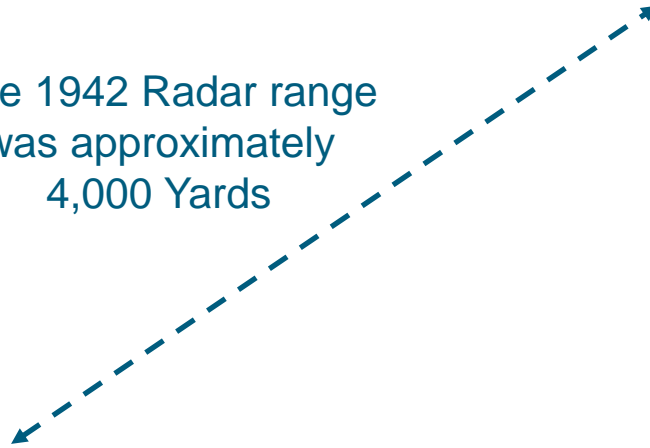


# Step Aside



Corvette spots a U-Boat and  
fires a star shell

Late 1942 Radar range  
was approximately  
4,000 Yards



A U-Boat  
shadowing the  
convoy looking  
for a target



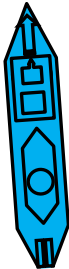
# Step Aside

Position C is the optimum safe distance

C

B

A



Approx 1 mile

The Corvette turns as the U-Boat dives

A

U-Boat fires a T-5 from its stern tube and dives

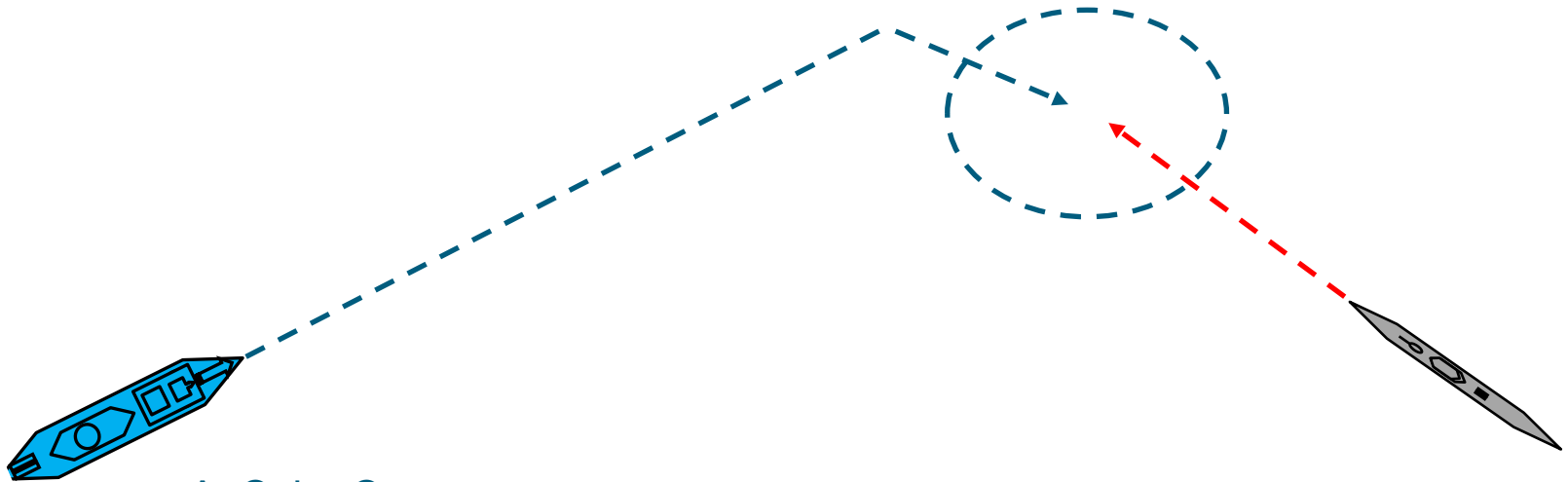
B

C

60°

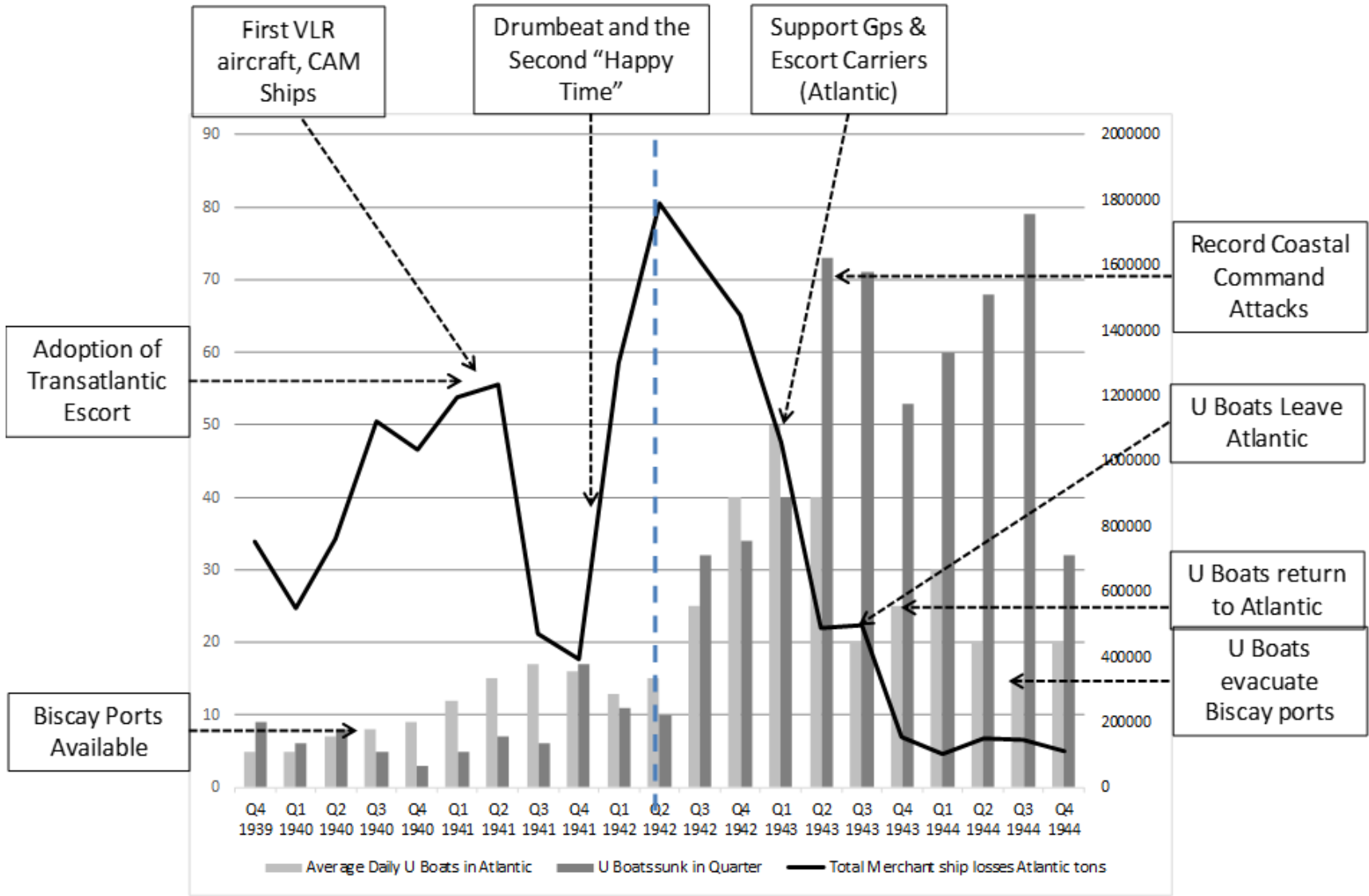
The escort's move to C means that she evades the torpedo's acoustic detection array

# Step Aside



C At C the Corvette returns to a course that places her close to the U-Boat's predicted position

The submerged U-Boat heads for a new position that enables her to continue to monitor the convoy and prepare a new attack





# The End of 'The Game'