

1. The arrangement of the War Diary is as follows:-

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|------------------|---|---------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS | - | Policy |
| (Classification | - | Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects) | - | Movements |
| | - | Operations |
| | - | Allied Air Activity |
| | - | Enemy Air Activity |
| | - | Mining |
| | - | Enemy Intelligence |
| | - | U-Boats |
| | - | Navigational |
| | - | Technical |
| | - | Casualties and Defects |
| | - | Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS | - | North Atlantic |
| (Classification | - | South Atlantic |
| by stations) | - | Mediterranean |
| | - | East Indies |
| | - | America and West Indies |
| | - | Australia and New Zealand |
| | - | U-Boat Campaign |

Additional subject headings are sometimes employed temporarily, e.g. when an important operation is in progress.

2. The following volumes should be used to supplement the War Diary: the dates given in brackets are those on which the series held by War Diary commences:-

- (a) Movements of H.M. Ships (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (23 February 1940).
- (b) Western Approaches (daily) Situation Reports (1 September 1943).
- (c) Dispositions and Movements (Foreign Stations) (1 September 1943).
- (d) Convoy Returns (Positions of convoys and composition of escorts, positions of independent ships and H.M. ships: from Combined Plot) (1 March 1941).
- (e) Daily Convoy Summary (Report made by Admiralty to Connav, giving arrivals and departures, with composition of convoy) (21 June 1943).
- (f) Air Staff Operational Summary (prepared by Air Ministry War Room) (1 July 1941, No.222)
- (g) Daily Operations Report for First Lord (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (13 September 1939).
- (h) List of abbreviations.
- (i) List of Convoy letters.

ADM 199 2220

War Diary

1.1.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

MANCHESTER and NIGERIA, who have been supporting the A.M.C's CHITRAL and LETITIA in the Denmark Strait, returned to Scapa at 1330 today; and an A/S sweep down the meridian of 21° W from 60° N to 57° N has been ordered to be carried out by OTTAWA and GARLAND on their return from Ocean Escort duty to the Clyde where they are due a.m./4.

The sailings for Operation "Parcel" ordered today for the 15th January will necessitate a postponement of the docking of NELSON and of the refit of HOOD.

British Air Activity

All Air Patrols in the Rosyth Area were cancelled today, except Patrol ~~XXXX~~; but U-Boats at Bordeaux and Train Ferries at Flushing were attacked by our Bombers last night.

Enemy Air Activity

2 enemy flying boats attacked the even-numbered F.N. Convoy at 1755 today off the Tees, firing one Torpedo which failed to explode and retiring to the Eastward on being engaged by VERDUN. The odd-numbered F.S. Convoy was also attacked off Clacton at 1117 this morning, one bomb being dropped without effect.

Mining

The Port of Tees was closed at 2019 this morning owing to suspected enemy minelaying, though Hartlepool remains open; a heavy explosion was seen at 1610 off Brightlingsea at a time when no vessel was in sight; and the A/P Trawler ROTHERSLADE was damaged by a deep explosion this morning off the entrance to the Tyne.

War Diary1.1.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTFOREIGN STATIONSVichy FrenchOperation
"Ration"Mo 2012/41.
* M/V SUROIT

A convoy of four French merchant ships, CHANTILLY, *RAUZAN, SALLY MÆRSK and OCTANE, escorted by the armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE was intercepted and boarded clear of Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforças at noon today by destroyers of 13th D.F. with BONAVENTURE in support.

The escort strongly protested and threatened grave consequences. Escort was allowed to proceed to Oran. JAGUAR, one of the intercepting destroyers, reports certain casualties including M. Tarte and daughter aged 12, in CHANTILLY, by accident as a result of resistance to boarding.

The French trawler SENATEUR DUHAMEL, intercepted by CAMITO at 1600/28, is to be sent under armed guard to U.K. where the ship and cargo will be seized.

North AtlanticCommand

V.A. Sir Frederick Edward-Collins assumed command of the North Atlantic Station today.

Submarine
Patrol

Submarines TRIUMPH, USK and UPHOLDER are to establish a patrol in the vicinity of Cape Spartel.

South AtlanticW.S. 5 A.

DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to St. Helena to fuel and then rendezvous with HAWKINS and W.S. 5 A and escort to Durban.

Mediterranean

JADE, A/S trawler, reports an attack on a U-Boat off Grand Harbour, Malta on 29/12.

3 cruisers, 4 destroyers and 20 merchant ships were reported by aircraft reconnaissance at Tripoli this morning.

Ammunition dumps and warehouses at Valona were heavily bombed by the R.A.F. yesterday. A large convoy was seen approaching the harbour.

War Diary1.1.1941
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTEast IndiesDhows
Intercepted

PARIAMATTA, Australian ^{sloop} ~~destroyer~~, has intercepted 4 dhows from Dahlak Island suspected of trading with Italian East Africa.

ChinaRaiders

Captain on Staff, Singapore, states that photographs of the raider which sank AUTOMEDON show a close similarity to the REICHENFELS. The name "ATLANTIS" on the stern was painted over. In addition to several captures, there is evidence that ATLANTIS was responsible for laying mines off South Africa. Prisoners state that ATLANTIS had been at sea 13 months, was capable of 20 knots with foul bottom, and had accurate news of shipping movements from world wide German agents.

Reports regarding the possible use of Marshall Island as a refuelling base are substantiated by certain known movements of raiders and suspected movements of German ships from Japan.

Minesweepers

ABERDARE and HARROW, unsuited to requirements in China, are to be sent to Alexandria to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.BATH
ST. ALBANS.

A. M. 2214/20. After discussion with Norwegian Admiral, propose BATH and ST. ALBANS be manned by Norwegians, Propose they be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER after these two ships have worked up about end of January and that BATH and ST. ALBANS should then be taken in hand for stage II and ballasting. It is desirable that this should be carried out at a Royal Dockyard to facilitate training of the Norwegians. Request Yard may be allocated.
(C. in C. W.A. 1647/1 to Adty.)

BRIGHTON.
LANCASTER.Next Meeting
of Prime
Minister
with C's in C.

A.M. 2028/25/10. Next Meeting probably on 10/1. Request you or your representative attend and forward matter for Agenda to reach Adty by 5/1. (1st. S.L. 1728/1 to C's - in - C, A.C.O.S, V.A. Dover.)

Iceland.

Your 1724/23/12.

Fishing
Areas.

(A) Fishing can be permitted only within 4 miles of coast,
(B) Cancel position (K) in A.M. 0221/31/8, and substitute position (K) Kambanes Lighthouse 64 deg. 48' N, 13 deg. 51' W.
(DCD. 1910/1 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Defence of U.K."Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/1. (D.C. 1133/1.)

Oban.
Oban.A/A Defences.

Your 2300/30.

Defended anchorage will be limited on the South by a line 090° from Black Island and will cover the extent of the Lynn of Lorn. (D. of L.D. 1551/1 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

3 A.A. Divisions will shortly be getting in touch with you in regard to shipment and landing of 4 Bofors guns for defence of Convoy Assembly Anchorage, Oban. Request you will arrange all possible, Naval Assistance. (D. of L.D. 1813/1 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

PRINCE OF WALES.

A.S. Rosyth 1148/31. Propose ship leave Mersey 28/1 and arrive Rosyth PM/30. (A.S.C.B.S. 1203/1 to Controller.) Your 1148/31. Ship is to arrive in time to enter Basin on 24/1. (Controller 1712/1 to A.S. Rosyth.)

WESTON,
VIMIERA.

Proceed to join F.N.73 forthwith. Do not exceed 12 knots. (C. in C. Nore 1109/1.)

BEVERLEY.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/1.)

CURACOA.

Left Scapa 1232 to escort W.N.62. (A.C.O.S. 1301/1.)

MANCHESTER.
NIGERIA.

Arrived Scapa 1330 (A.C.O.S. 1503/1.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A. C.O.S. 1548/1.)

STANLEY.

Sailed 1515. E.T.A. Rame Head 1630/2. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1550/1.)

MEYNELL.

Arrived Scapa 0929. (A.C.O.S. 1615/1.)

KASHMIR,
JUPITER,
WORCESTERSHIRE.

To R/V in 530° Longships 9 miles at 1530/2 and escort to Southampton. Route of WORCESTERSHIRE. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail Destroyers to arrive 2.2 miles South of Rame Head at 1030/4. (C. in C. W.A. 1624/1.) KASHMIR, JUPITER sailed 0940 and 1010 for exercises and thence to Dartmouth. (C. in C. W.A. 1706/1.) Arrived (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1851/1.)

HOLDERNESS.

C. in C. Nore 1204/1. Sail 0900/2 to R.V. with F.S.76 at about 1030 and thence to Sheerness. (Capt. D.16. 1638/1.)

DOUGLAS/

War Diary.

1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

DOUGLAS
KEPPEL.
OURAGAN.

Arrived Port Z.A. at 1700.
(TRELAWNEY 1701/1.)

NAIAD.
PHOEBE.

NAIAD to proceed AM/2 to Oban to relieve PHOEBE. PHOEBE to sail for Scapa on relief (C. in C. H.F. 1757/1.)

AUSTRALIA.

Arrived 1600 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1855/1.)

ELGIN.

Arrived 0852 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0913/1.)

ARETHUSA. }
AURORA, }
MASHONA, }
MATABELE, }
BEDOUIN, }
TARTAR, }
INTREPID, }
ICARUS. }

Sailed 0800.
Returned Scapa 1109. (A.C.O.S. 1127/1.)
(Op: D.Z. postponed. See p.9.)

Operations.

A/S. Sweep.

Detach OTTAWA, GARLAND to carry out A/S sweep down Meridian 021° W. between 060° N. and 057° N. thence to Clyde to arrive A.M./4. (C. in C. W.A. 1324/1 to SALOPIAN.)

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Following is proposed. (V.A. Dover 1115/1 to C. in C. Nore.) See Operations Volume. Request ship arrive Southend by 1600/3. In view of sweeping requirements, consider earliest time can pass Thames Gate on 4/1 is 1030. (C. in C. Nore 1506/1 to Adty.)

Operation. "Tareal".
PARSON.

M02636/41.

Is to be carried out, sailing on 15th January.
2. This will entail docking of NELSON and refit of HOOD being postponed, and it is requested that you will make arrangements accordingly direct with C. in C. Rosyth. (V.C.N.S. 1547/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.1. 1. 41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.Auxiliary
and ~~Patrol~~ "Dagger"
Patrols.

My 1717/1. Patrol cancelled during the night owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/1.)

Operation "Specimen"
~~Specimen~~.

Intend to repeat Operation with O.G.49, which sails from Liverpool 7/1. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/1 to Adty.)

Patrol O.

Cancel Patrol today. (C. in C. Nore 1341/1 to D.16.)

Submarines.Greenock Area.

Movements 1340/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/1 and 1950/1).

H. 28.

Sailed Rothesay escorted by BREDA. (S.7. 1601/1.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/2. (V.A.S. 1737/1.)

UNBEATEN.

Arrived (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1921/1.)

SEAWOLF.

Sailed for Clyde escorted by PHILANTE (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1942/1.)

SEVERN.

My 1826/29. Suggest she be escorted to about 10° W, by dark and proceed thence escorted by route clear of Convoys, bombing restrictions being applied over a lane 30 miles wide. (C. in C. W.A. 2016/1 to V.A.S.)

O. 23.

Arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1031/1.)

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1324/1.)

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Standard
Patrols.

Following only are in force, and all previous signals should be cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/1.)

Rotterdam.)
Ijmuiden.)
Flushing.)

5 Blenheims attacked during 31/12. Results. (H.Q.B.C. 0116/1.)

Patrols.

Ordered today: "~~Stab~~", "~~Stand~~", "~~Dark~~", "~~Hornli~~", "~~Stand~~", "~~Dark~~". (C. in C. Rosyth 0814/1.) All Patrols cancelled today except ~~stand~~. (C. in C. Rosyth 1156/1.)

Lorient.)
Flushing.)

53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient tonight. 59 Sqdn. to attack tonight Train Ferries at Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1255/1.)

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and shipping at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1257/1.)

Flying of
Balloons.

Your 1105/29/12. Conditions for flying balloons remain as for kites except that maximum height for ballons is at present 2000 feet and that when kites are being hauled down balloons are close hauled to 300 feet or lower if weather permits. Present instructions for kites for ships in and out of convoy are contained in A.M.S. I. 120 as amended for ships in convoy at night by Admiralty Message 2127 of 4/11, but at night by Admiralty Message 2127 of 4/11, but modifications are under consideration and decision will be promulgated shortly. (Kite Section 1452/1. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.F.S. Odd.
Convoy.Being bombed in $51^{\circ} 47' N. 1^{\circ} 30' E.$
(HASTINGS 1117/1.)F.N. Odd
Convoy.Being shadowed by one A/C in $51^{\circ} 32' N.$
 $1^{\circ} 8' E.$ (WESTON 1159/1.) Six A/C in
sight of Convoy (WESTON 1215/1.)H.X. Convoy. 'Broom.'
BROOM.Help in $55^{\circ} 55' N.$ (?longitude) (Plymouth
W/T 1338/1.) Fighters being sent.
(Plymouth W/T 1354/1.)Even-numbered
F.N. Convoy.2 Flying-Boats bearing 120° 2 miles from
Convoy ~~Adm't.~~ My position $54^{\circ} 38' N. 0^{\circ}$
 $50' W.$ (VERDUN 1755/1). Enemy engaged and
retired Eastward. One splash probably
Torpedo. No explosion. (VERDUN 1817/1.)Mining.Operation.
D.Z.Sailed from Scapa C.S.2. in ARETHUSA with
AURORA, MASHONA, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, TARTAR,
INTREPID, and ICARUS at 0800. (A.C.O.S.
0830/1.) *See also p.6.*Operation postponed. (C. in C. H.F.1115/1
to Adty.)Cancel my 2206/31. Operation postponed
(V.A.S. 1209/1 to S/M's Area A) Force
described in my 2206/31 leaves Hoxa 0800/2
for following positions and leaves for Base
at 0200/3. 2 I-class Destroyers leave from
near Obrestad after laying and R/V with
rest of Force at 0930/3. S/M's to keep 30
miles clear. (V.A.S. 2016/1 to S/M's Area A)Operation.
Z.M.E.10.To be carried out on Night 2/1 or as
soon after as possible. 7 miles 116° from
 $51^{\circ} 34' 30'' N. 6^{\circ} 22' W.$ (V.C.N.S.1159/1
to C. in C. W.A. and ADVENTURE.

ROTHERSLADE/

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

ROTHERSLADE.

A/P Trawler, damaged by deep Explosion in 55° 4' 48" N. 1° 19' 48" W. Vessel returned to harbour and safely berthed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1303/1.)

S.N. 71.

Propose to sail AM/9 and lay as follows probably on 13/1. Expect return Port Z.A. about 17/1. ST.ALBANS and CHRISTOPHER[^] should be available. C. in C.H.F. requested to say if 2 further Destroyers, Cruiser Escort, and Covering Force can be made available. (R.A.M.L. 1641/1 to Adty.)

* ? CHARLESTOWN *included*

Brightlingsea.

Explosion observed by Patrols at 1610/1 near Priority Spit. No vessel in sight at time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1816/1 to C. in C. Nore.)

Tees.

Port of Tees closed. Hartlepool open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2019/1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Liner off Bergen.

S/M. O. 23 reports a brilliantly lit Liner steering South at 17 knots at 1900/28/12, in 60° 11' N. 4° 13' E. (V.A.S. 1846/1 to Adty.)

BREMEN.
BREMERHAVEN.
VEGESAK.
WILHELMSHAVEN.
AMSTERDAM.
IJMUIDEN.

Warships and Shipping seen at 1345/1. (PRU. 2300/1 to N.I.D.)

Enemy Convoy off Ijmuiden.

At 1515/31 about 10 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden, 9 M/V's up to about 7000 Tons steering slowly Northwards. Camouflaged and no visible Escort. Opened fire on our A/C. (H.Q.B.C. 0116/1 to Air Ministry.)

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Wednesday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

- LINCOLN. My 1840/27. Delayed by defective D/F. Expect sail 4/1. (R.A.D. 1545/1 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- Derelict Ship. Tug CAROLINE MOLLER sailed to salve or sink Derelict reported 7 miles South of Lizard. (F.O.I. C. Falmouth 1650/1 to C. in C. W.A.)
- FIDRA.
(British, 1574 Tons.)
ST. FERGUS.
(British, 390 Tons.)
FIDRA in Convoy W.N.61 in collision at 2237/31/12 off Rattray Head with St. FERGUS sailing independently. ST. FERGUS reported sunk, Captain only casualty, and 10 survivors landed Methil 1700/1. FIDRA damaged and leaking but in no immediate danger.. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1740/1 to Adty.)
- BERKSHIRE. Engine broken down in 025° Cape Wrath 7 miles. Request Tug. (BERKSHIRE 1840/1 to A.C.O.S.) Send Tug to assist. (A.C.O.S. 1939/1 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). Fleet Tug BRIGAND sailing to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2128/1 to A.C.O.S.) BERKSHIRE can steam dead slow. Am rejoining Convoy. (CAPE MARIATO 0100/2 to A.C.O.S.)
- M.L.117. Arrived 0015 with defective steering gear. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0845/1.)
- Coaster. In distress 12 miles 242° from St. Anne's Head. (Portishead Radio 0929/1.) Tug GOLIATH sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1242/1.)
- BATH. Defective. (R.A.M.L. 1043/1 to C. in C. H.F.)

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys

Situation (D.T.D. 1145/1 to C. in C., H.F.)

F.S. 76 My 1627/31. Additions (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1006/1)

O.B.M. 269 1640/2. ROSEMARY, YORK CITY, 8. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1045/1)

W.N. 61 Arrived 1100/1. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1105/1)

O.B.O. 268 0300/2/1. Escort ARBUTUS. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1545/1) *See next page*

O.B. 269 Amendment to 1642/30, pre-sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1639/1)

O.B. 270 Amendment to 1641/30, pre-sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1705/1)

F.N. 73 List (N.C.S.O. 1717/1)

O.G.O. Convoys Commencing with O.G. 49, the Oban portion of this convoy will be designated O.G.O. with code word "Strand" and call sign M.H.W. (D.S.D. (A.Z. Message Home 36 A.Z) 1729/1)

F.N. 71 A. Arrived 1915/1. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1945/1)

W.N. 62 With MANCHESTER CITY and H. 34 passing 57.50 N., 2000, speed of advance 8 knots. (KING SOL 2005/1)

O.B.C. 268 Sailed 2200/1. Escort WOLVERINE. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2215/1) *See next page*

E.N. 50 2200/1, BLACKFLY, ELLESMERE, additional escort FOWEY. 14 ships, 2 for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/1) List (2316/1)

F.S. 77 Sailed 2300/1. 4 ships (N.C.S.O., Methil 2330/1)

C.E. 21 Intend to sail C.E. 2 1 from St. Helens on 4/1 Timetable at 7 knots. Convoy should proceed by normal route to Folkestone Gate thence to pass through following positions. (C. in C., Nore, 0936/1)

/Departure.....

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysS.L. 61-Contd
S.L.S. 61Shipping

Departure 0830/1. BULOLO as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 61 in accordance with C. in C., S.A. 1159/31/12. Also sailed Convoy S.L.S. 61. Two A/S Trawlers provided as local escorts to each convoy. (S.O. (I) Freetown, 1017N/1 to Admty.)

F.N. 72

Humber 1/1 departure H.M.Trawler HENRIETTE to join F.N. 72 for Granton at 0400. (F.O.Humber 1039/1)

O.B.O. 268

Sailed ARBUTUS to escort O.B.O. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1015/1.) *See previous page*

O.B.C. 268

Sailed WOLVERINE to escort O.B.C. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1251/1) *See previous page*

H.X. 97

Escorting MANSEPOOL, ARY LENSEN, MENETIA, BOSTON CITY, NEWTON MOORE. My position 334° Tory Island, 54 course 110° eight knots. (VISCOUNT, 1300/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

H.S. Note- VISCOUNT and other destroyers had been ordered at 1614/29 to proceed to 57° N., 16° 32' W., to collect any of the ships of H.X. 97 scattered by weather.

Expect to arrive position 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 0900/2 with 3 ships for Bristol Channel and 2 for Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Holyhead is requested to pass to Trawler escort portion M. (VISCOUNT, 1715/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

My position at 2020 334° Altacarry 8. L?BP (?) could be LEBP (HEIEN) or LJBP (MOSLI) entering North Channel. No other ship sighted. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (WHITEHALL, 2035/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1220 first meet three ships for Bristol Channel expected to arrive in position 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 0900/2 escorted by VISCOUNT. (C. in C., W.A., 2038/1 to DERBY COUNTY)

Adjust speed to arrive Bell Light Float not earlier than 0930 ships in convoy to be in line ahead 1 mile apart before crossing 20 fathom line. Ships are not to anchor inside 20 fathom line. Those unable to enter harbour in daylight anchor Moelfre Bay. Keep within one cable to North of Dan buoy on QZS 129. Motor ship(s) as slowly as possible. Attention is called to 952 AZ. All Channel lights extinguished. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2330/1 to VISCOUNT)

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-Contd.Shipping

O.B. 268

Sailed DELPHINIUM and ERICA escorting
O.B. 268. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1315/1)My 1315/1 add DEPTFORD. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
2054/1)

S.L.S. 59

Meet S.L.S. 59 12 ships unescorted. 1000/3
065° 53' 40" N., 15° 00' W., 065° 7 knots
(C. in C., W.A., 1200/1 to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON,
HEARTSEASE, HOLLYHOCK, MARGUERITE)Route for S.L.S 59 from rendezvous steer
065° for 53 miles then through position
047° 307 miles from ~~SWIFF~~ then to split in
position 061° 420 miles from ~~SWIFF~~. Local
escorts have been informed. (C. in C.,
W.A., 1436/1 to LIBERIAN)

F.S. 76

HOLDERNESS is to be sailed for Sheerness
with F.S. 76 2/1. (C. in C., Nore, 1204/1)

W.N. 62

Scapa departure CURACOA 1232 for escort
of W.N. 62. (A.C.O.S. 1301/1 to Admty.)

W.N. 62

F.S. 79

S/M H 34 to proceed to Rosyth on arrival of
W.N. 62 in Firth of Forth and to sail to
join F.S. 79 due to leave Methil at 2300/3
(C. in C., Rosyth 2303/1 to S/M H 34)

S.C. 16

S.C. 16 arrived Swinbourne area. (N.C.S.O.
Liverpool 1347/1)

O.B.C. 269

H.G. 49

MANISTEE leaves Clyde p.m. 3/1 in convoy
O.B.C. 269. After dispersal routed through
050° 00' N., 025° 00' W., 040° 00' N.,
024° 30' W., 035° 00' N., 023° 00' W., thence
to area T 1 and U 1 passing West of Q 1 and
R 1. CAVINA leaves patrol for Clyde
and overtake and join convoy H.G. 49 in
daylight 6/1. Convoy passes through 038°
00' N., 018° 30' W., at 0800 G.M.T. 3/1
thence to 050° 00' N., 022° 50' W., speed
7 knots. CAMITO leaves patrol to arrive
Gibraltar a.m. 5/1. (F.O.C.N.P. 1430/1 to
Western Patrol)Convoy
"Major"Your 0947/31. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth
1433/1 to N.C.S.O. Barry)

/E.N. 49.....

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-Contd.ShippingE.N. 49.
2 M/V's.
Northern Patrol.Position estimated at 2000/1.
E.N. 49 058° 44' N., 005° 25' W., SALOPIAN,
OTTAWA, and GARLAND escorting two merchant
vessels 060° 52' N., 025° 00' W., southbound,
CHITRAL N.P. 42 LETITIA N.P. 41 (A.C.O.S.
1537/1)

F.N. 73

F.N. 73 9 ships 1 H.M.T. and 6 trawlers from
Humber joining at 62 D buoy all for north
of Blyth except 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber
1706/1)F.N. 73
F.S. 76Nore and Harwich movements summary of
Convoy escorts F.N. Convoy 73 SHEARWATER,
due at No 5 Buoy 2200/1. Convoy F.S. 76
SHELDRAKE due at No 5 Buoy 0500/2. (N.O.I.C
Harwich 1717/1 to SHELDRAKE, SHEARWATER)

E.N. 47

E.N. 47 not arrived CHESHIRE COAST (N.C.S.O
Liverpool 1834/1)

F.S. 79

My 1017/27/12. H. 34 from Methil for
Southend will sail in F.S. 79. (C. in C.,
Rosyth, 1915/1)

F.S. 79

Following is a repetition of my 1915
convoy message. My 1017/27/12. Submarine
H. 34 from Methil for Southend will sail
in F.S. 79 (C. in C., Rosyth 1927/1 to
Admty etc.)

W.N. 63

W.N. 63, 1812/1. H.M. Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE
(S.O.) and PENILAND FIRTH 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1950/1 to C. in C., W.A.)3 M.V's.Your 1807/30 (? My 1807/30) Arrived.
(N.C.S.O Dartmouth 1436/1)S.L. 59
Search for CHESAPEAKE.CLARKIA, SKATE, ARABIS, DILIGENT have
searched 20 miles round position indicated
in your 2252/31 now proceeding to position
indicated in your 2116/1. CLARKIA, SKATE
rejoined convoy. Please inform DILIGENT
of new position 54° 28' N. 17° 51' W.
(ARABIS 2230/1 to C. in C., W.A.)Troop ConvoysGEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLEHave no instructions about GEORGIC or
WARWICK CASTLE yet. First news of these
ships comes in Admty's 2202/31 giving their
sailing date (P.S.T.O. Clyde, 1012/1 to
D of S.T.)

/W.S. 5.A.....

War Diary

1.1.1941
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys-
Contd.

Shipping

W.S. 5 A.

Your 1258/30. W.S. 5 A was organised in two parts vide Admiralty's 22 50/6 and no subsequent signals to N.C.S.O. indicated that both parts would proceed together therefore no combined order was provided for (S.N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1034/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Admiral
Darlan.New Year Message to French Fleet by
Admiral Darlan. Text in D.S. 484, 1/1/41.Vichy
Ships.Gibraltar 1115/1 French Armed Trawler
CAPITAINE ARMAND escorting ARTESIEN,
PIERRE CLAUDE, DIONÉ, passed west to east.
(1141/1).Operation
"Ration".

M02012/41

My 2324/30/12. Convoy of four merchant
ships escorted by French armed trawler
intercepted and boarded clear of Spanish
territorial waters off Cape Tres Forcas at
1200. Escort protested strongly and
threatened grave consequences.
Convoy now being escorted to Gibraltar.
BONAVENTURE at sea in support.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1410/1 to Adty).CHANTILLY has 200 seamen on board in ugly
mood. Upper deck Officers are under
arrest and sending extra boarding party.
SALLY MÆRSK stopped two hours in position
340 Cape Tres Forcas five miles with
defect. FIREDRAKE standing remainder in
same position steering 285 seven knots.
(Capt: (D) 13, 1444/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)Capt: (D) 13th 1444/1 passed for information
(F.O.C.N.A. 1646/1 to Adty).M/V.
*SUROITMy 1410/1. Ships intercepted are
CHANTILLY, *RAUZAN?, SALLY MÆRSK and OCTANE.
Escort armed Trawler LA TOULONNAISE allowed
to proceed to Oran and heard reporting by
W/T. JAGUAR reports casualties in one
ship including two killed. Am awaiting
fuller report from Capt: (D) 13.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1610/1 to Adty).Your 1610/1. Group 1 consisting of DUNCAN
JAGUAR and CHANTILLY proceeding direct to
Gibraltar from position 035° 40' N., 003° (?
32') W. JAGUAR reports following
casualties in CHANTILLY from accident,
killed Monsieur Tarte and daughter aged 12;
wounded Madame Ziouaneuti, Capataine Aupon,
Monsieur Vitard, Seaman Artero. Hospital
boat required on arrival. Probably
impossible to darken CHANTILLY. Group 2,
Consisting of HERO, FOXHOUND, OCTANE, TRIBE
SUROIT and Group 3, consisting of FIREDRAKE
and SALLY MÆRSK routed through 036° 00' N.,
004° 15' W., are at present 10 miles astern
of group 1. BONAVENTURE in close support
of group 2.
(BONAVENTURE, 1803/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.1.1.1941.
WednesdayWAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Your 1401/1 (? 1410). Do not carry out "Ration"
~~RATION~~ again without further instructions
 but necessary force to have steam by 1300/2
 for further ~~RATION~~ if ordered. S.O. Force H
 1213/1 under consideration.
 (1st Sea Lord 1916/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 1410/1. Following from M.E.W.
 begins. Report summaries of cargoes, ports
 of loading and destination of all four
 French ships as soon as possible to ensure
 prompt consideration of question of
 seizure. Ends.
 (D.E.W.D. 2001/1 to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)

BONAVENTURE 1803/1 weather unfit for
 boarding in bay. Remain under way to
 eastward Gibraltar outside Spanish
 territorial waters until weather moderates.
 Group 1 should remain N of 36 15'. Group 2
 between 036° 15' and 036° 10' and Group 3
 S of 036° 10'. BONAVENTURE establish
 visual signalling communication with
 P.W.S.S.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2252/1 to BONAVENTURE, Capt:(D)
 13).

Report through BONAVENTURE nature of the
 accident which resulted in death of
 Monsieur Tarte and daughter in CHANTILLY.
 (1st S.L. 2359/1 to JAGUAR).

SENATEUR
DUHAMEL.

French SENATEUR DUHAMEL should be sent under
 armed guard to U.K. where ship and cargo
 will be seized.
 (D.E.W.D. 1811/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.V.A. Sir
Frederick
Edward-
Collins.

Assumed command of North Atlantic Station
 and duties of A.S. Gib. to date 1/1/41.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 0700/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Whalers.

Whalers POLAR five and SKUDD six left Ponta Delgada 1100 G.M.T. 1/1. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1002/1 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

CAPSA.

CAPSA reports heard oscillation from convoy at distance of 50 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1005/1 to LEITH).

CACHALOT
Azores.

CACHALOT has nothing to report except that several merchant ships other than those expected arrived at Ponta Delgada. (V.A.S. 1034/1 to Adty).

OLYMPUS,
Azores.

OLYMPUS leaves Gibraltar 1845/2 for Azores Patrol proceeding on surface. (route) (later orders). (Capt: (S) 8th S/M Flotilla 1144/1 to Adty).

Press
Report,
Raider
Action.

Your 1434/31. Confirmed that BONAVENTURE must not be mentioned. No objection to proposed references to BERWICK omitting details of damage. (D.P.D. 1218/1 to S.O.Force H).

TRIDENT
OLYMPUS.

Position of S/Ms at 0800/2 B.S.T. and movements for following 24 hours are as follows. A. TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada. B. OLYMPUS leaves Gibraltar 1845/2 passing through position 340 Cape Spartel 12 and 035° 20' N., 008° 00' W., proceeding on surface speed of advance 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/1).

ROSLIN CASTLE,
FERM,
BELAIN
D'ESNAMBUC.

British ROSLIN CASTLE Capetown 22/12 Clyde 15½ knots 007° N., 021° W. 017° N., 021° W., 030° N., 024° W., 038° N., 023° W., 051° N., 024° W. Norwegian FERM 23/12 Gibraltar. E.T.A. 10/1 024° N., 041° W., 034° N., 01° W?. French BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC St. Thomas Virgin Is. 25/12 Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A. 1336/1).

WAR DIARY.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)ALOUETTE.Gibraltar arrival 1030/1 ALOUETTE with
invalids.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1550/1 to Adty).Daily
Summary
Operations.One routine A/S patrol. One recco on
French Coastal shipping Gibraltar to Oran.
French escorted convoy of 4 ships intercepted
off Cape Tresforças. Ships now being
escorted to Gibraltar. (See Vichy French)
(200 Group 1730/1 to Air Min)."Q"
Message
SANSU
(British
5446 tons).Following read. Merchant Vessel Raider..
Q Q Q Q 35° 27' N., 21° 56' W. SANSU S.S.
(Valentia Radio, Portishead Radio 1743/1)."Q"
Message
SANSU.Following received. Admiral Plymouth.
Important received 1849 G.M.T. Valencia
Radio received from MXOY (presumably refers
to Merchant Vessel raider report by SANSU) to
C Q at 1841 cancel my (rest jammed).
1850/1 G.M.T. Lands End Radio.
(C.in C. W.A. 1954/1 to Adty).SANSU.CALIFORNIA reports searching for darkened
ship Merchant type sighted ship at 0430/1
G.M.T. in position 041 degrees 17'N., 022
degrees W. Believed to be steering 220
degrees.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1650/1). My 1650/1 ship was
English SANSU. (F.O.C.N.A. 1728/1).My 0545/1. Location of ship British
SANSU in position 038° 40'N., 021° 42'W.,
Cancel her Q message.
(CALIFORNIA 1858/1 to F.O.C.N.P.)Submarine
Patrol.S/M's TRIUMPH, USK, and UPHOLDER sail 2200/1
to establish patrol in the vicinity of
following positions 270° Spartel five
miles 000° Spartel five miles, 000°
Malabata six miles. DERBYSHIRE adjust
speed not to cross meridian 006° 10'W.,
before 0800/2.
(1847/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)KENYA.
ARGUS.
BERWICK.

My 0216/31. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail KENYA. ARGUS and BERWICK as convenient. ARGUS and KENYA are required to reach R/V "Z" with inward A/S escort in position 55 degrees N., 22 degrees W. (date) Approach course through R/V "Z" should be 060 degrees. If escort is not met proceed in this course for 120' to position Q. ARGUS should proceed to Clyde and KENYA to Devonport. BERWICK should proceed to Portsmouth, proceeding independently after the destroyer escort from Gibraltar returns. If repairs to BERWICK do not permit of her being sailed with ARGUS, further instructions will be given. C.in C. W.A. is requested to detail inward A/S escort who should meet ARGUS and KENYA at R/V "Z". C.in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection for ARGUS and BERWICK.
(D.O.D. (F) 1938/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.ENTERPRISE.

Ref: 0229/31/12 from Adty. (See W.S.5.A. and Raider) when complete with fuel ENTERPRISE is to proceed Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1019N/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Free
French
Forces.

Passed by N.C.S.O. Duala (begins). No.2. Your tel. 462. (i) Essential PRESIDENT HOUDOUCÉ be drydocked and engines overhauled. VIKINGS has not yet arrived but reports from Freetown indicate her dynamo badly damaged. In my opinion neither of these ships is in fit state to undertake duties suggested.

(ii) COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINÉ leaves about 15/1. (iii) No news of arrival of *CAPTAIN CHARRIER. (iv) Conversion of CAP DES PALMES into armed merchant cruiser will necessitate her visiting U.K. Timed 1030/1 (Ends)
(1045/1 to Adty for V.A.C. Free French N.F. O.C. Free French Naval Forces in Africa).

* Not identified.

MOST SECRET.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)ASTRI.
suspects.

Admiralty message 559 A of 25/11/40.
(particulars required re suspects on board ships on Category B suspect list).
Reference to Swedish ASTRI which left Santos 24/12 for Baltimore, S.C.(I) Montevideo reports as follows (Begins) Investigation of crew list at Montevideo shows only Germans on board are Chief Cook and Steward. Buenos Aires reports Master is by no means pro Nazi but is liable to blame England for his personal troubles. Suggests further enquiry when ship arrives New York.
(Ends).
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1048/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VIRGINIA S.

My 1728/31 overdue shipping. VIRGINIA.S. arrived Buenos Aires 31/12.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1014/1).

SAINT
GOBAIN.

Overdue shipping Swedish Ship SAINT GOBAIN due Capetown 28/12 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1115/1 to Adty).

Suspected
Raider,
dispositions.

My 1345/25 and your 0229/1/12 (? 31/12)
It was thought indications up to 23/12 though vague suggested that an enemy surface vessel not necessarily warship might be moving towards the Cape with possibility of appearing in that area or moving to South India Ocean.
(C.in C. S.A. 1157/1/N to Adty).

My 1149/1. Part 2 and final. (Part 1 given T.O.O. 1137/1). DEVONSHIRE was retained at Simonstown to form group with CORNWALL on arrival in case any further indication of movement to Eastward or in Cape area was received. Possible also that raider which have been in Indian Ocean might move West again. CORNWALL has now been ordered to refit and DEVONSHIRE to proceed in accordance with instructions. ENTERPRISE and HERMES should be available for operations in this area about 23/1 after ENTERPRISE has had 7 days for self refit and HERMES 10 days for major overhauls of aircraft.
(C.in C. S.A. 1149/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)DEVONSHIRE
HAWKINS
CORNWALL.

Ref: 0229/31 from Adty. Sail DEVONSHIRE a.m. 2/1 at speed of advance 18 knots to St. Helena to fuel. After fuelling at St. Helena DEVONSHIRE will R/V with HAWKINS and W.S.5.A. and escort to Durban. R/V will be communicated later. CORNWALL is to commence refit forthwith.
(C.in C. S.A. 1151N/1 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.5.A.

Convoy W.S.5.A. Ships are to enter harbour in following order if practicable, but in any case troop transports should enter first. (list). Pilots will meet ships three miles West of Aleppo Buoy. FORMIDABLE, DUNEDIN, DORSETSHIRE, NORFOLK, and FURIOUS are to enter harbour before convoy in order named. A/S escort to remain outside to afford A/S protection while convoy is entering. Available A/S Forces from Freetown probably one sloop and one Corvette will meet Convoy seaward end of searched channel. Constitution of A/S Forces from Freetown is uncertain. A/S Operation during entry of convoy will be organized and directed by Senior Officer of Escort in ISIS. Coal, Oil Fuel and water requirements of each ship of convoy should be reported 24 hours before arrival water requirements being kept to minimum required for passage to next port of call.
(C.in C. S.A. 1451N/1 to S.O. Force K).

SURPRISE.

When ready for sea SURPRISE should be sailed as additional A/S escort for next available O.B. or O.G. Convoy, parting company as necessary to proceed to Freetown. She is to join the command of C.in C. S.A. on arrival on that station.
(D.O.D.(H) 1808/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

SANANDRES.
ashore.

Following received from N.C.S.O. para. (Begins) Norwegian ship S.ANDRES badly ashore off Melancieire Island Tutoya exposed position, reports that jettison of cargo is considered necessary 1121/31. (Ends)
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1942/1 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Suspicious
Ship,
JOHAN
Report.

My 1717/28/12 re report of suspicious vessel by S.S. JOHAN. Having had opportunity of interviewing Master of S.S. JOHAN I consider the information given unreliable. Further enquiries about the usage of lights of Orango Channel will be made from Portuguese ships calling at Freetown.

(C.in C. S.A. 2113/1 to Adty).

Free
French
Air
Forces.

For Spears Mission. Following for D.A.A.C. Air Ministry from Bellairs. Further (? my letter) dated (? 16/12). Consider Captain Kopp as Air Adjutant thoroughly capable on slow aircraft and will be all right on high speed after short training. Have come to conclusion that Lysander most unsuitable (? coastal) patrol or use over Equatorial forest owing to short range and single (? engine). Suggest Anson aircraft more suitable coastal station like Libre-ville and Pointe Noire. Three Anson at each would liberate equal number Lysander which could be (? used) in North where conditions more suitable and would enable reserve to be formed. Crews can be found or trained locally. Consider as far best solution to meet requirements expressed by Navy that F.F. air force carry out coastal reconnaissance along own coastline. Request (? if omitted) possible supply 6 I.E. plus 1 I.R. Anson be signalled here.

(20 M.M. Brazzeville 2025/1 to W.O.)

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

JADE.

A/S trawler, attack on U-Boat off Malta 29/12.
(See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's attacked).

Greek A/S Officers.

Admty. 1757/20 Request approval to supply selected officers of Royal Hellenic Navy completing A/S course with C.B. 1966, 1970 and 3036. If approved, it is requested that six copies of each may be forwarded. Approval is also requested to supply Greek Liaison Officer at Alexandria with C.B. 01764 (39) and C.B. 1842. (C. in C. Med 0907/1 to Admty)

Suda Bay Boom Defences.

Admty. 1535Z/28. (A) B I indicator nets are laid (1) From Deutero Point in a direction 182 for seven cables (11) From position 185 Deutero Point 2.5 cables in a direction 189 to South shore of Bay. (B) Table cloth A/B nets are laid (1) From Southern extremity of Suda Bay Fort in a direction 155° for 1.7 cables (11) From position 179° Southern extremity of Suda Bay Fort three cables in a direction 200° South Shore. Passage between Suda Bay Fort and North Shore is blocked by a line of B I nets and a line of table cloth nets. (C) Exposed A/T net consisting of four layers of B two net stopped together has been laid from position 167½° Pottier Point 3600 feet in a direction 200° for 3,000 feet. A number of barrels only has been laid from position 165° Pottier Point 2,850 feet in a direction 346° for 2,300 feet. Q B C 157 and Q B C 161 refer.
(C in C. Med. 1009/1 to Admty).

SYDNEY.

Your 0608/27. It is not expected H.M.A.S. SYDNEY will be available at Suez till 12/1.
(C. in C. Med. 1151/1 to C. in C. E.I).

/Tripoli.....

War Diary

1.1.1941.

Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Tripoli.

Aircraft reconnaissance Tripoli. a.m./1
Three cruisers four destroyers and
twenty merchant ships.
(V.A. Malta 1155/1 to TRUANT)
(H.S. Note:- These were attacked
by air the same night, see 2/1).

RORQUAL.

Captain S 1's 1247/30 (Return of O P
and R. Class Submarines). RORQUAL
is not required.
(V.A.S. 1216/1 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report.

Operational Summ. No.205 up to 1200
hrs. 1.1.1941.
1. Egypt. 31/12:- Enemy troop and
M.T. vehicle concentrations in Bardia
area bombed by 27 Blenheims during
day. No change in military situation
at Bardia.

Valona.

2. Greece. Day 31/12:- 9 Blenheims
dropped 9500 lbs. of bombs from 7000
ft. on ammunition dumps and warehouses
at Valona.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1221/1).

SOUTHAMPTON.

SOUTHAMPTON forms part of 3rd Cruiser
Squadron.
(C. in C. Med. 1620/1 to Med Station.).
(H.S. Note. Transferred from East
Indies Command.).

Malta Air
Report.
Tripoli
Recon.

Combined Services Report Malta up to
1700 hours 1/1. All times G.M.T.
0847-1116 Glenn Martin 431 Flight
photographic reconnaissance Tripoli
harbour. 3 6 inch cruisers at shore end
of Eastern Mole. 4 destroyers moored
near the bend of northern mole 4 large
M/Vs anchored at north centre of
harbour. 6 large M/Vs anchored off
Custorio 10 large M/Vs in 2 parallel
lines at western end of harbour.

/2 seaplanes.....

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Air
Report.
Tripoli
Recon.
(contd).

2 seaplanes close to north western shore of harbour and 3 seaplanes at soutj eastern end of harbour. 1022-1155 Glenn Martin 431 Flight despatched reconnaissance Taranto but returned through adverse weather. 1200-1314 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Pantellaria mentioned in my O.193 31/12 unsuccessful. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/1).

M.N.B.D.O.

My 1941/9/11/40. Full Equipment for Under Water Group, M.N.B.D.O. cannot at present be provided. Following arrangements are being made:-
(Details of (i) Boom Defence Unit).
(ii) Controlled Mining Unit.
(iii) Indicator Loop Unit.
(D. of L.D. 1711/1 to C. in C. Med).

Turkish
Conferences.

For Admiral Kelly. General Marshal Cornwall and Air Vice Marshal Elmhurst arrive on 13/1 in Angora to start conversations. Request you attend conferences as necessary in order to represent Naval point of view. (C. in C. Med. 1733/1 to N.A. Angora).

Transport
to Albania.

Belgrade telegram of 29/12 reporting Yugoslav vessels transporting war material to Albania. No confirmation in Admiralty. Please grade this report and give all possible information concerning source. (D.N.I. 1803/1 to A.N.A. Belgrade).

Flashless
Powder.

Are the Italians using flashless powder at Bardia? Please consult General Wavell if necessary before you reply. (1 S.L. 2153/1 to C. in C. Med).

/Cables.....

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (contd).

Cables
RETRIEVER
RECORDER.

Ref X 32556 dated 30/12. (1205 L.T./30) detailing programme RETRIEVER. Owing to failure of 3rd Port Sudan-Aden cable leaving only one cable for communications ex Egypt and as C. in C. East Indies has made escort arrangements, RETRIEVER, proceeding to repair Port Sudan-Aden cables before proceeding to Crete to carry out remainder of programme. RETRIEVER now ordered to proceed to Aden to carry out repairs. Priority of work required now, first, Red Sea; Second, (a) Aegean (b) Alexandria - Sollum cable; Third Persian Gulf. Therefore suggest does first and second (a). RECORDER does second (b). Should be grateful for ship provided for Indian Ocean and 3rd at earliest. (C. in C. M.E. 2130/1 to W.O.).

East Indies.

Raider
Report.

Following has been read. From Mombasa Radio heard 500 Kc/s QSA1 2345 G.M.T./31. R.R.R.R. British unread LOLLN2. Unroad R.R.R. Faint whistle also heard. M.S.A. Radio 2350 G.M.T./31. (Admiral, Colombo 0059Z/1).

Aden
Force.

My 0942/14 (776C) Aden Force, delete AMBER add RATNAGIRI, NETRAVATI. (C. in C. E.I. 0524/1 to East Indies Station).

ANTENOR.

ANTENOR is to leave Colombo at 0400 Z/2 and proceed to 12 knots to position 003° North 085° East and then to position 001° 30' South 075° 30' East. (C. in C. E.I 0704Z/1 to ANTENOR).

SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE is to leave Mombasa P.M. /2 and proceed to Durban at 15 knots passing through position 020° S. 041° E. and 030° S. 033° E. arriving Durban P.M. /7. (C. in C. E.I. 0706Z/1 to SHROPSHIRE).

/Troop.....

War Diary

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Troop
Transport.

In order to get 240 Indian Naval Ratings and approximately 60 military personnel to U.K. have arranged with S.S.T.O. Egypt and C. in C. East Indies for 1 ship of W.S. 4 B to call at Aden on homeward voyage to embark these ratings who are being despatched from Bombay to connect at Aden. In view of your 1717 of 29/12 to S.T.O. Egypt para 7 request confirmation that all the ratings can travel to U.K. in this one ship, otherwise if divided between 2 or 3 ships great difficulties are foreseen as regards their feeding arrangements and cooks. (S.S.T.O. India 0800/1 to D.S.T.).

Dhows

Your 1434/29 para. 3. My position
Jebel Tier 31. Have 4 Dhows from
Is. but am not sure they have
Grain to enemy. Can delay
these to Kamaran be accepted
Kamaran dawn 2/1 and Port
0700Z/3. ?
AMATTA, 1328Z/1 to S.N.O. Red
force.).

War Registry.

Have you a copy, please of

Cin C East Indies 12202/25,

referred to in STROPSHIRE's 1530Z/1 ?

Gen. Sturford

War Diary

109 W. III.

2/1/41

W.D.

We can find no trace
of it.

ARBace

rotHWK.

4/1/41.

1220Z/25/12 (no trace in W.R.).
o-operation essential. If any
rdment is to be carried out
bt take place before 9/1 owing
my commitments requiring all
able aircraft after that date.
's confirmation is being telegraphed
if they are available till
A.O.C.'s representative is
ng. Report of meeting and
ciation is being signalled tonight.
PSHIRE 1530Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.).

23/30. Your 0341/30 STIRLING
E anticipated date of arrival
31/1. Master reports vessel
res docking. Vessel sailed
in S.W. 4 A. for U.K. via
own.
F.O. Egypt 1721/1 to D. of S.T.).

/Persian.....

War Diary

1.1.1941.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).Troop
Transport.

In order to get 240 Indian Naval Ratings and approximately 60 military personnel to U.K. have arranged with S.S.T.O. Egypt and C. in C. East Indies for 1 ship of W.S. 4 B to call at Aden on homeward voyage to embark these ratings who are being despatched from Bombay to connect at Aden. In view of your 1717 of 29/12 to S.T.O. Egypt para 7 request confirmation that all the ratings can travel to U.K. in this one ship, otherwise if divided between 2 or 3 ships great difficulties are foreseen as regards their feeding arrangements and cooks. (S.S.T.O. India 0800/1 to D.S.T.).

Dhows
Persian
Gulf.

Your 1434/29 para. 3. My position 025° Jebel Tier 31. Have 4 Dhows from Dahlak Is. but am not sure they have traded Grain to enemy. Can delay in towing these to Kamaran be accepted arriving Kamaran dawn 2/1 and Port Sudan 0700Z/5. ?
(PARRAMATTA, 1328Z/1 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force.).

Bombardment.

Your 1220Z/25/12 (no trace in W.R.). Air co-operation essential. If any bombardment is to be carried out it must take place before 9/1 owing to Army commitments requiring all available aircraft after that date. G.O.C.'s confirmation is being telegraphed to me if they are available till 9/1. A.O.C.'s representative is willing. Report of meeting and appreciation is being signalled tonight. (SHROPSHIRE 1530Z/1 to C. in C. E.I.).

STIRLING
CASTLE.

My 2023/30. Your 0341/30 STIRLING CASTLE anticipated date of arrival U.K. 31/1. Master reports vessel requires docking. Vessel sailed today in S.W. 4 A. for U.K. via Capetown.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1721/1 to D. of S.T.).

/Persian.....

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Persian Gulf.

Your INT/3. 31/12. (1305/31 - Possible Italian attack on Shatt-el-Arab and Basra). Iraqi Government should not be officially informed unless and until further more definite indications of hostile intentions are received.

(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1821/1 to Iraq)

Ships etc -
W.S.4 B.

Using ANDES, STRATHALLAN, ORCADES, ~~VARSOVA~~ ~~TAKLIWA~~ and ships of "EMILY" "Emily" a total of 14500 prisoners of war can be embarked.

Military strongly urge a balance of 11,500 should also be embarked for Bombay during January.

Can remaining ships W.S.4B be diverted to Bombay for this purpose?

(S.T.O. Port Said, 1844/1 to Transports, London).

China.

Q.D.B.
messages.

Following Q D B Messages are in force, (list). (R.A. Malaya, 0143Z/1, to China Station).

Raiders.
REICHENFELS.
ATLANTIS

Photographs of raider that sank AUTOMEDON and interrogation of survivors confirms very close similarity to REICHENFELS C.A.F.O. 422/40 diagram 6, but fitted with screen in well deck, movable superstructure over number 3 Hatch, Samson post abaft funnel removed. Name Atlantis on stern painted over.

In addition to TEDDY, OLE JACOB, and AUTOMEDON, there is evidence that ATLANTIS was responsible for capture of TIRRAMNA, TALLEYRAND, BENARTY, BRITISH COMMANDER and for laying mines off South Africa. No prisoners on board, at time of TEDDY's capture. Survivors from AUTOMEDON understood they would be taken to Italian East Africa where prisoners had previously been sent.

Advised ATLANTIS stated ship had been at sea 13 months, had called at Amsterdam Island, was capable of 20 knots with foul bottom and had accurate news of shipping movements from world-wide German Agents. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0912Z/1 to Admty. etc.).

/ Overdue Ships,

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Overdue Ships,
 Raider
 Intelligence.

Following ships now overdue in P N I.O Area and are presumed to have fallen into enemy hands.

(a) Ships unsuitable for use as supply or accommodation ships and probably sunk, CITY OF BAGDAD, KING CITY, BENARTY, COMMISSAIRE, RAMEL, DURMITOR.

(b) Ships suitable for use as supply or accommodation ships, TALLEYCAT (FILIPIZ ?) NORDVARD, STORSTAD, RINGWOOD.

(c) Suitable for conversion to raider TIRRANNA.

Lists do not include ships known or believed sunk. Masters are being warned to report sightings of above vessels.

(2 corrupt groups) raider described as 6,000 tons one raked funnel with 2 narrow white bands close to bridge two masts counter stern raked stem attacked shipping off Nauru.

Later report states raider accompanied vessel of 3,000 tons modern type Maier form bow cruiser stern two masts single straight funnel amid Apex presumably acting as tender to larger vessel, ship carried Japanese markings.

(C. of I.S., Singapore, 0927Z/1 to N.A. Tokyo).

TALLEYRAND

Raiders,
 use of
 Marshall Islands.

Reports regarding possible use of Marshall Island as a refuelling base are substantiated by following known movements of raiders and suspected movements of German ships from Japan. German ship REGENSBURG left Yokohama 27/9, having draught 26 feet and cargo of fuel (fact). At 12 knots she could have arrived at Marshall Island on 7/10. Norwegian ship

* RINGWOOD was sunk in position 002° N. 167° E. on 15/10 by Raider NARVIK which could then have arrived at Marshall Island 17/10 and refuelled from REGENSEBURG.

German ship REGENSBURG is known to have arrived at Yokohama 28/10 with draught of only 16 feet in which case, she must have left Marshall Island by 19/10. Raiders were not heard of again till British ship HOLMWOOD was sunk in position 44° S. 177° W. on 25/11 and British ship

RANGITANE 37° S. 173 W. on 26/11, 3 raiders being present on both occasions.

Raiders then sank British ship TRIONA 6/12 and Norwegian ship VINNI, British ships TRIADIC, TRIASTER, KOMATA 7/12, all off Nauru. On 8/12 two raiders and possibly three were sighted off Nauru. Raiders

were reported by survivors from sunk ships to have arrived at Marshall Island 12/12 and departed 13/12. German ship ELSA ESSBERGER is known to have left Kobe 30/11 and returned 25/12. This would have

* Intercepted sunk by
 Raider A (ORION) 14/10
 from Raider Summons
 of Cdr Rowbotham. Feb 1950

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Raiders,
Use of
Marshall
Islands. (Contd.)

This would have enabled her to have reached Marshall Island by 10/12 that is two days before arrival of raiders, and left again for Kobe 14/12 having refuelled raiders. Raiders are then reported to have proceeded near Nauru and thence to Emirau on 21/12. German ships from Japan now at sea are REGENSBURG left Yokohama 20/12. A. ESSBERGER, left Kobe 29/12. The fact that two potential supply ships from Japan are now at sea suggest either an increase of raider activity in Pacific or a more distant refuelling base.

A report from resident commissioner Ocean Island that Japanese Authorities prohibit postal communication between Marshall and Gilbert Islands from 9/11 is significant.

(C.O.I.S., Singapore, 1002Z/1, to Ambassador, Tokyo).

ABERDARE
HARROW

Your 0930/31, ABERDARE and HARROW are to be sailed to Alexandria as convenient to join Mediterranean Fleet.
(D.M.S. 1807/1 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH

~~421.~~ My 1221 31 (Orders for DESPATCH). In view of visit of DESPATCH to Grand Cayman request reply by signal to A.W.I. No. 281/75/1 5th April 1940 regarding recruiting for R.N. in Grand Cayman.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0954/1 to Admty.)

Intelligence,
A.W.I. Station.

Your 1145/28. Appreciated that certain information asked for by S.O.(I) Jamaica may not be strictly within sphere of naval intelligence, but recent instructions received by this officer justify his request for certain reports. I have made representations to Admiralty with object of improving co-ordination and distribution of intelligence on this station, and hope a clearer demarcation of responsibility may result. For the present I would be grateful if Consul could comply with S.O.(I) Jamaica's request for reports. (C.in C. A.W.I. to Minister, Panama, 1252/1)
(note:- this message passed to Admiralty for information).

My 1511/11 and my 1252/26. Minister Panama's 1145/28 and my 1252/1 in reply thereto are being passed to you. I feel that immediate steps on lines suggested in my 1511/11 should be taken both to improve co-ordination and distribution of intelligence and also to
relieve S.O.(I)..

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Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

relieve S.O.(I) from extra burden of collation of those security reports which do not come strictly within sphere of Naval Intelligence.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1302/1, to Admty.)

PRINCE ROBERT.

N.S.O(I) Callao 1050/1. Resume patrol off Callao (H.S. Note. - Copy of this signal by cable has "Talcahuano" instead of "Callao") forthwith.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1423/1 to PRINCE ROBERT).

AURANIA,
COMORIN,
LACONIA

Halifax arrival Jan./1 AURANIA from B H X 99.
Departure COMORIN, LACONIA ocean escort H X 100 to Sydney. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1657/1).

Shipping Routes
and Raiders.

Your 0912/30 concur. Request you will promulgate necessary instructions to authorities in your command.
(D.T.D. 1905/1 to C.in C.A.W.I.).

U.S. Bases,
Bermuda.

M 3132/41?

Charges d'Affaires Washington Tel. 3317 of 30/12 to F.O. United States base requirements Bermuda for flying boats now differ entirely from Greenslade's proposals given in Governor Bermuda telegram 0266 of 2/11 to S. of S. for Colonies. Naval Attache informs me only reasons he can get out of Navy Department are (1) Unsuitability of Castle Harbour Area for flying boats. No details given. (2) Interference in army aircraft operations by Naval Aircraft in same area. As regards (1) I remain unconvinced in default of further technical reasons. As to (2) Good organization and use of a reasonable number of aircraft should get over this. Also under our proposals U.S. would have full use of air source from Morgan's Island in time of war, using additional depot craft as necessary.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2301/1, to Admty.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE

Arrived at Noumea 2100Z/29.
(N.B. Melbourne 0255Z/1).

Your 95172 1/1 Nodeco.
"~~Nodeco~~" ready embark not before 30/1.
(Army, Melbourne, 0255/1, to Troopers, London).

Raiders

alias for Raider B,
KOMET

My 2000Z/29 Admiralty Reporting Officer Nauru reports that when MANYO MARU attacked Nauru her armament was as follows (details).
(A.C.N.B. 1130Z/1 to Admty.)

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.).

Suspicious
Vessels.

Resident Ocean Island reports 2 vessels painted light grey two funnels two masts about 6000 tons passed North of Apaiang Gilbert group from West to East at 0001Z/29. Native reports. No markings national flag or other particulars available.

(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2101Z/1, to Admty., etc.).

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND.
FRANKFURT.

From Callao. ^c Conception reports shipping statement issued by Customs for 600 tons Mineral concentrate for PORTLAND, 711 tons for FRANKFURT destination Germany. Customs Talcahuano instructed to permit Agents Wagner Chadwick Company export 1489 tons beans which will probably be transhipped to PORTLAND which ship undocked midday 30/12 and should have sufficient fuel for 14 days voyage. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 0855/1.

ATLAS.

30/12, Departure ATLAS for Marseilles.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1915/1).

War Diary.1.1.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.BRITISH ZEAL
(torpedoed
31/12).

M02616/41.

Tanker, British, 8532 tons. Mombasa radio heard 500 kcs. QSAI 2345 G.M.T./31. "RRRR" BRITISH (unread) L 11 N. 2(unread) RRR. Faint whistle also heard. M S A Radio 2350 G.M.T./31. (Colombo, 0059Z/1, to Admty.)

BRITISH ZEAL torpedoed 015 degs. 40' North 020 degs. 43' West re-boarded, still floating, engine working, requires immediate standby, crew safe. (BRITISH ZEAL, No T.O.O./1 to Admty.)

BRITISH ZEAL torpedoed on 31/12 position now 015° 40' N. 020° 43' West report ship still afloat reboarded and engines working. Important to locate and ascertain general position if possible. Detach ENCOUNTER to locate and report situation but contact with Force K and convoy should not be unduly delayed. Trawlers can arrive position about January 4 and remain three days. If draught can be brought below 26 feet ship could get into Bathurst. Dutch Tug HUDSON leave Freetown tonight for position speed nine knots. (C.in C. S.A., 1901N/1 to ISIS).

My 1901/1. Tug HUDSON (Call Sign etc.). (C.in C. S.A. 1922/1 to ISIS, S.O. FORCE K and ENCOUNTER).

Submarines Reported.

Following bearing intercepted at 1627/31. Mauritius 093/1. (D.D.I.C. 0752/1 to C.in C. S.A., etc.).

My 1638/31. (Position of Submarine). If nothing seen and not in contact by noon 1/1/41 return to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1040/1 to WINCHELSEA, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON.

One S/M identity unknown in position 54.25 N., 15.00 W. 2500. (A/C Aldergrove 1815/1).

Aircraft report U boat in position 054 degs 25' N. 015 degs 00' W. at 1815. (C.in C. W.A., 1910/1 to AMBUSCADE, etc.)

/ Estimated U-Boat dispositions...

War Diary.

1.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U-Boat
dispositions.

Italian.

1 or 2 to E. or N.E. Azores.
1 may enter Gironde tonight.
4 between 54 degs. 30 mins. North and
56 degs. 30 mins. North 14 degs. 30 mins.
West and 16 degs. West.
2 more may be in same area or proceeding
towards Gironde.

German.

1 was in 15 degs. 43 mins. North 20 degs.
24 mins. West at 2312/31 working North-
ward.
1 may be South of Ireland outward bound.
3 between 57 degs. North and 60 degs.
North and near or West of 20 degs. West,
of which 1 was about 58 degs. North
21 degs. 30 mins. West at 0208/1.
1 was in 58 degs. 40 mins. North 17 degs.
50 mins. West at 1612/31.
1 in southern half of N. Sea homeward.

Possibly 1 vaguely between Rockall and
Bloody Foreland.
(D.D.I.C. 1324/1).

Submarines Attacked.

Mediterranean.

A/S Trawler JADE carried out 2 attacks
on ~~submarine~~ contact 4 miles off entrance
Grand Harbour in 70 fathoms at 1120/29.
5 Ratings claim they saw the bows of a
U Boat break the surface after second
attack but this was not confirmed from
bridge. No oil or wreckage observed.
At 1630 PARTHIAN reported bubbles as
from a submarine about 5 miles S.E. of
original attack. No contact could be
obtained by searching trawlers, and
there were no further developments.
Consider it a possible.
(V.A. Malta, 1215/1 to C.in C. Med.).

War Diary2.1.41.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

B.C.S.1. in HOOD, escorted by 4 Destroyers, left Scapa at 1600 today to act as a Covering Force for minelaying operations off the Faroes.

Four H.E. Bombs were dropped in Dublin last night, causing damage and casualties but no loss of life; and H.E. and incendiary bombs were also dropped in various parts of Eire, 3 persons being killed and 2 seriously injured near Borris in County Carlow.

British Air Activity

3 of the standard Air Patrols in the Rosyth Area were flown this afternoon; and a new Patrol of the Moray Firth Area to be flown during daylight hours has been ordered. Submarines at Lorient and Bordeaux and the Train Ferries at Flushing were attacked last night by our Bombers.

Enemy Air Activity

The even-numbered F.N. Convoy was shadowed by one aircraft at 1345 today off Foulness, and the odd-numbered F.N. Convoy at 1702 off the Humber; but neither Convoy was attacked.

Mining

R.A.M.L. with the 1st M/L Squadron and 3 Destroyers left Port Z.A. at 0915 this morning for a minelaying operation off the Faroe Islands, and at 0800 C.S. 2 in ARETHUSA with AURORA, 4 Destroyers, left Scapa with INTREPID and ICARUS for a similar operation off the Norwegian Coast.

/The minelaying...

War Diary2.1.1941
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.

The minelaying operation off Milford Haven was completed by ADVENTURE by 2210 tonight. The port of Tees, which had been closed since 2019 yesterday, was re-opened at 1500 today; and Liverpool, which had also been closed, was re-opened at 1211 today.

Vichy FrenchOperation
"Ration"

Capt. (D) 13, who intercepted a French convoy of 4 ships yesterday, states that the escort would not allow officer to board. The ships did not obey orders to scuttle and all were boarded. SALLY MARSK hoisted the Free French flag and subsequently the Red Ensign, and the other ships were friendly except CHANTILLY (in which certain casualties occurred)

The French Admiralty has demanded the release of the ships "to avoid very serious consequences" Meanwhile the Admiralty have instructed F.O.C.N.A. that Operation "Ration" is to be continued.

North Atlantic

Marine casualties are reported to 3 ships of Convoy W.S. 5 A at Gibraltar in a heavy S.W. gale last night. NORTHERN PRINCE, one of the M.T. ships, cannot be ready by the time appointed for her to leave, as she must be docked.

Weather prohibited flying operations today, except for a Glenn Martin reconnaissance of Gibraltar in the afternoon.

War Diary

2.1.41.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

U-Boats

C. in C., South Atlantic has been asked for an opinion as to what base U-Boats are working from in the Freetown area.

Enemy Unit

D/F bearings at 1916Z/2 indicated a German surface ship between 05° N., and 05° S., 12° and 18° W., (probably 550h.S.S.W. of Freetown) NEPTUNE is to search the vicinity and HAWKINS to leave Freetown to search adjoining areas.

Mediterranean

Tripoli
Bombed

10 R.A.F. Wellingtons dropped 18½ tons of bombs on the harbour and shipping at Tripoli last night, following an air reconnaissance report that 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers and 20 merchant ships were there. It is believed much damage was caused.

3 Wellingtons and 2 Bombays continued attacks during the night on Bardia where a cargo ship and gunboat were observed and 3 destroyers entering harbour. 44 Blenheims kept up a sustained bombing during today.

Valona

As enemy units are probably leaving Valona and making for Taranto, TETRARCH (submarine) is to proceed if practicable to the northernmost part of her area (She has been patrolling in the Gulf of Taranto)

East Indies

COLOMBO has been ordered to patrol off Kismayu.

War Diary.2. 1. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.HOOD.

Admiralty 1547/1. I consider any further delay in restoring HOOD to her full power is not acceptable. Propose therefore HOOD's refit be proceeded with on 15th January. NELSON's docking can be postponed. (C. in C. H.F. 1023/2 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K."Deluge".

At 1130/Z. (D.C. 1201/2.) At 2330/2 (D.C. 2330/2.)

Movements.CURACOA.

Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0044/2.)

EDINBURGH.

Sailed from Scapa 1000/2. (F.O.C.O.S. 1031/2.)

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.

Your 1624/1. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1035/2.)

NAIAD.

Sailed from Scapa 0958/2. (A.C.O.S. 1045/2.)

WHITSHED.

Arrived Scapa 1708/1. (A.C.O.S. 1139/2.)

CALIFORNIA.
KENYA,
ARGUS.

Your 1938/1. Propose CALIFORNIA join KENYA and ARGUS in R/V. Z. at 1000/10, B.S.T. for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1140/2. to Adty.)

SOMALI.

Sailed from Scapa 1530 for Rosyth. (A.C.O.S. 1553/2.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1554/2.)

HOLDERNESS.

Arrived Sheerness 1500/2. (C. in C. Nore 1608/2.)

HOOD/

War Diary.

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

HOOD.
ECHO.
ELECTRA.
SIKH,
ESKIMO. }

Sailed Scapa 1623/2. (A.C.O.S. 1623/2.)

see also p. 44

NEWPORT.

Sailed for Plymouth. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1635/2.) Adjust speed to arrive Rame Head at 1030/4. (C. in C. W.A. 1918/2 to NEWPORT.)

STANLEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1645 (C. in C. W.A. 1920/2.)

KIPLING.

Sailed Plymouth 1106. Arrived Plymouth 1645 (C. in C. W.A. 0036/3.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.

My 1115/1 and C. in C. Nore 1505/1. It is essential that ship should arrive at Dover with an anchor. (V.A.Dover 1120/2 to Adty.) Following programme proposed. Arrive off Dover 0100/5. (F.O.I.C. London 1630/2 to C. in C. Nore.) Your 1630/2. approved. (C. in C. Nore 2020/2.)

OTTAWA,
GARLAND.

On passage to Clyde, Ships pass through area between 54° and 56° N., 14° and 16° W, where Italian U-Boats are operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1311/2. to OTTAWA.)

Submarines.

SEVERN.

Your 2016/1. Concur. Request you provide suitable escort. (V.A.S. 1156/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

TUNA.

Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1338/2.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/3. (V.A.S. 1627/2.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1735/2.)

War Diary.2. 1. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

Ordered for today: "~~Stab~~", "~~1734V~~", "~~Stan~~", "~~Horn~~", "~~Horn~~", "~~Horn~~". (C. in C. Rosyth 0720/2. "~~Horn~~" cancelled owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1042/2.) "~~Stan~~", "~~Stan~~", "~~Stan~~" flown P.M. Visibility maximum. No ships sighted. (C. in C. Rosyth 2022/2)

Patrol "~~1734V~~" "~~Stan~~".

My 0002/1. Add following Patrol ~~1734V~~ "~~1734V~~" to be flown daily by Dyce during daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 2040/2.)

Enemy Air Activity.F.N. Even Convoy.

Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 36' N. 1° 12' E. (LONDONDERRY 1345/2.)

F.N. Odd Convoy.

Being shadowed by one A/C in 53° 27' N. 0° 29' E. (VIMIERA 1702/2.)

Lowestoft.

Damage by Bomb at 0615/31. Estimate £20. (Works, Shotley 1850/2.)

Eire.

During Night 1/2, four H.E. Bombs were dropped in Dublin causing damage and casualties but no loss of life; and H.E. and Incendiary Bombs were dropped in various parts of the country, 3 persons being killed and 2 seriously injured near Borris, County Carlow. Magnetic Mines were also dropped with parachutes from A/C during Night 2/3 at Glen Cormack, near Enniskerry. (Times, 3/1.)

Mining.Shipwash Area.

In view of report of unknown vessels off Shipwash 4 Fleet Minesweepers will sweep Channel before arrival of F.S.76. If practicable reduce speed so as not to arrive Aldeburgh before 0900.

(C. in C. Nore 0110/2 to VANITY, WESTMINSTER.)

Tees.

~~1734V~~
~~1734V~~
~~1734V~~
Hartlepool.

Port of Tees closed. Hartlepool open. (C. in C. Rosyth 0755/2.) Tees open. Precautions. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1500/2 to Adty.)

Operation.
D.Z.

Sailed from Scapa C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with AURORA, MASHONA, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, INTREPID, ICARUS. (A.C.O.S.0800/2.)

Liverpool/13

War Diary.2. 1. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. Contd.Liverpool.

Port closed. Keep to seaward of 20-fathom line. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0850/2 to RHODODENDRON, WHITEHALL and 0926/2 to Adty.) All swept channels and channel lights extinguished. Do not enter Q25.129 except in daylight. Precautions. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1146/2 to WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN.) Port re-opened (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1211/2.)

S.N.6. and
S.N.65.

Sailed Port Z.A. at 0915/2, RAML in SOUTHERN PRINCE with MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, and OURAGAN. (TRELAWNEY 0917/2 to Adty.)

Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with four destroyers at 1600 today and proceed by channel "C" thence following track of R.A.M.L. Speed of advance 16 knots, keeping to southwestward during darkness and making contact about 1000/3 near 61° 25' N. 08° 00' W. Intend to remain in vicinity of minelayers during operations. (B.C.I. 1121/2. to C. in C. H.F.)

Sailed Scapa 1600 F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. in HOOD, escorted by ECHO, ELECTRA, SIKH, and ESKIMO (A.C.O.S. 1623/2.)

Z.M.E.10.

ADVENTURE left Milford Haven 1800. (V.A.S. 1951/2 to SEAWOLF) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2210/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.TIRPITZ,
SEYDLITZ.

Positions on 1/1. (D.D.I.C. 1643/2.)

Brest.

R/C. at 1200/2. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1700/2.)

Boulogne.

R/C. at 1515/2. (P.R.U. Benson 2135/2.)

War Diary.

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BROCK.

My 1701/29. Delayed at Tilbury by defect in main circulator. Completion in about 3 days. (F.O.I.C. London 1350/2 to Adty.)

OPORTO.

(British, 2352 Tons.) Struck rock in Approaches, Iceland. Leaking. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1710/2 to Adty.)

NEWPORT.

Turbine and steering-gear defective. Will require Tug on arrival at Plymouth about 0800/4. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1635/2 to C. in C. W.A.) Position 51° 58' N. 5° 58' W. Other engine rapidly becoming defective. (NEWPORT 0600/3.) Arrived with defects (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1052/3.) Port turbine stripped and starboard defective. Can be repaired in 48 hours to reach a Bristol Channel Port. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1440/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.Convoys.H.X.100.

Sailing telegram. 1330 A.S.T./1.
Escorts COMORIN, B.H.X, MONTCLARE.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1002/2). (S.N.O.
Halifax 1007/2.) Ships containing
munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1016/2.)

H.X.98.

Sailing telegram. 1200 G.M.T./2.
Route Escort LACONIA from Sydney.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1030/2 1032/2.)
Ships with W/T receivers sealed.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1034/2.)

S.C.18.

Sailing telegram. 1100 A.S.T./2. Route.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax. 1401/2.)

S.C.17.

Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1422/2.)

W.N.63.(O).

1330/2. 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1427/2.)

F.N.74.

Returned to Southend (weather). (C. in
C. More, 1507/2.) Cancel my 1216/2.
F.N.74 returned. (N.C.S.O. Thames
1549/2.)

F.S.77.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/2.)

E.N.51.

1830/3. Escorts, H.M.T's RUMBA, SAL.
TERELXO. Additional escort JASON.
25 ships, 11 overseas. Codes - E.N.51
"Usage", E.N.L. portion "Monitor", EMO
portion "mixture". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1555/2)

See also not fy.

O.G.49.

Route. (D.T.D., 1631/2.)

F.N.72.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1708/2.)

H.X.99.

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D., 1737/2.)

O.B.M.269.

Sailed 1755/2. ROSEMARY and YORK CITY.
Seven. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1802/2.)

War Diary.2. 1. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping Contd.

- O.B.M.270. 1650/4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Four.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1802/2.)
- S.L.61. (Date and Route.) Escort BULOLO. (D.T.D.,
1858/2.)
- S.L.61. (Date and Route.) Unescorted. (D.T.D.
1859/2.)
- C.E.21. To sail from St. Helens 4/1. To proceed
by normal route to Folkestone Gate.
Later route. (C. in C. Nore 0936/2.)
- O.B.268. Londonderry departure 2/1 VETERAN for
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry. 0951/2.)
- F.S.76. Harwich. Departure HOLDERNESS at
0959/2. to join F.S.76. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1001/2.)
- F.S.80. My 1017/27/12. Escort for F.S. Convoy
80 will be VERSATILE and GARTH.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1125/2.)
- E.N.51. Act as additional escort to E N 51 sail-
W.N.64. ing at 1830/3. On meeting transfer to
W.N.64 due Cape Wrath 0400/5 and
Duncansby 1430/5. (C. in C. Rosyth,
1141/2. to JASON.) *see previous page*
- S.L.S.59. S. L. S. 59 Meet. (C. in C. W. A. 1540/2,
to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE.
HOLLYHOCK, MARGUERITE, LADY LILLIAN.
- H.X.97. Your 1914/16/12/40. H.X.97 ARY LENSEN
VENETIA arrived vicinity Mersey.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1656/2.)

War Diary.2. 1. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping Contd.F.N. 74.

Commodore of Convoy considers ships in ballast would be unmanageable at sea in present weather and has ordered convoy to return to harbour. (LONDONDERRY, 1400/2 to C. in C. Nore.)

F.N. 74 (Fast).
F.N. 75. (Slow.)
F.N. 75.

My 1507/2. Intend to sail FN 74 (Fast) escorts LONDONDERRY and HASTINGS 0900/3, and FN 75 (slow) escorts VANITY and WESTMINSTER immediately after FN 75. (C. in C. Nore 1700/2 to C. in C. Rosyth and N.C.S.O. Southend.) *See also next page*

F.N. 74.
F.N. 76.

My 1017/27/12 and my 1255/1, F N 74 postponed 24 hours. Cancel reference to exchange by HASTINGS and WOLFHOUND. Amend escorts for F N 76 to read EGRET and WOLFHOUND. (C. in C. Rosyth 1758/2.)

E.N. 51.

Provided trials are satisfactory KIRRIEMOOR loaded with boom stores is to sail in E N 51 leaving Methil 1830/3 for Oban. N. C. S. O. Oban is requested to sail KIRRIEMOOR in convoy for Sierra Leone and onward passage to Mediterranean. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1843/2.)

KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE
H.G. 49.

My 1640/26/12/40. A/S Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed with Convoy H.G.49 and on arrival is to be taken in hand for refit. (D.A/S.W. 1902/2 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

O.B. 270.

Admty 1808/1. Intend sailing SURPRISE as additional A/S escort for O.B.270, leaving Clyde 5/1 and parting company in 54° 00' N. 25° 00' W. to proceed to Freetown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2125/2. to C. in C.S.A.)

S.L. 61.
Casualties.

S.L. 61 and S L 61. HOMESIDE and NEVADA two delayed by machinery defects. VANCOUVER unable to provision (? in time). Greek HYDROUSSA too slow for Convoy. (Dutch) SPRINGFONTEIN gutted by fire and beached in Sierra Leone River. BRITISH PREMIER, CITY OF CHRISTIANIA, CHULMLEIGH, MARYLYN, CLAN MURDOCH, did not arrive in time. My 1851/1 cargo Swedish MILOS is maize and not iron. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1052/2 to Admty.)

2. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. Contd.

F.N.74 (Fast).
F.N.75 (Slow).

My 1507/2, intend to sail F.N.74(Fast) escorts LONDONDERRY and HASTINGS at 0900/3, and F N 75 (slow) escorts VANITY and WESTMINSTER immediately after F.N.74. (C. in C. Nore, 1700/2 to C. in C. Rosyth, N.C.S.O, Southend.) *See previous page.*

Convoys.
Individual
Routes
Discontinued.

Ref. C.B. 04024 para. 82 (II), the system of giving ships in ocean convoys different individual routes, based on a standard route, in case of separation from the convoy is to be discontinued. In future all ships in any one ocean convoy, irrespective of port of assembly, are to be given the same standard route to follow in case of separation, and this route should not depart from the convoy route by more than 30 miles on either side. (D.T.D., 2331/2 to N.C.S.O.)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

Convoy W.S.5 (B) will leave U.K. on 7/1 Fighter Protection code word allotted is ~~ALVA~~. The following signals have been passed to you in connection with the movements. Admiralty's 2350/23/12, 2340/31/12 and 2341/31/12. D.O.D.(H) 1304/2 to Air Ministry.

W.S.5.B.

ARAWA should, if possible, be sailed with convoy W S 5B until clear of U Boat zone with instructions subsequently to proceed so as to comply with C. in C. - S.A. 1025/2. (D.O.D. (H) 2251/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.5.B.

Your 1119/29. Re PENNLAND. One boiler internally cleaned, all others cleaned externally only. Speed of 15 knots can be maintained. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1040/2, to D. of S.T.)

Troop Convoys.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 1113/20/12/40. LEOPOLDVILLE sails St. John New Brunswick p.m. 4. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1752/2, to D. of S.8.)

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Operation
"Ration"
CHANTILLY
casualties.

M03757/41 -

Your 0205/2. (Presumably 2359/1) Death apparently caused by ricocheting from 8 ships machine gun rounds fired into water when boarding was resisted at first. (JAGUAR 0205/2 to Adty). *See also next page*

Convoy
lost
touch
in heavy
weather.

My 2252/1 and your 2001/1 to Contraband Control Service. Destroyer lost touch with 3 of French ships in heavy weather and low visibility during night. DUNCAN in company CHANTILLY 2 additional destroyers have sailed to assist in search, weather unsuitable for air reconnaissance. Western gale moderate and hope to berth CHANTILLY p.m. today. CHANTILLY has 500 passengers on board and no food as ship only provisioned to Oran. Sick and wounded in CHANTILLY in urgent need of hospital treatment. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106/2 to Adty).

Escort
Hostile.

My 1610/1 and my 1106/2. Captain (D) 13 reports escort received informatory letter but would not allow Officer to board. Ships did not obey orders to scuttle and all were boarded. SALLY MARSK hoisted Free French Flag and subsequently Red Ensign other ships friendly except CHANTILLY. situation in latter now satisfactory. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210/2 to Adty).

"Ration"
to continue.

My 1916/1. Operation ^{"Ration"}~~RATION~~ is to be continued. (V.C.N.S. 1215/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Informed.

M03757/41 -

S.S. CHANTILLY one of French convoy intercepted by our patrol east of Gibraltar, resisted boarding party. A few machine gun rounds fired into water unfortunately ricocheted on ~~the~~ the ship and killed Tarte and daughter aged 12, wounding certain others. Please at once inform your French colleague and ask him to convey immediately to Vichy our profound regret at this misfortune, but you should emphasise that it arose out of unjustifiable resistance to a perfectly legitimate operation. (V.C.N.S. 1241/2 to N.A.Madrid amended 0027/4).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)JAGUAR
asked for
report.

Your 0205/2. Request immediate report on full circumstances under which resistance was offered to armed guard, in particular.
 (1) What form did resistance take.
 (2) Did French open fire, if so in what manner and did they open fire first?
 (V.C.N.S. 1242/2 to JAGUAR.)

Your 1242/2. Order to lower ladder given six times, finally under threat of opening fire. Decks crowded with naval military and civilians possibly armed. Warned of scuttling intentions. Armed guard physically obstructed ascending Ladder. Frequent repeated requests and orders obeyed grudgingly but nothing more than physical obstruction offered. Burst of machine gun fire was ordered into water on safe bearing but was accidentally fired towards ship causing casualties. Doctor sent. Boarding party not yet returned.
 (JAGUAR 1612/2 to Adty). *See previous page.*

French
Demand.

French N.A. informs me that he has received urgent telegram from Vichy translation of which reads as follows (Begins)
 3 French merchant vessels and 1 Danish taken over by French going eastward in convoy with escort have been attacked off Cape Tres Forcas at 1100/1 and taken to Gibraltar. French Admiralty demand that these vessels be released with shortest delay if it is desired to avoid very serious consequences. (Ends). French N.A. asks me inform you that such incidents make Petain's position most difficult. H.M. Ambassador informed, repeated Gibraltar.
 (A.N.A. Madrid, 1353/2 to Adty).

Dakar
Intelligence.

Following received from Navy Dept: From Dakar 30/12 departures. CHAMPOLLION for Casablanca. VILLE DE STRASBURG for Madagascar.
 (N.A. Washington 1809/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Submarine
Report.By Ponta Delgada at 1400 G.M.T./2.
(See U/Boat Campaign.)DERBYSHIRE.Weather unsuitable for entering harbour.
Remain to the Westward of Gibraltar.
BONAVENTURE and destroyer with captured
French M.V's are also at sea to the eastward.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0934/2 to DERBYSHIRE).Gibraltar arrival 1000/2 DERBYSHIRE.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1052/2).W.S.5.A.
Marine
casualties.Owing to heavy South-West gale last night
NORTHERN PRINCE and CLAN MCDONALD parted
their cables, former drove ashore in vicinity
of destroyer trot, sustained damage to hull
and steering gear, extent of damage cannot be
ascertained until weather moderates. AUK
also driven ashore near La Linea. No damage
to CLAN MACDONALD.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1144/2 to Adty).NORTHERN
PRINCE.
damage.F.O.C.N.A. 1144/2. NORTHERN PRINCE cannot
be ready 7/1. Date depends on arrival of
spares from U.K. and result of examination
after docking.
(S.O. Force H, 2236/2 to C.in C. Med.)ARK
ROYAL
defects.My 1232/10/12 and my 1521/13/12. Boiler has
been steamed for 58 hours. L.H.superheater
carrier rail is now still further displaced
and element is such that whether under steam
or not and irrespective of any shock from
bombing etc., there is likelihood of element
dropping, in which case withdrawal for repairs
will be difficult and might risk dropping
hoop. No spare hoop is carried.
Request information when material referred
to in Admiralty's 0726/12 may be expected.
(S.O. Force H, 1259/2 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Raider
Action.
25/12.(ADMIRAL HIPPER.)

Following brief report of action with enemy unit by escort of convoy W.S.5.A. on 25/12 based on report from BERWICK and BONAVENTURE.

- (a) Convoy was zigzagging 154° 10 knots. Wind from 135° force 6. Sea 35. Visibility bad and very patchy varying from one to seven miles. BERWICK stationed three miles ahead and BONAVENTURE on starboard beam of convoy.
- (b) Raider steering 100° closed starboard bow convoy and engaged EMPIRE TROOPER just before sunrise. BERWICK opened fire on bearing 290° range 060.
- (c) Immediately BERWICK opened fire raider turned away to starboard and retired at high speed on course 290°. BERWICK and BONAVENTURE gave chase on raider's port and starboard quarter respectively.
- (d) Due to bad variable visibility certain identification was impossible but enemy thought to be HIPPER class.
- (e) Enemy engaged BERWICK most, only firing few salvos at BONAVENTURE who was not hit.
- (f) Smoke, not from smokescreen, coming from enemy's quarter deck after 6 minutes and one definite hit after 26 minutes at range of 168 observed by BERWICK.
- (g) BERWICK in action intermittently for 33 minutes before enemy finally lost at range of 170.
- (h) BONAVENTURE in action for 24 minutes during which she fired 438 rounds mostly in blind ladders as only (corrupt group) (Possibly signification "shorts") could be spotted. No definite hit observed. No breakdown experienced.
(S.O.Force H. 1352/2 to Adty).

Air
Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Weather unfit for flying.
(200 Group 1750/2).

SIVA.
ashore.

British ship SIVA in ballast driven ashore 2345/1 by violent gale about 10 miles North of Espichel. Crew safe. Taking all steps to salvage if possible. Requests Ministry of shipping and owners Salvesen Grangemouth may be informed. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1846/2 to Admiralty).

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)OLYMPUS.

Gibraltar departure 1830/2 OLYMPUS in accordance with Captain (S) 8's 1144/1 and for Portsmouth.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1854/2 to Adty).

South Atlantic.ENTERPRISE.

Am proceeding in compliance with C.in C. S.A.'s 1019N/1. Expected time of arrival 13/1.
(ENTERPRISE 0046/2 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Base of U/Boats.

Have you formed any opinion as to what base U/Boats operating in the Freetown area work from?
(1st S.L. 0250/2 to C.in C. S.A.) Reply.
C.in C. S.A. 1855/3.

LARGS BAY.

British ship LARGS BAY with 148 service personnel for Durban and U.K. due Durban 2/1. Request Naval Authorities of stations through which ship will pass be given instructions of future movements.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0845Z/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

ROTHLEY.

Overdue shipping. My 0941/31. British ship ROTHLEY arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1001B/2 to Adty etc.)

ARAWA.

N.O.I.C. Belfast's 1607/1 (D.G.Range swinging of ARAWA). ARAWA is required at Freetown (date) for convoy escort. Request if possible sailing be expedited accordingly.
(C.in C. S.A. 1025N/2 to Adty).

SAINT GOBAIN.

Overdue shipping my 1115/1. Swedish ship SAINT GOBAIN arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1015B/2).

TRIBESMAN.

Overdue shipping my 1005/20/12. Have you any news of British Merchant ship TRIBESMAN?
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1150B/2 to Adty). *Reply 126*

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)QUEEN
OF
BERMUDA.

Following is repetition of my 1558Z/18. My intention is to send you to Falkland Is. to fuel and store up 15/1/41. I then want you to visit Deception Island South Shetlands to destroy disused but filled oil tanks and coal dumps to deny use to raiders. Please inform me if you consider this impracticable with QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

(R.A.S.A.D. 1132Z/2 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONSHIRE after carrying out H.A. practice in Bay False sailed 1240/2. for St. Helena in accordance with your 1151/1. Speed of advance 18 knots E.T.A. 1200/6.

(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1243Z/2 to C.in C.S.A.)

A/C
Transport.

Your 1144/21/12. Arrangements will be made for DELHI to embark items specified.

(C.in C. S.A. 1431/2 to Adty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 1916Z/2 indicate a German surface ship between 005° north and 005° south and between 012° and 018° West. Reliability 70%. Probable position 001° North 014° West. (C.in C. S.A. 2131N/2 to South Atlantic Station)

Orders to
NEPTUNE,
HAWKINS,
PRETORIA
CASTLE.

D/F bearings 1916/2 indicate enemy surface vessel between 005° N., and 005° S., 012° W., and 018° W. Probable position 001° N., 014° W. NEPTUNE proceed and search vicinity moving into I 35 C and D HAWKINS to proceed from Freetown search H 35 C and D, moving into I 35 A and B. PRETORIA CASTLE operate in J 35 B and J 36 A. HAWKINS to arrive Freetown A.M./7.

(C.in C. S.A. 2305B/2 to NEPTUNE, HAWKINS).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air
Operations.

List of targets which appear specially suitable for bombing attacks from Malta.
(C.in C. Med., 1705/2 to A.C.C. Med.)
See Med. Vol.

Air Attack
Tripoli.

Special Operational Summary. On receipt Glenn Martin report of 3 cruisers 4 destroyers 20 M/V's in Tripoli harbour, 10 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack this target same night 1/2 January. Aircraft carried out individual attacks between 10,000 and 4,000 feet and were over target from 17.15 to 19.00, first 5 Wellingtons each carrying 4 250 lbs SAP were directed against shipping. 5 sticks straddled S.E. Mile scoring on Mole and on or near 3 cruisers lying there also several burst near seaplane hangars where fired started 2 sticks hit Customs jetty another stick fell parallel main Mole, 1 bomb hitting either Mole or ship in N.E. corner, 1 aircraft released gear failed temporarily but eventually jettisoned total load into harbour amongst concentration smaller ships at anchor in S.W. of harbour. Second 5 Wellingtons each carrying 4000 lbs GP and 240 lbs. incendiaries directed against port facilities and power station. 4 sticks straddled power station 1 bursting in N.E. corner, others near. 6 sticks fell on or near Customs jetty resulting in 5 fires and 2 green explosions latter possibly coming from shipping alongside. Several hits on seaplane hangars, explosions followed and fires started and increased. 2 sticks fell across harbour from entrance to Customs jetty scoring on 2 large M/V's and possibly third smaller resulting in heavy smoke. 2 aircraft reported fire\$ visible in target area 60 miles on return journey. 2 ships seen leaving Tripoli harbour east, 3 more observed off Zanzur 10 miles west Tripoli further 230 and 150 miles North Tripoli, latter burning lights. Attack comprised 27 closely spaced sticks of bombs totalling 18 and a $\frac{1}{2}$ tons. All aircraft returned undamaged.
(H.Q. Med. 0915/2).

French
Lorries.

Your 1/32083 of 25/12, para.1. You are authorised to inquire through Consul General Beirut whether Syrian authorities are ready to dispose of any lorries and if so what they would require in return.
(War Office, 0925/2 to C.in C. M.E.)

War Diary2.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Operations,
Western Desert,
19/12-31/12.

My 1207/19/12. Summary of operations of Western Desert 19th-31st December. 19th Div. Destroyers, TERROR, APHIS and LADYBIRD provided cover for passage and unloading of supply ships running from Alexandria to Gulf of Sollum.

Evacuation of prisoners from Mersa Matruh completed. Total 18,136.

2. Military units had so outrun their communications that they could not clearly state their requirements until 27/12, meanwhile Ad Hoc arrangements commencing with arrival of PROTECTOR on 18/12 kept them going.

3. Water situation critical until 23/12 when water barges which had been weather bound at Mersa Matruh arrived Gulf of Sollum. Until then PROTECTOR landed water and gunboats pumped ashore from TERROR, FIONA CHAKLA and Petrol Carrier PETRELLA just sufficient to keep Army supplied. After 23rd storage ashore was increased and with barges working from MYRIEL situation improved. Now landing 365 tons daily; daily expenditure 200 tons Total of 3250 tons landed up to 31st/12.

4. Army are providing stores etc., by road but additional supplies by sea are and will remain essential. 700 tons Petrol and 630 tons of provisions and ammunition supplied by sea up to 31/12.

5. Shortage of lighters and labour for handling stores ashore limited quantity disembarked in early stages but situation now improved. Cypriots employed as labour gang demoralized by Air Raids and Shelling. 2 Jaffa tugs and 10 Jaffa lighters disembarked from CINGALESE PRINCE on the night of 27/12.

6. APHIS bombarded Bardia night of 18/12. Enemy very alert and employed mobile artillery. TERROR bombarded morning of 28/12.

/7.....

War Diary2.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanOperations,
Western Desert
19/12-31/12-
Contd.

7. Enemy running through to Bardia by night in Motor Schooners (200 to 300 tons) from Tobruk. WATERHEN sank one on night of 26th, VOYAGER captured one on night of 29th, thereby rescuing 8 Military British Prisoners of war being taken to Tobruk; DAINTY captured 2 on night of 31st.

8. Several torpedo bomber attacks at dawn and dusk on ships in Sollum roadstead. No hits. One torpedo bomber believed shot down. H.L.B. and M.L.B. attacked by sea until 25/12 when army A.A. guns were in action. Bombers recently escorted by strong fighter forces. 202 group providing Fighter Patrol but these cannot be maintained continuously owing to shortage of Fighter aircraft. Present situation acceptable and losses being inflicted on Enemy aircraft. One X lighter has been hit but serviceable as a Dumb Lighter. 3 hits on Pier had little effect. CHAKLA slightly damaged by near misses. 15 killed ashore including one naval rating in raid on 24th/12

9. Intermittent shelling of Sollum by shore artillery since 18/12, causing slight inconvenience. Counter battery measures in hand. This and aircraft attacks have tended to delay unloading.

10. M A/A Boats 02 and 03 armed with captured Breda guns arrived to operate in Sollum area 1/1.

(C. in C., Med., 1531/2 to Admty., by cable, recd. 1345/7)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Flashless
Powder.

Your 2153/1. Italians are not using Flashless propellant at Bardia. (C.in C. Med. 1047/2 to Adty).

Greece,
need for
lorries,
proposed
barter.

In continuation of Middle East telegram I/32083 of 25/12 December 25th need for lorries in (Greece) immediately is of outstanding importance to enable army to be maintained on ever lengthening L. of C. Local information is that deal could be arranged not through Syrian authorities but through Underground bankers organisation whereby lorries from Syria could be exported to Turkey and Palestine in exchange for commodities such as coal, rice sugar, gunny bag all required by civil population. They would also like to include M.T. petrol. Greeks are prepared to send ships to Turkey or Palestine to transport M.T. Request authority to make immediate deal on above line for anything up to 1,000 lorries leaving us responsibility of ensuring adequate arrangements to cover points indicated in para.2 of F.O. 1623 of 24/12. (C.in C. M.E. 1100/2 to W.O.)

Air
Report
Tobruk,
Bardia.

Cargo ship and gun boat observed in Tobruk Harbour and 3 destroyers entering harbour night 1/2 Jan. Two Wellingtons bombed Bardia results being unobserved. No change in military situation Bardia.

2. Greece. Day 1/1/41 4 Blenheims abandoned raid on Tepelini owing to extremely bad weather. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/2).

STAGPOOL.*(water carrier)*

Your 0602/29. There is likely to be an urgent need for STAGPOOL in connection with Libyan operation(s). I would be grateful if she could be sailed for Mediterranean as soon as possible. (C.in C. Med. 1201/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mines
for
Greece.

Your 1401/22. No narrow gauge mines are available to supply to Greece. No objection to your supplying Greece with 100MK XIV mines from stocks at Malta if Greeks can use them.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Mines for
Greece.
(Contd.)

B. Alternatively, if you are satisfied as to accurate positioning of existing Greek minefield, you might be prepared to use RORQUAL to back up this minefield with Mk XVI mines.
(Hd. of M. 2000/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Transport
to
Albania.

Your Tel: No. 1803/1. Original source British Consul Split but subsequently Yugoslavia Ministry of Foreign affairs have admitted traffic taking place though on small and purely private nature.
(Asst. N.A. Belgrade. T.H.I. 2100/2 to Adty).

TETRARCH.

Indications are that enemy unit(s) are leaving Valona and may be making for Taranto. Proceed if practicable to northernmost part of your area.
(Capt: S.l. 2307/2 to TETRARCH).

East Indies.CORNWALLIS.

Bombay arrival 2/0347Z.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0353Z/2).

Aden
Movements.

Departures 0235Z/2 KIMBERLEY, FLAMINGO, HINDUSTAN, AMBER and Aden ships to join B.N.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0242/2).

CARTHAGE
ANTENOR.

Colombo arrival 0148Z/2 CARTHAGE departure 0410Z/2 ANTENOR.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0438Z/2). *See also next page*

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Kenya
R.N.V.R.

In order to obtain maximum efficiency in local naval defence operations in East Africa and Zanzibar propose Naval Volunteer Forces in Kenya Tanganyika and Zanzibar while maintaining their respective identities should be available to act in conjunction on any particular operation (such as mining and coastal patrol) at my discretion. To give effect to this propose Commanding Officer Kenya, R.N.V.R. should direct these forces when taking combined action. In order to have a local Naval authority who as my representative could act for me in an emergency requiring immediate co-ordinate action in the area and who could advise on the minor naval matters of these governments concerned as well as Kenya propose N.O. i/c Kilindini's jurisdiction should be extended to include Tanganyika and Zanzibar and his title be altered to N.O.i/c East Africa and Zanzibar. Governor Kenya and Tanganyika and British President Zanzibar concur in the above proposals. In addition Uganda is willing so far as resources permit to assist by loan of Personnel and/or equipment to the coastal force. Request early approval.

(C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/2 to Adty).

CARTHAGE.

CARTHAGE to leave Colombo 1100Z/3 and proceed to Bombay adjusting speed to arrive 1300Z/6.
(C.in C. E.I. 0802Z/2 to CARTHAGE).

*See previous page*Troop
Convoys
Escorts.

My 1152/9/12 9th and C.in C. Med. 1151/1/1/41
(i) Owing to SYDNEY not being available to leave Suez till (date) my intentions are as follows (ii) ~~EMIDE III~~ ^{EMIDE III} if desired will leave Suez as arranged. Convoy to be called B.S. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ (iii) S.W.4.B. will leave Suez (date) escorted by SYDNEY. (iv) SYDNEY will escort ~~EMIDE III~~ and U.K. portion of S.W.4.B. to about latitude of Mombasa where she will be relieved by a C class cruiser. SYDNEY on relief will proceed to Fremantle, calling at Seychelles for fuel. (v) W.S.4.B. ships bound for Bombay will be dispersed in Gulf of Aden as arranged by S.N.C. Red Sea, and are to be diversely routed to northward direct route to Bombay.
(C.in C. E.I. 0804Z/2 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)RANCHI.

My 0702/30/12. On arrival in position (a) 022° S., 040° E. RANCHI to proceed to position (b) 030° S., 034° E. (?) then to proceed from position B to A and back until further orders.
(C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/2 to RANCHI).

LEANDER.

Arrival 0400Z/2. LEANDER departure 1000Z to join BN.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1001Z/2).

Suspicious
Ship.
17/12.

Master British Ship BAHARISTAN reported at 1245Z/17 in 012 degs. 52 mins North 065 degs. 02 mins. East sighting strange ship similar to Italian MONCALIERI (No.59 O.U. 6329 (2)) full load, steering 122 degs. and altering course to 180 degs. Black hull etc. BAHARISTAN endeavoured to contact and report to G Z H and G Z Q each time without success.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1040B/2 to Adty and C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 206 to 1200 hrs. 2/1. Sudan. Day 1/1.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/2 to Air Min).

YARRA.
DUNERA.

E.T.A. YARRA 0430Z/4 DUNERA in company. Remainder B.N.11½ complete will arrive 3 hours later. YARRA requirements 100 tons fuel 50 tons water.
(YARRA, 1630Z/2 to N.C.I.C. Suez.)

Raiders'
captives
Mogadiscio.

C.in C. Singapore 0912/1/1 (See China Station 1/1) and S.O.(I) Shanghai's 0737/17/12. Nairobi reports Italian prisoner stated 45 British Naval Officers and 250 men at Mogadiscio. Suggest these are mercantile officers and men from vessels sunk by raider in Indian Ocean in August and September. Yugo-Slav DURMITOR sailed Lourenco Marques 9/26/1940. for Batavia and was probably captured about 12/10/40 in approx. position 9° S., 91° E. DURMITOR with prisoners may then have been sent to ~~Aden~~ where C.in C. E.I. suspected her presence. This would explain no prisoners in raider when TEDDY captured. Have you any confirmation?
(D.D.I.C. 1800/2 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

62A

2320/2 January.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

Date. 2.1.41.

To. C. in C. China 25.
Governor Straits Settlements.

Repeated.

C. in C. Far East,
N.O.i/c. Hong Kong. 109.
H.M. Minister Bangkok,
Colonial Office

001

Interdepartmental Cypher (V) 11.

From. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Following message in three parts to C. in C. China & Governor Straits Settlements from Foreign Office. C. in C. China pass part two only to Consul General Haiphong.

PART 1.

We are in substantial agreement with the suggested conditions for resumption of trade with Indo-China agreed upon by yourself and the Governor of Singapore with Captain Jouan. Summary of points which will require further consideration is contained in my immediately following telegram. Meanwhile we appreciate need for a speedy and favourable response to Admiral Decoux's overtures and you should at once communicate with him as follows. Begins. His Majesty's Government accept as a basis of discussion the recommendations made by you and the Governor of Singapore in agreement with Captain Jouan. There are some points on which we should wish to propose certain modifications and a few additional points which we should require to be included. We hope, however, that no great difficulty would be experienced in reaching final agreement, and pending further discussions you may assure the Governor General that there will be no interference with any local French shipping which Indo-China may send to Hong Kong or Singapore within the limits proposed by you under (f). We should be glad to know what means Governor General considers most convenient for completing discussions. Would he prefer (1) to send Captain Jouan to Singapore again; (2) to discuss with His Majesty's Consul-General; (3) that we should send someone to Hanoi, e.g. one of your staff or the Governor's or some expert on economic matters? We should of course in any event respect the Governor General's wish for secrecy. Ends.

PART 2.

Following summary of points on which further elucidation is necessary or which we should wish to put forward in further discussion of proposed agreement with the Governor General of Indo-China is only for confidential information of yourself and the Governors of Singapore and Hong Kong at this stage. (Following paragraphs refer to sub-paragraphs of agreement given in your telegram No. 0904Z/28. Part 1):-

(a)

(a) We are not clear as to your intention regarding French ships trading in the Far East other than those provided for under (f), for example D'ARTAGNAN now at Shanghai. Please explain. Our view is that French ships can be allowed for the present to trade without interference in the local trades of Indo-China but should this freedom extend to whole China Station e.g. should we acknowledge freedom of French vessels to trade to Japan and Japanese controlled China? In particular should not vessels of merchant cruiser type be restricted to say not north of Shanghai. Any understanding that we would not interfere with French vessels trading locally should not prejudice our general policy regarding French shipping and in particular should not commit us to allow French ships to enter the China Station or those now there to leave.

(b) We shall try to get de Gaulle into line first.

(c), (d) and (e) It would be desirable to substitute "British territories" for "Hong Kong and Singapore" in order to cover other parts of the Empire, e.g. India and Australia, having important trade relations with Indo-China. To what extent do you consider this feasible? In (c) we may also wish to include "allied territories".

(d) We must add the proviso "except where otherwise provided". We should also be glad to learn the object of this paragraph and why these particular years were chosen.

(f) We shall not want to commit ourselves to an obligation to send any British or Allied ships (see my telegram No.43 to Haiphong), though it should be understood that any British or Allied ship that goes to Indo-China will not be interfered with. We should not want to limit the number of French ships trading from Indo-China to Hong Kong or Singapore provided they will bring to British territories the commodities which are required.

2. As regards aircraft, it has lately been decided to discontinue Hong Kong service, and land planes have been removed for duties elsewhere. We should probably wish, however, to accept the offer to permit particular visits.

3. Following are the additional points on which we should require to obtain undertakings if possible in the agreement:-

(a) Some assurance that Indo-China's trade will not be monopolised by Japan. In particular we wish to ensure as far as possible that exports of rubber and tin will be kept to a minimum. We realise that it may be difficult to ask for a formal undertaking on this point, but we should probably be content to make it clear to the French that this is our wish and that if in practice we find that it is not being respected we should have recourse to the escape clause (your point (i)).

(b) That the French will place no restriction on exports from Indo-China to British territories (or alternatively that they will not restrict such exports below the average of 1935, 1937 and 1938).

(c) That no foreign exchange resulting from these exports will be remitted to France. Payment might be made to accounts at the Banque de l'Indo-Chine in London (and also in Hong Kong

and

and Singapore if effective control can be established), to be drawn upon only for imports into Indo-China from the sterling area.

1. Please let us have urgently your joint comments in the light of which we shall send more detailed instructions.

PART 3.

Governor's telegram No.392 of 29th December: paragraph 6. Foreign Office consider it essential that His Majesty's Consul-General Hanoi should be informed in general terms, invited to submit any comments and kept au courant with developments, although they appreciate that, subject to the wishes of the Governor General of Ind -China, it may be preferable to conclude negotiations either at Singapore or through some representative of Commander-in-Chief or the Governor of Singapore in Indo-China.

2. Summary of part 1 of your telegram No.09042/38 is being sent to His Majesty's Consul-General with instructions that he is not to discuss the matter with the Governor General unless he receives further instructions to that effect.

2320/2.

N.I.D.4. (182)
Approved by A.C.N.S.(T).

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- D. of P.
- D.O.D.(F)
- D.D.O.D.(F)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.T.D.
- I.P.
- W.D.
- D.C.
- Head of M.
- Admiral Bellairs.
- Admiral Chalmers.
- D.E.W.D.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Raiders'
captives,
Mogadiscio.
(Contd.)

Reply No. (C.O.I.S. for East 0508Z/4).

S.W.4.B.

Your 1855/51, as STRATHAIRD now required to change native in Bombay she should proceed to India with prisoners of war instead of STRATHALLAN. ANDES not now required in Australia and propose the prisoners of war allocated to her should proceed in DUNERA which could return from Port Sudan to Egypt to embark them, as she has adequate time available. Agree ORCADES can be used for prisoners. (D. of S.T. 2014/2 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

China.Indo-
China
Trade.

Following message to C.in C. China and Governor Straits Settlements from Foreign Office. (N.I.D.4. 2320/2 to C.in C. China and Governor Straits Settlements). Original in Lion copy only.

Defence
of
Straits.
Settlements.

Your 1414/7/10 (re supply of guns and ammunition for garrison). Understand that Australia has now proposed to H.M. Government that garrison for Cocos Is. should be from Malaya of India. Request I may be informed if a decision has yet been reached. (0319Z/2).

EDITH
MOLLER.

My 0303/21.* Following is gist of Japanese reply to protest regarding EDITH MOLLER. (a) Machinery removed to ensure detention of vessel but arrangements are made to enable use of machinery in the event of bad weather. (b) Restrictions on movements of crew unavoidable in zone of operations but no unnecessary ones imposed. Every consideration is given to supply of provisions etc. (c) Reason for detention was given in cables Iwamura's letter 7000 (vide my M 27/1 of 27/6) and opinions remain unchanged. Ship should have obtained approval of C.O. of Wenchow area before entering Wenchow Bay irrespective of understanding given by C.O. of another area.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (Contd.)EDITH
MOLLER.
(Contd.)

On the contrary ship concealed movements and only stopped after shot fired. Therefore only natural measures should be taken against such ship. (d) R.A. Kanazawa previously proposed practical solution of indicend (vide my number 27 of 9/11 and signal T.O.O. 0937/8/11. Since British Authorities are unwilling to co-operate in this suggestion settlement is being delayed. 2. Request instructions whether I should reply to above and sub para.(d) in particular or leave all further representations to Tokyo. (N.L.O. Shanghai 0642Z/2 to C.in C. China).

* Protest against removal of main stop valve of EDITH MOLLER.

DAUNTLESS.
DURBAN.

Penang departure 1/1 DAUNTLESS Singapore departure 2/1 DURBAN for Penang. (S.O.(I) Singapore 0937Z/2).

America and West Indies.REVENGE
S.C.18.

Your 2133/1 re refitting REVENGE. REVENGE sails p.m./2 passing through approx. position
(a) 044° 40' North 050° 00' West
(b) 054° 32' North 035° 00' West and
(c) 057° 55' North 030° 00' West.
Route has been selected to provide cover as far as possible for S.C.18 which has sailed without escort in addition to covering HX.98 and HX.100.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1432/2 to Adty).

REVENGE sailed from Halifax 21.
(S.O.(I) Halifax).

DESPATCH.

Nassau Departure DESPATCH.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1149/2).

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)EUGENA
CAMBANIS
(reported
lost at sea
see Diary
2/12/40).

Master of HILDA KNUDSEN on arrival New York reported having boarded abandoned EUGENA CAMBANIS about 300 miles East of St. John's N.F. on 19/12. Weather preventing attempted towing and raising steam. Sea cocks were opened and 2 rounds 4 inch fired into ship. Master presumes ship sank. Convoy from A.1 for S.C.13 found on board. Crew were taken off by British URLA and landed at St. John's N.F. 2/12. If possible find out from late crew or from URLA now at Halifax disposal of any other confidential books or documents on board.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1743/2 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

*Ref. p. 97.*Australia.Raiders.

My 2000Z/29. Photograph of KULMERLAND fuelling NARVIK alongside in anchorage at Emirau shows latter to be longer by about 50 feet but similar to former in free board of hull height of forecastle height and shape of forward position bridge structure height of funnel, distance from stem to bridge to funnel. Whereas KULMERLAND round funnel rakes, aft NARVIK's oval funnel is vertical and long axis 50% greater than diameter of KULMERLAND'S NARVIK hull lines are those of a German cruiser.
(A.C.N.B. 0401Z/2 to Adty).

Troop
Commitments.

My 1331Z/29/12. Amend number New Zealand Naval ratings from 300 to 60.
(A.C.N.B. 0634Z/2 to D.S.T.)

My 0401Z 2nd January delete final sentence and substitute "Hull line not unlike that of German cruiser and suggest possibility of being especially designed raider. Survivors statement bears this out".
(A.C.N.B. 0805Z/2 to Adty).

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia. (Contd.)

Your 0635/27.* Request report of names of survivors may be expedited as much as possible. Admiralty is being flooded with enquiries. (D.T.D. 1408/2 to A.C.N.B.)

* Survivors from ships sunk by enemy raiders.
(KULMERLAND)

Raiders B
(KOMET)

Your 1002Z/1. 3 raiders sailed in company from Nauru area 8/12 to anchorage to Marshalls. MANYO MARU fuelled from TOKYO MARU. NARVIK remained outside Atoll and was occasionally sighted during 22 hours stay. No other ship sighted. On passage from Marshall to Emirau 13/12 to 21/12 NARVIK disappeared for 2 days at Emirau NARVIK fuelled from TOKYO MARU possibly, but improbable that NARVIK met another supply ship outside Atoll or on passage to Emirau.

(A.C.N.B. 1704Z/2 to C.O.I.S.Singapore).

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.ACHILLES.ACHILLES left here 2130/30/12.
(Bilbao 1658/2 to Adty).KERSTEN
MILES.4971 tons, which had been refuging at Palma
Canary Islands since 28/10/1939, anchored at
Teneriffe on 31/12. (D.S. 486).PORTLAND.My 0855/1. PORTLAND to receive 3000 tons
of oats 1000 tons of lentils 1094 bales of
wool. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1248/2 to Adty).Italian Merchant ShipsCELENO.Arrival CELENO 5000 tons of gas oil from
Batoum.
(Vice Consul, Varna, T.H.I. 1510/2).Italian Merchant Ships.NUMIDIA.* PREDSEDNİK
KOPATTIC(Yugo-slav).
s/s 1798.Arrival 31/12 NUMIDIA Cagliari. Sailing 1/1
* PRES. KOPASTIE Newport News via Dubrovnik 908
tons tobacco 8 knots with navicert.
(Susak, T.H.I. 1930/2 to Fairmiss, London).MAURO
CROCE.December 31st arrival Italian steamer MAURO
CROCE.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2030/2).French Merchant Ships.MENDOZA,
CAMPANA.My 2015/26/12. A Three it is reported that
application for oil fuel for French Ship
MENDOZA has been approved by Uruguayan
Authorities. French ship CAMPANA has been
supplied with 130 tons of oil fuel in Buenos
Aires.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2142Z/2 to D.N.I.)

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.NALGORA.

Following read. SSSS SSSS SSSS (Distress signal - attack by submarine) 22° 24'N., 21° 11'W. NALGORA torpedoed. (Freetown W/T 2110/2).

NALGORA, British 6579 tons outward bound for Aden and Alexandria with Government stores, torpedoed 245 miles W.N.W. of Cape Blanco West Africa. (D.S. 486).

Submarines Reported.1815/1.

Aircraft reports enemy submarine reported position 054° 25' N., 015° 00'W at 1815/1 fired the correct British recognition signal. (C.in C. W.A. 0002/2).

Following report received from captain of aircraft of 502 Sqdn., Aldergrove on convoy escort of an enemy submarine sighted at 1815/1 (Begins). 1815/1 sighted submarine on surface in position 54° 25' 15° 00'W. Dusk was falling. Submarine fired a rocket which burst into 4 or 5 white lights. She also opened fire by machine gun on the aircraft. S/M remained surfaced all the time, and as the aircraft approached fired off the correct recognition signal of a 3 red star cartridge. The aircraft did not therefore attack it but flew round for 20 minutes dropping a parachute flare and a flare float and broadcasting a message to base and convoy S.L.59 giving position. The escort vessels of S.L.59 were about 8 miles away at the time. (Ends). (C.in C. W.A. 0024/2 to V.A.S.)

My 0002/2. Amend position to read 054° 29'N., 014° 02' W. (C.in C. W.A. 0142/2).

My 0024/2. Pilot of aircraft now reports position as 54° 29' N., 14° 02' W. (C.in C. W.A. 0146/2 to V.A.S.)

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)Submarines Reported. (Contd.)Search.

Your 1511 and your 1638/31/12 both areas searched without success. Have abandoned search owing to shortage of fuel. GENTIAN only positive. Request confirmation WINCHELSEA and GENTIAN should proceed to Clyde My position course and speed $057^{\circ} 34' N.$, $014^{\circ} 38' W.$, $116^{\circ} 13$ knots. (WINCHELSEA, 0147/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Have been detached with MASHONA to hunt possible submarine reported by trawler in position $058^{\circ} 57' N.$, $002^{\circ} 12' W.$ Duration of hunt 40 minutes. If no contact is made will rejoin F.O.C. 2nd C.S. (BEDOUIN 1009/2 to C.in C. H.F.)

1000.

Am over enemy submarine in position ?? (Duty "Z" 1000/2 to (RAF) Aldergrove).

Enemy submarine in position $55^{\circ} 42' N.$, $10^{\circ} 32' W.$ at 1000. (Plymouth W/T 1033/2).

Enemy submarine previously reported was:- Periscope only sighted. (11.5?). (Duty "Z" 1115Z to R.A.F. Aldergrove).

1206.

$57^{\circ} - 58^{\circ} N.$, $15^{\circ} - 24^{\circ} W.$ say $185' W$ of Rockall. Position indefinite. (D.S. 456). Submarine in position $037^{\circ} 44' N.$, $025^{\circ} 06' W.$, at 1400 G.M.T./2 A.I. Authority Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1545/2 to Adty).

Submarine reported in position $037^{\circ} 44' N.$, $025^{\circ} 06' W.$ at 1400 G.M.T./2 by Ponta Delgada This may have been TRIDENT. (F.O.C.N.A. 2356/2 to TRIDENT).

Estimated
U/Boat
dispositions.

Italian. 1 or 2 E. or N.E. of Azores. 1 entering Gironde this morning. 4 between $54^{\circ} N.$, and $56^{\circ} 30' N.$, $13^{\circ} 30' W.$ and $15^{\circ} 30' W.$ 3 more in N.W. Approaches of which one was within 60 miles radius of $56^{\circ} N.$, $20^{\circ} W.$ at 1114/2. Other 2 may be between $54^{\circ} N.$, and $55^{\circ} 30' N.$ near $20^{\circ} W.$ German. 1 Northbound about $20^{\circ} N.$, $20^{\circ} W.$ 1 in $55^{\circ} 42' N.$, $10^{\circ} 32' W$ at 1000/2. 1 about $58^{\circ} N.$, $17^{\circ} W.$ to $19^{\circ} W.$ 3 between $57^{\circ} N.$, and $60^{\circ} N.$ about $21^{\circ} W.$ Possibly 1 north of $62^{\circ} N.$, and West of $20^{\circ} W.$ (B.D.I.C. 1321/2.)

WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.2045/1.

(Comm SL 59)

SCIMITAR and SKATE searching for U/Boat sighted and engaged by NORTHERN PRIDE in approx. position 054° 10'N., 013° 50'W at 2045/1.

(SCIMITAR 0055/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

M0576(4)

M01003(4)

My 0055/2. NORTHERN PRIDE has been sent to rejoin convoy. Details of her sighting as follows. She had fallen some 15 miles astern of convoy investigating a contact. When contact was attacked a large U/Boat surfaced astern. Trawler attempted to ram and chased U/Boat for ten minutes before U/Boat submerged and contact was lost. Search by other armed trawler escort was ill directed for sometime as NORTHERN PRIDE was thought to be in screening position on convoy. NORTHERN PRIDE was not found until 2330 when organized search commenced. It is proposed to continue to search until dark 2/1.
(SCIMITAR, 0221/2 to C.in C. W.A.) (See page 101)

Your 0221 approved. Aircraft is proceeding to assist.
(C.in C. W.A. 0702/2 to SCIMITAR).

Detach WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, CANDYTUFT to join SCIMITAR, SKATE hunt U/Boat in vicinity 054° 10'N., 013° 50'W.
(C.in C. W.A. 0828/2 to SCARBOROUGH).

1207/2.

SKATE obtained contact with submarine (corrupt groups) in 054° 16'N., 014° 15' W., at 1207 and attacked. Contact not regained. Am searching the vicinity.
(SCIMITAR 1321/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

Continue to hunt as long as fuel permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1634/2 to SKATE).

My position 2100 054° 39' N., 014° 20' W., course 180° 12 knots altering 090° at 2330 and to 000° at 2345.
(WESTCOTT 1821/2 to BLUEBELL).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. (Contd.)

SCIMITAR is continuing hunt with me till
1000/3. BLUEBELL should arrive about 2100.
(WESTCOTT 1824/2 to C.in C. W.A.)

War Diary3.1.1941.
FridaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperations in
Bay of Biscay

At 1115 B.S.T. this morning the Empire Flying Boat homeward bound from Lisbon reported an 8000 ton German Tanker to be in $45^{\circ} 40' N.$, $9^{\circ} 10' W.$, and steering East. The Tanker was fully laden and may have British prisoners on board. At 1430 two Beauforts left the Western Approaches to attack her, and at 1505 KELVIN and KIPLING left Plymouth to intercept and destroy her, but failed to find the Tanker. The submarines TIGRIS and TALISMAN are on patrol in the Northern half of the Bay of Biscay, and it is assumed that the Tanker is making for the Gironde. At 1737 she was located and attacked by A/C in $45^{\circ} 38' N.$, $6^{\circ} 35' W.$, steering 040° at about 15 knots; and a near miss was then obtained against her.

One Sunderland left at 2220/3 to attack to attack an Italian submarine which had been unsuccessfully bombed on the surface 140 miles North of Cape Finisterre and was reported to be unable to dive. The Sunderland was forced to return early by fog. It had been intended to use this aircraft to assist destroyers in their search for the tanker.

British Air Activity

Bremen was again attacked last night by our Bombers, many fires being started and much damage caused; and, in addition to the standing Daily Patrols, 3 extra Patrols were flown this morning in the Rosyth Area.

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Hostile Patrols were maintained this afternoon in the Calais-Boulogne Area and Channel; and there were also Enemy R/C flights off the South Coast of Cornwall, one of which crossed the coast into Devonshire and reached the Cardiff Area. Cardiff and Penarth were bombed last night, considerable damage being caused to houses but little to the docks or shipping; and a message read at Plymouth early this morning states that A/C were over Dublin City at 0355.

Mining

The minelaying operation off the Norwegian Coast was completed at 1440 today when the Force concerned returned to Scapa; and two further operations off the Firth of Forth and Bristol Channel respectively were ordered today to be carried out shortly.

A Mine was detonated at 1555 this afternoon 4 cables from the East Nore Sand Buoy by S.A. gear; and for defence of the Thames Estuary against minelaying A/C ships of the Thames Local Defence Flotilla and Hunt-class Destroyers will be stationed in the principal Channels when weather permits from tomorrow night onwards, as well as EREBUS in Southend Roads and BORDE at Tilbury. The port of -Preston was re-opened at 1312 today; and the Harbour-Master at Drogheda reports that owing to mines laid early this morning from Rockabill to Drogheda Bar, the approaches to Drogheda are unsafe.

War Diary

3.1.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations
in Libya

The bombing of Bardia was continued during last night by R.A.F. Wellingtons and Bombays, and also F.A.A. aircraft, which cooperated in a bombardment by TERROR (monitor) as a prelude to an assault by troops, who entered the Bardia perimeter at dawn this morning.

WARSPITE, VALIANT, BARHAM, and ILLUSTRIOUS etc:

The battle fleet, also cooperated in the attack. No damage was caused to any of our ships, though one of the light craft had a few casualties from a near miss. Several ineffective air attacks were made on the Fleet.

Hurricanes today maintained offensive patrols between Tobruk and Bardia, to cover our forward troops.

1 Hurricane intercepted 5 S. 79's which endeavoured to bomb TERROR 20 miles off Ras Uena (on coast, 46 miles E. of Tobruk) destroying 3 and damaging a fourth. Tobruk and Gazala, and enemy landing grounds were also bombed by the R.A.F.

East Indies

A Blenheim aircraft of the R.A.F. carried out an offensive photographic reconnaissance of Massawa and the Dahlak Archipelago, dropping bombs on the main quays at Massawa, a hit being possibly registered on a destroyer.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BATH and ST. ALBANS.
to Norwegians.

A.M. 2213/20. Propose they be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER about end January and turned over to the Norwegians. (C. in C. W. A. 2225/3 to R.A.M.L.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
RELIANCE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1205/3.) At 2330/3. (D.C. 2354/3.)

Dover
A/A Guns.

Admiralty 1828/27 and 1321/30. Owing to unexpected increase in repair work, it will not now be possible for the work of installing 5.5" guns in an Armed Merchant Cruiser to start for approximately 2 months. Propose therefore, that guns should remain installed at Dover until required. (D. of L.D. 2152/3 to G.H.Q. Home Forces.)

Movements.

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.
WORCESTERSHIRE.

Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1033/3.) JUPITER, KASHMIR sailed 1710. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1710/3.)

VISCOUNT.
WINCHELSEA.
VANQUISHER.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1109/3.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1454/3.)

SOMALI.

Arrived from Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 2139/3.)

LEGION.

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 2206/3.)

My 2133/1 not to all addressees.

REVENGE.

1. C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange A/S escort to meet REVENGE in position 62° 05' N 20° 00' W. at 1000 B.S.T. on 12/1.

2. She should/

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

REVENGE.

2. She should proceed thence in accordance with my 2231/3.
3. REVENGE will refit at Portsmouth.
4. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail REVENGE to Portsmouth, calling at Clyde if necessary, and arrange A/S and A/A protection. (D.O.D. H. 2235/3.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Programme postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1040/3 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Enemy Tanker.

Empire Flying-Boat inward-bound from Lisbon reports Tanker about 8000 Tons fully laden steering East magnetic at 1115 B.S.T. in $45^{\circ} 40' N. 9^{\circ} 10' W.$ (D.D.I.C. 1230/3.)

German Tanker in $45^{\circ} 40' N. 9^{\circ} 10' W.$ at 1115/3 steering 090° magnetic, may have British prisoners on board.

2. 2 Beauforts leaving 1430 to bomb.
3. TIGRIS operating South of Brest to $46^{\circ} 43' N.$, TALISMAN operating south of 46° degs. $43' N.$ No submarines are to be attacked unless established as hostile.
4. Object is interception and destruction of Tanker.
5. Execution. Keep at least 60 miles from Brest in daylight. Assume Tanker is making for Gironde, maximum speed 15 knots. Proceed to intercept at enemys "furthest on" position and sweep Westwards to $6^{\circ} W.$ (C. in C. W.A. 1432/3 and 1532/3 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) Sailed KELVIN, KIPLING 1505/3. (C. in C. W.A. 0054/4.) My 1432. Pilot of aircraft reports "Tanker 8000 tons, loaded, speed about 18 knots painted grey all over. Flag red but no details seen. No guns visible. Modern ship raked stem 2 masts, ship similar but smaller than GERMANIA. Bridge well forward in usual tanker position."

Shi/

War Diary.3. 1. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. Contd.Enemy Tanker.

Ship altered 30° to starboard on being sighted. Not seen to alter back. (C. in C. W.A. 1742/3 to KELVIN.)

My 1432. A/C reports M/V in $45^{\circ} 38' N.$ $6^{\circ} 35' W$ at 1737, steering 040° . (C. in C. W.A. 1856/5 to KELVIN.)

My 1432. On conclusion of sweep keep well to westward during daylight and then proceed through $48^{\circ} N.$ $8^{\circ} W.$ so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1030/5.

2. If unable to keep to this time, report by 0400/5 estimated position course and speed at 0800/5 so that Fighter Protection can be arranged. (C. in C. W.A. 1900/3. to KELVIN.)

My 1856/3. A/C attacked and obtained near miss. Estimated speed of Tanker 15 knots. In spite of course 040° it is still probable destination is Gironde. (C. in C. W.A. 2200/3. to KELVIN.)

Submarines.OSIRIS.

To be transferred to 5th S/M Flotilla on arrival in U.K. (V.A.S. 1026/3.) Request following additions to sailing orders. (V.A.S. 1028/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TUNA.

My 1019/30. Details of Tug destroyed 18/12. (V.A.S. 1039/3 to Adty.)

L.23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1305/3.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/3.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/4. (V.A.S. 1809/3 and 1849/3.)

War Diary.3. 1. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. Contd.UNBEATEN.Sailed for Portsmouth as by S.5's
0930/2. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1815/3.)SEAWOLF.Arrived with PHILANTE (F.O.I.C. Greenock
2340/3.)British Air Activity.Patrols.Following ordered for today in addition
to Standing Daily Patrols: SA.1A., SA.3.
and ~~SA.2~~. (C. in C. Rosyth 0904/3.)Bordeaux.AP/723/3/1. 217 Sqn. to attack tonight
S/M's and Shipping at Bordeaux.
Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C.
1342/3 to St. Eval.)Lorient.AP/724/3/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns., will
attack tonight S/M's and Dockyard at
Lorient. Alternative Target, Cherbourg.
(H.Q.C.C. 1344/3 to Thorney Island.)Air Decoy
at Harwich.)Scheme set out in your 1056/260/40 of
8/10/40 approved in principle. Report
if visit from Cdr. Blunt is required.
(D. of L.D. 1837/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)Patrol ^{"1p-0p"}~~1p-0p~~.My 2040/2. Patrol ~~1p-0p~~ ^{"1p-0p"} will not be
flown daily but will be ordered for
dawn and dusk periodically when air-
craft are available. When ordered it
will be included in the daily signal
which gives the list of patrols ordered
in addition to those which are flown
daily as a matter of routine.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1750/3 to Adty.)

Tha/

War Diary.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Thames
Estuary.

A/A Defences.

Your 2146/ 25. C. in C. Fighter Command has agreed to your proposal in principle provided Estuary Barrage Area is not extended unduly beyond its present boundary. Boundary of area agreed upon and date of coming into force will reach you by following signal. (Air Ministry 1140/3 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Dublin.

A/C over Dublin City at 0355. (Plymouth. Recd. 0404/3.)

Cardiff and
Penarth.

Bombed last night. Considerable damage to houses, but not important to docks and shipping. No naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0930/3.)

Inchigeela.

Following read at 0947. Unidentified plane over Inchigeela going N.W. at 0935. (C. in C. W.A. 0947/1 to D.N.I.)

Mining.

Aberdeen Area.
Search of War
Channel.

Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S group. Rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/3. Search east side War Channel ahead of E N 51 to Cruden Scaurs, then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1121/3. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group to rendezvous position 110° 6 miles from Cruden Scaurs 5 at 0900/4 and search east side of War Channel ahead of E.N.51 to position 000° 14 miles from Kinnaird Head. E.T.A. 1600/4, thence return searching West side of War channel ahead of W.N.63 from Cruden Scaurs E.T.A. 2339/4. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1255/3 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 1255/3. Have postponed search east side of War Channel for 24 hours. Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group rendezvous 000° Kinnaird Head 13 miles at 1700/4 January and search west side of War Channel ahead of W.N.63 to position 110° Cruden Scaurs five and a half miles expected time of arrival 2330. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1645/3 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Pre/

War Diary.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Preston.

Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1312/3.)

B.S.48.

To be carried out on 6/1 or as soon after as possible by TEVIOT BANK escorted by IMPULSIVE. 148° from 56° 10' N. 1° 34' W. for 6½ miles (V.C.N.S. 1145/3.)

Faeroes Iceland Minefield.

Considerations as to gap. Request your remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1330/3 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Operation D.Z.

Completed. (C. in C. H.F. 1440/3 to Adty.) C.S.2. in ARETHUSA with AURORA, ICARUS, INTREPID, and 4 Destroyers, arrived Scapa 1415. (A.C.O.S. 1441/3.)

Z.M.E.11.

To be carried out on night of 5/1 or as soon after as possible. 115° from 51° 29' N. 6° 4' W. for 7 miles. (V.C.N.S. 1624/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. Gear 178° East Nore Sand Buoy 4 cables at 1555/3. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1801/3.)

A754 3/1. For Defence against mine-laying aircraft ships of the Thames Local Defence Flotilla and Hunt Class destroyers will be stationed in Barrow Deep, Edinburgh Channel, Knob Channel, Oaze Deep, and the Nore on nights when weather permits from night 4/5 Jan. EREBUS will be stationed in Southend Roads and BORDE at Tilbury. All ships will be in communication with Gor Fort Luton and R.D.F. Ships in Estuary. These ships will engage any unrecognised aircraft within range but they will not engage aircraft flying above 3000 ft. (Air Ministry 2231/3 to Air Commands.)

Drogheda.

Harbour Master Drogheda reports German Mines laid by A/C early this morning from Rockabill to Drogheda Bar. Approach to Drogheda unsafe. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810/3 to Adty.)

War Diary.

3. 1. 41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CITY OF BEDFORD.

Tanker DONAX reports rescue of 6 British and 9 Lascars. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0720/3 to Adty.) Master of GRAYGLASS reports rescue of 9 British and 10 Lascars. 48 drowned including Commodore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0722/3 and 1521/3 to Adty.)

NEW SPRAY.

(Balloon Drifter) Sank at anchor during gale in 51° 28' 22" N. 0° 45' 9" E. No crew on board. (Cdre. Sheerness 1152/3 to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.3.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.

F.S. 76.

All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 0813/3).

F.S. 77.

23 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0938/3).

F.N. 74.

Divided into 2 parts during night. LONDONDERRY with 7 ships to R.V. Humber ships at 1300. HASTINGS and SNAPDRAGON to escort part 2 independently. Request Parts 1 and 2 may be added to code -word "Agent" (LONDONDERRY 0953/3 to C. in C. Rosyth) List (N.C.S.O. Thames 1556/3).

O.G. 48.

Sailing telegram 0400/3. Route. Escorts SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE. (C. in C. W.A. 1028/3).

O.G. 48.

At noon/4 steer for new position to keep clear of H.G. 49. (D.T.D. 1344/3 to SCARBOROUGH) Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 2326/3).

H.X. 95.

3 ships (names) arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1043/3).

F.N. 75.

Postponed 24 hours, weather (C. in C. Nore 1126/3) (C. in C. Nore 1353/3 to LONDONDERRY).

B.H.X. 101.

Left, escort RAJPUTANA, returning to Halifax (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1133/3).

W.N. 61.

Non-arrival BARON ARDROSSAN (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1238/3).

H.X. 102

Route (D.T.D. 1319/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax etc.).

H.G. 50.

Route (D.T.D. 1336/3 to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

H.G. 48.

Successful (D.T.D. 1336/3 to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

S.L. 59.

Following arrived (15 ships, list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1500/3).

E.N. 51.

My 1555/2. Postponed 24 hours (N.C.S.O. Methil 1545/3).

/C.E.21.....

War Diary.5.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys (contd).Shipping.

C.E. 21.

Your 0936/2. Composition, destroyers FERNIE and BERKELEY, 2 A/S trawlers, 3 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B. Vessels, 4 M.L.'s Chasseur 43, 16 merchant vessels in convoy including drifter GOLDEN NEWS. C. in C. Nore to arrange for air protection on 5/1 and counter battery air bombing.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/3 to C. in C. Nore).

F.S. 78

List of ships sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1654/3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/3).

O.G. 49

1615/7 Route (N.S.S.O. Mersey 1710/3).

H.X. 96.

On time at R.V. All ships now reported. (.D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1721/3).

S.C. 17.

(a) Meet S.C. 17 19 ships, unescorted, 1000/5 090° 055° 25'N. 017° 00'W 090° 7 knots then through:-
(i) 055° 25'N. 015° 30'W. (ii) 056° 00' 012' 40' (iii) 056° 00' 009° 00'.

(b) R.A. Leir in NAILSEA COURT for Clyde EMPIRE MAPINER for Barry Roads (C. in C. W.A. 0702/3 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, DEPTFORD, DELPHINIUM, ERICA, ARBUTUS).

H.G. 50.

H.G. 51.

Estimated 1600/10 SCARBOROUGH will bring back H.G. 50 and FOLKESTONE H.G. 51 detailed orders will be issued by F.O. C.N.A.
(C. in C.W.A. 1011/3 to SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE).

W.N. 65.

^{"muster"}
Code ~~MUSTER~~ 2200/5 H.M. Trawlers STELLA CAPELLA (S.9.) FANDANGO. WNO Code ~~1111~~ to R/V with ~~MUSTER~~ ^{"muster"} off Ardnamurchan Point in 56° 42'N. 06° 20'W. at 0230/7.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1052/3 to C.inC.W.A)

E.N. 51.

My 1141/2 JASON to act as additional escort to E.N. 51. has been passed to WOLSEY. WOLSEY is to take the place of JASON until relieved by JASON on completion of defect. She is then to return to Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1115/3 to WOLSEY).

Cancel my 1141/2 and 1115/3 (WOLSEY to take place of JASON as escort of E.N. 51. (C. in C. Rosyth 1511/3).

/H.X. 97.....

War Diary.3.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.Convoys (contd).

- H.X. 97. MANSEPOOL H.X. 97 for Cardiff arrived Barry Road. Escorting Trawler DERBY COUNTY sailed in execution of previous orders.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1130/3).
- S.L.S. 59. Following received from AMBUSCADE. Not met. Lost contact with remainder of escort group request position by D/F Bearing. Weather report.
(C. in C. W.A. 1131/3 to Admty).

Your 1128/3. Not possible rendezvous SLS 59 by dark. Am returning to base.
(WESTCOTT 1400/3 to C. in C. W.A.).
- F.N. 75. My 1017/27/12 F.N. 75 postponed 24 hours (C. in C. Rosyth 1225/3).
- 8 M.V.'s. Intend to sail Group of 8 M.V's escorted by KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and CAPE COMORIN from Needles at 1730 today for Dartmouth. Dartmouth 0815/4.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1407/3)
- F.S. 79. My 1017/27/12 F.S. 79 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 1436/3).
- S.L. 59B. My 1211/3. It is now estimated S.L. 59B will reach 053° 48'N. 005° 08'W at 2200 today, escort NORTHERN DAWN.
(C. in C. W.A. 1452/3 to ROSEMARY).

My 1452/3. Estimate S.L. 59B will not reach rendezvous until 0030/4.
(C. in C. W.A. R1726/3 to ROSEMARY).
- H.X. 101. AUSONIA sailing Sydney ocean escort to H.X. 101 returning to Halifax on completion.
(R.A.S.B.S. 1544/3 to Admty).
- O.B. 270. Sailed PERIWINKLE to carry out A/S practice 1300/4 and 0900/5 then proceeding to escort O.B. 270 sailing 1330/5.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1642/3 to C. in C. W.A.).
- F.S. 78. One H.M.T. joining at 62 D Buoy.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1754/3 to Admty etc).
- F.S. 80.
F.S. 81. My 1017/27/12. Cancel F.S.80. Amend escorts for F.S. 81 to read VERSATILE and GARTH.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1855/3 to Admty etc).
- 11 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1700/4 11 M/Vs including 1 Tanker for Hartland Gap.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1938/3 to C. in C.W.A)

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Troop Convoys.

Shipping.

W.S. 5.B.

Your 2251/2. Request date of sailing from Clyde of W.S. 5B. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1125/3 to Admty).

Your 1125/3. January 7th (D.O.D. (H) 2104/3 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1825/31/12. For DUCHESS OF RICHMOND read DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. (D.T.D. 1852/3). *See Page 976 31.12.40.*

MONARCH OF BERMUDA.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA will leave Convoy at 1200/11/1/41 and proceed to 36° 00'N. 13° 00'W, thence to Gibraltar, escorted by FEARLESS and FORESIGHT at 18 knots. (D.T.D. 1830/3 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven).

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE,
(escort
RAMILLIES)
REVENGE
to be met.

My 2202/31.1.C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail:- RAMILLIES, GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE from Clyde at 1800 B.S.T. 9/1. Routed through Minches and afterwards positions:
A. 61° 25'N. 13° 00'W.
B. 62° 30'N. 20° 00'W.
C. 62° 30'N. 25° 00'W.
D. 62° 00'N. 30° 00'W.

thence to destination keeping to the Northward of area prohibited to westbound ships in accordance with my 1345/12/11.

4. Destroyers should leave convoy as convenient to meet REVENGE in position 62° 05'N. 20° 00'W. at 1000 B.S.T. on 12/1.

5. Approach course for REVENGE 090°.

6. If not met proceed to 62° 05'N. 17° 00'W., thence by reverse route of RAMILLIES to Clyde.

7. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection for RAMILLIES and REVENGE. (D.O.D. (H) 2251/3 to C. in C. W.A. RAMILLIES REVENGE).

85A . VF
Lion

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 0042/3rd Jan. OUT

To F.O.C. Northern Patrol 557
C. in C. Western Approaches 686.
C. in C. South Atlantic 245
C. in C. East Indies 148
C. in C. Mediterranean 234
C. in C. Home Fleet 400
F.O.C. North Atlantic 7
S.O. (Force H) 29.

Date 2.1.41.

002

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Following general instructions replace all previous instructions for treatment of French Merchant, repeat Merchant ships, and are to be observed forthwith.

1. Escorted ships

(a) Notwithstanding Articles 65-67 of the Prize Manual, escorted ships are not repeat not at present to be interfered with except when ordered by the Admiralty.

(b) H.M.G. have decided that escorted ships passing from West to East through the Straits of Gibraltar shall be subject to control. The Admiralty will give instructions on each occasion when an operation to give effect to this policy is to take place, and the name given to the operation will be RATION.

(c) Any authority to interfere with escorted ships should be used with discretion and they should only be stopped if overwhelming force is available. Then if the French warships nevertheless resist the attempt to bring in the merchant ships, force may be employed to compel them to desist from intervening. But the British are not repeat not to fire the first shot. Every courtesy possible should be used towards the Officer commanding the escorting warships.

(d) Escorting warships are not repeat not to be brought into port, but are to be allowed to proceed as long as they do not try to prevent the escorted ships from being brought in.

(e) These instructions are supplementary to and do not override any existing instructions concerning the restriction of the movements of French warships.

2. Unescorted ships

(a) All such ships not known to be under the control of the Allies or De Gaulle are to be sent in under armed guard or escort to a British port for examination.

(b) If French warships subsequently dispute possession of a ship while being sent or brought in, she is to be surrendered unless the British force present is overwhelmingly superior, in which case action is to be taken as in 1(c).

3. In.....

- 2 -

3. In the Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be infringed for the purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships.
4. The name and cargo of all French ships brought into port are to be reported immediately and the ships detained pending instructions. They are not repeat not to be treated as enemy ships.
5. The French have not been informed of the action contemplated, but they have been told that we must continue to exercise our full rights of blockade against the enemy.

0042/3.

for Head of M.(86)
Approved by First Lord.

1st Lord(5)
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.O.D.(H)
D.N.I.(4)
D.A./S.W.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain
Head of M.(6)(MO20153/40)
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.

3.1.1941.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Treatment of
Merchant
Ships.

General instructions for treatment of French merchant ships to be observed forthwith (1) escorted ships, (2) unescorted ships. In Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be infringed for purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships. (Hd. of M., 0042/3, to C.in C's. F.O.C.N.P., F.O.C.N.A., and S.O. Force H). (Full text in Lion copy only.)

Use of Force.

Para. one sub-para. (c).

1. If French escort refuses to stop in face of overwhelming British forces or declare their intention to fight rather than comply it is not clear how British Forces are to achieve the object if they may not fire the first shot.

Is it intended under such circumstances convoy is not to be interfered with?

2. If force is displayed it is considered essential we should be prepared to use it even if this involves firing first.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1750/3, to Admty.)

Your 1750/3.

Force may be used to compel Merchant Ships in convoy to stop to enable guard to be put on board in accordance with the usual procedure laid down in Prize Manual. Prohibition given in para (c) of my 0042/3 only applies to action against escorting warships and to achieve object of Ration there is no need to force escort to stop. (D.O.D.(F) 2234/3, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation
"Ration".

Your 1210/2. (Re interception of French ships). Have all ships now arrived at Gibraltar?

Your 0126/3, CHANTILLY, SALLY MAERSK arrived Gibraltar. OCTANE and SUROIT delayed by heavy westerly weather due noon 3/1.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0816/3 to Admty.)

Press
Communique.

In order to dispel rumoured report circulating locally Vice Consul is agitating for the issue of communique on recent interception of French Convoy. Provided that it is considered desirable to release information request brief outline or form communique should take. (F.O.C.N.A. 1024/3 to Admty.)

Your 1024/3. It is not clear to which Vice Consul reference is made. Understand there is no French Vice Consul at Gibraltar. Question of issue of a communique will be further considered when we have a more detailed report from

/ you

3.1.1941.
Friday.

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War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

you after arrival of all the ships concerned. (D.P.D. 2365/3, to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply. See 1830/4.

SALLY MAERSK

No. 1781. Admiralty 2001/1/1/41 Danish SALLY MAERSK originally with French armed guard from Casablanca to Marseilles arrived Gibraltar under British guard. Portion of manifest of cargo loaded Ivory Coast is missing but summary as follows. Danish crew when French Guard was removed hoisted red ensign and are strong pro-British. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1235/3 to Admty.)

My 1610/1. Danish SALLY MAERSK had a French armed guard of marines on board consisting of three N.C.O's and six men also a French supercargo. These have been removed. The ship has the same crew on board as when previously under the Danish flag and the officers and men are strongly pro-British. On being boarded and after French armed guard had been put under restraint the crew hoisted the Free French Flag and then the Red Ensign. (F.O.C.N.A., 1516/3, to Admty.)

OCTANE.

No. 1783/3. Your 2001/1/1/41 French tanker OCTANE Casa Blanca to Marseilles in ballast. Request instructions. (Conband, Gibraltar 1640/3, to Admty.)

SUROIT

No. 1784/3. Your 2001/1/1/41. French Tanker SUROIT Casablanca to Marseilles in ballast. Request instructions. 1640/3.

Operations
"Ration".
"Excess".

Your 1233/3. (See Mediterranean). To enable destroyers to rest and make good minor defects before operation ~~EXCESS~~, "Excess" request ~~RATION~~ be discontinued from noon 4/1. (ii) 10 Destroyers including 3 of 2nd D.F. now available for ~~EXCESS~~. "Excess". (S.O. Force H., 1630/3).

Cessation of
"Ration".
"Ration".

Your 1630/3. Approved. (1st S.L. 2350/3 to S.O. Force H).

War Diary.

3.1.1941.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Air Report.

Glenn Martin carried out reconnaissance Gibraltar p.m. 2/1.
(200 Group, 0930/3).

ARK ROYAL defects.

Your 1259/2 (not to ARGUS). Material for ARK ROYAL's superheater. One bar was placed on board ARGUS by N.S.O. Greenock before ship sailed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1051/3 to S.O. Force H).

Azores S/M Patrol.

A submarine of the 2nd flotilla will be required to fill the Azores Patrol between a.m. 6/2 and p.m. 20/2. To reduce the resultant gap in the Bay of Biscay Patrol SNAPPER is to be lent to 2nd flotilla on completion of working up for one Patrol in the North Zone in Bay of Biscay fuelling at Plymouth en route if necessary.
(V.A.S., 1502/3, to S.2.)

Raider Action, Press Reports.

Your 1434/31/12 and my 1218/1 stories from Daily Express and Allied Newspapers arrived in London marked passed for publication and were therefore not submitted for censorship. Both stories contained reference to a light cruiser which would have been deleted here as assumed in your 1434/31/12. Request you will instruct Press representatives with Force H. that articles must not be so endorsed as it is essential they should be seen here before publication. The examination of stories on board H.M. Ships is to prevent secret matter transmitted but does not give authority for publication.
(D.P.D. 1550/3 to S.O. Force H).

S/M's.*See also next page*

Position of Submarines at 0800/4 and movements for the following 24 hours are
(a) TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada (b) OLYMPUS 035° 20' north 013° west course 283, 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1600/3, to N.A. Station).

S/M Sanctuary, Orders to OSIRIS.

Sanctuary Y will be established within positions 035° 28' 002° 48' W. 035° 38' 002° 54' W. 035° 32' 002° 25' W. 035° 42' 002° 30' W. Sanctuary X as in my 1601/3.
(2) To avoid eastward passage of Force H take one of the following courses depending on time available after passing position D 038° 20' 005° 00' W.
(A) Proceed into Sanctuary Y until ordered to proceed given by F.O.C. North Atlantic.
(B) Proceed vicinity of 038° 10' 000° 05' East remaining Sanctuary X until ordered to proceed given by F.O.C. North Atlantic.
(3) Adopt course (B) if Sanctuary Y cannot be reached by 0700/7 and report to F.O.C. N.A.

/ (4) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)S/M
Sanctuary,
Orders to
OSIRIS
(contd.)(4) Force H passes south of Rhodes Alboran (?Island) and convoy north of Alboran Island P.M./7.
(5) S/Ms are not to be attacked unless identified as enemy.
(S.O. Force H, 1609/3, to OSIRIS).Air Report.Daily Summary Operations.
2 routine A.S. Patrols. 1 surface recco. East. Area covered 1° West to Cape Spartel. (200 Group 1805/3).NORTHERN PRINCE.

Admty. 1233/3 NORTHERN PRINCE not yet (?refloated) and will definitely require docking extent of damage not yet ascertained. Unlikely ship can be made ready for sea under three or four weeks. (F.O.C.N.A., 1830/3, to Admty.)

EMPIRE TROOPER
(damaged 25/12)
CLEMATIS,
KENYAM01670/41 }
M0879/41 }

Position course and speed at 2000 G.M.T. 036° 02' N. 009° 52' W. 095° 8 knots. Intend to leave EMPIRE TROOPER in charge CLEMATIS at 0900/4 KENYA 1530 B.S.T./4. Request route instruction be passed to KENYA and CLEMATIS as no Q K message or search channel forms are held. CLEMATIS requires docking to make good A/S defects. KENYA very short of provision and stores. (F.O.C. 1° C.S., 1904/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) H.S. note - position is about 220 miles W. of Gibraltar.

TRIUMPH
UPHOLDER

Gibraltar departures 1900/3 TRIUMPH and UPHOLDER in accordance with S.O. Force "H" 1601/20/12. (S.O.I., Gib., 2040/3, to Admty.)

Azores Patrol
OLYMPUS
TRIDENT.*See previous page*

OLYMPUS will relieve you on 7/1 and has been ordered not to approach within 25 miles of Ponta Delgada until after 0001/7 P.S.T. U.S. Cruiser TUSCALOOSA left Lisbon for United States today 3/1 probably calling at Azores. (Admty., 2237/3, to TRIDENT).

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

STIKLESTAD.

Overdue shipping, my 1125/31/12
STIKLESTAD arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0935B/3).

HAWKINS.

Departure 0100/3 HAWKINS on patrol
in accordance with C. in C. South
Atlantic's 2305/2.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1031/3).

STIRLING
CASTLE.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1721/1. Ministry of
Shipping representative Capetown
requests STIRLING CASTLE which left
Suez 1/1 may be ordered to proceed
to Durban for quick docking
subsequently calling at Capetown for
mails.
(Simonstown 1131 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

W.S.5A.

Departure 1000/3 BRIDGEWATER to
rendezvous with convoy W.S.5A. at
0700/4.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1135N/3 to Admty).

Foreign
Legion
Movement.

Arrival p.m./3 DELHI, MILFORD,
ASPHODEL, ^{cap 242}escorting Free French ships
, PALMES and TOUAREG.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1701N/3).

^H
SCIELAND/
BONITA.

Overdue shipping. Dutch ship
SCIELAND Oban departure 9/12 due
Freetown 30/12 and Panama ship BONITA
Milford Haven departure 7/12 due
Freetown 29/12 have not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1732/3).

F.O.C.N.A. 1212/3 and my 1455/3.
Oiler RAPIDOL will arrive Bathurst,
Gambia a.m./6 and can be used for
fuelling. Intention is that you should
arrive Freetown 8/1 if possible.
(C. in C. S.A. 1835N/3, VIDETTE, VELOX).

/U. Boat Bases.....

War Diary.3.1.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).U. Boat Bases.

Your 0250/2. Probable that submarines from French Biscay Ports could spend 6 to 9 days depending on size in Freetown area and that first period of attack between 15/11 and 18/11 could have been carried out from there. Noticeable that this period of activity in area was so short. Same applies to second period of attack, NEWTON PINE, on 15/12 though this may have continued into third period but this not thought likely. Third period of attack from 21/12 to 31/12 is unlikely to have been one submarine from French Biscay Area but might have been two. Special Intelligence suggests two. Other possibilities - (A) Dakar, only report of strange submarine was small dark submarine not French 24/11, no other indication (B). Casablanca. Gibraltar report of 22/11 suggested (B.5) that enemy submarines were using port. (C) German tanker has been at Las Palmas, Canaries throughout and suggestions have been made that it has been to sea at nights or submarine might enter at night to fuel. Other tankers in Area October to November. Unidentified Spanish? tanker seen West of this area 5/12. Special Intelligence has indicated submarine and surface activity in this area especially 18/11 to 26/11. (D) Lee of Cape Verde Islands. (E) Off African Coast in Area river Componi French Guinea and Orango Channel off Bissao Port, Guinea. (F) Fuelling at Sea is quite likely and would be possible to replenish with stores and torpedoes as well. (E) Consider French Biscay Port most likely. (A) and (B) possible but unlikely from information available. (C) likely and (D) possible but not likely (E) quite possible and will endeavour to make further enquiries. There is no Consul at Bissao yet, my 2015N/11/9 refers. (F) very likely. Flying boats at Freetown would make problem much simpler as regards little used anchorages and positions at sea. (C. in C. S.A. 1855/3 to Admty).

/PRETORIA.....

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Unless ordered to contrary you are to leave patrol p.m./4 and proceed Freetown to arrive 8/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 1915N/3 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

Enemy
Unit.

My 2305/2. Enemy vessels may be supplying ship.
(C. in C. S.A. 2247/3 to NEPTUNE, HAWKINS, PRETORIA CASTLE.

Mediterranean.

Aerodromes.
Greece and
Turkey.

My 0915/14. 2nd report from reconnaissance party (H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. 1819/3 to Air Ministry) ~~See Mediterranean Volume.~~

F.A.A. Units.

Strength and organisation
(C. in C. Med. 0201/3) ~~See Mediterranean Volume.~~

Operation B.S.

Operation B S. (?Condition) B is in force.
(Capt S.l. 1059/3 to S/M's on Patrol).

Air Report.
Bardia.

Summary No 207 up to 1200hours 5/1/40. Night 1/2, 3 Wellingtons and 2 Bombays continued attacks on Bardia dropping 16,800 lb bombs 1 large fire started near stores dumps. Day 2/1 Total of 44 Blenheims continued sustained bombing of Bardia throughout the day straddling concentration of M.T. vehicles and tents and registering number of direct hits.

Benghazi
Derna
Tobruk
TERROR
bombardment.

Reconnaissances reported 4 ships 400 feet and 6 ships 300 feet in Benghazi 2 ships 100 feet anchored off Derna 2 destroyers observed approaching Tobruk. Night 2/3 bombing of Bardia continued during night by Wellingtons, Bombays and F.A.A. aircraft, in coOperation with bombardment by TERROR as prelude to assault by our troops.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1211/3).

/Bardia.....

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Bardia
perimeter
entered.

Operation Summary No. 207 Part 2 up to 1200 hrs. 5/1/1940. 7 Wellingtons dropped 22750 lbs. of bombs on Town hitting officers quarters and native troops barracks and starting 3 fires. Day 5/1 our troops entered Bardia perimeter at dawn.

Operation
"Excess".

Mo6234/41)
No 9796/41)

In view of possible repercussions at Gibraltar to recent carrying out of operation "~~RAIFON~~" it is undesirable that ships for operation "~~RAIFON~~" should remain at that port longer than absolutely necessary. Request you will confirm that "~~Excess~~" will be carried out with D1 day 7/1 as in S.O. Force H's 1211/31, or if not state when you consider it will be practicable to carry out the operation. It can be accepted if necessary that NORTHERN PRINCE will not be passed through during this operation. (ACNS(F) 5 C.C. Med, 1233/3)

Landing
Craft.

Please signal address to which stores and equipment for landing craft carriers should be sent.
(D.O.D.(F) 1238/3 to R.A. Alexandria).

(Reply see 1218/4)

Admiralty 1233/3 Confirmed D.One day can be 7/1. if S.O. Force H. concurs.
(C. in C. Med 1517/3 to Admty).

Your 1517/3. Concur.
(S.O. Force H. 1910/3 to C. in C. Med).

NORTHERN
PRINCE
personnel
to proceed in
BONAVENTURE.

It is of great importance that the 400 passengers in NORTHERN PRINCE should proceed to Malta with convoy "~~Excess~~". If C. in C. Mediterranean concurs, it is requested that S.O. Force "H" will arrange for them to be embarked in BONAVENTURE, and destroyers and, as far as possible in other ships of the convoy. BONAVENTURE to disembark her troops at Malta and return to Gibraltar as soon as possible. It is hoped that as many trained ratings as you can make available will return to U.K. in BONAVENTURE.
(D.O.D.(F) 1524/3 to C. in C. Med.
F.O. Force H.

/Main.....

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Main Fleet.

Departures 2/1 C. in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, YORK, GLOUCESTER, NUBIAN MOHAWK, GALLANT, DIAMOND, JANUS, VENDETTA, WRYNECK, VALIANT, BARHAM, CALCUTTA.
(S.O.I.) Alexandria 1651/3 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 3/1. All times G.M.T. No air operations undertaken due to bad weather. No enemy air activity over Malta today. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/3)

TRUANT.
REGENT.

REGENT will leave Malta P.M./5 through position $055^{\circ} 18'N$. $015^{\circ} 41'E$. for area R. If you consider it essential should not enter that area proceed to vicinity of $055^{\circ} 55'N$. $014^{\circ} 50'E$ and make a short report to this effect before proceeding to Area S when REGENT will be diverted to area P. South of Latitude $055^{\circ} 20'N$ between Longitude $015^{\circ} 20'E$. (ii) REGENT has been ordered to enter area S A.M./10 keeping to West of Longitude $015^{\circ} 50E$. until 1900 (minus sign one) /10.
(V.A. Malta 2213/3 to TRUANT)
(Amended, see 1005/4).

3.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

A/C
Kismayu.

M02804/41

Ref. Admty 2229/2/8 and A.O.C. Aden 1146/18/12. A/C operations against Kismayu (Hd of M. 1726/3 to C. in C. E.I.) (See Operations Volume).

Operation
"Begun".

My 1902/12. Operation "Begun", object denial of supplies to enemy. Conclusions of conference between SHROPSHIRE, CERES and COLOMBO and Army and Air representatives at Mombasa 1/1. Proposals (C. in C. E.I. 13002/3) See Operations Volume. 3/1/41. P.2.

ANTENOR

Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0302/3).

WILLEMVAN DERZAAN.

Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0302/3).

Mogadiscio.

Your 1900/2. (British Naval officers and men at Mogadiscio in Italian Somaliland) No confirmation. (S.O.I. Colombo 1316Z/3 to Admty).

Italian
destroyer
bombed at
Massawa.

R.A.F. attacked destroyer Massawa main quay 0730Z/3. 2 bombs exploded alongside. Photographs reveal 3 submarines in Khor Dakliyat 2 at quay and one anchored 700 yards 320 degrees from quay with small craft alongside. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1702Z/3 to C. in C. E.I). (See also H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1222/4 under Mediterranean 4/1).

Aden Air
Report.

Operational Summary No. 205 for 24 hrs. ending 1500 G.M.T. 3/1 (No naval items).
(A.H.Q. Aden 1807/3).

War Diary.

3.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ABERDARE
MARROW.

My 320/5 dated 23/9/40. In view of your 1807/1 (ABERDARE and MARROW to be sailed to join Mediterranean) request decision may be signalled. (Cdre. Malaya 02112/3 to Admty).

QUEEN MARY.

Your 0312/3. Escort (for S.S. QUEEN MARY) could be arranged. (C. in C. China 09152/3 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne).

DANAE.

Hong Kong departure 2/1 DANAE for Singapore. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0947/3).

Route
compromised
Submarine
attack.

Your 1856/19/12 and my 1223/22/12. F.O.C. 3rd B.S. has suggested for consideration that all messages in which convoy routes are mentioned should be made in S.P. 02172 (Flag Officers Recyphering Table) through holders of this table and transmitted by Imperial Cables. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1036/3 to Admty).

Raider
Intelligence.

It is presumed that you are keeping the C. in C., Dutch East Indies fully informed of Raider Intelligence. He has reported to the Dutch Admiralty in London that he did not know of the capture of the OLE JACOB until her arrival in Japan. It is understood that Dutch Cruiser TROMP will be on her patrol of the Equator on 15/1 see K.T. 1707/24/10/40. (D.O.D. (F) 1415/3 to C. in C. China) Your 1415/3 confirmed (C. in C. China 0421/4).

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.
LACONIA.

Your 1452/2. REVENGE should provide close ocean escort for H.X. 98 and cover for H.X. 100. LACONIA should provide close ocean escort for S.C. 18. (D.T.D. 1904/3 to R.A.3.).

CARADOC.

Leave Bermuda A.M./5 and proceed to patrol Western half of square F.30 D. to cover independent shipping routes. (?Leave) patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 11/1. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002/3 to CARADOC).

EUGENIA.
CAMBANIS.

Your 1745/2. Master British Steamship URLA reports when he rescued full crew of Greek Steamship EUGENIA CAMBANIS on November 27/28 and 29 he was informed by rescued master that he had all books and papers with him. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1125/3 to Admty).

PACIFIC
PRESIDENT.

My 1554/25 PACIFIC PRESIDENT still unreported at New York. Have you information?. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1456/3 to M. of Shipping)

Australia.

Troop
Transport.

Required to send six thousand Australian troops to Singapore (date). These numbers are in addition to requirements for U S Nine give in my 1551Z/29. Propose that troops for Singapore are lifted in QUEEN MARY and that QUEEN ELIZABETH or other suitable ship replace QUEEN MARY in U.S. Nine. QUEEN MARY would then be sailed in company of U.S. Nine to vicinity of Sunda Strait. This plan would have following advantages: (i) providing C. in C. China could arrange escort for QUEEN MARY from near Sunda Strait it would avoid duplicating escort arrangements (ii) it would assist greatly in maintaining secrecy of destination of QUEEN MARY (iii) QUEEN MARY could have paravane fitted at Singapore. (A.C.N.B. 0512Z/3 to D. of S.T.

CANBERRA
U.S.8.

Arrival Fremantle 0200Z/3 CANBERRA escorting U.S.8. (A.C.N.B. 1105/3 to Admty).

M03692/41
H04467/41

War Diary3.1.1941
FridayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSPROCIDADeparture 2/1 PROCIDA for Valencia.
(Barcelona, 1259/3)SPEZIA
BELLONAArrival SPEZIA, BELLONA. (Valencia, T.H.I.
2035/3)ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSUMBRIA
(Scuttled at
Port Sudan,
1012/6)Your 2538 S 482/1 of 28/10 (not to Admty.)
Inform local authorities that I do not
regard cargo of UMBRIA as a danger but
presence of vessel is a nuisance. I re-
commend cargo be salvaged as step towards
salvaging the ship herself. Presume contract
for salvage will be made by local
authorities. (C. in C., E.I., 0524Z/3 to
N.O.I.C. Port Sudan)DUCHESSA
D'AOSTA*See page 993 31.12.40.*
N.C.S.O. Duala's 1800/31 has been passed
to Admty. Re my 1008/30, passing N.C.S.O.
Duala's 0943/28 British Fernando Po
replies to my enquiry as follows:- No
unusual activity had been detected on
board Italian ship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA.
Your (? group omitted) may have originated
in credible rumour that negotiations are
in progress to sell locally part of cargo
in order to provide for local expenditure.
(Ends) (S.O.I. Freetown, 1113/3 to Admty.)KUYAGUINYA
MARIA-LOUISAArrived from Batoum GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI
with cargo gas, KUYAGUINYA MARIA-LOUISA
from Russian Port with cargo transit
goods.GIUSEPPINA
GHIRARDI

(Varna, 1635/3)

3.1.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

NALGORA

Following in repetition of my 0043/3 Begins. NALGORA torpedoed in position 022° 30' N. 021° 00' W. at 2110/2 Ends. (C.in C. S.A. 0806/3 to S.O. Force K.).

Reference torpedoing of NALGORA in position 022° 30' N. 021° 00' W. at 2330/2. If you can accept delay it is for consideration whether you direct VELOX and VIDETTE to stand by subsequently arranging for ships to fuel St. Vincent.

Your 1212/3. Request you order VELOX and VIDETTE to endeavour to locate NALGARA and report circumstances. Please report any (? event) later than original distress message. (C.in C. S.A. 1455/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Ref. 1952/3 (VELOX and VIDETTE to proceed to locate NALGORA) from F.O.C.N.A. Your 15?/3 not received. Will arrive position 0600N/4 with endurance remaining at 12 and 20 knots respectively VELOX 100 and 44 hours VIDETTE 77 and ?29 hours. (VELOX 2106N/3 to C.in C. S.A.).

Submarines Reported.

0225.

58.30 - 61° N., 16° - 22° W., say 210' N.W. by W. of Rockall. Position indefinite. (D.S. 486).

1243.

D/F Italian U-boat near 59° N. 23° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1339/3).

By DONAX.

Master of British tanker DONAX (which rescued survivors from CITY OF BEDOFRD - see Casualties) reports sighting submarine in 58.40 N., 17.50 W. Three rounds of 5.7 fired at s/m which disappeared, and vessel proceeding undamaged. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0720/3 to Admty.)

1500/2.

Report from Ponta Delgada graded A One states submarine in position 037° 44' N. 025° 06' W. at 1500 zone minus one 2/1. This may have been TRIDENT. (F.O.C.N.A. 0034/3 to CALIFORNIA, LEITH, ESPERANCE BAY).

1500/2.

For information. Following was transmitted on GS Routine. Addressed TRIUMPH, OLYMPUS from F.O.C.N.A. Submarine reported in position 037° 04' N. 025° 06' W. at 1500/2 G.M.T. by Ponta Delgada. Grade A one. This may have been French Submarine LA REUNION. 2356/2. (V.A.S. 1626/3 to TRIDENT).

1830/2.

Submarine in position at 037° 52' N. 025° 55' W. 1730/2 G.M.T. A 1 Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1210/3 to Admty.)

War Diary.3.1.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine in position $037^{\circ} 52' N.$ $025^{\circ} 55' W.$ 1730/2 G.M.T. Graded A 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1941/3 to North Atlantic Station).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine in position $037^{\circ} 52' N.$ $025^{\circ} 55' W.$ at 1730/2 G.M.T. (graded A. 1). (F.O.C.N.A. 2100/3 to TRIDENT and OLYMPUS)

Barcelona.

Consul General Barcelona reports 2/1 large Italian submarine reported at or near Barcelona and to have left 1/1 for Spanish Atlantic coast. (A.N.A. Madrid, 1819/3, to S.O.I., Gibraltar).

1826.

At 1826 Italian U-boat within 50 miles of 045° north 008° west bound for Bordeaux. (C.in C. W.A. 1902/3 to KELVIN, KIPLING.)

2310/2.

Reference Admiralty Message A.F. (Position of enemy submarine) Position $22^{\circ} 30' N:$ $21^{\circ} W.$ at 2210 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0158/3).

2310/2

Estimate one Italian U-Boat now to Eastward of Azores one German at 2310 2/1 in $022^{\circ} 30' N.$ $021^{\circ} W.$ Northbound. (V.A.S. 1447/3.)

a.m./3.

S/M sighted a.m./3 ten miles N.E. of San Miguel Azores (A.One) American Cruiser TUSCALOUSA left Lisbon p.m./3rd direct for Norfolk. (N.A. Lisbon, 1801/3, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.Italian

1 to eastward of Azores.
4 within 60 miles radius of $55^{\circ} N.$ $14^{\circ} W.$
3 within 90 miles radius of $55^{\circ} 30' N.$ $20^{\circ} W.$

German.

1 in $22^{\circ} 30' N.$ $21^{\circ} W.$ 2310/2 northbound.
1 within 60 miles radius of $55^{\circ} 30' N.$ $10^{\circ} W.$
1 within 30 miles radius of $57^{\circ} 30' N.$ $19^{\circ} 30' W.$
1 within 40 miles radius of $58^{\circ} 30' N.$ $19^{\circ} 30' W.$
1 within 30 miles radius of $59^{\circ} 30' N.$ $20^{\circ} W.$
1 within 60 miles radius of $60^{\circ} N.$ $19^{\circ} W.$ (D.D.I.C. 1234/3).

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3.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

2045/1.

With reference to NORTHERN PRIDE'S attack on U-boat consider after submarine surfaced it did not dive again but escaped by superior speed on the surface. Submarine was damaged and left oil track. She was fired at by 4" and ~~6" and 8" shells~~. ~~6" and 8" shells~~ bullet seen to hit.

Submarine was large type painted light gray. From records attack was a good one and submarine surfaced very close to flares dropped with the depth charges. Full written report follows.

(Capt. (D). Londonderry, 2035/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

No sight or contact of S/M. A/S conditions very bad owing to weather. BLUEBELL and CADYTUFT not yet joined. Propose to abandon hunt at 1600 if not in contact. Lat 54° 40' long 14° 00'. (WESTCOTT, 0932/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1128/3. Regret unable to. Fuel only sufficient for return to base. (SCIMITAR, 1420/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

My 1924. At 1745 position of U-boat was 045° 29' north 008° 33' west course 150° 12 knots. (V.A.S., 2129/3 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN).

1745.

Aircraft report having bombed U-boat in position 045 degs. 20' North 008 degs. 33' West at 1745 U-boat probably unable to dive. (V.A.S. 1924/3 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN)

Aircraft bombed and damaged U/B in position 45° 20' N. 08° 41' W. at 1745/3 steering 150° when last seen. One aircraft is now leaving to search and attack keeping west of 7° W. and South West of a line 130° from 46° 30' N. 07° 00' W. (C.in C. W.A. 2120/3 KELVIN, KIPLING.)

My 1019/30 (attack on U/B etc. by TUNA 18/12) U-Boat twice fired four red star identification signal during the chase, and counter attacked with after gun and stern torpedo tube.

Tug destroyed resembled Italian MONTECRISTO ~~CHRISTO~~ (Janes 1939) and challenged TUNA with lamp making I.T.A.

At 0200 24/12 sighted four white star identification signal position 45° 30' N. 01° 45' W. but no ship seen. (V.A.S. 1039/3 to Admty.)

War Diary

4.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Iceland

Messages were sent today to F.O.I.C. Iceland and G.O.C. Iceland Force regarding the defence of Hval Fiord.

Defence of Oban

ARETHUSA left Scapa at 2130 to relieve NAIAD at Oban.

Convoys, A/S Protection

Following on the widening of the home-ward bound convoy cycles and consequent saving in escort hours, the Admiralty have proposed a scheme to give additional A/S protection to convoys, particularly in the current moonlight period.

Operations in Bay of Biscay

KELVIN and KIPLING abandoned at noon today the search for tanker and Italian submarine reported in the Bay of Biscay.

British Air Activity

Attack on Bremen

Bremen was attacked last night by aircraft of Bomber Command, for the third night in succession. The last two aircraft to attack reported the whole area a mass of flames.

Near misses were obtained in an attack last night by a Beaufort on an enemy tanker off the coast of France. Fires were started in an attack on the dockyard and at Brest. Submarines and shipping at Bordeaux were attacked. 16 submarines are reported at Bordeaux.

Naval aircraft attached to Coastal Command bombed two merchant vessels whilst on patrol off the coast of Norway. Three direct hits were made on one of these ships, of about 800 tons, and six hits by 100 lb bombs on the other vessel, of about 3000 tons.

/Attack on....

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SaturdaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity-Contd.Attack on
Naval Units
in Brest

Blenheims this afternoon attacked Brest and preliminary reports state that a direct hit was obtained on the HIPPER class cruiser in dry dock and 3 hits on a destroyer, and hits on other shipping in port.

Operations in
Bay of Biscay

At 0935 today a Sunderland left Mount Batten to search for the Italian U-Boat reported yesterday, but failed to find her. Two Beauforts were sent at 0855 to carry out further attacks. One unsuccessfully attacked a 3000 ton tanker during the afternoon, 50 miles off Lorient, but neither the U-Boat nor the large tanker reported yesterday were seen.

Enemy Air ActivityAttack on
Bristol

ROCKROSE (Corvette) and BARONIA (boom vessel) were slightly damaged in an air attack on Bristol last night.

Ramsgate was attacked this afternoon. No Naval damage is reported.

Enemy air activity today was on a very small scale. SS COITY CASTLE was attacked off the Shipwash this morning. No damage is reported.

MOS45/41

Convoy F.N. 75 was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon in the Thames Approaches.

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Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Two more mines were self detonated off Liverpool during the 24 hours ending 1800/4.

Rosyth was closed at 2255 owing to suspected minelaying.

South Atlantic

Cape Verde Is.

On 29/11, 30/11 and 10/12 there were indications of the presence of submarines in the area south and west of Cape Verde Is., though no sinkings occurred in that area. Since 6/11 the majority of traffic has been routed to the East of Cape Verde Is. and it is possible the submarines were operating to the west when traffic was previously routed. Submarines have now located the traffic to the east of the Islands, sinkings having occurred on 21/12, 27/12, 31/12, 2/1 and possibly 24/12.

C. in C., S.A. suggests that the major part of the traffic should be routed west of Cape Verde Is. for the present to avoid the relative congestion at the narrow part of the present route immediately east of the islands.

D/F bearings indicate an enemy surface unit near 27° 30' S., 6° 0' W., at 2107 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean

Last night, Wellingtons heavily attacked Tobruk, reporting explosions and fires. Tobruk and Bardia were attacked today. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throught today between Bardia and Tobruk. Enemy fighters were active in large numbers, and 4 and probably 5 were shot down.

/Photographic....

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4.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Photographic reconnaissance confirms that Wellington aircraft sank a 10,000 ton merchant vessel in Tripoli harbour on 1/1.

East Indies

M03030/41

CHANTALA this morning bombarded Bulhar in British Somaliland. CHANTALA was bombed at 0700 and 0821, before and after the bombardment, but was undamaged.

China

Visits of French ships to Hong Kong and Singapore and sailings to French Indo-China ports may be resumed on certain conditions.

Australia

A mine was exploded in sweep today in the approaches to Hobart.

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Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Refit of
HOOD.

Your 1923/2. Approved, subject to no change taking place in readiness of German Heavy Ships. (C.N.S. 0029/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

HIPPER-class
Cruiser
at Brest.

Your 0208. The use by enemy of French ports would make our problem so great that it is imperative that our maximum effort should be applied to deter him. I would urge as strongly as I can that the opportunity now offered should be exploited to the limit of our resources until cruiser is destroyed. I include in our resources the full effort of the Bomber Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1201/4 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Intentions. (1st. S.L. 1453/4 to F.O.I.C. Iceland, War Office 2010/4.)
See Operations Volume.

Meeting with
Prime Minister.

A.M. 1728/1. Confirmed at 1100/10. Request you or your representative attend. (1st. S.L. 1755/4 to C.s-in-C, A.C.O.S, V.A. Dover.)

Your 1728/1. Following proposed for Agenda. (C. in C. W.A. 2103/4 to Admty.)

Oban.
Defence of
Convoy
Anchorage.

Defence of U.K.
Request you sail ARETHUSA to relieve NAIAD at about 1200/5. AURORA will relieve ARETHUSA when ready. (C. in C. H.F. 1129/4 to C.S.2.) Four Bofors Guns should be mounted in place in next day or two. As soon as Guns are ready for action the A/A Cruiser can be withdrawn. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1250/4 to C. in C. H.F.) ARETHUSA sailed Scapa 2130/4 for Oban. (A.C.O.S.2202/4.)

"Deluge"
Deluge.

At 1130/4. (D.C.1130/4 and 2015/4.)
At 2330/4. (D.C. 0011/5.)

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

WOLFE,
CILICIA.
LETITIA,
CHITRAL.

My 2140/3. WOLFE and CILICIA left Clyde 0430/4. LETITIA and CHITRAL. Keep to S. of them when approaching 61° N. 15° 31' W. (F.O.C.N.P. 0430/4.) WOLFE and CILICIA to R/V with destroyers in 59° 15' N. 8° 12' W. at 1000/5. (F.O.C.N.P. 0940/4 to WOLFE.)

ICARUS,
INTREPID.

Sailed Scapa 0215/4 as by R.A.D.H.F. 1900/3 (A.C.O.S. 0824/4.) To pass May Island 1400/4 and arrive Humber daylight /5. (C. in C. Rosyth 0947/4 to INTREPID.)

QUORN.

Sailed 0949 for Sheerness (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0957/4.) Arrived Sheerness 1404 for Chatham (C. in C. Nore 1458/4.)

MANCHESTER CITY.
SOUTHDOWN.

To leave Rosyth 2200/5 and arrive Tyne daylight/6. MANCHESTER CITY cannot anchor. (C. in C. Rosyth 1003/4.) My 1003/4. Delayed 24 hours. Will leave Rosyth 2200/6. (C. in C. Rosyth 1505/4.)

CALIFORNIA.
ARGUS,
KENYA.

CALIFORNIA leave Patrol to R/V with ARGUS and KENYA in 55° N. 22' W. at 1000/10 B.S.T. for inward A/S Escort to Clyde through 50° N. 25° 30' W. Course approaching R/V should be 060°. (F.O.C.N.P. 1030/4.)

SCIMITAR.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1241/4.)

JUPITER,
KASHMIR.

Arrived Plymouth 1040. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/4.) *See also next page*

PHOEBE.

Arrived Scapa 1400/4. (A.C.O.S. 1507/4.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/4.)

/ OTTAWA

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

OTTAWA,
GARLAND.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1640/4.)

PRINCE OF WALES.

My 1712/1. To be sailed to pass Bar Light Vessel at 1845/21. Should arrive Inchkeith 1700/23 or as diverted by C. in C. Rosyth. Speed about 15 knots. Nucleus crew and only guns manned will be pom-poms. C. in C. H.F. to provide Surface Ship and A/S Escort. Request Fighter Escort in daylight hours. (A.C.N.S(H) 1640/4. to C. in C. H.F.)

ANTHONY.

Sailed for Liverpool. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1830/4.) Precautions at Liverpool. All channel lights extinguished. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2150/4 to ANTHONY.)

HOOD.

Expect arrive with 4 Destroyers 0830/5. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 1927/4 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.

Gun-fire off
Falmouth.

Gunfire reported about 10 miles E.S.E. of Falmouth at 0215/4. Investigate, keeping clear of Q.Z.Y. 174. (C. in C. W.A. 0240/4 to JERSEY, JUPITER.)

Your 0240. My position $49^{\circ} 53' N. 5^{\circ} 8' W.$ steering 255° at 25 knots. JUPITER has one boiler defective. Temporary repairs in hand. (KASHMIR 0400/4 to C. in C. W.A.) Return to Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A. 0732/4 to KASHMIR, JUPITER.) JUPITER, KASHMIR arrived Plymouth 1040. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/4.)

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.

My 1040/3. Programme postponed further 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0920/4 to F.O.I.C. London.) Torpedo Equipment Officer, London, reports as follows as to equipment. (F.O.I.C. London 1700/4 to V.A. Dover.)

A/S Patrol to
North of Shetlands.

2 A/S Trawlers left Kirkwall 1430/4 to maintain an A/S Patrol between Muckle Flugga and $61^{\circ} 51' N. 0^{\circ} 54' W.$, returning to Kirkwall AM/9. (A.C.O.S. 1725/4.)

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Enemy Tanker.

3 Blenheims will be patrolling in about 47° N. 7° W. from 0900/4 to 1400/4. 2 Beauforts proceeding to arrive 20 miles due West of Gironde at 0900, sweeping thence to Westward in search of Tanker. (C. in C.W.A. 0242/4. and 0514/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) Blenheim A/C will meet you at daylight. (C. in C.W.A. 0410/5 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) My 1902/3 and 2120/3. (Report of Italian S/M.) Sunderland is leaving at 0930/4 to search for damaged S/M. South of 46° N. and S.W. of a line 130° from 46° 30' N. 7° W. (C. in C.W.A. 0854/4. to KELVIN, KIPLING.) One M/V bearing 090° 5 miles, course 040°. My position 47° 20' N. 4° 40' W. (A/C. 218 Sqdn. 1015/4 to 91 Wing H.Q.) At 1015 Tanker in 47° 20' N. 4° 30' W, course 040°. At 0950 by D/F. damaged Italian S/M in 45° N. 4° W. (V.A.S. 1136/4 to S/M's Area B.) My 1108. Attack damaged S/M. Sunderland is co-operating. (C. in C.W.A. 1233/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) My 1015/40. This M/V is not the Tanker reported in my 2200/3 as proceeding to Gironde. (C. in C. W.A. 1244/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING and 1733/4. to Adty.) My 1233. Owing to presence of TALISMAN, S/M may only be attacked if on surface or definitely established as hostile when submerged. (C. in C.W.A. 1254/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) Your 1233. Unable to comply. My position at 1300 was 45° 50' N. (79°) 42' W, steering North at 19 knots. 2 A/C shadowing Fuel remaining 200 Tons. Weather. (KELVIN 1315/4 to C. in C.W.A.) Cancel my 1233. (C. in C. W.A. 1553/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.) 3 Blenheims are now being sent to you. (C. in C. W.A. 1544/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.)

Submarines.SEAWOLF.

Arrived Rothesay with PHILANTE.
(S. 7.0026/4.)

SEALION.

Fro Havet only patrolled. Report.
(SEALION 0410/4 to V.A.S.)

UNBEATEN.

Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1253/4.)

TAKU/

War Diary.4. 1. 41.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines Contd.TAKU.Sailed from Troon, escorted by NORLAND,
at 1330 (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1347/4.)L. 23.Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow.
(A.C.O.S. 1407/4.)Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/4.)

Positions.For following 24 hours at 0800/5.
(V.A.S. 1722/4.)British Air Activity.Patrols.2 Blenheims on protective Patrol from
Dyce at 0900 to Flamborough Head and
return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0902/4.)
Air Patrols today: .. 1808 both A.M. and
P.M., ~~1808~~ P.M., ~~1808~~ and ~~1808~~.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0926/4.)Enemy Air Activity.COITY CASTLE.(British, 2762 Tons.) Bombed and
machine-gunned off the Shipwash.
(Lyness 0819/4.)F.N.75. Convoy.Enemy bombing in 51° 30' N. 1° 15' E.
No hits. (VANITY 1320/4 and 1325/4.)
Fighters being sent (Nore W/T.1337/4.)Bristol
BARONIA
and
ROCKROSE
damaged.Details of damage in Air-Raid last
night. Boom Vessel BARONIA has about
30 feet of side-plating torn out and
is shifted on block. Corvette ROCKROSE
shell plating holed by splinters.
Launch of Corvette MIMOSA postponed.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1751/4.)Ramsgate.Attacked by one A/C at 1440/4.
Considerable damage to houses, 3
civilians killed, 13 seriously injured.
Alert sounded about 2 minutes after
last Bomb dropped. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate
1813/4.)

4. 1. 41.
Saturday.

111

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Kinnaird Head
to
Aberdeen.
Search of
War Channel.

Weather permitting intend 19th Group to patrol A H and A I on completion of sweep at 2330/4/1 thence R/V position 110 Degs. 6 miles Cruden Scaurs at 0900/5/1 and sweep East side of War Channel ahead of E.N.51 to position 000° 14 Kinnaird Head. Expected time of arrival 1600/5/1. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1115/4. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S Group, rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/4. Search east side War Channel ahead of E.N, 51 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1228/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

North Rona
Iceland
Minefield.

Your 1330/3. I have been unable to obtain a complete answer to my 1155/16/12. (Requesting copy of Report and Survey.) This information is of urgent importance to enable me to form an opinion as to the effectiveness of Minefields laid in the water between North Rona and Iceland. If as I suspect the efficiency of these minefields is very low, then I Consider them of doubtful value and possibly as a serious obstruction to operation of our forces while (group omitted) no serious threat to enemy. (C. in C. H.F. 1159/4. to Adty.)

S.M.71.

RAML. 1641/1. Escorts and covering Force not available on date proposed. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. H.F. 1438/4. to RAML.)

B.S.48.

Intend sail from Spurn Point at 1415/6 and take departure from 21.D.Buoy at 1030/7, returning to 21.D.Buoy. Laying will begin at 1230/7. (S.O.M/L., Immingham 1539/4.)

Liverpool.

In 48 hours ending 1800/4 two Mines self-detonated, one in 266° Bar Light Vessel 7.6 miles, and one in 018° Bar Light Vessel 1.25 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1817/4.)

Rosyth.

Port closed from Inchkeith East Gate to No.1. Reflector Buoy in Q.Z.S.175, owing to suspected minelaying. (C.in C. Rosyth 2255/4.)

4. 1. 40.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Air R/C on 2/1 indicates HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock. (D.D.I.C. 0208/4 to C. in C. H.F.) Following information received at 1400. (C. in C.W.A.1436/4 to Adty. Information on 2/1 and 4/1. (D.D.I.C. 1527/4.)

Brest.
Lorient.
St. Nazaire.
Bordeaux.

Following is latest intelligence of Bay of Biscay area. (V.A.S. 2134/4 to S/M's Area B.)

E-Boat.

One War Motor Boat bearing 130° from St. Albans, distance 4 miles. (Porthmouth W/T. 2240/4.)

4. 1. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

113

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAVINA.

(Ocean Boarding Vessel) Paravane bracket broken and lost. Searchlight reflector smashed. (CAVINA 0600/4 to F.O.C.N.P.)

TENACITY.

(Rescue Tug) W/T receiving gear out of action. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1600/4 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

- Convoys. Positions (D.T.D. 1116/4 to C.in C. H.F.)
- H.X.97. CERINTHUS arrived vicinity Mersey.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1046/4)
- H.G.50. Your 1336/3. H.G.50 R.V. S.L.S.61
(dates and positions) (F.O.C.N.A., 1058/4
to Admty.)
H.G.50 due to sail 8/1 to conform with
Admty. 2017/21/12 now confirmed by Admty.
1336/3. Request SCARBOROUGH be ordered
Gibraltar forthwith at best possible speed.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1140/4, to C.in C. W.A.)
Comply with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1140/4 (C.in C.
W.A. to SCARBOROUGH, 1508/4) List
(F.O.C.N.A. 1633/4)
- O.B.O. 269. Sailed 0330/4. Escort WELLARD. 13 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1138/4) Route (D.T.D.,
2153/4). *See also next page*
- F.N. 73. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1110/4).
- F.N. 75. Sailed 0945/4, 30 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Thames, 1218/4) 11 ships and 6 trawlers
from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1702/4) Destinations
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1556/4).
- H.X. 100. Date and route. Escort COMORIN returns
to Halifax. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A.
1239/4) Request particulars of sailing
orders to STANDELLA. (D.T.D., to C.O.A.C.
Halifax).
- W.N. 64. 13⁰⁵/4. H.M.T's SOUTHERN PRIDE, HORNPIPE,
(N.C.S.O., Greenock, 140./4).
- BELGRAVIAN, Hull. (N.C.S.O. Greenock,
1417/4) W.N.64(0) 1330/4, 14 ships
unescorted. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1835/4)
Add my 1417/4 HELENUS (N.C.S.O. Greenock,
1517/4).
- O.B. 271. Route. (D.T.D. 1428/4).
- O.B. 270. O.B.C. 270 sails 0001/6. O.B.O. 270
sails 0400/6. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1448/4)
- C.E.21. List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 1637/4)
Sailed as in my 1547/3 less one M.V.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/4).
- W.N. 66. Code "Chitty". 1330/7. Escorts
LADY ROSEMARY, MORRIS DANCE, 6 ships
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1657/4).

War Diary.4.1.41
SaturdayHOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)

- F.N. 74. List (N.C.S.O. Humber 1659/4)
To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0714/4).
- S.L. 60. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D., 1918/4).
- E.N. 51. List (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1936/4).
- H.X. 99. Route from new R.V. (D.T.D. 2154/4).
FS 74. Sailed 2345/4. 16 days (N.C.S.O. Methil 2258/4)
S.N.V. C.in C. Portsmouth's 1903/3 (8 M.V.'s)
arrived. Your 1327/3, all arrived less
9 M.V. PARKNASILLA. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth,
1153/4 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth). My 1153
PARKNASILLA arrived at 1515/4 (1607/4).
- H.X.102. Your 1319/3. Date and route (N.C.S.O.
Bermuda 1135/4 C.O.A.C. Halifax 1535/4
C.O.A.C. Halifax 1535/4 to Admty. etc.).
- S.L. 59. Admty. 1914/16/12. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O.
Mersey 1640/4).
- S.C. 19. Date and route. (D.T.D., 1709/4 to
C.O.A.C., Halifax).
- O.B.M.270. 1737/4. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 3.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1745/4).
List (N.C.S.O., Milford Haven, 1845/4).
- H.X. 98. Ref. 1904/3 from Admiralty. (Convoy
S.C. 18. escort duties for LACONIA and REVENGE)
LACONIA is not to leave H.X.98 until
relieved by REVENGE who is to make
contact in daylight hours. REVENGE
inform LACONIA estimated position course
and speed of S.C.18. (F.O.C. 3 B.S.,
0758/4).
- O.B. 269. Londonderry departures 4/1
LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE,
VIZALMA, WELLARD, LADY ELSA, ST. ZENO,
ST. KENNAN, for O.B.269.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 1020/4 to Admty.)
- W.N. 64. My 1422/3. Para. three is cancelled
W.N. 63. owing to delay in sailing of W.N.64.
Return to Scapa after parting company with
W.N. 63.
(F.O. (D) H.F. 1030/4 to CURACOA).
- Scapa departure 0930 CURACOA and 1020
FOWEY for escort of convoy W.N.63.
(A.C.O.S. 1052/4).
- O.B. 268.*MICHALIS. Greek *MICHALIS engine trouble 1625/3
Madeira temporary repairs proceeded dead
slow 1900. ARBUTUS stood by lost touch
2358. Proceeding to overtake O.B.268
Latitude 57.01^N, Longitude 13.30^W (Weather).
(ARBUTUS, 1100/4, to C.in C.W.A.).

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

S.C.17.

Amended rendezvous for S.C.17.
 1000/5. 055° 54' 30" N., 17° 33' W.
 055° 7 knots. Then as in my 0702/3.
 (C.in C. W.A., 1158/4 to VETERAN, ERICA,
 WOLVERINE, ARBUTUS, DEPTFORD, DELPHINIUM.)

F.S. 78.

Humber 4/1 departure L L Trawler ORIZABA
 at 1130 to join F S 78 thence Yarmouth.
 (F.O. Humber, 1322/4).

O.B.270.

Sailed ABERDEEN for A/S practice then to
 escort O.B.270.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530/4).

Sailed CAMPANULA escort for O B C 270.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1818/4).

Independent
 Sailings.

Sailing of fast independently routed ships.
 These ships are required by Admiralty's
 1340/29/10/40 to be sailed so that they
 will pass longitude 10° 00' W. at 1800.
 Since these ships are now routed much
 farther North before reaching 10.00' W.,
 submit that 200 miles from Oversay Light
 may be substituted for 10.00' W.
 This is also a convenient distance from
 Liverpool for making a daylight departure.
 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1606/4 to Admty.)

F.N. 74.

FN 74 part 2 expected time of arrival
 20C buoy 0300/5. (HASTINGS, 1640/4).

E.N. 52.

(A) 2200/5. (B) H.M.T's KING SOL
 SOUTHERN GEM. Additional escort H.M.S.
 FLEETWOOD. (C) 18 ships (9 overseas)
 (G) Code Words:-
 E.N. 52 ~~Portion~~ ..E.N.L. Portion Monitor
 E.N.O. Portion ~~Portion~~
 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1653/4).

8 M.V's

My 1939/3. Sailed 8 MV's Tanker did not
 sail Escorts ST. CATHAN and JASPER.
 CARIBIA (Dutch) for Newlyn leaves Group
 to arrive Lamorna Cove 0900/5.
 (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1725/4).

E.N. 52.
 W.N. 65.

Act as additional A/A escort to E N 52
 sailing at 2200/5. After passing Dunnet
 Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is
 requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join
 W N 65 due Duncansby Head 1630/8. Code
 word for E.N.52 ~~Portion~~ and W.N. 65 ~~Portion~~.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 1801/4 to FLEETWOOD).

4.1.1941.

Saturday. 117War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)O.B. 269.

To avoid U-Boat in 59 degs. 30' N. 20 degs. 00' W. cancel route after position (A) and substitute (C) 60 30 N 14 20 W. (D) 61.30 19.00 (E) 60.30 25.00 Omit (B) if not already passed. Commodore should warn all ships in convoy that in case of separation from convoy they should keep North of 61 degs. 00' N. until West of 22 degs. 00' W. (C.in C. W.A. 2218/4 to LA MALOUINE (for Commodore). SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE.

H.X.99.

H.X.99 steer to pass through following positions A 025° 155 miles from "~~XXXX~~" B R/V at 0900 G.M.T./7 in 062° 215 miles. from "~~XXXX~~" C 069° 238 miles from "~~XXXX~~" D 135° 105 miles from final position E splitting in 135° 307 miles from final position. Route is amended to avoid U boat in 059° 30' North 020° 00' W. (Admiral Devonport to V.A. Parker PENRITH CASTLE 2234/4).

To avoid U-Boat in 59 degs. 30' N. 20 degs. 00' W. amended route for H.X.99 From 59 degs. 30' N. 30 degs. 00' W. Through (A) 61 degs. 00' N. 20 degs. 00' W. (B) Rendezvous in 60 degs. 20' N. 16 degs. 00' W. at 0900 G.M.T. 7th January. (C) 60 degs. 05' N. 15 degs. 00' W. (D) 58 degs. 20' N. 13 degs. 23' W. (E) Split in 56 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 00' W. ALAUNIA after leaving convoy report when well clear if above has been passed to Commodore. (C.in C. W.A., 2248/4 to ALAUNIA for Commodore).

8 M.V's.

Intend sailing at 1800/5. 6 M/Vs for Needles Channel. 2 M/Vs for Poole. Request escort be arranged. (N.C.S.C. Dartmouth, 2236/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

Procedure after raider attack.

Procedure of ships in convoy after scattering from surface raider attack is not definitely stated. Alternatives are (1) R.V. with Commodore during next 48 hours at positions previously signalled by him, (2) proceed at best speed to destination, (3) return to assembly port. Should be impressed on masters that action (1) should normally be taken. Ultimate decision must, however, rest with individual masters, taking into consideration the risks involved. (D.T.D., 1907/4 to N.C.S.O's).

Iceland.

Refuelling at Hvalfjord of escorts for HX and OB Convoys. (D.T.D., 2232/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ A/S Protection to

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

A/S Protection
to Convoys,
New Scheme.

Following on the widening of the homeward bound convoy cycles and consequent saving in escort hours, consideration has been given to the most economical method of extending A/S protection, particularly in the current moonlight period. The following scheme should give additional protection and it is requested that it may be given a trial forthwith.

2. It is proposed that corvettes should leave the O.B. convoys at dusk on the 3rd day as at present, but proceed at best speed to meet the homeward bound convoy at daylight, or later according to weather, one day further West than at present. Destroyers will continue with O.B. for the night of the 3rd day, crossing over in daylight to meet the incoming convoy before dark one night further West than at present.

3. O.B. Convoys would therefore sail 24 hours earlier relative to homeward convoys.

4. For 24 hours additional steaming by A/S escort there will accrue 24 hours additional destroyer escort by night when most required and 24 hours additional corvette escort for the homeward convoys, part of which will be by day when most required.

5. By this scheme corvettes should normally reach nearly as far West as the vicinity in which the A.M.C. ocean escort parts company, thus filling the existing escort gap.

6. It is suggested that, commencing with O.B.271, sailing dates should be advanced 1 day in order to enable the scheme to be started.

(D.T.D.1916/4 to C.in C. W. Approaches).

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Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.B.

Admiralty's 2350/23 and 2340/31, (1) R.A. (D) is requested to sail two destroyers to arrive Clyde A.M./7 to form part of A/S escort for convoy W.S. 5B sailing from Clyde P.M./7. Destination on completion Scapa. (2) PHOEBE is to sail as convenient to join C.S. 15 at Clyde A.M./7 and form A/A Escort for same convoy. Intended time of sailing and expected time of arrival Clyde to be reported. (C. in C. H.F. 1347/4, to R.A.D. PHOEBE.)

Admiralty 2251/ Intend sailing ARAWA for Clyde 6/1. Request route for W.S.5B and subsequent route for ARAWA after leaving convoy. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1512/4, to C. in C. W. A.)

VANSITTART is to sail at 1630/5, and proceed to Barry Roads. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail VANSITTART as escort to Bristol Channel portion of Convoy W S 5B. After making R/V in accordance with N.C.S.O. Mersey's 1058/3 VANSITTART is to fuel at Lough Foyle and rejoin convoy. VANSITTART report expected time of arrival Barry before sailing. (C. in C.W.A. 1552/4. to F.O.I.C. Cardiff. VANSITTART.)

My 2350/23, 2340/31 and 2341/31, CAPETOWN CASTLE will leave W.S.5B, at rendezvous "Y" proceeding to Gibraltar with MONARCH OF BERMUDA, FEARLESS and FORESIGHT. (D. & D. (F) 1824/4, to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. etc.

/GEORGIC.....

4. 1. 41. 120
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

Troop Convoy Contd.

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE.

My 1243/21 and your 2202/51. If escort is available for GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE on return voyage to U.K. 4500 can be embarked at Halifax 19th and 20th January. Request early advice if this is your intention or if independent sailings can 200 be embarked in each ship. Also please state if these ships are both available for cargoes to U.K. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1042/4.)

Admiralty's 2231/3. Consider that 4 destroyers will be minimum escort for RAMILLIES, GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE. 2. As these can only be provided from 5th D.F. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to say whether PUNJABI can be spared for part of this escort. She would be detached on REVENGE nearing the Minches. 3. Even with the assistance of PUNJABI there will only be three of 5th D.F. left in the channel. 1554/4, (Admiralty and HF.)

(Cin CWA, S)

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Appreciation.

Summary of raider appreciation for 1940 which is being included in W.I.R. (D.N.I. 1951/4 to "A" Message Home and Abroad) Full text of message in Lion copy only.

Raiders, 1940, Appreciation.

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT.
1951/4th January.

TO A Message Home & Abroad. 671 A. DATE 4.1. 1941.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) Temporary.

FROM Admiralty.

BASEGRAM.

671 A. The following is a summary of Raider Appreciation for 1940 which is being included in W.I.R.

2. Five raiders with attendant supply ships still operating, responsible for all sinkings past year; one in N. Atlantic, one in South Atlantic, one in Indian Ocean, two in Pacific. ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER also possibly still at sea.
3. RAIDER A. Left Germany April 6th. Sank HAXBY in North Atlantic and proceeded to Pacific via Horn with tanker WINNETOU. Operated N.Z. waters in June. Spent July at Marshall Islands base. August in Tasman Sea. September and October at base. Joined by Raider B. Left base in company in November for N.Z. where joined by Supply Ship KULMERLAND from Kobe who had mined Australian waters. December attacked phosphate ships near Nauru landed survivors at Emirau, shelled Nauru.
4. RAIDER B. Left Germany June. Captured KERTOSONO south of Cape Verdes and engaged ALCANTARA July. Rounded Horn to rendezvous with Raider A at Marshall Island Base end of September.
5. RAIDER C. Left Germany mid-April sank SCIENTIST vicinity of St. Helena May. Mined Cape and entered Indian Ocean. Thereafter responsible all sinkings Indian Ocean. This presupposes highly successful cruise but possible without exceeding 12 knots and evidence available points to one Raider only possibly with Supply Ships.
6. RAIDER D. Operated off West Indies June and July. Cape Verde-Azores area August and September. South of Bermuda October and November.
7. RAIDER E. Cruise largely conjectural. Attacked PLATE TRADE in July, thereafter zig-zagged Pernambuco-Freetown-Ascension triangle. Engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE December.
8. If Raider B proceeded to Pacific without incident, another raider was operating in South Atlantic in July at same time as Raider E and was responsible for proportion of losses there and after being engaged by ALCANTARA returned to Germany or German occupied port.
9. Assumed that after attack on HX 84 ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER proceeded South and attacked DUQUESA.
10. Raiders/.....

10. Raiders very well equipped, possibly specially built. Capable remaining at sea long periods and maintaining high average speed. Four to six 5.9 inch guns with Director Control and range at least 18000 yards, pom-poms, M.G.S. T.T.S. Mines and aircraft carried.

11. Efficient D/F, compromise of Merchant Navy Code and agents in neutral and British Empire ports provide accurate knowledge British shipping.

12. Frequent and effective use of disguises has hitherto negatived value of description.

1951/4.

for D.N.I.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- Naval Sec.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- O.I.C. (8)
- D.S.D.9.
- D. A/S W.
- D.P.D.
- M. (3)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. OF P. (3)
- I.P. (3)
- Rm. 52 Arch S.
- Admiral Bellairs.
- W.D.
- Cdr. Hollbrook.
- A.G.R.M.
- A.C.R.
- Head of W/T Room.
- FILE X.

MP.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

→ CHANTILLY etc.
French Crews
and Passengers.

Report if any Spanish ship is likely to take passengers of CHANTILLY and pro-Vichy members of crews of that ship, SUROIT and OCTANE to Oran if H.M.G. decide to seize these ships. (D.E.W.D. 1233/4 to F.O.C.N.A).

Report urgently if any Portuguese ship available now or within next week to take about 600 French passengers and ratings from Gibraltar to Oran. (D.E.W.D. 1234/4 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Your 1233/4. No Spanish ships are likely to be available in the near future to take these passengers to Oran. (F.O.C.N.A. 1614/4 to Admty).

British Seaman
Removed from
SALLY MAERSK.

Frederick Stanley Milthorp age 21 serving as deck boy in SALLY MAERSK was removed that ship by French authority at Dakar on or about 21/10 and alleged as being of military age. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1725/4 to Admty for M. of S.).

→ CHANTILLY
Convoy
(intercepted
1/1/41).
Press
Communique.

Your 2355/3. The first part of my 1024/3 reads "In order to dispel rumours circulating locally, press is agitating for the issue of a communique". All 4 ships CHANTILLY, SALLY MAERSK, OCTANE and SUROIT, have now arrived Gibraltar. No other incidents occurred beyond the unfortunate accident when CHANTILLY was boarded. Obstruction to boarding by CHANTILLY was mainly due to attitude of Master and Chief Officer. No obstruction was met with in the case of the other 3 ships. My 1516/3 deals with position regarding SALLY MAERSK. So far as the other 3 ships are concerned it is unlikely that there will be many of crews or passengers wishing to join Free French movement. General view of passengers and crew in CHANTILLY appears to be that responsibility of unfortunate accident rests with the Master and Chief Officer for obstructing boarding. (F.O.C.N.A. 1830/4 to Admty).

W.R. Note. This referred to "Vice Consul" and is now corrected to read "Press".

/French.....

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (contd)

French
Repatriees.

My 0135/27 and A.T. 1928/31.
Following took passage in Portuguese s.s. GUINE from Freetown to-day 4/1 for Casablanca. (A) 322 Naval reservists and 83 Mercantile Marine personnel from CUBA. (B) 50 Mercantile Marine personnel from INDOCHINOIS. (2) 15 Officers 30 P.O.'s and 70 other Ratings now remain and await repatriation in Portuguese s.s. COLONIAL.
(C. in C. S.A. 1951N/4 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

C.S.10.
CLEMATIS.
IMPERIALIST
LOCH OSKAIG
CAMITO.

See also next page

C.S.10's 1904/3. Pass through position 035° 50'N. 007° 00'W. searched channel at Gibraltar is maintained: (details). CLEMATIS to adjust speed to arrive off northern entrance to Gibraltar at 0800/5. IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. LOCH OSKAIG proceeding to patrol off Lisbon. CAMITO expecting to arrive Gibraltar a.m./5 from patrol in area between 033° 40' 010° 45'W. 032° 00', 009° 50', 030° 20', 013° 40', 032° 10', 014° 40'.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0602/4 to C.S.10. CLEMATIS).

SURPRISE.

Your 1808/1. Radius of action of SURPRISE at 10 knots is 4000 miles, request I may be informed if arrangements can be made for SURPRISE to fuel at Ponta Delgada on passage to Freetown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0813/4 to Admty).

See also next page

Raider Action.
Press Reports.

Your 1550/3 re endorsement of articles by Press representatives with Force "H". This is much regretted and immediate action is being taken to prevent recurrences.
(S.O. Force H. 0850/4 to Admty).

/CAMITO.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (contd).

CAMITO.

Your 2300/3. Adjust speed to arrive off Northern entrance Gibraltar at 0900 Z. - 1/5/1. CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, JONQUIL, GERANIUM escorting EMPIRE TROOPER position course and speed 1200/4 036° 00'N., 007° 52'W. 095° 7 knots, routed through 035° 50'N, 007° 00'W. expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0800/5. IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. LOCH OSKAIG proceeding patrol off Bay. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/4 to CAMITO).

See previous page

Operation "Excess".

M06234/41 }
M09796/41 }

I am assuming in spite of observations contained in Admiralty letter NL 14593/40 of (? Dec) 20 1940 the instructions contained in clause 625 of fighting instructions still hold good to extent that action taken by escorting force in operation ~~Excess~~ to engage enemy surface vessels must not be such as to jeopardize seriously the safe arrival of convoy at its destination. Paragraph one of C. in C. Med. (? 1013/9 Dec) refers. (S.O. Force H. 1040/4 to Admty).

TRIDENT.
OLYMPUS.

Position of S/M's at 0800/5 and movements for the following 24 hours are as follows.
(A) TRIDENT off Ponta Delgada.
(B) OLYMPUS 036° 10'N. 018° 30'W. course 285° 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1532/4).

KENYA.

Gibraltar Arrival 1610/4 F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA. (S.O.I. Gib. 1612/4).

SURPRISE.

My 1808/1 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0813/4. A/S yacht SURPRISE is to call at Ponta Delgada. Arrangements for visit and fuelling will be made by Admiralty. (D.O.D.(F) 1852/4 to C. in C.W.A.).

See previous page

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE.

BALTAVIA.

ASTURIAS.

See also next page.

CUMBERLAND.

Fuelling and storing completed. Expected time arrival (?rendesvous) 2030Z/4. BALTAVIA has been ordered to "Orange" and Oiler ARNDALE to remain "F.O." ASTURIAS took in stores and transferred personnel stores and mails to BALTAVIA at "F.O." p.m./3 and returned to patrol. Cot case with sick berth attendants transferred to BALTAVIA. BALTAVIA need not enter harbour until 48 hours after CUMBERLAND has stored.
(NEWCASTLE 0503Z/4 to R.A.S.A.D.).

STIRLING
CASTLE.

S.S.T.O. Egypt 1721/1. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1131/3 (request STIRLING CASTLE be ordered to proceed to Durban) Request decision.
(S.N.O. R.S. 0730Z/4 to D. of S.T.).

DEVON.

Overdue Shipping British Ship DEVON due Capetown 30/12 from United Kingdom not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1125B/4).

CANTON.

CANTON is to pass 1730/4 and proceed position 005° 00'N. 020° 00'W. thence to patrol as follows: H. 34 B 2 day, H. 34 A 2 day, H. 33 B.A.C.D. 1 day each, 1 33B 1 day, 1 34 A and B 1 day each then returns to Freetown. Object of route is to keep ships as far as possible in neighbourhood of ships known to be on passage in area.
(C. in C. S.A. 1135/4 to CANTON).

Departures 1730/4 CANTON on patrol in accordance with C. in C. South Atlantic's 1135N/4.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1753/4).

/TRIBESMAN.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

TRIBESMAN.

Your 1150B/2 TRIBESMAN due Capetown 14/12. No further news. (D.T.D. 1238/4 to S.O.I. Capetown).

W.S.5A.

My 1744/27, (re transports etc. D. of S.T. arrange bunkering and watering) Delete EMPIRE TROOPER and MAHSEER. (D. of S.t. 1409/4 to C. in C's S.A., E.I. Med. etc).

Treatment of French Merchant Ships.

Admiralty's 0042/3 (see Vichy French) Request S.A.D. Station may be informed whether preamble and para. 2 (a) should be taken as cancelling limitations imposed in Admiralty 2315/15. Early information of date and scope of sweep referred to in para.5 of Admiralty 0229 preceding will greatly help. (R.A.S.A.D. 1425/4 to C. in C. S.A).

ASTURIAS.

For Minister - please obtain permission for ASTURIAS to enter Monte Video for 24 hours on 7/1. For Consul - (requirements). (C.C. S.A.D. 1441Z/4 to S.O.I Montivideo).

Suspicious Ship.

Master of Norwegian tanker NUEVA ANDALUCIA from Texas to Rio de Janeiro reports before dawn 23/12 when 40 miles south south west of Tobago Island he sighted well lighted vessel which followed him until morning 27/12 when 500 miles N.E. of Amazon mouth despite attempt to shake her off. Vessel had appearance of Norwegian tanker FENJA but was painted grey had one funnel with red band, streamlined bridge small mast on bridge to carry aerial. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1615/4).

/Shipping.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Shipping
Routes to
avoid U/Boats.

On 29/11 and 30/11 and again on 10/12 there was indication of presence of submarines in area south to west of the Cape Verde Islands, but as far as is known no sinkings took place in that area. Majority of traffic has been routed to east of Cape Verde Is. from 6/11. Possibly submarines were looking for traffic to west where it had previously been. Submarines have now located the traffic to the east of the Islands as shown by the sinkings on 21st 27th and 31st/12 and 2/1 and possibly 24/12. Suggested that major part of traffic should be routed west of Cape Verde Is. for the present to avoid the relative congestion at the narrow part of the present route immediately east of the Verde Islands, and neighbourhood north and south. Propose that northbound traffic should be routed to westward at once.
(C. in C. S.A. 1643N/4 to Admty).

BRITISH
ZEAL.

C. in C. S.A. 1719/4. See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

NEPTUNE
FURIOUS
ISIS
ENCOUNTER
DELHI.

My 2015/3 to NEPTUNE only, fuelling Takoradi not practicable. Leave patrol so as to arrive Lagos a.m./7 for fuel. After fuelling proceed to give cover to FURIOUS escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER expected to be off Takoradi 8/1. DELHI conducting flying operations A.M. will be inside territorial waters. On completion of flying operations accompany FURIOUS and DELHI to Freetown as additional escort.
(C. in C. S.A. 1813Z/4 to NEPTUNE).

/W.S.5A.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

W.S. 5A.
DEVONSHIRE
Force K.
Sweep.

1. Anticipate ^EDEVONSHIRE will join convoy WS 5A. 350 miles 145 deg. from Freetown. Propose Force K. then carry out a sweep based on following route but all detailed route dependent on information received and movements of shipping. Route lower half of H.35 H.34 then I 34 J 33 to K 33 (date). While in J 33 and K 33 if information required longer operation in area ships could fuel at Rio de Janeiro but not considered desirable unless necessity arises. From K. 33 proceed to St. Helena to arrive when fuel is required. Fuel in oiler will be there and it should be possible to send 100 Octance spirit as well in small oiler if required. Then through I 35 and H 35 to Freetown or as situation decides. R.A.S.A.D. and division to move North East from Plate area to arrive southern edge of K. 33 about time force K arrives centre of K 33. Considered no object in these 2 forces meeting unless situation requires in which case force not to then be used for combined sweep on South American side when refuelling of Force K at Rio de Janeiro might be necessary.

(C. in C. S.A. 1817/4 to Admty).

My 1817/4 refers to your 0229/31/12.
(C. in C. S.A. 2022/4 to Admty).

Shipping.
Zigzagging.

Reference AMSI 68 it appears that this is interpreted by some to mean that ships should not or need not zigzag in other areas. It is considered important that ships should zigzag on the whole route Freetown to U.K. and within 800 miles of Freetown in all directions. Propose AMSI be amended accordingly and instructions to this effect be given to Masters of ships through N.C.S.O.'s as soon as possible.

(C. in C. S.A. 1857/N/4 to Admty).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Enemy
Unit.

D/F Bearings indicate any enemy surface unit in vicinity of 027° 30'S. 006° 00'W. at 2107 G.M.T. 4/1. (C. in C. S.A. 2327N/4 to DEVONSHIRE).

By D/F on 8400 Kc/s at 2110/4 G.M.T. unidentified enemy unit probable surface vessel made signal of 36 groups T.O.O. 2045 begins NNYI NXLN. (D.D.I.C. 2356/4 to S.A. Station).

MOST SECRET.4.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.German Assistance to Italy.

Reports from Rome, Palermo and Berne re German assistance to Italy of aircraft and troops. (Air Ministry 0540/4 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Main Fleet.

C.in C. Mediterranean, with VALIANT, BARHAM ILLUSTRIOUS and 9 destroyers, arrived at Alexandria 4/1 having bombarded Bardia during 3/1 The Fleet carried out a concentrated attack on enemy support troops, tanks and motor transport for 1½ hours, while secondary armaments of battleships and destroyers attacked coastal defences. No casualties or damage were sustained by our forces during these operations except for a few casualties in APHIS from a near miss. Units were attacked on several occasions by enemy aircraft but without success. (D.O.R.6/1). *See also next page p. 133.*

NORTHERN PRINCE.

Please inform me what personnel are in NORTHERN PRINCE. Admiralty's 0033/9/12 gave total 400. Admiralty's 1315/25/12 not to you gave these as Military and R.A.F. details for Malta. Admiralty's 1524/3 refers to (? 400) Naval passengers. (V.A. Malta 0945/4 to S.O. Force H.)

REGENT TRUANT.

My 2213/3 and 2215/3 No trace in W.R.) para.2. For 013° 50' East read 014° 50' East. (V.A. Malta 1005/4 to TRUANT).

Bardia Operations Communique.

Intend issuing following Communique in conjunction with other services. (C.in C. Med. 1048/4 to Adty).

Final attack on Bardia.

Naval bombardment support was given during attack on Bardia. Object was to disorganize enemy tank and M.T. forces in Northern sector of defence and to prevent them from supporting their troops during attack by Australians in Southern Sector.

(2) TERROR, APHIS, LADYBIRD (? H.M.S. NUBIAN) provided harassing fire on 2/1 as necessary, between 0530 and 1600. On 3/1 WARSPITE,

/BARHAM,

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Attack
on
Bardia.

BARHAM, VALIANT and destroyers carried out a heavy bombardment between 0810 and 0900. Ships' aircraft spotted and results appear from their reports to have been good. Destroyers and battleships secondary armament engaged coast defences and opportunity as received (? opportune) targets. ILLUSTRIOUS screened by 3rd C.S. provided fighter protection.

(3) Coastal batteries engaged battleships no figures beyond hit from few splinters no casualties. APHIS damaged by near miss two killed three wounded, LADYBIRD one wounded. No enemy aircraft attacked battle fleet but TERROR and gunboats bombed heavily though ineffectively several times. TERROR, gunboats, and (? 19th) division remain in support.
(C.in C. Med. 1145/4).

Operation
"Excess".

F.O.C.N.A's 1706/24/12 not to C.S.3. and YORK. Patrol lines for daylight D.3. of ~~EXCESS~~ "Excess" established as follows:-

UPHOLDER 038° 20' N., 007° 50' E to 038° (? 30') N., 009° 20' E., TRIUMPH 038° 15' N., 008° 40' E to 038° 20' N., 010° 10' E.

(ii) Submarines to be at Western ends of patrol at dawn D.3 proceeding as circumstances admit to reach vicinity Eastern ends about dusk D.3, surfacing for brief periods if opportunity offers.

(ii) ? Submarines may leave patrol lines to act on air reconnaissance reports received direct and/or on M.S. routine, keeping outside (?) 300 fathom line.

(iv) Submarine attack first and report later.

(v) Patrol Boat unless identified for certain no submarine to be attacked day or night and no surface ship night D.2/D.3 and D.3/D.4.

(vi) Sanctuary established from 0001/D.3 between parallel 038° 00' N., and 039° 00' N and meridian 007° 00' E and 010° 30' E.

(vii) N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to: (a) Inform reconnaissance aircraft of sanctuary.
(b) Route submarines to Malta after dusk D.3.
(c) Cancel (? sanctuary).
(S.O. Force H, 1015/4 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

MOST SECRET.4.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)"Excess"
Convoy
Escort.

Your 1630/3. I consider that it is essential that ~~five~~ ^{five} convoy should be escorted by five destroyers through the Narrows. Request you confirm that two Force H destroyers will accompany convoy. No more can be spared from here, nor can I any longer provide a striking force in Narrows in accordance with my 1621/21. (C.in C. Med. 1053/4 to S.O. Force H.)

Your 1053/4. FIREDRAKE and JAGUAR will accompany Force 'F'. This will leave five destroyers to screen Force 'H' for return passage to Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H, 1420/4 to C.in C. Med.)

Personnel.

Your 1333/3 (Officers and Ratings to take passage to Mediterranean) M.L's 1032 and 1037 expected time of arrival Swansea 8/1. Officers and Ratings available for taking passage after arrival.

THORSHOLM.

On completion of discharge Oiler THORSHOLM is to be sailed to Port Said for inclusion in next southbound convoy for Admiralty Loading orders. (C.in C. Med. 1148/4 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria etc.)

Landing
Craft.

Your 1238/3. (address which stores and equipment for certain craft should be sent). C/O N.S.O. Port Said and marked H.M.S. STAG (Division K). (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1218/4 to Adty).

Air
Report
Bardia,
Tobruk,
Gazala.

Operational Summary No. 208 up to 1200 hours 4/1/1941. Night 2/3 January the bombing of Bardia was continued by heavy bomber Squadrons in preparation for the assault by the army early following morning. 3 Wellingtons and 2 Bombays dropped 1600 pounds of bombs starting 1 large fire and a violent explosion within the fortified area and numerous small fires and explosions. Day 3/1 attacks by the medium bomber Squadrons on Italian landing grounds in E. Libya were resumed to prevent interference with out ground attack on Bardia by Italian aircraft operating from them. 30 Blenheims bombed Bardia, Tobruk and Gazala, hitting the landing ground at Gazala while bombs fell on the outskirts of Tobruk town.

/Hurricanes

MOST SECRET.4.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Air
Report.
Bardia,
Tobruk,
Gazala.

Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day between Tobruk and Bardia to cover our forward troops and F.A.A. spotter aircraft, 1 Hurricane intercepted 5 S.79's which were endeavouring to bomb H.M.S. TERROR 20 miles off Ras Uenna destroying 3 of them damaging a 4th. A previous attack by Italian bombers escorted by fighters on H.M.S. TERROR and other ships was not intercepted. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Derna and Tobruk but 4 small ships in Derna Harbour and 1 ship 300 anchored near Marakeb Island. Australian Gladiators co-operated with artillery in bombardment of Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1221/4).

Tobruk,
Bardia
advance.

Part Two. Night 3/4 Jan. Tobruk heavily bombed by Wellingtons 2 aircraft reported number of explosions and fires, reports from remainder not yet received. G.H.Q. Middle East report fighting continuing in South East sector Bardia where enemy appear to be completely cut off 6000 prisoners captured with further numbers still being brought in.

2. Greece, day 3/1. No bombing operations 1 Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface vessels.

Massawa
Bombard.

3. Sudan, day 3/1. 1 Blenheim made offensive photographic reconnaissance of Massawa and Dahlak Archipelago, dropping bombs on main quays Massawa. 1 destroyer at quay possibly hit, photographs reveal 3 submarines and 4 destroyers in Massawa, 8 destroyers or sloops and 14 merchant ships anchored at Dahlak Island. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1222/4).

BONAVENTURE.

My 1524/3. Should space be available any E.R.As or Signal and Telegraphist ratings now in EMPIRE TROOPER should also be included for passage to Alexandria. (D.O.D.(F) 1550/4 to S.O. Force H.)

Movements,
Alexandria.

Arrival 3/1 GLOUCESTER, YORK, CALCUTTA, VOYAGER. Arrivals 4/1 C.in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, ILLUSTRIOUS, BARHAM, VALIANT, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, JANUS, JUNG, DIAMOND, GALLANT, ILEX, DAINTY, GREYHOUND. Departures 4/1, VOYAGER, PROTECTOR. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1746/4)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Cond.)Taranto
Nets.

Neutral Naval Attache whose report from Rome has just arrived states Italian Admiral gave order for removal of nets at Taranto two days before British attack. Leakage of this information was subsequently suspected and 24 arrests were made among Naval personnel, one warrant officer eventually being shot. (N.A. Stockholm, 1746/4 to Adty).

Malta
Air
Report,
Weather,
Damage
to
Sunderlands.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 4/1. No air activity ours or enemy due weather. During gale of 55 knots etc., 4 Sunderlands moored at Marsaxloks were subjected to heavy pounding (details). All 4 boats unserviceable. Repairs proceeding at speed.

Tripoli
attack 1/1.

Recco. photos Tripoli taken on 2/1 and enlarged now show Wellingtons 148 squadron on 1/1 sunk 1 10,000 ton M.V. which was anchored in mid-harbour. Salvage evidently attempted and M/V manouevred to quayside where it appears sunk near western side of harbour before it could be brought alongside. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1800/4).

Greek
Situation.

Urging that Greek command should be independent of Egypt. Military and air situation. (N.A. Athens 1935/4 to Adty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

PANDORA.

My 1531/29 and V.A. Malta 1335/3. Amend route as follows:

2. Report expected time of arrival at position Z. If unable to reach position Z by 1200/8 proceed to Malta as directed by V.A. Malta and await further orders. (Capt: S.1. 1941/4 to PANDORA).

MATHURA.

Freightship MATHURA sailed Swansea with important Government stores for Alexandria. (D. of S.T. 2229/4 to F.C.C.N.A.)

WAR DIARY.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Raider
Captives.

Your 1900/2. No. (Report of British seamen at Mogadiscio).
(C.O.I.S. Far East, 0508Z/4 to Adty).

LYCAON.

Naval freight ship LYCAON proceeding from position 010° S 053° E to Pensang at 13½ knots is expected to pass South of Tuskar Rock 6th January. Endeavour to locate and accompany her to 092° E. If not met leave longitude ~~092°~~ at dusk 6th and proceed position 005° N., 092° at 13½ knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0618Z/4 to ANTENOR).

Kismayu.

My 1006/23. Air photographs taken 28/12 and 2/1 reveal number of ships unchanged.
(C.in C. E.I. 0742Z/4 to Adty).

CHANTALA
Bombed.

M03030/41.

CHANTALA was bombed at 0700 and 0821 G.M.T./4 five bombs no hits in first attack details of second attack not known.

In between attacks CHANTALA demolished resident's house at Bulhar (position 10° 28'N., 44° (? 4) E. CHANTALA who has now completed a reconnaissance with military G.R. is returning Aden.

(C.in C. E.I. 0944/4 to Adty).

My 0944/4. para.one. Second attack five bombs one close no damage.
(CHANTALA 1132/4).

Shipping
Instruction.

Following message passed to Admiralty for information. Ships proceeding independently in area three are to proceed at best possible speed and zigzag by day and in moonlight when in the following area. North of 010 degs. North and West of 050 degs. East excluding Persian Gulf waters.
(C.in C. E.I. 1128/4 to G.B.M.S. Area 3).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Shipping Routes.

For N.C.S.O. My G.B.M.S. message 1128/4 (Routeing of ships in Area 3) cancels my 0644/28/8. Inform reporting officer.

SHILLONG "Q" Report, 16/12.

My 1416/23/12. (1) No ship in the vicinity of SHILLONG at 1520Z/12 has been able to confirm SHILLONG's report (2) Master of SHILLONG was questioned by S.O.(I) Capetown 3/1 and reports (a) His ship has new receiving set and he is not surprised at inferior receiving set not being able to pick up such a weak signal during bad atmosphere. (b) the distress message was made by a valve transmitter (c) He has great faith in his W/T operator.
(C.in C. E.I. 1138Z/4 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

STRATHAIRD.

My 0800/1 S.S.T.O. Egypt. (Port Said) 1855/31, D. of S.T. 2014/2. In view of C.in C. East Indies 0804/2. Request immediate confirmation that STRATHAIRD is for onward passage from Bombay to U.K. If so intend to embark R.I.N. draft in this ship at Bombay and not Aden.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0610Z/4 to S.S.T.O. Egypt D. of S.T.)

Your 0610/4. STRATHAIRD will now proceed to Bombay with prisoners of war instead of STRATHALLAN and as far as it is known then proceed to U.K. D. of S.T. is requested to confirm final destination. STRATHAIRD has no separate galley and Indian Crew Galley is only sufficient for crew therefore cooking arrangements for R.I.N. will have to be provided and fitted in Bombay. Failing this EMPRESS OF CANADA which has separate galley must be used ex Aden.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/4).

B.S.121.

Convoy B.S.121 sailed from Suez 0400Z/4 route R.S.2. Speed of advance 12 knots. Escort H.M.A.S. YARRA convoy consisted of PRESIDENT DOUMER and REINA DEL PACIFICO, port of destination Perim for Port Sudan.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1243/4 to Adty).

B.N.111.

Convoy B.N.111 arrived Suez a.m./4.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1247/4).

4.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)BARBETTE
BARNET.

Ref: 0534 from C.in C. E.I. 31/12. Intend sailing B.D.V. BARBETTE and B.D.V. BARNET for Aden via Khorya Morya Bay p.m./8. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1342/4 to C.in C. E.I. S.N.O., P.G.)

Air
Report
Assab,
CHANTALA.

Operational Summary No. 206 for 24 hours ending 1500 4/1. 0605 to 0745 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed photographs recco Assab area. Medium level attack on Bizellis transport yard P.P.4.H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. MAP A3. All bombs in target area. No shipping changes since 27/12. 1 Blenheim squadron returned from convoy duties based Kamaran and 1 proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 1 Blenheim 203 squadron despatched as fighter escort for CHANTALA on receiving her report of attack from 0640 to 0705 in position 175 degs. Perim 150 miles by 1 E/A which dropped 5 bombs all misses, and her subsequent report of second attack at 0821. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1858/4).

FLAMINGO.

Expected time of arrival with EGRA, TAKLIWA, VARSOVA, at 0700/Z/5. LEANDER's Walrus may arrive early A.M./5. (FLAMINGO 2301/4 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan).

China.

Aberdeen
Establishment. Your 1607/20/12. Present condition of Aberdeen establishments. Request whether controlled mining base is eventually to be constructed. (Cdre. Hong Kong to Adty. 0152Z/4).

Indo-
China
Trade
Agreement.

Your 2320Z/2. Prohibition of British and Allied shipping visiting Indo China ports is raised from 10/1. (Reference to terms of agreement) (C.in C. China 0947Z/4 to Adty, also from Governor, Straits Settlements for F.O. and Colonial Office). Original in Lion copy only. (Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (Contd.)FALCON
PETEREL.

My 0251Z/14/10 and proceeding messages. While reasons of policy for retaining FALCON at Chungking and PETEREL at Shanghai remain very much what they were, with lapse of time practical disadvantages tend to increase in view of enforced idleness of officers and men. Approval is therefore requested to withdraw personnel from FALCON and reduce PETEREL to complement sufficient for ships' upkeep and to act as W/T link. British Ambassador Tokyo British Ambassador Chungking and (British?) Embassy Shanghai concur. (C.in C. China, 0369/4 to Adty).

Raider
Intelligence.

Your 1415/3 (Passing of certain intelligence to C.in C. Dutch East Indies). (C.in C. China, 0421/4 to Adty).

Two Norwegian seamen Ex OLE JACOB have affirmed to Norwegian charge D/Affairs in Tokyo that they saw German Commander of prize crew in Kobe 30th. December. No other information known regarding whereabouts of ship. (Capt: O.S. Singapore 0531/4 to Adty).

Note. Ship ELSA shown in the original has now been deleted.

Indo-
China
Trade.

My 0823Z/26. Visits of French ships to Hong Kong and Singapore and sailings to French Indo-China ports may be resumed 10/1 on conditions laid down. (C.in C. China, 0945Z/4 to Cdre. Hong Kong etc.).

America and West Indies.NEWPORT.

Request confirmation of safe arrival NEWPORT. (F.O.3.B.S. 0904/4 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.Dutch Ships,
Rabaul.

Your 1040/31. Permission for Dutch Naval tanker and Dutch warship to (group missing) Rabaul middle of January is granted. Length of proposed stay would appear to be of some relevance in connection with establishment of Naval Bases mentioned in Mandate, but it is assumed request is for permission for a visit in strict sense. (A.C.N.B., 0654/4, to Admty.)

Mine.

Mine exploded in sweep position 043° 27' S. 147° 57' East Approaches to Hobart at 0331Z/4. (A.C.N.B., 1030/4).

BATHURST
Minesweepers.

A.M. 0121/15/12/40 and your 0515/16/12/40. Intend that BATHURST Class Minesweepers to proceed to Mediterranean should form 21st Minesweeping Flotilla and that vessels remaining on Australian Station should form 22nd Minesweeping Flotilla. Request names of vessels may be signalled accordingly. (D.M.S. 1704/4 to A.C.N.B.).

MANOORA.
TRIENZA.

MANOORA escorting steamship TRIENZA arrived Ocean Is. 1800Z/3. (A.C.N.B. 2035Z/4).

War Diary.

4.1.1941.

Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA
CAMPANA
AURIGNY
KATIOLA
FORMOSE

Five French ships will soon leave Buenos Aires for Marseilles with food cargoes for unoccupied France, a spokesman of the Navigation France shipping company stated in Buenos Aires yesterday.

They are the MENDOZA, CAMPANA, AURIGNY, KATIOLA and FORMOSE. The MENDOZA, according to the spokesman, is expected to sail first. The Free French Committee in the Argentine declared that the ships would probably be captured in mid-Atlantic, and that their sailing was a manoeuvre prepared by the Axis powers for the purpose of increasing tension between London and Vichy. -

(British United Press, Buenos Aires, 4/12).

Note. The FORMOSE played a part in the battle of the River Plate, in which the German pocket battleship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE was forced to take refuge in Montevideo before scuttling herself in December 1939. The Nazi warship was pursuing the FORMOSE when she was engaged by the British cruisers EXETER, AJAX and ACHILLES.

War Diary.

4.1.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH ZEAL
(torpedoed 31/12)

My 1901/1. Tug HUDSON reports BRITISH ZEAL 0940/4 position 013° 51' N. 018° 07' W. and is proceeding in company with ship to Freetown speed 4.5 knots. (C.in C. S.A., 1719/4 to ISIS).

EVERLEIGH
(attacked 25/12)

Finnish S.S. VELI RAGNAR arriving here yesterday Friday reports that December 25th she intercepted signals from British Steamship EVERLEIGH that she was being chased and fired at by submarine when in position 59° 28' (? North) 21° W. signal (?was) repeated several times but then ceased. Finn was then about 40 miles north of EVERLEIGH and proceeded to north of Faeroe Islands but saw no enemy vessel. (Vice-Consul, Petsamo, 1903/4 to Admty.)

NALGORA

Encountered UMGENI who has picked up 34 survivors from NALGORA in position 021° 35' North 020° 59' West and is taking them to (? Clyde). Remaining 71 of crew may be in two boats steering East. NALGORA was shelled by two s/m's and last seen burning. Am proceeding Bathurst looking for boats. Expect to arrive 1300 N/6. (VELOX, 1930/4 to C.in C. S.A.).

Submarines Reported.

Cape Verde.

Movements of submarines in Cape Verde Area (C.in C. S.A., 1643N/4) See South Atlantic.

0012.

Following has been read. S/M Raider. SSSS TENACITY, sighted submarine 055° 06' north 19° west. (Lyness W/T, 0012/4).

2357/3.

At 2257 G.M.T./3 Submarine sighted in position 026° 28' North 022° 22' West. (S.S. JOHN HOLT 0252/4 to any British Warship).

Cancel my 2101/3 (aircraft being sent to attack U-Boats) (V.A.S. 1037/4 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN).

0950.

Damaged Italian U/Boat was probably within a radius of 30 miles of 45° North 4° West at 0950 heading for Bordeaux. (C.in C. W.A., 1108/4 to KELVIN, KIPLING.)

My 1136 (Report of tanker damaging Italian submarine) tanker was in position 047° 42' North 003° 50' West at 1553. (V.A.S., 1659/4, to TIGRIS)
See also HOME COMMANDS, Operations.

/ By D/F at

War Diary.

4.1.1941.

Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

By D/F at 1955 U-Boat within 20 miles of 045 degs. 30' North 002 degs. 20' West. (V.A.S., 2⁰31/4, to TALISMAN).

Estimated U/B dispositions.Italian:

1 to eastward of Azores.

1 in 45° 29' N. 8° 33' W. at 1745/3, proceeding to Gironde at 11 - 12 knots unable to dive.

1 within 60 miles radius of 54° 30' N. 14° 30' W.

1 within 30 miles radius of 55° N. 19° W.

1 within 60 miles radius of 56° N. 21° 30' W.

1 in about 59° N. 23° W. at 1243/3 is due to leave patrol for Gironde.

German:

1 in 26° 28' N. 22° 22' W. at 2357/3 northbound at 10 - 11 knots.

1 about 44° 30' N. 10° W. at 0015/4, probably bound for Freetown area.

1 about 47° N. 11° W. at 0118/4 probably outward bound.

1 within 60 miles radius of 57° 30' N. 19° 30' W.

1 within 40 miles radius of 59° 30' N. 20° W.

1 within 60 miles radius of 60° N. 20° W. Possibly 1 about 60° N. 15° W. eastbound. (D.D.I.C. 1331/4).

MOST SECRETWar Diary5.1.1941
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsRosyth,
Escort Force

C. in C., Rosyth has asked that the Rosyth Escort Force may be augmented at an early date. The strength of the Force is at present below what is necessary to maintain the East Coast convoys. Nine ships are out of action, five of them through enemy activity.

Operations in
Bay of Biscay

KELVIN and KIPLING returned to Plymouth this morning without having sighted the tanker and Italian submarine for which they have been searching.

British Air ActivityAttacks on
Brest

Last night, in very bad weather conditions 40 aircraft of Bomber Command bombed the dock area at Brest. No direct hit on the cruiser was reported. Today, 5 Blenheims of Coastal Command succeeded in dropping bombs in the target area and estimate that some direct hits were obtained on the cruiser in dry dock and on a merchant vessel and a barge.

Bomber Command aircraft last night also attacked targets at Hamburg, Rotterdam and Bremen.

Operations today were restricted by bad weather, and only one attack was made, on an oil target at Flushing.

A new A/S patrol was flown today by Coastal Command, about 150 miles west of Ireland. Weather conditions curtailed the routine patrols and reconnaissances in the southern North Sea and English Channel.

War Diary5.1.1941
SundaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Enemy activity last night was on a larger scale than of late and was mainly directed to the Bristol-Avonmouth area.

The following attacks were made on shipping; no damage was caused in any of the attacks:- TEMPLE MOAT in Convoy 268, in N.W. Approaches at 1056. Convoy F.N. 75 off Cromer at 1130. Convoy C.E. 21 in Thames Estuary at 1600. Convoy F.N. 76 off Harwich at 1710.

Mining

Beaufort aircraft last night laid mines successfully off the Ems and Jade at Dieppe.

Operations
S.N. 6 and
S.N. 65.

R.A.M.L. at 1837 reported these operations completed. The 1st M.L.S. arrived at Port Z.A. at 1701. HOOD and 4 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0930 from covering the operations.

Operation
B.S. 48

Operation B.S. 48 was postponed 24 hours to enable INTREPID to act as escort.

Operation
Z.M.E. 11

ADVENTURE laid mines in St. George's Channel before midnight 5/6.

Possible enemy aircraft mining took place last night off the East and North East coasts and in the Humber.

Casualties

Two ships were damaged by mines today in the Thames Estuary viz. LOWESTOFT escorting Convoy F.N. 78, who was towed to Sheerness ~~and~~ ~~SEXTANTIA~~ ~~(2237 tons)~~ ~~in Convoy F.N. 78, but was able to proceed under her own steam~~

/Moray Firth.....

War Diary5.1.1941
SundaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.Moray Firth

The Admiralty have replied to the request of C. in C. Rosyth (see 31/12/40) for strengthening the Moray Firth minefield, that there is little evidence to prove that U-Boats have entered the Firth lately. The minefield will, however, be strengthened when more urgent mine-laying requirements have been met.

North Atlantic

Examination and search of vessels of American Export Line recently arriving at Bermuda from Lisbon has revealed a most unsatisfactory state of affairs at the latter port.

South Atlantic

SS SHAKESPEAR (5029tons) ex Convoy O.B. 262 was attacked by a submarine this morning about 250 miles N.E. of Cape Verde Is.

Force K. (FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, DORSETSHIRE) FURIOUS (for operation "Monsoon") and DUNEDIN with W.S. 5 A arrived at Freetown this morning.

DEVONSHIRE was today ordered to cover the area to north and north-east of the position of the enemy unit reported by D/F yesterday, the position of which is now given as 25° 50' S., 6° 30' to 7° 30' W

War Diary5.1.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean

Bardia was captured by assault today. A large number of prisoners were captured.

Air
Operations

Last night and today, R.A.F. carried out - successful attacks on Tobruk. Tripoli and ships in port were attacked this afternoon; many sticks of bombs dropped among destroyers and merchant ships; and the power station, a wharf and buildings were hit and large fires caused.

Hurricanes today patrolled between Tobruk and Bardia.

Australian Gladiators patrolling over Gambut area intercepted 12 S 79's about to attack one of H.M. Ships and compelled them to jettison their bombs.

War Diary.

5.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Coastal Convoys.

The last ships of convoy C.E.21 passed Dover at 0932/5. Suggest that in similar weather conditions in future the convoys should be sailed from St. Helens sufficiently early to ensure that all stragglers pass Dover in darkness. (V.A. Dover 1201/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Meeting with Prime Minister.

Your 1728/1. Following 2 items proposed for Agenda. (C.in C. H.F. 1746/5 to Adty.)

Rosyth Escort Force.

Request Force may be augmented at an early date, preferably with HUNT-class Destroyers. Reasons. (C.in C. Rosyth 1855/5 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K."Deluge".
~~BRITISH~~

At 1130/5. (D.C. 1155/5) At 2330/5. (D.C. 2330/5)

Oban.
A/A Defence of Convoy Anchorage.

Adty. 1250/4. In Firth of Lorn, main anchorage is above Black Isle but at present there are also 7 ships at anchor in overflow anchorage below Black Isle. These latter ships are immobilized by defects. One cruiser cannot effectively cover both anchorages. Bofors guns will be for defence of main anchorage only. (C.S.15 1603/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.KELVIN, KIPLING.

Arrived Plymouth 1025/5. (C.in C. W.A. 0008/6).

Nore Command.

Ships out of Action. (C.in C. Nore 0710/5 to Adty.)

CHITRAL.

Sailed 0930 for Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0915Z/5).

ARGUS
KENYA
BERWICK

Adty. 1938/1. C.S.10 in KENYA, BERWICK, ARGUS sail 1530/5 routed through (a) 036° 00' N. 010° 00' W. (b) 041° 00' N. 020° 00' W. (c) 054° 15' N. 023° 45' W. thence to rendezvous Z. Speed of advance 15 knots. BERWICK will part company in position (b).

BERWICK's speed of advance after parting company 20 knots with 23 knots available in later stage of voyage. Request onward routing instructions be signalled to C.S.10 and BERWICK.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1058/5 to Adty.) Sailed. See p. 159

Route for BERWICK from (c) to Nab. (C.in C. W.A. 2234/5 to C.S.10, BERWICK).

/ HOOD, ECHO,

War Diary.

5.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)

HOOD, ECHO,)
ELECTRA, SIKH,)
ESKIMO.)

Arrived Scapa 0930. (A.C.O.S. 1058/5).

Northern Patrol.Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1445/5).EDINBURGH.

Arrived Scapa 1801/5 (A.C.O.S. 1804/5).

BEAGLE.Sailed from Port ZA. 1945. (TRELAWNEY
1947/5).CALIFORNIA.Operating near 41° N. 23° W.
(D.O.D(F). 2246/5 to TRIDENT)SALOPIAN.Operating near 39° N. 22° W.
(D.O.D(F). 2246/5 to TRIDENT).Operations.MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

My 1630/2 and your 0441/4. Sailed 1045.
 (F.O.I.C. London 1100/5 to V.A. Dover).
 My 1100/5. Ship completed 4 runs over D/G
 range today.
 Result not safe under 90 feet. Sailing
 cancelled. Returning Tilbury to deperm.
 Period of delay uncertain. (F.O.I.C.
 London 1520/5 to C.in C. Nore).
 Towing to Dover postponed till next
 favourable date of moon and tide, which
 V.A. Dover is requested to signal.
 (C.in C. Nore 1704/5 to F.O.I.C. London).

Enemy Tanker.

Following is preliminary Report of
 Operations in Bay of Biscay on 3 and 4/1.
 (C.in C. W.A. 2222/5 and 1302/6 to Adty.)

Proposed
Operation.

Operation ordered in my Memo. 332. A/41/J
 of 2/1 will begin tonight. (C.in C. Nore
 1111/5 to Cdre. Sheerness).

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TIGRIS.

To leave Patrol after dark/8 and meet CUTTY SARK at 0900/10 in 250° Trevoze Head 7 miles. Route thence. (S.2. 1021/5 to TIGRIS).

SEVERN.

To leave Clyde 9/1 escorted by PHILANTE for 56° 30' N. 10° W. whence PHILANTE returns to Clyde. Route thence for SEVERN to Patrol and to Halifax. (C.in C. W.A. 1118/5 to V.A.S.).
To carry out an A/S Patrol during passage in area between 55° and 59° N. and between 20° and 24° W., leaving Patrol after dark/15 and proceeding on surface at C.O.'s discretion when West of 25° W. Will enter America and W.I. station at 0001/17, when intend operational control transferred to C.in C. A. and W.I. (V.A.S. 2154/5 to S.3.)

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1308/5)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/6. (V.A.S. 1701/5).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today: S.A. 1A., S.A.2., S.A.3., ~~S.A.4.~~ AM., and 1 ~~PM.~~ ^{"Stal"} ~~PM.~~ Also ~~Sydney~~ ^{"Sydney"} AM. by Beaufort A/C as Training Flight as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/5)
Patrol S.A.3 cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1258/5).

Balloons and Kites.
Operational Heights.

My 1106/19. From 8/1 the maximum operational height to which Balloons will be flown will be increased to 6000 feet. But Kites will be flown up to 10,000 feet within Portsmouth and Plymouth barrages. (Air Ministry F.O.I. 1210/5).

ADMIRAL HIPPER (Cruiser)
and Destroyer
at Brest
believed
damaged.

C.in C. Coastal Command reports one aircraft believed to have obtained direct hits on ~~HIPPER~~ ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER with S.A.P. bombs. In addition 3 hits reported to have been obtained on a destroyer in Rade Abri. Photographic R/C is endeavouring to confirm damage. (D.N.I. 1219/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

Brest.

Nine A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns. will attack tonight Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest with 250-lb. S.A.P. Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1315/5 to Air Ministry).

War Diary.5.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.TEMPLE MOAT.

110693/41.

(British, 4427 tons) Attacked by A/C in
55° 29' N. 18° 55' W.
(Valentia Radio 1056/5).C.E. 21 Convoy.A/C bombing Convoy ~~XXXX~~ "Totem"
in 51° 33' N.
1° 12' E. (From (?) 1600/5).F.N. 76 Convoy.

110690/41.

One A/C bombing Convoy ~~XXXX~~ "Agent"
in 51° 52' N.
1° 35' E. (EGRET 1710/5)
2 Bombs. No hits (EGRET 1718/5)Mining.B.S. 48.A/S Escort will be provided during
daylight/7, and Fighter Escort from
1030/7 till return to 20.D. Buoy.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0106/5 to S.O. M/L.
Immingham).D.20's 1952/5. Intend to postpone
Operation 24 hours so that INTREPID
may be available as Escort. (S.O. M/L.
Immingham 1953/5)Operation postponed 24 hours. Times in
my 1539/4 to be altered accordingly.
(S.O. M/L Immingham 1954/5 to Adty.)Moray Firth.Your 1830/31. There is little evidence
to prove that U-Boats have been recently
active in the Moray Firth. Strengthening
of the minefield is, however, due to be
undertaken when more urgent minelaying
requirements have been met.

(D.A/S. W. 1318/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Kinnaird Head to
Aberdeen.My 1230/4. 19th Group sailed 0715 to
attempt Sweep. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead
0730/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).My 1115/4. Sweeping abandoned owing to
weather. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1120/5).Weather permitting intend sailing 19th
Group to R/V 119° 6 miles Cruden Scaurs
at 0800 tomorrow and search East Side of
War Channel ahead of W.N.52 to 000° 14
miles Kinnaird Head. Expected time of
arrival 1500/6.(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1230/5 to C.in C.
Rosyth).My 1205/5. Operation of 12th M/S Group
cancelled owing to weather. (N.O.I.C.
Aberdeen 1701/5).

War Diary.5.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Z.M.E.11.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1830/5 to lay at 2115, returning on completion about 2300 (ADVENTURE 0925/5 to Adty.) Operation completed (ADVENTURE 2312/5).

Walton-on-Naze.

D.O. Walton reports 4 distant Explosions heard at 1006 bearing East. Nothing seen. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1010/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Pentland Firth.

Closed owing to suspected minelaying (A.C.O.S. 1051/5) Pentland Firth now open. (A.C.O.S. 1445/5).

Liverpool.

Fishing Trawlers showing lights make a practice of fishing at night in the vicinity of seaward ends of and on Swept Channels QZS 129 and 130. It is considered most undesirable in view of mine-laying air raids. Repeated warnings fail to take effect. Propose declaring a prohibited area embracing Swept Channels as follows. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1108/5 0945/6 to Adty., Adty. 0845/6).

LOWESTOFT.

(Sloop) Struck Mine at 1315/5 in Barrow Deep 240° 3 cables from B.4 Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1113/6 to Adty.) 2 Tugs from Southend and 2 from Sheerness proceeding to LOWESTOFT. (C.in C. Nore 1427/5 to WOOLSTON). Arrived in tow 1625/5 at Sheerness for Chatham. (C.in C. Nore 1706/5 to Adty.)

Rosyth.

My 2255/4. South side of QZS 175 between No. 1. Reflector Buoy and Inchkeith East Gate is now open (C.in C. Rosyth 1139/5) Cancel my 2255/4. Both sides of QZS 175 between No. 1 Reflector buoy and East Gate Inchkeith are now open. (C.in C. Rosyth 1407/5).

S.N.6. and
S.N.65.

Arrived Port ZA. 1700/5 R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BEAGLE. (TRELAWNEY 1701/5 to Adty.) S.N.6 and S.N.65 completed. (R.A.M.L. 1837/5).

War Diary.

5.1.1941.

Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

P.A.C. Rockets.

Many now fitted to both Auxiliary Vessels and Merchant Ships. So far very few reports of use received. Such reports have been favourable but the present model has limited capabilities and development of a better model is under active research. It is thought that there is some prejudice against device and that full use is not being made of it. It is to be impressed on all ships concerned that use of device against deliberate low level bombing attack is a most valuable adjunct to defence and has been proved to have a deterrent effect even when a hit is not secured.

It is most important that any report of its use or any failure of material should reach the Admiralty promptly.

(D.T.S.D. 1204/5. A Message 67Z.A.).

War Diary.

5.1. 1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

PRIMULA.

(Corvette) Has been in collision. Am standing by her at 54.F. Buoy. (SNAPDRAGON 0612/5 to LOWESTOFT) Report if help is required. (LOWESTOFT 0744/5 to SNAPDRAGON).

BARRHEAD

(Boom Defence Vessel) My 1834/29. High and dry at low water. Tug unable get within 1½ miles. Salvage impossible. Crew brought to Reykjavik overland. Skipper and 2 hands in Tug TANGA awaiting return to Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1820/5).

ALIOTH.

(Dutch, 5483 Tons) Tug ST. MELLONS sailed at 1737 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1923/5 to Adty) Arrived Tugs KENIA and ST. MELLONS towing ALIOTH at 1815 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1821/6).

CHESAPEAKE.

Returning Campbeltown. CHESAPEAKE proceeding on voyage (TENACITY 1735/5 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

EMERALD.

Damaged while leaving Dockyard today. Will necessitate docking. Estimated time for repairs 4 to 7 days. (C. in C. W.A. 1949/5).

War Diary.5.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys.

W.N. 64 (0).

List (N.C.S.O. Oban 0926/5).

O.B. 270.

List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0940/5)
Sailed 1900/5, 7 ships only. Amended
R.V. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 2052/5, 2054/5).

E.N. 52.

List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1140/5).

H.X. 99.

Meet. 22 ships unescorted 1000/7
110°, 60.20.N, 16.00 W., 110°, 8
knots. Route (C. in C. W.A. 1233/5 to
LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE).

East Coast

Amending N.C.S.O. 138 and N.C.S.I. 139
for stragglers and independently
routed ships bound for East Coast
ports (D.T.D. 1342/5 to A.I.G. 47).

H.X. 98.

Cancel my 1219/25/12. Date and route.
REVENGE to U.K. (D.T.D, 1345/5).

O.B. 271.

1000/9. Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1415/5 to
Admty etc).

E.N. 50.

Arrived less ST. LINDSAY (N.C.S.O.
Oban 1431/5).

F.S. 79.

My 2358/4. Read 11 ships (N.C.S.O.
Methil 1503/5).

F.N. 77.

My 2153/3. Amend escort to read
WOOLSTON and VESPER.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1511/5). *See also p 156*

F.S. 78.

Arrived all ships (N.C.S.O. Thames
1644/5).

O.B.O. 270.

0600/6. Escort CAMPANULA. 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1625/5).

W.N. 65 (0)

1400/6. 9 ships. Unescorted through
Sound of Mull to anchor Bloody Bay
until one Clyde escort arrives to
escort to R.V. with "Muster" in
56.42 N., 6.20.W at 0230/7.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1716/5).

O.G.M. 49.

1800/6. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY. 3.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1720/5).

/C.E.21.....

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd).

Shipping.

- C.E. 21. Southend arrival 5/1 all ships except CORINIA reported arrived at Dover. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1910/5).
- O.B.C. 270. Intend sailing at 0430/6. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2133/5).
- W.N. 65. 2047/5. H.M.T. STELLA CAPELLA. 10 ships. Sailing zero advanced one hour to avoid meeting O.B.C. and O.B.L. convoys in low visibility. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 2221/5).
- O.G. 48. Expected to pass 45° N., $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ on 7/1 (D.O.D. (F) to TRIDENT, 2246/5).
- H.X. 101. AUSONIA left Halifax 5/1 as ocean escort for H.X. 101 (S.O.(I) Halifax 1630/5).
- S.C. 17. Proceeding with ERICA to comply with your 1150/4. Your 0602/3 not received. Lost touch with remainder of escort $55^{\circ} 30'$, $16^{\circ} 30'$. (WOLVERINE 0231/5 to C. in C. W.A.).
- Not met, searching near (754). 38 17. 12, no other escort in company. Continuing search 1530 main line of advance 055° (? seven) knots 00 $26^{\circ} 50' 49''$ $20^{\circ} 53'$ WOLVERINE with ARBUTUS not met $54^{\circ} 46' N.$ $16^{\circ} 52' W.$ at 1149. One enemy aircraft reported by WOLVERINE 1149. (VETERAN, 1400/5).
- C.E. 21 C.E. 21 passing Dover. (V.A. Dover 0735/5).
- Southend 5/1 arrival from Portsmouth H.M. drifter GOLDEN NEWS. H.M.T.'s COVENTRY CITY and PHILOMENA with C.E. 21. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1921/5).
- E.N. 51 E.N. 51 passing Buchan Ness speed of advance 7 knots. (RUMBA 0911/5 to A.C.O.S.).

/W.N. 66.....

War Diary.5.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Convoys (contd).Shipping.

W.N. 66.

For W.N. 66, H.M.Tug BUCCANEER
840 tons displacement 12 knots 48
feet, one 3 inch 2 Lewis, Methil
for Sheerness.
(N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1133/5 to C. in
C. W.A.).

E.N. 52.

My 1653/4 Amend Paragraph (D) to read
Buchan Ness 1200/6 Duncansby Head
0615/7. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1203/5).

O.B. 270.

Sailed GARDENIA escort for O.B.O.
270 WILD SWAN to Londonderry to
refuel and join O.B. 270.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1234/5)
(See also U-Boat Campaign S/Ms
reported).

FLEUR DE LYS sailed escorting O.B.270.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1755/5).

After compass adjustment proceed to
overtake OB 270 routed through
055° 50'N, 008° 00'W, 055° 50'N,
012° 00'W, 054° 15'N, 014° 25'W,
speed of advance 8 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2117/5 to
PERIWINKLE).

F.S. 83.

Intend sailing HUSSAR with F.S. 83
thence to Harwich.
(F.O. Humber 1432/5).

F.N. 77.

VESPER is to replace LOWESTOFT as
escort of F.N. 77 tomorrow. She
is to leave Sheerness as ordered by
WOOLSTON, WOOLSTON will be S.O. of
escort. C. in C. Rosyth is requested
to return VESPER to Sheerness with
first available F.S. convoy after
arrival of F.N.77.
(C. in C. Nore 1502/5 to B. 21).

O.G. 49.

Intend to sail HEATHER for Oban and
for O.G. 49 p.m. Monday 6/1.
(Capt D. Greenock 1645/5).

S.L.S. 59.

Your 1630 (no trace in W.R.) continue
to act as escort to S.L.S. 59
approximate position 2000/5 may be
055° 35'N. 007° 00'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1748/5 to HEARTSEASE).
(See also U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, S/M's
reported)

My 1917/5. Unable to contact LADYLILIAN
Regret there will be no escort to
Liverpool. (AMBUSCADE 2145/5 to
C. in C. W.A.).

/Independent.....

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd).

Independent Sailings.

Shipping.

N.C.S.O. Mersey 1606/4. (Sailing of fast independently routed ships) Concur generally, but after consultation with A.O.C. 15 Group recommend this line should be 150 miles from Malin Head.
(C. in C. W.A. 1934/5 to Admty).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5 B.

Your 1052/4 not to Admiralty. Do these orders cancel those contained in Admiralty 2251/2? ARAWA's route not yet received.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1037/5 to C. in C.W.A)

Your 1037/5. ARAWA and LINCOLN are to proceed to Clyde in time to sail with Clyde Portion of W.S. 5B. p.m./7.
(C. in C. W.A. 1512/5 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

A/S escort for W.S. 5 B:-

- (A) Bristol Channel portion VANSITTART.
- (B) Liverpool portion HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WITHERINGTON.
- (C) Clyde portion. OTTAWA, LEOPARD, CHURCHILL, LINCOLN, WATCHMAN, FEARLESS, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT.
- (ii) After making rendezvous VANSITTART is to fuel ~~ROUGH FOYLE~~ and rejoin convoy.
- (iii) FORESIGHT is to leave Liverpool 8/1 to join convoy.
- (iv) Senior Officer HIGHLANDER.
(C. in C. W.A. 1520/5).

A.T. 2341 of 31/12 para 2 for "1200/11/1/41" read "Rendezvous X".
2. A.T. 1830/5 for 1200/11/1/41" read "Rendezvous X". 3. A.T. 1824/4 for "Rendezvous Y" read "Rendezvous X".
4. Rendezvous X is established in position 48° 10'N. 27° 45'W. vide A.T. 2340/31/12.
(D.O.D. (F) 1525/5).

Intend sailing Liverpool section W.S. 5B escorted by AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, and WITHERINGTON 1700/7 speed 15½ knots to rendezvous Bristol Channel and Clyde sections at 0900/8 in position 270° Oversay 6 Miles. Thence in accordance with Admiralty's 2340/31. FORESIGHT will be sailed A.M./8 further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1820/5).

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Scuttling
Signal.

The following signal was in force in French Convoy recently brought into Gibraltar. It is hoisted by (? escort ship) and is in International Code. It is not known whether signal is changed periodically. B (for butter) Scuttle immediately.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1002/5 to Adty).

Repatriation
of French.

Your 1234/4. (Portuguese ship to take French passengers and ratings from Gibraltar to Oran). This can probably be arranged.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1253/5 to Adty).

RHONE.
(torpedoed)
Italian
Submarine
report.

Have been informed (D.2) that a survivor of torpedoed tanker RHONE has stated in Casablanca that attacking submarine was recognised as Italian.

2. General Weygand in a recent talk to Officers is reported to have said regarding British share in French collapse that "it must be recognised that there were faults on both sides and I should like to make it clear that I have the highest regard for British efficiency".

(Wagon Tangier, Telegram No ? 1200 T.H.I. 1315/5). *See also next page.*

Treatment
of
Shipping.

War Office request that, if you have not already done so, you will inform G.O.C. West Africa of the policy of H.M.G. in regard to treatment of Vichy French ships and of the instructions issued by you bringing this policy into effect on your station.
(D.O.D.(F) 1615/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

Internees
West
Africa.

Your G./2100 of 26/12.
Ministry of Shipping will make every effort to evacuate Vichy internees to unoccupied French with least possible delay.
Admiralty considers that in future only small numbers of Vichy merchant seamen will be brought into West African ports, the number in a transit camp never exceeding 100. There is no intention of retaining internees in Sierra Leone.
(W.O. no T.O.O./5 to G.O.C. W. Africa.)

WAR DIARY.5.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French.Casablanca
RHONE.

Following received from State Department. From Casablanca. My 1549/27. MARRAKEGH also carried 100 tons munitions including 16-inch and 6-inch naval shells. Generally thought in Casablanca that Air Force and munitions were intended for protection of Dakar; also suggested Air Forces were primarily to reinforce General Falvey in Dahomey and Lake Chad area where Falvey has some 20,000 men organized in 5 light columns. Also reported Tanker RHONE was still afloat and hoped to be able extract portion of torpedo which struck her in order to identify nationality of Submarine. (N.A. Washington 1748/3 to Adty).

*See previous page.*North Atlantic.TIERCEL
SAYONARA.

TIERCEL has insufficient endurance and seakeeping qualities to enable her to proceed to Gibraltar under present conditions. Neither SAYONARA nor any other of the A.B.V. (Yachts) should be sent to U.K. for fitting A/S. (D.O.D.(H) 1218/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE
TROOPER.
Corvettes.

Gibraltar arrivals 0900/5 CAMITO, 1230 CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM and JONQUIL escorting British s.s. EMPIRE TROOPER. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1232/5 to Adty).

TRIDENT
OLYMPUS.

Position of Submarines at 0800/6 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada leaves for U.K. p.m. routed West of St. Miguel to 038° 10'N., 022° 40'W. (b) OLYMPUS 037° 10'N., 022° 10'W. course 285°, 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1324/5 to N.A. Station).

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK.

Gibraltar departures 1545/5 F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA, ARGUS, BERWICK in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1058/5 not to C.in C. Mediterranean S.O. Force H, escorted by

/FORESTER

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK.
(Contd.)

FORESTER, FOXHOUND, FURY who part company to arrive Gibraltar 1900/6 and WISHART who parts company 041 00' North. Q.Z.F. 27 H6 S198 X261 Y178.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1614/5 to Adty etc.

DERBYSHIRE
→ HASTY.

Gibraltar 1730/5 DERBYSHIRE departure for Patrol Area E two F two, escorted by HASTY to Cape Spartel. Admiralty Message QZF 27 H Six 198 X 261 Y 178.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1752/5 to Adty, F.O.C.N.P.)

NORTHERN
PRINCE.

My 1830/3. British ship NORTHERN PRINCE refloated yesterday 4/1. Intend docking tomorrow 6/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1932/5.)

Personnel
from
NORTHERN
PRINCE.

Your 0945/4. Personnel in NORTHERN PRINCE comprise 24 Naval Officers, 28 Army Officers 261 other ranks, one R.A.F. Officer 66 other ranks.
These are being distributed approximately as follows 70 to each of BONAVENTURE, CLAN CUMMING and EMPIRE SONG, 90 to each of CLAN MACDONALD and ESSEX. Personnel referred to in Adty. 1245/2 O, will be embarked in JAGUAR. Personnel referred to in reference Admtty. 1550/4 will be embarked in HERO and HASTY, approximately 30 in each.
Draft of two Naval Officers and 17 ratings plus one R.A.F. Officer and 11 other ranks in HEReward. Personal baggage of personnel of 821 (Group omitted) and one air gunner in BONAVENTURE.
(S.O.Force H, 2104/5 to V.A.Malta.)

South Atlantic.

Independent
Sailings.

My 2331/26 (Routing of independent sailing merchant vessels).
(1) Amend para (2) to read as follows:-
"Are to be routed out of sight of land when proceeding through or near Azores and Eastward of a line" etc. (2) Para. (3) insert "Swansea Bay" after "Milford Haven".
(C.in C. S.A. 0009N/5).

MOST SECRET.5.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Search
for
Enemy
Unit
by
DEVONSHIRE.My 2356/4. (Additional bearings).
(D.D.I.C. 0234/5.)My 2356/4. (Further bearings)
(D.D.I.C. 0335/5).My 2356/4. Further bearing Ascension 338/2.
(D.D.I.C. 0913/5).Enemy
Unit.Your 2327N/4. Consideration of all bearings now received indicates position of enemy surface unit at 2107/4 G.M.T. to be 25° 50'S., 6° 30' to 7° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1203/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 1151/1 and my 2327/4. As far as time allows you should cover area to North and North East of position of enemy surface vessel which is now given as 025° 50'S., 006° 30' to 007° 30' W in case vessel moves that way.

You will be required to rendezvous with W.S.5.A. in approximate position 002° 00'N., 010° 30' West a.m./10.
(C.in C. S.A. 1247N/5 to DEVONSHIRE).W.S.5.A.Arrival Freetown 5/1 Force K FURIOUS, DUNEDIN with W.S. five A. also ISIS. ENCOUNTER and BRIDGEWATER.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1059N/5)
(Note: Force K:- FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, DORSETSHIRE).Add to my 1059N/5. Arrival CALENDULA.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1425N/5).DRAGON
HERMES.Arrival 5/1 Capetown DRAGON, Simonstown HERMES.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130Z/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)QUEEN
OF
BERMUDA.

After leaving Rio de Janeiro 8/1 patrol K.33 till a.m./10 then proceed through L 31 to Falkland Islands. Fuel and provision at Manzanillo and give assistance with minesweeping skids. After four days at Port Stanley proceed to Deception Island - correspondence regarding Deception Island, your mail and one officer and one rating for you are in BALTA VIA due Port Stanley 15/1. After (corrupt Group) oil tanks return to Port Stanley for 48 hours and top up fuel subsequently proceeding to Patrol L 32. (R.A.S.A.D. 1203Z/5 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

ASTURIAS.

ASTURIAS fuels at Montevideo 7/1 subsequently proceeding K 33. After fuelling CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE in company patrol L 31, L 32 also watching for French ships leaving Buenos Aires. Oiler BROOMDALE transfers stocks of fuel to oiler ARNDALE in Plate about 8/1 then proceed Curacao. BALTA VIA visits Buenos Aires after storing provisions then returns to Falkland Is. QUEEN OF BERMUDA as in my 1903/5, ?1203Z/5. (R.A.S.A.D. 1204Z/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

American
Neutral
Zone.

Your 1425/4. You are to assume preamble and para.(2) two (a) of Admty's 0042/3 does not cancel limitations laid down in Adty. 2315/15/12 1940. (Re stopping of neutral ships in American neutral zone). (C.in C. S.A. 1337/5 to R.A.S.A.B.)

FORMIDABLE.

FORMIDABLE is carrying 397 cases of important F.A.A. stores and £67,000 in silver and notes all for Trinidad. Request you will arrange for disembarkation at Freetown and onward transmission to Trinidad as opportunity occurs. (D.O.D.(F) 1614/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

SCHIELAND.

Overdue shipping. My 1732/3 delete Dutch ship SCHIELAND. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1632/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Operation
"Monsoon".

M03422/41.

FURIOUS and DELHI are to leave Freetown first ship past boom at 0830/6 and proceed Takoradi escorted by ~~ISIS~~ ^{ISIS} and ENCOUNTER to carry out operation "~~Monsoon~~" returning to Freetown on completion. NEPTUNE will join FURIOUS off Takoradi a.m./8 and is to act as additional escort during operation and return passage. Destroyers are to be fuelled from NEPTUNE if necessary. (C.in C. S.A. 1723N/5 to FURIOUS, DELHI).

Dispositions.

Freetown. ALBATROSS, CORFU, VINDICTIVE, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, DORSETSHIRE, NORFOLK, DELHI, DUNEDIN, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, ASPHODEL, CALENDULA.

Freetown-United Kingdom. ESPERANCE BAY escorting S.L.60, BULOLO escorting S.L.61,

United Kingdom-Freetown. JONQUIL, GERANIUM, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN escorting EMPIRE TROOPER towards Gibraltar. *arrived Gib. Sun p. 159.*

Gibraltar-Freetown. VELOX and VIDETTE arrive 8/1.

Freetown area. HAWKINS on patrol arrives 7/1. NEPTUNE on patrol, CANTON on patrol sailed p.m./4. H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE arrives 8/1.

Simonstown-Freetown. DEVONSHIRE fuels St. Helena 6/1 then meets W.S.5.A. and escort to Durban.

Capetown. DRAGON, CARNARVON CASTLE being repaired.

Simonstown. CORNWALL refitting, HERMES.

Durban. Fr. SAVORGNAN-de-BRAZZA refitting, KANIMBLA.

Plate-Simonstown. ENTERPRISE arrives about 12/1.

Plate area. CUMBERLAND, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.

Rio de Janeiro. QUEEN OF BERMUDA leaves K 33 for Plate 7/1.

United Kingdom ports. ALCANTARA, ARAWA, CATHAY, DUNNOTAR CASTLE, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN. (C.in C. S.A. 1845N/5).

NEWCASTLE.

R/V me at hit (as received) at 0830Z/7. (R.A.S.A.D. 2131/5 to NEWCASTLE).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Escort
for
"Excess."

Your 1420/4. 1 Destroyer will join you with GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON. This will relieve you of necessity sending more than 1 Destroyer with Force F.
(C.in C. Med. 0853/5 to S.O. Force H.)

Italian
Dispositions.

Request deduction as to most probable dispositions of effective Italian battleships 8 inch cruisers and 6 inch cruisers be signalled .m./(?) 5/1 and ^{any} subsequent changes during operation ~~EXCESS.~~ "Excess".
(S.O. Force H, 1025/5 to C.O.I.C. Alexandria)

NALGORA
stores.

Ref: Adty. 1658/19/12. 1308/29/12.
Understand from intercepted signal that NALGORA has been lost in which case all stores mentioned in Adty. 1308/29/12 will be required plus table cloth not for Canal Ports. If NALGORA has not been lost request all stores mentioned in Adty. 1308/29/12 may be sent except that B.I Net may be reduced to 3 repeat 3 miles only. Additional Anti-Torpedo bottoms very acceptable. Arrangements for storage ashore will be made.
(C.in C. Med. 1155/5 to Adty).

Turkish
Discussions.

Chiefs of Staff to C.in C.'s Middle East No. 44. Line to be taken in discussion with Turks re combined action with respect to Syria. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1823/5) See Med. Vol.

Your 1025/5. No information available other than already reported by air reconnaissance namely one LITTORIO class and one CAVOUR class battleship three 8-inch cruisers and two 6-inch cruisers at Naples 30/12. Four, 6-inch cruisers Taranto and four cruisers Brindisi 26/12.
(R.A. Alexandria 2247/5 to S.O. Force H).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

13th Corps.

As from 1st January Western Desert Force will be known as 13th Corps. (C.in C. Med. 1032/5 to Mediterranean Station 336B).

Operation "Excess".

M06234/41
M09796/41

Plan for ^{"Excess"}~~"EXCESS"~~ will be substantially that adopted for ~~"EXCESS"~~. (ii) If report of weather and Italian dispositions are satisfactory 821 X flight will be flown off before dawn D three and all forces will concentrate a.m./D.3. (iii) If reports are satisfactory flying off will be postponed until before dawn D four and all forces from Gibraltar will concentrate p.m./D two. (S.O.Force H. 1059/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Reports. Libyan ports bombed.

Operational Summary No.209 up to 1200 hrs. 5.1.41 part 1. Egypt. Day 3/1. Landing grounds at Derna, Tmimi, El Gubbi, Gazala, Tobruk West and seaplane base at Bomba each bombed by 2 blenheims between 0830 and 0900. Further attacks made between 1415 and 1445. Night 3/4. 4 Wellingtons bombed Tobruk, hitting stores, huts and military headquarters. 2 large fires were also started. All aircraft returned safely. Day 4/1. 11 Blenheims bombed Tobruk, all bombs falling in centre of town and hitting the barracks. 1 Blenheim bombed Bardia, probably hitting an A.A. battery. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day between Bardia and Tobruk, shooting down 4 CR 42's and probably destroying a fifth. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/5).

Tobruk. Bardia. Advance.

Night 4/5. Jan. 4 Wellingtons dropped 10,000 lbs of bombs on Tobruk, starting huge fire with dense black smoke. Explosions continued for 15 minutes after bombing. Further 1000 lbs of bombs burst on barracks. On outward journey, large fires accompanied by explosions observed at Bardia. All aircraft returned safely. G.H.Q. Middle East state that Northern Sector of Bardia has surrendered but resistance continues on South East Sector. Total of prisoners captured now estimated at 20,000. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)ROVER
Operation
B.S.

Operation B.S. Leave Alexandria at 0900/6
(? suspend tank) Exercises proceed through
(route) to patrol within 30 miles Appollonia
during daylight 9/1 - 10/1.
(Capt: S.l. 1413/5 to ROVER).

Following is repetition of my 2027/5
Cancel my 1413/5.
(Capt: S.l. 2029/5 to ROVER).

PANDORA.

My 1941/4, cancel para.one. After passing
position Z proceed to establish patrol in
area between 039 10' N., and 040 00' N.,
and between 010 30' E and coast of
Sardinia. British force will be
operating to Southward of you between
8/1 and 10/1. Leave patrol p.m./10
and proceed to Gibraltar as routed in my
1531/29/12.
(Capt: S.l., 1753/5, to PANDORA).

Air
Report,
(Malta)
Catania.
Palermo.
Tripoli.
reconnaissance.

Combined service report Malta up to 1700
hours 5/1. All times G.M.T. 0758 to 1008
Glenn Martin recco Catania including
harbour and Noto. Nothing in Catania
harbour. 0810 to 1200 Glenn Martin
recco Palermo where snowstorm encountered.
In harbour 2 6 inch cruisers 10 M/Vs. 3000
to 5000 tons. Aerodrome Bocca Di Falco
no aircraft seen. 0815 to 1010 Comiso
from 3000 ft., observed. All aerodromes
appeared to be waterlogged and in some cases
the heavier aircraft seemed bogged.
0810 to 1210 Glenn Martin photo recco.
Tripoli harbour from 10,000 feet. 3
seaplanes near hangars. 6 destroyers
1 M/V 10,000 tons 5 M/Vs 8,000 tons
7 M/Vs 6,000 tons and 11 smaller M/Vs.
(H.Q. Med. 1800/5).

WAR DIARY.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

COLOMBO,
Mogadiscio.

COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadiscio evening 5/1.
(C.in C. E.I. 0456Z/5 to Adty).

Your 1900/2. No confirmation.
(Reports of 45 British Naval Officers and 250 men at Mogadiscio. Requests confirmation of fact they are men from vessel sunk by raider).
(S.O.I. Capetown 1206/5).

STAGPOOL.

Your 1201/2. (re STAGPOOL needed for Lybian operation) STAGPOOL will be sailed to catch B.N.13 from Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0506Z/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Air
Report,
Attack
on
CHANTALA.

Summary No. 207 and Operational Summary. My A.509 4/1 summary No. 206. Both attacks on CHANTALA by single aircraft believed S.81's each dropping 5 bombs in 3 shallow dives from 10,000 feet. No damage or casualties. Heavy A.A. fire from ship apparently prevented low attacks. Following for 24 hours ending on 1500/5/1. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escorts for convoy S.W.41A using advanced base Kamaran 1 remaining overnight. No casualties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1757/5).

U/Boat,
Report.

By BARALA at 0115Z/5 in 25.00N., 60.10E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0620/5). See U/Boat Campaign.

Kenya.
Defences.

Your 0408/20/12. Six Lewis guns are being sent. Mountings are not available but simple ones should be made locally.
(D. of L.D. 2016/5 to C.in C. E.I.)

Relief
of
DEVONSHIRE,
by
SHROPSHIRE.

My 0229/31/12 para.5(b). In order to release DEVONSHIRE for passage to U.K. as early as possible could you arrange for SHROPSHIRE to relieve her off the Cape instead of at Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 2326/5 to C.in C. E.I.)

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Cocos Island.

Your 0319Z/2. (Garrison for Cocos Island)
This question is still under consideration
between War Office and Colonial Office.
A decision is expected shortly.
(D. of L.D. 1220/5 to C.in C. China).

S/M Report.

German s/m in an unfrequented Japanese
port. (N.A. Tokyo, 1203/5)
(See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

America and West Indies.

CARADOC,
patrol.

Departure CARADOC in accordance with my
1002/3. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1033/5, to Admty.,
etc.).

Contraband
Control.

443. Examination and search of vessels of
American export Line recently arriving at
Bermuda from Lisbon has revealed most
unsatisfactory state of affairs at latter
Port.

Contraband Control at Bermuda is taking all
possible steps to verify manifests by
actual examination of cargo but this is not
practicable in most cases. Request steps
be taken to rectify state of affairs at
Lisbon, where it appears staff is very
over-worked.

(C.in C. A.W.I., 1052/5, to Admty.)

Bermuda
Bases.

Your 1302/1. Various measures to meet the
points raised have been agreed and proposed
to Governors concerned. The Governor of
Bermuda has been instructed to communicate
them to you for your concurrence.

2. Please report in due course whether
more is required from the Naval point of
view. (D.D.N.I., 1843/5 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Australia.

Mining.

Danger area, radius 30', exists off Storm Bay, Tasmania. On 5/1 (? 4/1) a mine was exploded in sweep in 43.27 S., 147.57 E. (centre of danger area). The port of Hobart is closed. (D.S., 488).

Convoy
U.S.8.

M03692/41 }
M04467/41 }

C.B. 02024 paragraph 82 (1) U.S. 8.
(2) 2300Z/4. (3) 0100Z/12 QUEEN MARY due Trincomalee 0030Z/12.
(4) 19 knots. (5) C 010 deg. 00' South, 090 deg. 00' East. (d) 004 deg. 10' North, 082 deg. 20' East. (e) 006 deg. 00' North 079 deg. 30' East. (6) H.M.A.S. CANBERRA
(7) 3 columns, 2, 1, 2, (8) (c) 020 deg. 00' South, 096 deg. 50' East. (d) 004 deg. 20' North, 079 deg. 10' East.
(9) QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, DOMINION MONARCH. (10) Military stores, Military stores, Military stores, Refrigerated and general cargo.
(11) 25 starboard 30 port standard 55 port 80 port.
(12) Colombo, QUEEN MARY to Trincomalee.
(13) (a) Vice Admiral M.L. Goldsmith D.S.O. AQUITANIA Colombo (b) Captain R.B. Irving, R.D. R.N.R., QUEEN MARY Trincomalee. (District N.O., Western Australia, 0201Z/5 to Admty.)

Departure Fremantle H.M.A.S. CANBERRA escorting convoy U.S.8 2300Z/4. (A.C.N.B., 1050Z/5).

MANOORA
TRIENZA

Ocean Island departure 0330Z/5 H.M.A.S. MANOORA and M.V. TRIENZA for Nauru. (S.O.I., Wellington, 1419Z/5, to Admty. etc.).

5.1.1941.

Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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BURGENLAND,
* A. ESSBERGER,
ERMLAND
* ANNELESE ESSBERGER

Report from Kobe states that German Ship BURGENLAND at usual anchorage and that German ship *A ESSBERGER had returned to Kobe by 2/1 (? reported) German ship ERMLAND missing from 2/1.

(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0501Z/5).

Comment by O.I.C.

BURGENLAND being at usual anchorage seems to confirm that KULMERLAND is the ship renamed TOKYO MARU which landed survivors from ~~Kaider~~ victims at Emirau Island on 21/12. *? should be 24/12.*

ERMLAND was reported to have left Takao, Formosa on 29/10 1940, with two Japanese destroyers and flying the Japanese flag, the crew believed to be Japanese.

No confirmation of this report was received from Kobe, which she was believed to be, and probably she has been at Kobe until missing from there 2/1.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DERNA.

Arrival January 5th DERNA from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1254/5).

Tanker
Reported
sunk.

According to a Press report, an Italian tanker has been sunk in the Adriatic off San Giovanni di Medua, 41.45 N., 19.30 E., by a Greek submarine. (D.S. 489).

GERARCHIA

From British Consul St. Vincent GERARCHIA from San Nicolau arrived St. Vincent this morning. Was seen at sea without flag flying, no flag on side, grey upper works, black hull. Please repeat to Adty. (Sierra Leone 1401/5 to Adty.)

War Diary.

5.1.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

171

SHAKESPEAR

Ships Attacked.

British, 5029 tons. (ex Convoy O.B.262)
Following has been read. Addressed
Freetown W/T.
SSSS DE SHAKESPEAR.
1805N. 2111W. attacked by submarine
0900Z/5.

Am proceeding to SHAKESPEAR expect to
arrive 1700 N/5.
(VELOX, 1330/5, to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1415/5.
After arrival at position SHAKESPEAR
report situation, if nothing seen
proceed to Bathurst for fuel and on to
Freetown at best speed to arrive p.m./7
or early a.m./8.
(C.in C. S.A., 1753N/5 to VELOX).

Your 1753/5. Located wreckage of
SHAKESPEAR in position 018° 09' N.
021° 05' West. No (?suspicious vessels)
found but condition of small boat and
raft suggest large life boats have got
away. Am sweeping towards St. Vincent
until 2300. Expected time of arrival
Bathurst 0700N/7.
(VELOX, 2015/5, to C.in C. S.A.)

Submarines Reported.

1500.

Attack (enemy) Submarine in position
055° 30' N. 009° 40' W. (unreliable
position) at 1500.
(C.in C. W.A. 1534/5 to AMBUSCADE).

My 1534 amend longitude to read 008 degs.
40' West. (C.in C. W.A. 1636/5 to
AMBUSCADE).

Report your position course and speed.
(C.in C. W.A., 1706/5 to AMBUSCADE,
HOLLYHOCK, HEARTSEASE.)

Your 1704 just met S.L.59 S in position
055° 10' N. 006° 03' W. 5 ships only.
Oban portion detached, remainder lost
contact in heavy weather at rendezvous.
No other escort vessel present. In
position to tell HEARTSEASE comply
with your 1534. She was sighted
2 hours ago.
(AMBUSCADE, 1756/5, to C.in C. W.A.)

Hunt U-Boat reported in position 055°
30' N. 008° 40' West at 1500.
You will be ordered to return to
Londonderry to top up before joining
O.B. 270. Also repeat to LEAMINGTON.
(C.in C. W.A. 1700/5 to WITCH, WILD SWAN)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

172

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

WILD SWAN disregard my 1700/5 and proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.in C. W.A. 2034/5 to WILD SWAN).

Hunt for U-boat reported in position 055° 30' North 008° 40' West at 1500. (C.in C. W.A., 1704/5 to LEAMINGTON).

1000.

Position 18° 05' North 21° 11' West at 0900/5 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1725/5.)

1920.

Detach one ship to investigate U-Boat reported in position 054° 04' N. 004° 44' W. at about 1920. (C.in C. W.A., 1950/5 to FLEUR DE LYS).

Cancel my 1950/5. (C.in C. W.A., 2022/5 to FLEUR DE LYS.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.

1 in Canaries area.

1 entering Gironde.

4 in N.W. Approaches. Positions cannot be estimated but may be within 60 miles radius of:-

(a) 55° N. 14° W.

(b) 55° N. 19° W.

(c) 56° N. 20° W.

(d) 59° N. 23° W. probable to S. or S.E.

German.

1 newly arrived in Freetown - Cape de Verde Islands area.

1 about 30° N. 22° W. northbound.

1 about 41° N. 11° W. southbound.

1 possibly about 49° N. 17° W. outward bound.

1 possibly between Rockall and Bloody Foreland.

3 or 4 between 57° N. and 60° N.

17° W. and 20° W.

Positions cannot be estimated.

1 homeward bound between Faroes and Muckle Flugga.

(D.D.I.C. 1258/5).

/ East Indies.

5.1.1941.

Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

173

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

East Indies.

0115Z.

British ship BARALA reported when in position 025° 00' North 060° 10' East at 0115Z/5 that she was being chased by a submarine. She later cancelled message. It is believed report was false but further investigations are being made. (C.in C. E.I., 0620/5, to E.I. Sqdn.)

China Station.

B 3. Source which has provided reliable information in past has been informed by Japanese Naval Officer that there is a German submarine in an "unfrequented" Japanese port at present time. (N.A. Tokyo 1203/5 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

(Comment by N.I.D.)

There is no confirmation of this report, but is being given an extended distribution due to the comparatively high grading by B.N.A. Tokyo.)

Submarines Attacked.

Am over enemy submarine in position 55.30 N., 8.40 W. possible periscope. (A/C 1500/5).

Have attacked enemy with 4 bombs no result seen. (A/C Duty A 1525/5 to Oban).

6.1.1941.
Monday.

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WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

W.S.
Convoys.

Single convoys of the W.S. Series will in future leave the U.K. once a month with reinforcements and military supplies for the Middle and Far East. In most cases the Home Fleet will provide escorts.

HX and
SC Convoys.

It is intended that in future HX convoys (and possibly SC convoys in summer months) will be routed, together with their corresponding OB convoys, through the Minches. From about 20/1 Loch Ewe will be used as a subsidiary convoy assembly port for the East Coast ships from or destined for these convoys.

A/S
Protection
for Convoys.

It is also intended to provide A/S protection for all convoys one day further west than at present.

Convoy
HX 99.

REPULSE and 3 destroyers left Scapa at 0401/6 to cover inward bound convoy HX 99 in the North Atlantic.

Raider
report.

MANCHESTER (CS 18) and EDINBURGH left Scapa at 0401/6 to intercept a possible enemy raider passing Iceland from West to East, as indicated by D/F bearings at 0006. They were ordered to return at 2120. CHITRAL and LETITIA were recalled to the Denmark Straits, and the two Trawlers on A/S Patrol between Muckle Flugga and 61° 51' N., 0° 54' W were withdrawn. Air reconnaissance was also employed.

Search for
M/V off
C. la Hague.

KASHMIR and JUPITER left Plymouth this evening to intercept a large merchant vessel which was believed to have passed Gris Nez at 1330 proceeding down channel.

Convoys.
Postponed
by Fog.

OBC 270 held up in the Clyde. FS 81 is postponed 24 hours, FN 79 being postponed 24 hours in consequence.

WAR DIARY.

6.1.1941. 175
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Owing to bad weather, all operations last night by Bomber Command, except sea mining, were cancelled. Patrols in the North Sea and various A/S patrols were cancelled or recalled today.

Hudson aircraft of Coastal Command this morning attacked an enemy convoy off Bergen, scoring several near misses, it is believed that one merchant vessel was damaged.

Elenheims of Bomber Command today secured a direct hit on each of two tankers off Hook of Holland.

Enemy Air Activity.

No attacks on shipping were reported today. A single aircraft dropped bombs near Wrabness R.N. Mining Depot., (near Harwich) causing some damage.

Mining.

Bomber Command aircraft last night laid mines at Brest, St. Nazaire and Lorient.

L.L.Sweepers today exploded a mine near Aultbea.

Casualties.

Tug LION, engaged in servicing Balloon Barrage vessels was destroyed with all hands this afternoon by a mine off Sheerness. Two mines were detonated near Sheerness.

Steam trawler GADRA was sunk early today near Faro Island (Faroes).

North Atlantic.

Certain French Trawlers with German crews are reported to be working as reconnaissance units in the North Atlantic. Any trawlers met there are to be investigated.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

176

Cape Verde Is.

Diversion signals have been instituted to enable the Admiralty to divert ships at short notice to the eastward or westward of Cape Verde Islands.

Operation
"Monsoon". M03422/41.

FURIOUS, DELHI, ISIS and ENCOUNTER left Freetown at 0900 today for Takoradi.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

The weather this evening was unsuitable for air attack on Naples, Taranto and Sicilian objectives. Naples, where there is a very large concentration of naval and merchant shipping, is to be attacked tomorrow night. Six Wellingtons attacked Tripoli this evening, dropping many sticks of bombs amongst merchant vessels in the centre of the harbour, causing explosions and cloud of smoke. One large ship received a direct hit amidships, causing an explosion; and a smaller cargo ship was probably hit. Tobruk, Derna and other places were bombed today. 9 Blenheims today successfully bombed Valona, but suffered some losses and damage from enemy fighters.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Meeting with
Prime Minister.

Adty 1728/1. Following proposed for
Agenda (C. in C. Portsmouth 1113/6).
Adty 1755/4. Desire to raise following
points (C. in C. Nore 1612/6).

HOOD.
RODNEY.

Admiralty's 029/4. Propose HOOD
arrived Rosyth p.m./15 to de-ammunition
and de-fuel and enter basin a.m./16.
HOOD's destroyer screen enter Oxcar's
Gate and escort RODNEY to Scapa as
soon as latter ship is ready. No
ammunition or fuel to be removed
from HOOD till RODNEY is ready for
sea.
(C. in C. H.F. 2318/6 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

At 1130/6 (D.C. 1204/6) At 2330/6
(D.C. 2349/6).

Movements.

VERITY.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0821/6).

NAIAD.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1022/6).

5 M/V's

Sailed 5 M/V's and TEDWORTH, escorted
by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE
for Dartmouth, leaving Needles at
1730 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233/6 and
1803/6).

ARGUS. KENYA.
BERWICK.

My 1030/4. Left Gibraltar 1530/5
Route. From 41°N. 20°W. BERWICK
proceeds N.E. independently
(F.O.C.N.P. 1250/6).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1527/6).

Nore Command.
Ships out of Action.

My 0710/5. Amend as follows (C. in C.
Nore 1532/6).

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Raider.

D/F bearings may indicate Enemy Raider passing Iceland from West to East. CHITRAL and LETITIA return to Denmark Strait. (C. in C. H.F.0006/6)

REPULSE, screened by BEDOUIN, MASHONA, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, to proceed to cover H.X. 99 reported at Noon/5 in 59° 38'N. 27° 20'W. steering 074° at 8 knots. If weather suitable for Destroyers proceed at 20 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 0029/6 to REPULSE).

Proceed towards 63°N. 4°W. at 20 knots (C. in C. H.F. 0050/6 to C.S.18).

Sailed from Scapa REPULSE, MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE, BEDOUIN. (A.C.O.S. 0401/6).

→ My 0006/6. WOLFE and CILICIA proceed to patrol as by F.O.C.N.P. 1530/31. (C. in C. 1031/6).

Return to Scapa (C. in C. H.F. 2120/6 to REPULSE, C.S. 18) See also British Air Activity.

A/S Patrol to N. of Shetlands.

My 1725/4. These Trawlers are being withdrawn today. (A.C.O.S. 1205/6 to C. in C. H.F.).

M/V off Gris Nez.

There are indications that a large M/V passed Gris Nez at 1330 today proceeding down Channel at 12 knots (V.A. Dover 1341/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

KASHMIR and JUPITER sail at 2000 today to intercept off Cape La Hague or elsewhere if necessary (C. in C. W.A. 1732/6 to Adty).

Iceland.

In view of intentions, consider following requirements important. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1410/6 to Adty).

P.V.1.

Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1511/6).

War Diary.

6.1.1941
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

URGE.

E.T.A. 19 hours late (WHITE BEAR
1107/6 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

TRIBUNE.

Completed 5/1 and sailed to Holy Loch
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1201/6).

SEALION.

Arrived ^{7.1.41} (S.6.1340/6).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/7.
(V.A.S. 1614/6 and 1821/6).

Temporary
Bombing Restriction
Areas.

A number of S/M's will be passing
through S.W. Approaches during next
2 months. Following Temporary
Bombing Restriction Areas are
established. (V.A.S. 2014/6).

British Air Activity.

Anti-Raider
Air R/C.

My 0029/6 (See Operations) Request
Air R/C today from 11⁰ W. to as far
West as practicable, to start on bearing
260⁰ from Kalso Light, Faroes, and
work to bearing 280⁰, to search for
East-going Raider trying to pass
Faroes Iceland Channel (C. in C. H.F.
0055/6 to C. in C. Rosyth). 1
Sunderland leaves Sullom Voc 0700 and
one at 0930 to search as follows.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0522/6);

Patrols.

Following ordered today: ^{'Bert', 'Stand'}
~~BERT, STAND~~
'Stab' ~~STAB~~, ^{'Pop'} ~~POP~~ at dusk. (C. in C Rosyth 0932/6)

Brest.

During night 4/5th January weather
conditions were very bad but 40
aircraft of Bomber Command succeeded
in bombing dock area Brest. No direct
hit on the cruiser was reported.

Yesterday 5th January, 5 Blenheim of
Coastal Command succeeded in dropping
bombs in target area and estimate some
direct hits on cruiser were obtained.
(D.D.I.C. 1028/6 to C. in C. H.P.).

6.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Brest.
(contd).

A.P. 751/6/1. Available aircraft of Nos. 55 and 59 Squadrons to repeat attack on HIPPER Class cruiser in dock at Brest at 1st light on 7/1. Individual attacks to be carried out by first Squadron and concerted attack by second Squadron. The second attack to be timed to take place one hour after completion of individual attacks by first Squadron. Attack by second Squadron is subject to suitable cloud cover being available.
(H.Q.C.C. 1252/6 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

A.P/752 6/1. Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight HIPPER Class Cruiser in dock at Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1254/6 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Thames Estuary
Barrage Balloons.

X. 136 6/1. With a view to preventing the accurate laying of mines in the Yantlet Channel it has been decided that C. in C. Nore should have authority to alter the positions of balloons in the Thames Estuary barrage from time to time. This will involve a slight alteration to the boundaries of the existing danger area. With effect from noon/8 balloons of Thames Estuary barrage may be flying anywhere within area bounded by straight line joining the following points.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1205/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

Harwich.

Bombs dropped near Primer Store, Wrabness, Believed 12 to 15 Bombs. Damage not yet available but not thought serious (O.C.W. Shotley 1506/6).

6.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

See Page 80.

Drogheda.

My 1810/5. Information was from Master of s.s. HAMPSHIRE COAST at Dublin who reported flashes and explosions between 53° 38'N. and 53° 45'N and from 6 W. to the 10-fathom line (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1100/6 to Adty).

Thames Estuary.

GUILLEMOT to proceed to near Cork Light Vessel before dark tonight to act as A/A Defence Ship against Enemy Minelaying A/C. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/6).

Operation P.W.I.

2 M.T.B.'s with Mines and 1 M.T.B. with Torpedoes and E.S. Gear to lay Mines in position ordered in my 1236/30/12 when ordered by signal. (C. in C. Nore 1230/6 to BEEHIVE).

Mining of Zuydecote Passage.

My 1155/25/12 para 2.
1. In order to ensure freedom of movement for our own forces it is desirable to confine minelaying by M.T.B.'s to Area one, two and four referred to in para B. of your 1626/21/12
2. Subject to experience gained in Area one it is requested that you will extend operations to Areas two and four at the earliest opportunity. (A.C.N.S.H. 1231/6 to C. in C. Nore).

Peterhead Area.

19th M/S Group completed 25% search East side of War Channel from Cruden Scaurs to 57° 55'N ahead of E.N. 52 and are returning to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1355/6 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Thames Estuary.

2 Mines detonated by S.A. Gear. One at 0929/6 in 2730 No 1 Sea Reach Buoy 7.2 cables, and one at 0940/6 in 276° No 1. Sea Reach Buoy 0.6 cables. (Capt M/S. Sheerness 1426/6 to C. in C. Nore).

Liverpool.

Your 1108/5. (New prohibited Area for Fishing Trawlers) Concur. (D.T.D. 1520/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

/LION.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

LION.

(Tug) Attached to 952 Sqdn for servicing Balloon Barrage Vessels. Mined and sunk with all hands at 1440/6 in about 320° 2½ cables from No. 5 Medway Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 2156/6 to Adty).

GADRA.

My 1320/6 was sent after investigating information received from a coast watcher on 5/1 that British trawlers were navigating north of 062° 18'N. Immediately after this message was sent a vessel was despatched to recall anyone found there.

(ii) Subsequent information was received from trawler GADRA G Y 485 trawling in approx 062° 21'N. 007° 07'W. was sunk by mine at 0500/6. Three survivors landed Thorshave, seven of crew lost. (N.O.i/c Faroes 1804/6).

(Steam Trawler) Sunk by Mine at 0500/6 near Faro Esland. 3 of crew landed at Thorshaven, remaining 7 presumed lost. (H.M. Consul, Thorshaven 1838/6 to Min of Shipping).

Aultbea.

One Red Mine exploded by L.L; Sweepers today in 264° 0.6. miles from Gob A. Gheodha Triangle (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 2010/6 to A.C.O.S.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel.

8000 -Ton 4-masted Ship steering 010° at 12 knots in 58° 21'N. 8° 35'W. Unable to stop her. Signals EMPIRE something. (AQUAMARINE 1115/6 to S.O. Trawlers, Northern Patrol) My position 58° 54'N 9° 46'W. Enemy steering 330° at 12 knots (AQUAMARINE 1420/6) Investigate (No. 18 (R) H.Q. 1500/6 to (?) Duty R) s.s. EMPIRE ENDURANCE spoken by REPULSE at 1705/6 in 59° 35'N. 10° 30'W. (REPULSE 0530/7 to A.C.O.S.) Adty state Ship was probably EMPIRE ENDURANCE. (F.O.C.N.P. 0041/7 to AQUAMARINE)

/M.V's.....

6.1. 1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (contd).

M/V's off
Bergen.

A/C report 5 M/V's in 60° 8'N. 5° 16'E. at 1010, steering South; and 4 M/V's in 59° 39'N. 5° 5'E. at 1030, steering North (C. in C. Rosyth 1120/6 to S/MS on Patrol) (VAS 1219/6 to S/M's Area A).

W/T. I. suggests Convoy movements between Bergen and Skagerrack (D.D.I.C. 1125/6 to C. in C. H.F.) (VAS 1139/6 to S/M's Area A).

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DUCHESS DE BRABANT. (H.M. Trawler) Arrived 6/1 with
Condenser trouble.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1100/6 to N.O.I.C.
Iceland).

WESTERN

(Boom Defence Vessel) My 1524/31.
Sailing delayed. Small end defective.
Repairs at Arbroath at least one week.
(Arbroath 1114/6 to Adty).

MASHONA)
SIKH.)

While leaving harbour MASHONA ramméd
SIKH. Considerable damage to both
Ships. No casualties.
(C. in C. H.F. 1130/6 to Adty).

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Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Homeward
bound
Convoy
cycles.

Your 1916/4 necessary arrangements will be made for all outward bound convoys commencing with O.B.272. It is understood that it is impracticable for Liverpool to advance O.B. 271. (C.in C. W.A. 1912/6 to Adty).

E.N.
Convoys.

Re. Adty. 2238/4. para 1. Suggest that during winter months Commodores be instructed only to take ocean ships to Loch Ewe when assured of a margin of 24 hours between time of arrival and time of R/V with O.B. convoy bound through Minches. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1225/6).

Convoys.

H.X.102.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN suggested as ocean escort. (See America and West Indies).

O.B.C.270.

Not sailing owing to fog. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0610/6).

H.X.99.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0712/6 to LA MALOUINE, ANEMONE, ST. KEVINAN, SHIKARI, WELLARD, ST. ZENO, SARDONYX, VIZALMA, LADY ELSA). Estimated position at 0900/6 60.40 N., 21.52 W, course 090° 8 knots. No ocean escort. (C.in C. H.F. 0742/6 to REPLUSE).

O.B.270.

My 2125/2. SURPRISE not sailed, fog. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/6) Sailed 5 ships. Escort GARDENIA (N.C.S.O. Oban 1116/6). Route to keep clear S.C.17. (C.in C. W.A. 1136/6 to ABERDEEN, WITCH, WILD SWAN, etc.)

W.N.63.

Arrived during night. Owing to fog number of ships unknown. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1016/6).

F.N. 75.

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1034/6)

WAR DIARY.6.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)H.X.99)
O.B.269.)

Routes, and position at 0900. Escort of O.B. 269 meets H.X.99. (D.T.D. 1056/6 to REPULSE).

C.W.22.

Intend to sail from Southend 8/1. (C.in C. Nore 1112/6 to Adty etc.) 8 M/Vs. Time Table. Escorts FERNIE, BERKELEY, 3 A/S Trawlers 6 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B.vessels, 7 M.L's. (C.in C. Nore 1526/6).

F.S.79.List.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1136/6).E.N.52.

Deletions. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1216/6) SOUTHERN GEM missed convoy sailing and is fog-bound in Forth. (C.in C. Rosyth 0321/6).

S.C.17.

If not in touch R/V 1500 55° 56'N., 12° 25'W M.L.A. 090 4 knots. (VETERAN 1045/6 to DEPTFORD, WOLVERINE, ARBUTUS, DELPHINIUM, BRICA).

H.X.101.

Sailing Telegram. Escort AUSONIA, RAJPUTANA. Route re (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1003/6).

H.X. 103.

Positions. (D.T.D. 1826/6).

S.L.60.

Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1557/6).

S.C.19.

Date and route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1212/6).

E.N.53.

21 ships 1830/7. HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1505/6).

*See also next page*H.G.49.

Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D. 1521/6).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

6.1.1941.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)Convoys.
(Contd.)W.N.65.

List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1002/6).

O.B. 272.

Route (D.T.D. 1750/6).

F.S.81.
F.N.79.My 1017/27/12 and 2155/3/1.
F.S.81 postponed 24 hours owing to fog.
F.N.79 postponed 24 hours in consequence.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0243/6).S.L.S.59.Your 1748/5. Not met position 055° 19'N.,
005° 58' West LADY LILIAN in company, am
returning to base.
(HEARTSEASE, 0245/6 to C.in C. W.A.)E.N.52.THIRLMERE sailed to join and provide
additional escort for E.N. 52 as far as
Pentland Firth.
(A.C.O.S. 0602/6 to C.in C. W.A.)H.X.99.Your 2248/4 passed to Commodore H.X.99 who
informs me he had been given another route
in message 2234/4 not received by ALAUNIA.
He is following route given in your 2248/4 and
your 1230/5.
(ALAUNIA 0900/6 to C.in C. W.A.)W.N.65.FAMDANGO sailed to join convoy W.N.65.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1024/6 to Admty.)F.N.77.Southend 6/1 departure for Grimsby H.M.D.
GOLDEN NEWS with convoy F.N.77.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1254/6).E.N.53.
W.N.66.Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.53
sailing at 1830/7.
Scapa A.C.O.S. sail FOWEY to join W.N.66
due Duncansby Head 1700/10.
Code word for E.N.53 ~~W.N.66~~ and W.N.66 ~~W.N.66~~ "chitty".
(C.in C. Rosyth 1301/6 2129/7 FOWEY).*See previous page.*

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)O.B.270.Sailed CAMPANULA to join convoy O.B.270.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1430/6 to Adty).O.B.270.Disregard route in F.O.I.C. Liverpool's
2117/5. Correct route for O.B. 270 is:-
56° 15'N., 08° 00'W.
56° 15'N., 12° 40'W.
54° 33'N., 15° 00'W.
54° 00'N., 25° 00'W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1738/6 to PERIWINKLE).W.N.64.CURACOA sailed to join W.N.64 at 1430/6.
(A.C.O.S. 1532/6).H.G.50.My 1633/4. Add following ships.
(F.O.C.N.A.S. 1621/6).F.S.83.Proceed at 1400/7 to Methil and act
subsequently as additional escort to F.S.83
S.O. of escort LONDONDERRY. C.O. of
SOUTHERN and LONDONDERRY are to meet before
sailing to ensure Liaison. If weather
permits MANCHESTER CITY will be sailed
also to proceed in F.S.83, and F.O.I.C.
Tyne is requested to have her met and
escorted from searched channel to harbour
SOUTHERN is to part company from F.S.83.
at such speed as will be necessary to escort
CHANNEL FISHER from Tyne Piers for both
ships to join F.S. 83 due 20 C buoy at
1600/8. SOUTHERN is to part company again
from 83 at junction of 154 Q.Z.Y. and 7
Q.Z.F., thence proceeding by 7 Q.Z.F., into
Harwich.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1745/6 to SOUTHERN).

WAR DIARY.6.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)O.B.272.

Your 1916/4 necessary arrangements will be made for all outward convoys commencing with O.B.272.

It is understood that it is impracticable for Liverpool to advance O.B.271.
(C.in C. W.A. 1912/6 to Adty).

F.N. and
F.S.
Collision
Risk.

A collision occurred between PRIMULA escorting F.N. 75 and the Commodore's ship of F.S.78, in vicinity of 54 F Buoy. Under present limitations of sailing imposed by dark mornings minesweeping requirements and contrary winds there is risk of the rear of the F.N.Convoy or stragglers being south of No.5. Buoy when the F.S. begins to pass this position. This is most likely to occur with slow F.N.Convoy's containing a large number of ships and when easterly winds prevail. It is considered important that F.S. should not pass No.5 Buoy ahead of time. Request escorts may be informed that when either Convoy is not on timetable F.N. and F.S. must keep each other informed. Also that N.C.S.O's may be instructed to warn Masters of the possibility that stragglers may be encountered on opposite courses between No.5 Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float. The situation will improve as the mornings become lighter.

(C.in C. Nore, 2048/6 to Rosyth C.in C.)

Reporting
Positions.

Attention is drawn to A.M.S.I. 19, para.2 If chased by an enemy submarine or surface craft, Masters of merchant ships, in addition to making a distress message, should invariably report their position, course and speed.

(D.T.D. 1916/3 to G.B.M.S. all areas.)

Cape
Verde.

Routes for shipping to avoid U/Boats in vicinity of Cape Verde Islands.

(D.T.D. 1905/6) See North Atlantic).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)O.B. and
O.G.
Convoys
Advanced.

Commencing with O.B.272 dates of sailing of all O.B. and O.G. Convoys are to be advanced one day.
(C.in C. W.A. 1920/6 to F.O.I.C's etc.)

H.X. and
S.C. Convoys.
Routes.

In future, it is intended that H.X. convoys (and possibly S.C. convoys in summer months, will be routed, together with their corresponding OLB. convoys, through the Minches.

2. From about 20/1 Loch Ewe will be used as a subsidiary convoy assembly port for the East Coast ships from or destined for these convoys.

3. It is also intended to provide A/S protection for all convoys one day further West than at present. To achieve this, the following arrangements will be made:-

(a) Corvettes to leave outward bound convoys at dusk on the 3rd day as at present and to proceed at best speed to meet the homeward bound convoy at daylight or later, according to weather.

(b) Destroyers to continue with outward bound convoys during the night of the 3rd day, crossing over in daylight to meet the incoming convoy before dark.

4. Outward bound convoys will, therefore, have to sail 24 hours earlier.

5. For 24 hours additional steaming by A/S escorts, there will accrue 24 hours additional destroyer escort by night, when most required, and 24 hours additional Corvette escort for the homeward convoys, part of which will be by day, when most required.

6. By this scheme, Corvettes should normally reach nearly as far West as the vicinity in which the A.M.C. ocean escort parts company, thus reducing the time the convoy is without escort.

7. This is the reason for my 1920/6.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/6 to F.O.I.C's etc.)

MOST SECRET.6.1.1941.
Monday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.Troop
Convoys.W.S.5.B.

Your 1512/5, H.M.S. LINCOLN will be unable to proceed to Clyde owing to defects. Intend sailing her to R/V with convoy 0900/8. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1125/6. to C.in C. W.A.)

W.S.5.B.

A.T. 2341/31. and 1824/4. 1. On arrival, details for Gibraltar are to be disembarked and all drafts ex-EMPIRE TROOPER are to be embarked in the two M/V's so that they may sail again with the least possible delay. 2. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT are to sail as escort to Freetown. Ships should proceed at the best speed practicable and should, if possible overtake and join W.S.5.B. before arrival at Freetown. 3. AUSTRALIA is to instruct MONARCH of BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1624/6 to AUSTRALIA, F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1435/6. A.T. 1525/5 and 1624/6.

As MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE must be escorted by two destroyers, request you will arrange to sail DUNCAN to reach R/V "X" by 1200/11/1/41 to take over FORESIGHT's duty. 2. All four corvettes may be retained until DUNCAN's return when two should be sailed for Freetown. 3. Anticipated that FORESIGHT will reach Gibraltar in time to take over escort on leaving. 4. Possible that convoy may be delayed; DUNCAN should not be sailed until report of their sailing is received.

(D.O.D.(F) 2350/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

*Cancelled - See 7/1
p. 231.*

No movement possible today on account of fog. All ships of W.S.5.B. ready to proceed as soon as conditions permit but D.G. range tests of J.15 and J.28 will have to be cancelled unless time for them can be afforded after arrival at Tail of Bank similarly J.14 will have to sail with only 70% of full fuel capacity, as no more can be bunkered before proceeding down river on account of ship's draught.

(D.S.T. Glasgow 1845/6 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)

PHOEBE should be prepared to accompany Convoy W.S.5.B. round the Cape. (D.O.D.(H) 2147/6 to C.in C. H.F. PHOEBE and C.S.15.)

GEORGIC.
WARWICK CASTLE.
DUCHESS OF YORK.

My 2202/31/12 and 2231/3/1. Cancel reference to GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE, who will not now sail. DUCHESS OF YORK will sail in their place. (D.O.D.(H) 1309/6 to C.in C. W.A. RAMILLIES ETC.)

DUCHESS
of
YORK.

Your 1309/6. If escort available for DUCHESS OF YORK on return voyage to U.K. propose embarking troops and air personnel to capacity. If escort not available propose embarking usual 200 for passage U.K. Request your early division and cargo requirements for homeward voyage. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1734/6 to Adty).

Alternate
Fast
and
Slow
W.S.
Convoys.

To stabilise transport of reinforcements and military supplies to the Middle and Far East, taking into account the shipping and escorting forces available, it has been decided that single convoys of the W.S. series shall leave U.K. about the beginning of each month.

B. It is intended that these convoys shall be alternately slow and fast. W.S.6. leaving about 28/1 will be 11 knots, W.S.7. leaving about 1/3 will be 15 knots, and so on.

C. The scale of escort will be two cruisers throughout the voyage. These cruisers will in most cases be provided from Home Fleet, which will be reinforced as far as possible for this purpose.

D. They will in general return to U.K. via Mediterranean where it is hoped they can be utilised to assist the passage of returning liners and fast M.T. ships.

/E.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Alternate
Fast and
Slow
W.S.
Convoys,
(Contd.)

E. Advantage will be taken of these convoy escorts to readjust ships abroad as required for refits.

F. The slow convoys of about 35 ships will be divided into two parts so that they will be easier to handle: one of not more than 25 ships to include all those carrying personnel will be escorted by two cruisers, the other will be escorted by an A.M.C. It is intended that the two parts shall proceed in close supporting distance of each other. If the situation permits, the A.M.C. will be withdrawn after reaching the Cape, each part being escorted by one cruiser.

G. The fast convoys will contain not more than 25 ships.

H. To avoid delays in fuelling etc., it may be necessary to arrange for the slow convoy to arrive Freetown shortly after the departure of S.L.Convoy.

I. To take advantage of the fuelling facilities at Durban and Capetown, it will be the general practice for part of the convoy with one cruiser to be detached to Capetown, subsequently rejoining off Durban.

J. If the convoy is too large to make the passage of the Red Sea as one unit, it may be necessary for one part to be delayed at Aden till A/S escort is available. (1st S. L. 1642/6 to C.in C's S.A. and East Indies.)

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Use of Force.

Your 2234/3 and my 1750/3 para one. Article 78 Prize Manual does not appear to envisage the case where escorting warships are a short distance ahead of ships they are convoying as commonly occurs; shot fired ahead of Merchant ship under such circumstances are liable to be misunderstood by an escort as being intended for her. Under such circumstances I intend authorizing Captains to fire ahead of escorting warship even if it entails firing first shot.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830/6 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Excess".

1106234/41 }
1109796/41 }

Your 1040/4. The extent to which it is justifiable to risk the safety of a convoy in order to engage enemy surface forces must depend on a balance between the importance of, and the risk to, the convoy and the importance of the enemy force in relation to the general conduct of the war. This is not a matter which can be determined beforehand. As regards par 625 of the Fighting Instructions and also pars. 635, 636 and 637, it is clearly laid down in the covering memorandum to the Fighting Instructions that the latter are instructions for general guidance and not to be regarded as orders.
(V.C.N.S. 1115/6 to S.O. Force H.).

Your 1115/6. My 1040/4 was made because the third and last para. of Board's conclusions in Atty Letter N.L. 14593/40 of 20/12 appeared to amend (documentary) principles which had hitherto governed my actions.
2. It is now clear to me that no change of principle is intended. My letter 7/11 of 2/1 now in transit refers.
(S.O. Force H. 1531/6 to Admtty).

/Dispositions.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Use of Force.

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North Atlantic.

Operation
"Excess".

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(S.O. Force H. 1531/6 to Admty).

/Dispositions.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Dispositions.

KENYA, ARGUS, BERWICK, escorted by WISHART position course and speed 1200/6th - 036° 40' N., 011° 20' W., 142° 15 knots routed through 041° 00' 020° 00' 054° 15' 023° 45'. At 041° 00' 020° 00'. BERWICK detached for Portsmouth WISHART for Gibraltar. DERBYSHIRE position course and speed at 00/6th 036° 00' N. 010° 12' W. 270° 13 knots routed through 036° 00' 015° 00' to patrol in area bounded by 042° 50' 021° 20'. 041° 00' 020° 10' 039° 40' 024° 05'. 041° 30' 025° 20'. H.M. Trawler LOCK OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon. IMPERIALIST on patrol off Cadiz. ALOUETTE sails 1000/7th to patrol off Lisbon. TRIDENT leaves patrol off Ponta Delgada p.m./6 routed for U.K. through 038° 10' N., 022° 40' W. 040° 00' 017° 30' 049° 00' 012° 10'. 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1032/6 to SCARBOROUGH, FOLKESTONE).
+ (? Group omitted).

Bases from which U/Boats operating in Freetown area work.

Your 0250/2. Lieutenant Commander Taylor on my staff has had considerable experience of Cape Verde Is. and considers Sal is the only eminently suitable place in which to bottom and refuel. The fuel could if necessary be brought by air.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132/6 to Admty).

OSIRIS.
PANDORA.

My 1028/3 Sailing orders for OSIRIS. Request similar instructions may be issued to PANDORA. F.O.C.N.A. pass to Cdr. S.8.
(V.A.A. 1511/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

PANDORA.

PANDORA will patrol in area between 039° 10' N. and 040° 00' N. and between 010° 30' E. and coast of Sardinia during D.3 and will leave patrol for Gibraltar p.m./D.4.
(S.O. Force H. 1511/6 to TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER).

H.G. 50.

F.O.C.N.A.S. 1621/6 see shipping.

/Operation.....

6.1.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

→ Operation.
"Excess".

Gibraltar departures 1700/6 BONAVENTURE, DUNCAN, HEReward, HERO, HASTY escorting British ships CLAN MACDONALD, CLAN CUMMING, ESSEX, EMPIRE SONG for "Excess". (Wester report). (S.O.I. Gib. 1718/6 to Admty etc).

Air Report.

A.368 6/1. Daily Summary Operations One routine A.S. patrol. One A.S. escort to M.T. ships in straits. One A.S. search to West. One surface recco coastwise to Oran. One surface recco to East. Area covered 0 degrees 30 minutes West to 7 degrees West. (200 Group 1735/6).

TRIDENT.
OLYMPUS.

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours are as follows at 0800/7. TRIDENT 038° 10'N. 022 40'W. course 65° 10 knots 3. OLYMPUS, patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1824/6).

→ A/C Report.

Gibraltar R D F reports aircraft other than Swordfish escort shadowing Convoy, bearing 240 degrees 36,000 yards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1852/6 to BONAVENTURE).

Enemy Trawlers.

Certain French trawlers with German crews and fitted with W/T reported working as reconnaissance Units in North Atlantic. Any trawlers met are to be investigated. (C. in C. W.A. 1856/6).

/Cape.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd).

Cape Verde.
shipping
routes to
avoid U/Boats.

With a view to evading U Boats operating in the vicinity of C. Verde Islands it is intended to institute a method by which ships at sea may be diverted at short notice, to be put into operation forthwith. Every ship, except those in S.L. and S.D.S. Convoys, proceeding between West or South African, and South American ports south of C. Roque and U.K. is to be given two routes, one to the eastward and one to the westward of C. Verde Islands. One of these routes is to be followed and the other is for use on receipt of a diversion signal made by G.B.M.S. The route to the eastward is to be as in A.M. 1612/19/11 and 1758/26/11 and that to the westward to be as follows. Northbound shipping to the eastward and southbound shipping to the westward of a line joining the following positions (A) 12° 30'N. 25° 00'W. (B) 13° 30'N 27° 00'W. (C) 16° 50'N. 27° 50'W. Code words for route to eastward of C. Verde Islands will be any four lettered word beginning with a letter from A to M, and for the westward route any four lettered word beginning with a letter N. to Z. A.G.B.M.S. message "Route AXIS" to all ships in Areas one and six (A) would indicate that all ships not in Convoy, sailing between U.K. and West or South African And South American ports, south of Cape Roque, should proceed by the Eastern route. The diversion signal will be initiated by the Admiralty. For the present all shipping is to be routed to the westward of Cape Verde Islands. (D.T.D. 1905/6 to A.I.G. 47 etc).

USK.
(S/M).

USK sails for Malta 1830/7.
Approximate date of arrival 15/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2004/6 to Admty).

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

. FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy
Facilities.

Request information as to maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in a two-day stay at (a) Freetown (b) Capetown (c) Durban. (D.O.D.(F) 0030/6 to C. in C.S.S.).

Force K.
Sweep.

Your 1817/4 approved. As South American Division has not got a carrier consider the possibility of sailing merchant ships from the Plate to form a rough screen ahead of them. To effect this a delay of four days in sailing or diversion of shipping can be accepted. Following arrangements are being made to ensure that the merchant shipping plots in all ships concerned are as accurate as possible. (1) It is presumed that all ships now receive full details of sailings from South African, South American ports and Cape Verde. (2) Admiralty will signal to ships and authorities in areas 6 A and 9 details of all southbound shipping now at sea south of 20 degs. N. and of all subsequent southbound shipping as it crosses the latitude of 20 degs. N. Para 4 of your 1817/4. Unless Force K. are actually hunting a known raider it is not desired that they should refuel in the neutral ports of South America. (1. S.L. 0120/6 to C. in C.S.A.).

Adty 0120/6 para. B (2). Names and speed of British vessels will be indicated by the use of the serial number in C.A.F.O. 2075/40. 2. Report if this C.A.F.O. has been received. (D.O. D.(F) 1205/6 to C. in C.S.A. Force K. R.A.S.A.D.).

/Adty.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Admty 0120/6. It is intended to implement the suggestion in (a) of this signal with regard to general plan in my 1817/4. This was sent to S.O. (I) Montevideo accordingly repeated to you. You should arrange to proceed as thought best to give cover to this group of ships and be able to obtain and act on any information given by Military. Am making arrangements in order to save you breaking W/T silence but request you inform me if unable to comply or have any important objection. I should welcome suggestions if opportunity occurs and time permits. Group of ships will be leaving Plate about 12/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 2045N/6 to R.A.S.A.D).

Operation
"Monsoon".

1103422/41

Departure 0900/6 FURIOUS, DELHI, ISIS, and ENCOUNTER in accordance with C. in C South Atlantic's 1723 N/5.
(S.O.I. Freetown 0957N/6).

Suspicious
Vessel.

Vessel resembling Norwegian Tanker FENJA reported as shadowing NBEVA ANDALUCIA Texas to Rio de Janeiro from dawn 23/12 near Tobago Island to 27/12 despite attempt to elude. Vessel painted grey funnel with red band small mast on bridge to carry aerial.
(C. in C. S.A. 1429N/6 to CANTON)

LARGS BAY.

A.C.N.B's 0845/2. Presume that if you are not satisfied that 148 Service Personnel should remain on LARGS BAY for voyage Durban to U.K. excess numbers will be disembarked and transferred to returning W.S.4.B. Ship.
(D.S.T. 1942/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

6.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Broadcast
of Convoy.

German broadcast reports following from La Linea. "A number of British warships and merchant vessels are assembling in Gibraltar harbour which allows conclusion that a convoy is being sent off shortly. Vessels include 3 armoured cruisers, 2 aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 submarines, 2 auxiliary cruisers and 4 transport vessels". (1 S.L. 0006/6 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report.
Tripoli attack
5/1.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. 6 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. attacked destroyers M/V's and port facilities Tripoli harbour from 1700 to 1915/5. Details. Hits were observed on power station and large fire seen here. Other fires south of power station were visible 30 miles to sea and were burning throughout attack. Bursts seen on Customs wharf where large column of smoke observed. Customs House hit. Incendiary fires and 3 bursts oil storage area. Many sticks dropped among M/V's and destroyers. All aircraft returned undamaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 0830/6).

Italian Warship
Dispositions.

My 2247/5. Following is detailed statement of latest information received of effective Italian Ships.

<u>Port.</u>	<u>Unit.</u>	<u>Date Last Reported.</u>
Spezia	Battleship CAIO DUILIO	21/12
Naples	Battleships VITTORIO VENETO GUILIO CESARE, two 8 inch and two 6 inch Cruisers.	30/12
Palermo	Two 8 inch Cruisers	22/12
Messina	One 8 inch Cruiser	18/12
Taranto	Four 6 inch Cruisers	26/12
Brindisi	Four 6 inch Cruisers	26/12.

One 6 inch Cruiser unlocated.

(Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1030/6 to S.O. Force H.). See 1628/6.

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

PERICLES.

Oiler. To sail in A.N. 12 to Piraeus to discharge oil for use of H.M. ships (C. in C. Med 1045/6).

Proposed air operations.

C. in C. Med 1405/5 see Mediterranean Volume.

S/M Base at Malta.

Re-establishment of (C. in C. Med 1445/6)

My 1030/6. Air reconnaissance to-day 6/1 shows 2 battleships in Naples and 2 cruisers type unknown in Palermo. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 1628/6 to S.O ForceH)

Shipping for supply of 15th Corps.

As escort for ships supplying 15th Corps in Western Desert cannot normally be provided such ships should be small and of no great use on main trade routes.

As a temporary measure large ships may be employed for evacuation of prisoners only. (C. in C. Med. 1629/6 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

Air Reconnaissance. Naples. Palermo. Tripoli.

I 12 6/1 Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 6/1. All times G.M.T. 0615-1055 photographic R.C. Naples 2 Battleships 1 Cruiser in dry dock, 3 destroyers, 2 M/V's 12000 tons 12 M/V's 6 to 8000 tons 20 M/V's 2 to 4000tons. Palermo 2/6-inch cruisers 2 destroyers 4 M/V's 5000 tons 5 M/V's 2000 tons. 0414 to 0859 photographic recco. Tripoli harbour. 5 possibly 6 destroyers 4 of which lying alongside large M/V's north and centre of Harbour. 2 Auxiliaries 4 M/V's 10,000 tons 4 M/V's 6000 tons 14 small M/V's 20 barges 3 seaplanes. Operations by Wellingtons 148 Squadron against Tripoli 5/6 January reported in my I.11 6/1. Rome radio reported to-day that Malta was attacked last night but no enemy aircraft even approached island. No enemy air activity over Malta to-day. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1710/6).

/TRIUMPH.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TRIUMPH.
UPHOLDER

After leaving eastern end of patrols at 1900/9 proceed through following positions. to 180° Filfolia Island 5 miles.

(2) Adjust speed to arrived off Grand Harbour on 12/1 TRIUMPH at 0700 and UPHOLDER at 0730.
(V.A. Malta 1815/6 to TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER).

REGULUS
(lost).

Your 2335/27/12 approved. (REGULUS paying off)
(Hd. of M. 2028/6 to C. in C. Med).

Communications
with 13th Corps.

Your 1455/29. Cable and Wireless are arranging to send RECORDER, in absence of LADY DENISON PENDER in West Africa, but she is not likely to arrive under six weeks, and work of diversion may prove lengthy. It is not clear why requirements of Western Desert forces cannot be met by W/T and/or land telegraph.
(D.S.D. 2101/6 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report
Tobruk.

1. Egypt day 4/1. 3 Blenheims bombed Tobruk starting a large fire visible to the returning aircraft when over Bardia. 3 Further Blenheims attacked Tobruk at dusk, bombs falling on South Eastern corner of town. Night 4/5 Jan. Two Wellingtons bombed Tobruk dropping bombs among large fires started previously by other Wellingtons and increasing the flames. All aircraft returned safely. Above operations additional to those reported in my A. 809 5/1. Day 5/1. All bombing operations directed against Tobruk with following results
4 Blenheims hit naval barracks.
3 Blenheims dropped bombs on buildings at east end of town. 3 further Blenheims attacked aerodromes hitting buildings on Southern Boundary. Three Blenheims dropped bombs on the centre of the town.

/These.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Report
Tobruk.
(contd).

These last were intercepted by 3 Macchi 200 one of which they damaged and probably destroyed. All aircraft returned safely. During the day enemy fighter and bomber activity was very much greater than on previous days. Hurricanes patrolled between Tobruk and Bardia and attacked enemy aircraft on landing grounds. 3 S. 79 and 7 CR. 42's were destroyed in combat, with 1 S.79 and 2 CR. 42 damaged. Two S.79 and 3 CR. 42's were damaged on ground. Australian Gladiators patrolling over Gambut area intercepted 12 S.79's about to attack one of H.M. ships and compelled them to jettison bombs. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Apallona and Tobruk. 10 ships were observed moving west off Ras El Hilah. Six Wellingtons dropped 15,000 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk all falling in the town. Cloud prevented assessment of results. All our aircraft returned safely. G.H.Q. M.E. report operations at Bardia completed. Total number of prisoners captured estimated at 35,000.

Bardia
captured.

Valona.

2. Greece. 5/1. 8 Blenheims were compelled to abandon raid on Valona by very bad weather conditions. One Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

Massawa
U/Boat
attacked

3. Sudan. 5/1 6 Blenheims attacked submarine moored in Massawa, bombs overshooting target by 75 yards. Three submarines were observed in harbour with a possible 4th. 1 destroyer observed in floating dock. All aircraft returned safely. Blenheims photographed Keren and made 1 anti submarine patrol off Port Sudan.

Moyale
bombed.

4. Kenya. 3/1 and 4/1. S. A.A.F. made 2 patrols Mombasa and 1 patrol Zanzibar and Pemba channels 1 warship escorted in Dar Es Salaam. Reconnaissances made of Moyale, Omo River Delta, Gerile and Liboi areas. Bombs dropped on M.T. North of Moyale by reconnaissance aircraft. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 2140/6).

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy
Facilities.

Request information as to maximum number of ships in a W.S. Convoy that can be passed through the Red Sea, assuming two cruisers available as escort as well as your present Red Sea Force. 2. Should this number fall short of the number in a future convoy, how many could be handled at Aden to await return of escort.

(D.O.D. (F) 0031/6 to C. in C.E.I.).

Kismayu.

Proposed air operations in Admty 1726/3. Objections, etc.
(C. in C. E.I. 04302/6) See Operations Vol.

Mogaadiscio.

My 0456/5. (Orders to COLOMBO). No ship at Mogadiscio.
(C. in C. E.I. 0332z/6 to Nairobi etc).

S/m's at
Massowa.

N.O. in charge Port Sudan 1702/3. I am informed that photograph of Massowa taken 5/1 appears to confirm pilot's statement that presence of one addition to three submarines revealed in photograph taken 3/1. Crew thought they observed a 5th crash dive in Fleet Anchorage but I consider this most improbable. This report would appear to discount probability of submarine reported in my 0634/6 being Italian (C. in C. E.I. 0456Z/6 to Adty).

BARALA.
S/M Report.

My 0620/5 passed to Admiralty (i) Following from BARALA, S/M sighted about an hour before dawn 1 mile away by master and mate. Visibility good. Conning tower of S/M and hull visible for four minutes. Sighted (corrupt group) bow broadside on but when placed astern came end on. S/M did not attack. When dawn broke there was no sign of S/M but smoke observed (ii) I assess report as B.4. N.O.I.C. Karachi is to investigate further on ship's arrival.
(C. in C. E.I. 0634z/6 to E.I. Squadron).

/German.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.(contd).

German
U/Boats
and
Aircraft
carrier.

An unconfirmed report from a source whose reliability is unknown states as follows (i) it is reported that some submarines of 500 ton displacement some of U 37 and U 38 Class and one or two of 200 tons carrying 8 tubes and two 4.7 guns are operating in Indian Ocean. (ii) Bombay Section of the (? German) Espionage Section have received instructions that during 1st week of January 1941 one aircraft carrier of Graf Zeppelin Class carrying about 40 aircraft will be operating in the Indian Ocean. Ship said to carry 16, 5.9 and 10, 4.1 inch guns plus A/A guns.

Indian
Ocean.

(iii) Submarines and aircraft carrier will operate together and developments expected in Indian Ocean during 1st half of this month (January).
(F.O.C.R.I.N 0710Z/6 to C. in C.E.I).

Crew of
ESPERANCE.

Re repatriation (C. in C. E.I.0740Z/6).

Troop
movements
to M.E.

Details (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0833Z/6).

Dhows.

A case has occurred of four dhows sailing from Surr in Sultanate of Muscat for Zanzibar and Mombasa being sent into Mogadishu by Italian aircraft. One was released as cargo was unacceptable but the three others with cargoes of dates were detained (ii) Nakhodas of British dhows are to be instructed, and of neutral dhows advised to keep at least 120 miles from Italian coasts and only to make landfall on British coasts. Remind them of 50 mile dangerous zone off Italian coasts and encourage them to ignore Italian aircraft orders.
(C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/6)

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0710/6 is being passed to you for information. Admiralty remarks requested.
(C. in C. E.I. 1134/6 to Adnty).

/STRATHAIRD.....

War Diary.

6.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

STRATHAIRD.

P.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/4. Request immediate reply whether STRATHAIRD is proceeding to U.K. on completion of disembarkation of prisoners at Bombay.
(P.S.T.O. India 0748Z/6 to D.of S.T).

Independent Sailings.
Zigzagging.

Cancel my 1128/4 and substitute as follows. Ships proceeding independently in area 3 are to proceed best possible speed and zigzag by day and in moonlight when in the following area. A north of 010° N. and west of 055° E. B. North of 021° N. and West of 067° E. Ships in the above area but in less than 100 fathoms are not to zigzag.
(C. in C. E.I. 1028/6 to G.B.M.S. Area 3)

KANIMBLA.
TALAMBA.

KANIMBLA is to leave Durban p.m./7 and proceed Mauritius passing through position (a) 030° S. 036° E. (b) $024^{\circ} 20'$ $040'$ (c) 037° 046° (d) 020° $40'$ 055° and adjusting speed to arrive a.m./14. KANIMBLA will be required to escort TALAMBA leaving Mauritius a.m./15.
(C. in C. E.L. 1334Z/6 to KANIMBLA).

Air Report.

Operational summary No. 208 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 6/1. No operations over I.E.A. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron returned from convoy duty based Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1625/6).

Massawa.
U/Boat
Attacked.

Attack by Blenheims on U/B at Massawa 5/1 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2140/6).
See Mediterranean.

Kenya.

S.A.A.F. patrols and bombing of Moyale (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 2140/6)
See Mediterranean.

Mine.

Mine exploded 23/12 at Shuma Island Red Sea 16.40 N., 41.34 E. Similar mines are reported to the S.E. Thought they may have floated from Assab or Massawa (D.S. 490, 7/1).

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH

E. of S.T's 0001/3.
It is hoped QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to sail from Singapore by February.
(C.in C. China, 0243Z/6, to Admty.)

Indo-China,
Trade.

C.in C. China S 0945/4. (Re sailings between Indo China, Hong Kong and Singapore) Shipping Control Advisory Board consider that Wo Fat Shing should be regarded as an established line for this trade.
Recommend that *LYEEMUN be requisitioned under some scheme and placed on this service being transferred to Colonial Scheme later if considered desirable.
Early decision requested.
(Comm., Hong Kong, 0455/6, to Admty.)

*LYEEMUN.

America and West Indies.

H.X.101
Convoy S.C.19.

Sailing telegram (S.L.N.O. Halifax 1008/6)
Date, and route (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1212/6).

EUPHORBIA
KYLEGLEN
not arrived.

Following ships have not arrived.
Your 0030/12 EUPHORBIA. Your 1655/17 KYLEGLEN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1554/6).

A.M.C.
Ocean escorts.

Admty. 1859/21/12 and 1302/28/12. In order to afford cover to independent shipping request, you will instruct A.M.C.s returning to Halifax to adjust their course so as to provide maximum protection without unduly prolonging their return voyage passing close South East of position (?Z) (C.in C. A.W.I. 1252/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Information for
SEVERN

V.A.(S) 2154/5 para. D. Request you will pass necessary information regarding movements ~~to~~ North Atlantic Escort Force of SEVERN's movements.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/6 to R.A.3 B.S.)

ORONTES
H.X.102.

S.S. ORONTES, engaged as a transport for carrying personnel to Halifax, will be ready to sail from the U.K. about 20/1. Suggested that ROYAL SOVEREIGN provide ocean escort for H.X.102 and then escort ORONTES to Halifax. Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(H) 2251/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.)

Australia.

MANOORA
TRIENZA

H.M.A.S. MANOORA escorting TRIENZA arrived Nauru 1833/5. (A.C.N.B. 1256/6, to Admty.)

New Zealand.

ACHILLES
A.N.I.

Following received by N.O.I.C. Auckland (Begins) 0245Z/6 departure ACHILLES with convoy A N 1 (ends).
(N.Z.N.B., 0945Z/6, to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

6.1.1941
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PROCIDA.

Arrival 5/1 PROCIDA.
(Valencia, 0017/6).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO
MAURO CROCE.

Departures 5/1 Italian Steamers
LELLO and MAURO CROCE both for Genoa.
(Valencia 0017/6).

GERARCHIA.

Arrived St. Vincent, C.V. on 5/1
from St. Nicholas (C.V.) where
she had been since outbreak of war
(D.S. 490, 7/1).

MAURO CROCE.
LELLO.
MAR NEGRO.

5/1 arrivals and departures MAURO
CROCE from Genoa arrivals LELLO
6/1 MAR NEGRO.
(Barna 1246/6).

War Diary

6.1.1941
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE THUNDER

M0618/41

(British, 5965 tons) Following has been read. SSSS 59.14 N., 12.43 W., EMPIRE THUNDER torpedoed. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1044/6)

Proceed to assistance of EMPIRE THUNDER torpedoed in position 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W at 1044. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to SALVONIA)

Sailed SALVONIA to assistance of EMPIRE THUNDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/6)

SHAKESPEAR
(Torpedoed 5/1)

British ship SHAKESPEAR from Cardiff to Alexandria sunk by Italian submarine 0700/5, 180 miles North East of Sal Island, 19 killed and missing, 23 survivors landed on Sal Island 1000/6. Life boat towed within sight of land by submarine. Stated some of crew seriously injured, Master safe. Arranging transport to S. Vincent for treatment and repatriation now. (Consul, St. Vincent. 1825/6, to C. in C., S.A.)

Submarines Reported

1500/5

Unsuccessful search for 12 hours. Nothing visible at daylight. Intend returning Londonderry. (WITCH, 0930/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 1704 (LEAMINGTON to hunt for U-Boat) Proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A., 1044/6 to LEAMINGTON)

1045

D/F at 1045 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat in position 55° 20' N., 16° 00' W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1142/6)

1201

Following has been read. SSSS 54.50 N., 24.00 W., TRADER sighted submarine (Lyness W/T T.O.R., 1201/6)

/Estimated.....

War Diary

6.1.1941
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: 1 in Canaries area
1 was in 58° 30' N., 23° 30' W., at 2021/5 probably proceeding S.
1 was in 55° 20' N., 16° W., at 1045/6

No recent reports of 2 more in N.W. Approaches but probably near latitude 55° N or 56° N., and west of 13° W.

German. 1 in Cape de Verde Island Area.
1 about 34° N., 18°-21° W., northbound.
1 about 38° N., 12° W., southbound
1 was in 59° 14' N., 12° 43' W., at 1003/6
1 was in 54° 50' N., 24° W., at 1201/6
1 in about 60° N., 20° W.
2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but may be N. or N.E. of Rockall.
1 between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1335/6)

East Indies

0620/5

Sighted by BARALA (See FOREIGN STATIONS, East Indies)

Submarines Attacked

1232

Am over enemy submarine in position 58° 38' N 11.50 W., (A/C, Duty H. T.O.R. 1232/6 to R.A.F., Oban)

Aircraft reports having damaged U-Boat large patch of oil in position 058° 38' N 011° 50' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1352/6. to LA MALOUINE)

Your 1420/6. Have searched assisted by aircraft. No trace of oil or of aircraft who attacked. Am proceeding with SARDONYX to comply with your 1230/5. (Weather) (SHIKARI 1803/6, to A.C.W.A.)

Sunderland aircraft proceeding to position of torpedoed EMPIRE THUNDER sighted U-Boat on surface at range of 1 mile. Aircraft came out of cloud and dropped 2 depth charges 20 feet either side and 20 yards ahead of U-Boat which was just submerged as D.C. were dropped. U-Boat was buff coloured and large buff coloured plate was blown into air followed by 1 large air bubble in water and a patch of oil 1 mile across. Position of attack 58° 38' N., 11° 50' W., LA MALOUINE ordered to investigate. Consider possible U-Boat destroyed. (C. in C., W.A., 1808/6 to Admty)

War Diary

6.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Ships detached in accordance with my 1440 report whether any evidence to indicate that U-Boat torpedoing EMPIRE THUNDER is same as that attacked by aircraft in position 58° 38' N., 11° 50' W., at 1300. (C. in C., W.A., 1902/6 to LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX, SHIKARI)

Trawler reports Belgian Trawler was 10 miles North East position where aircraft attacked submarine 058° 38' N., 011° 50' W at 1230/6. Trawler was steering North East at about 10 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1944/6 to LA MALOUINE)

1. The arrangement of the War Diary is as follows:-

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS | - Policy |
| (Classification | - Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects) | - Movements |
| | - Operations |
| | - Allied Air Activity |
| | - Enemy Air Activity |
| | - Mining |
| | - Enemy Intelligence |
| | - U-Boats |
| | - Navigational |
| | - Technical |
| | - Casualties and Defects |
| | - Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS | - North Atlantic |
| (Classification | - South Atlantic |
| by stations) | - Mediterranean |
| | - East Indies |
| | - America and West Indies |
| | - Australia and New Zealand |
| | - U-Boat Campaign |

Additional subject headings are sometimes employed temporarily, e.g. when an important operation is in progress.

2. The following volumes should be used to supplement the War Diary: the dates given in brackets are those on which the series held by War Diary commences:-

- (a) Movements of H.M. Ships (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (23 February 1940).
- (b) Western Approaches (daily) Situation Reports (1 September 1943).
- (c) Dispositions and Movements (Foreign Stations) (1 September 1943).
- (d) Convoy Returns (Positions of convoys and composition of escorts, positions of independent ships and H.M. ships: from Combined Plot) (1 March 1941).
- (e) Daily Convoy Summary (Report made by Admiralty to Connav, giving arrivals and departures, with composition of convoy) (21 June 1943).
- (f) Air Staff Operational Summary (prepared by Air Ministry War Room) (1 July 1941, No.222)
- (g) Daily Operations Report for First Lord (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (13 September 1939).
- (h) List of abbreviations.
- (i) List of Convoy letters.

ADM 199 2221

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoys
W.S. 5 B

This convoy is delayed by fog which prevents the Clyde portion from sailing.

H.X. 99

REPULSE and 3 destroyers returned to Scapa this evening from covering this convoy in the North Atlantic.

Search
for M.V.
off Gris Nez

KASHMIR and JUPITER returned to Plymouth this evening, without encountering the large merchant vessel believed to have passed Cape Gris Nez at 1330/6 bound down Channel.

Patrol in
Channel

KASHMIR left Plymouth late this evening with JERSEY, to cover shipping in the Channel.

Attack on
U-Boat

ANEMONE, proceeding to meet and escort Convoy H.X. 99 sighted a U-Boat this morning 300 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis, and, with LA MALOUINE attacked and it is believed sank the submarine.

Halifax
Escort Force
and N.P.

It has been approved in principle to combine the forces available for duty, with the Halifax Escort Force with those required for the Denmark Straits area of the Northern Patrol. For this purpose seven A.M.C's will be added to the Halifax Escort Force. The two A.M.C's on patrol in Denmark Straits will fuel and water at Hvalfiord.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused all operations last night to be cancelled. Very few patrols were flown today; none were flown in the North Sea. An A/S patrol was carried out north-west of the Shetlands and air escorts for convoys were carried out in the N.W. Approaches.

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7.12.1941
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Two armed trawlers were unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned off Ramsgate today.

Mining

GUILLEMOT last night operated near Cork L.V. as A.A. defence ship against enemy mine-laying aircraft.

SS H.H. PETERSEN (975 tons) in Convoy F.S.79 was mined and sunk early this morning, 12 miles East of Southwold.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool, Spurn Head and in the Thames Estuary.

Objects believed to be mines were dropped off Ramsgate this morning.

North Atlantic

A large suspicious tanker was reported at 1310 off Cape Sinos steering a southerly course in territorial waters.

South Atlantic

With reference to report of enemy surface vessel 4/1, sailings from River Plate ports are being adjusted so that all ships available can be sailed in a group. Cover will be provided for the group as a whole.

7.1.1941
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

It is reported that all French warships left Beirut this morning, proceeding northward. They are believed to consist of two light cruisers, two sloops, one netlayer and 4 submarines.

Maintenance of supplies by sea to Sollum for the 13th Corps is proceeding.

Prisoners ferry service restarted 4/1.

Bombing and torpedo bombing attacks continue, but so far without causing damage. A supply base is being established at Bardia.

Operation
"Excess"

106234/41)
109796/41)

Force H in RENOWN with MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers left Gibraltar this morning.

C. in C., Med. in WARSPITE with VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, CALCUTTA, YORK, ORION and destroyers and supply ships left Alexandria today.

East Indies

R.A.F. last night bombed the submarine base at Massawa. Results were not seen.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BATH,
ST. ALBANS.
BRIGHTON,
LANCASTER.

Your 1647/1 and 2225/3. Concur BATH and ST. ALBANS be manned by Norwegian Crews after training, and to be relieved by BRIGHTON and LANCASTER after working up. (D.O.D.(H) 1209/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

North Rona-
Iceland.

Your 1159/4. Matter will be placed on Agenda for Thursday's conference. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1841/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Conference of
9/1.

I would like to raise following points. (C. in C. H.F. 2207/7 to Adty.)

"Deluge"
Patrol.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/7. (D.C. 1151/7).
At 2330/7. (D.C. 2354/7.)

Oban.
A/A Defence of
Convoy Anchorage.

Your 1507/6/1. Four forty M.M. Bofors Guns in position ready for action. Three Guns on Lismore Island, one gun on mainland. Understand one further gun being positioned on mainland but date cannot be stated. (N.O.I.C. Oban. 1047/7 to Adty.)

My 1250/4. Guns are now ready for action. Ship may be withdrawn. (D.O.D.(H) 1745/7 to C. in C. H.F.) ARETHUSA return to Scapa as convenient, without relief. (C. in C. H.F. 1849/7 to F.O.C. 2nd.C.S.)

Movements.

REPULSE.

My position 59° 40' N. 8° 45' W. E.T.A. Cape Wrath, 3 Destroyers in company 1300/7. (REPULSE 0530/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Nore Command, }
Ships out }
of Action. }

My 0710/5. Amend as follows. (C. in C. Nore 0720/7.)

DERBYSHIRE.

Left Gibraltar 1730/5 for Area E.2. F.2. (F.O.C.N.P. 1220/7 to Western Patrol.)

CILICIA.

E.T.A. Patrol 2100/7. (CILICIA 1337/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

/PRINCE.....

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

PRINCE OF WALES.

My 1640/4. Time Ship will pass Bar Light amended to 1600/21. (D.O.D.(H) 1503/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1532/7).

MANCHESTER,
EDINBURGH.

Arrived Scapa 1540. (A.C.O.S. 1635/7.)

→ ARGUS,
KENYA,
REVENGE.

Adty. 1938/1. Original A/S Escort for ARGUS not now available. ARGUS and KENYA to pass through 55° N. 26° W, and join REVENGE in 62° 5' N. 20° W, at 1000/12. B.S.T, where Destroyer Escort joins. (C. in C. W.A. 1639/7 to C.S.10.)

Nore and
Harwich.

Movement Summary. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1646/7.)

HOOD
RODNEY.

Your 2318/6. Concur. Propose HOOD arrive No. 14 Buoy at 1515/13, and RODNEY then proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 1757/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

CALIFORNIA.

→ My 1030/4 and 1250/6. Amend route to pass through 55° N. 26° W. and join REVENGE, ARGUS, and KENYA in 62° 5' N. 20° W, at 1000/12. B.S.T. (F.O.C.N.P. 2320/7 to CALIFORNIA.)

Operations.

M/V off
Gris Nez.

KASHMIR, JUPITER, sailed from Plymouth 2050/6. (C. in C. W.A. 0016/7.) Suspect enemy speed over 15 knots. Passing Ushant at dawn. (KASHMIR 0634/7 to C. in C. W.A.) 3 Blenheims are coming to escort you at dawn and 3 Beauforts to attack M/V's. (C. in C. W.A. 0815/7 to KASHMIR.)

Patrol/

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations Contd.Patrol in Channel.

Pass Gate at 2040 today to patrol between longitude of Lizard and Start Point. Return Plymouth to arrive Rame Head 1030/8 to cover Shipping in Channel. (C. in C. W.A. 1537/7 to KASHMIR, JERSEY.)

Submarines.

Submarines are not to enter following areas unless specially ordered to do so by V.A. (S) or unless acting on enemy reports or unless in pursuit of the enemy.

- (1) Within 20 miles of the whistle buoys off Gironde.
- (2) Within 20 miles of Ile de Groix.
- (3) Within 50 miles position 047° 15' North 002° 16' West. (S.2. 1016/7 to TIGRIS, TALISMAN.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/8. (V.A.S. 1717/7 and 2156/7.)

SEVERN.

Intend to sail with PHILANTE at 1200/9. Request submerged bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of line joining following positions at times stated. (S.3. 1823/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.British Air Activity.

Ordered today: SA.1A., S.A.2., S.A.3., ~~SA.1B.~~, and ~~SA.1C.~~ at Dawn and Dusk.

(C. in C., Rosyth 0828/7.)

Patrols ~~SA.1A.~~ and ~~SA.1B.~~ dawn cancelled for today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0950/7.)

Patrols SA.3., ~~SA.1A.~~, and ~~SA.1B.~~ dusk cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1344/7.)

Brest.

53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight Cruiser in dock at Brest during moonlight. (H.Q.C.C. 1105/7 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Wrabness.

D.A.S.O. Wrabness reports Air Attack yesterday. Fence damaged. No casualties (C. in C. Nore 0931/7.)

Ramsgate.

At 1058/7 two A/C machine-gunned and dropped 4 Bombs near Trawlers 40° 1 mile from Ramsgate Pier. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1145/7.) At 1220/7 one A/C dropped Bombs near Trawler 40° 1 mile from Ramsgate Pier. No casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1240/7.)

Moray Firth.

3 Enemy A/C in 58° 20' N. 2° E. at 1335/7. (D.D.I.C. 1400/7.)

Mining.Peterhead Area.
Search of War
Channel.

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th group to R/V 110° 6 miles Cruden Scours at 0800/8, and search East side of War Channel ahead of EN 53 to position 000° 14 miles Kinnaird Head, expected time of arrival 1500/8, then to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1200/7 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

H.H.PETERSEN.

(British, 975 Tons.) Mined and sunk in about 020° 3 miles from 54. E. Buoy. All crew saved. (VIVIEN 0400/7.)

Shetlands.

N.O.I.C. Lenwick reports a loud Explosion to South of Sumburgh at 1127. (C. in C. H.F. 1242/7 to C.S.18.)

B.S.48.

Sailed TEVIOT BANK at 1408. (F.O. Humber 1438/7.) Sailed INTREPID at 1430 (F.O. Humber 1459/7.)

Ramsgate.

At 1055 Enemy A/C dropped objects believed to be Mines 12 cables North of wreck of HARCALO. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1500/7.)

/ZME. 12.....

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Z.M.E. 12.

To be carried out on Night of 8/1 or as soon after as possible. $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles 146° from $51^{\circ} 24' N. 5^{\circ} 46' W.$
(V.C.N.S. 1529/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. Gear at 1030/7 in 067° Nore Light Vessel 1.1.mile.
Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1635/7.)

P. W. 1.

Weather permitting, carry out Operation tonight, M.T.B's 31,32,34, sailing as suggested. Mines not to be laid unless positions can be fixed with reasonable accuracy. (C. in C. Nore 1640/7 to BEEHIVE.)

Motor Torpedo Boats 31, 32 and 34 leave harbour 2000 7th January proceed towards enemy's coast returning dawn or possibly earlier. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1646/7.)

Myggenaes.

At 1240/3/1 a Floating Mine sighted and towed in P/V cutter by EDINBURGH about 8 miles West of Myggenaes.
Details. (A.C.O.S. 1757/7.)

Off Shetlands.

C.S.18. reports MANCHESTER picked up in P/V a British Mine-Mooring at 1000/7 in about $60^{\circ} 19' N. 3^{\circ} 38' W.$
(A.C.O.S.1757/7.)

Liverpool.

One Magnetic Mine exploded by A.A. Sweep 275° Bar Light Vessel $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. One Mine, probably Acoustic, exploded by Fishing Trawler 260° Bar Light Vessel $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1835/7.)

Spurn Point.

At 1610/7 one Mine exploded by M/S Trawler 144° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.8 miles. (F.O. Humber 2240/7.)
At 1625/7 one Mine exploded by M/S Trawler 136° Spurn Point 1.2 miles. (F.O.Humber 1840/7.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Fair Isle.

Reports one small fast Vessel at 0917 in 056° 5 miles, steering 325° (A.C.C.S. 0943/7.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

*ADMIRAL HIPPER

My 1951/4. Para. 2 delete reference to ^{ADMIRAL}SCHEER. Para. 9. Cancel and substitute DUQUESA reported being attacked by a Pocket Battleship in 00° 57' N. 22° 42' W. on December 18th. This may have been the 8" Cruiser engaged by BERWICK on 25/12, and now in dock at Brest. If this is so, no news of ^{ADMIRAL}SCHEER has been received since her attack on HX 84 on 5/11 in North Atlantic. (D.N.I. 1748/7. A.M. 680.A.)

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SEA GIANT.

(Rescue Tug) My 1247/5. Defects to accommodation and steering gear will not be completed before 15/1. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0959/7.)

TOURMALINE.

(A/S Trawler) Delayed at Tilbury with Boiler defects. Estimate completion 11/1. (F.O.I.C. London 1245/7.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER.

(A/P Trawler) Delayed at Tilbury. Minor defects. Expect complete and sail 8/1. (F.O.I.C. London 1247/1.)

ARGUS.

Your 1150/6. Propose urgent defects be carried out during 14 days ship is available. Not to be regarded as refit. (C. in C. H.F. 1558/7.)

R.A.F. Barge.

My 1817/6. 60-foot R.A.F. Barge reported adrift between 0200 and daylight /6 off Kinnaird Head. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1612/7).

EMPIRE MARINER.

(British, 4957 Tons) Broken down 326° Inistrahull 10 miles. Request Tug. Am going to try to tow towards Inishowen Head. ERICA in company. (ARBUTUS 1815/7 to C. in C. W.A.). Broken down at 1815/7 in 55° 36'N. 7° 19'W, endeavouring to make Londonderry with ARBUTUS and ERICA in company.

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Positions

Of North Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. 1208/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

Independent sailings, dark hours

My 1340/29/10 and 2115/6/11 (re provision of air escort for independently routed fast ships) cancel all references to 10° W and substitute " at the circumference of a circle with a radius of 150 miles from Malin Head" (D.T.D. 1236/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Atlantic Convoys

My 2077/21/12. All homeward convoys commencing with S.C. 18 will be met 24 hours earlier than at present by A/S escort 2, 3. Arrangements for informing convoys. 4. A.M.C. ocean escorts which at present part company 24 hours before R.V. will thus leave at new R.V. but should not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 1707/7)

~~SECRET~~
WARWICK CASTLE
DUCHESS OF YORK
(See 6/1 - p. 192.)

Admty's 2202/31 (RAMILLIES to escort ~~SS GEORGIE and WARWICK CASTLE~~ DUCHESS OF YORK) A/S escort D. 5 in KELLY, KELVIN, KIPLING, PUNJABI. (C. in C., W.A., 1815/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock RAMILLIES)

Convoy Cycle Escort Groups

Your 1916/4 and 2232/4. The convoy Cycle in force previous to 3/1 was found in practice to give the eight Escort Groups employed on Mercantile Convoys inadequate harbour-time for exercises and maintenance. The new Cycle introduced remedied this defect, but the latest arrangements will impose more strain than ever on escorts. Explanation.

Two more Escort Groups are therefore required for the new schemes, but it is impracticable with present resources to form more than one. I propose to proceed now with the formation of this extra Group, and request that with this end in view DOUGLAS and KEPPEL may join this Command as soon as possible. (C. in C., W.A., 1857/7 to Admty.)

BEAVERHILL.

Cancel my 1242/7. Route. (Adty. 1617/7).
N.T. in W.D.

/S.L. 60.....

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

O.B. 270
O.B. 272

My 0945/1 (0945/6 ? SURPRISE unable to sail to act as A/S escort to O.B. 270) Intend sailing SURPRISE as additional A/S escort for O.B. 272 leaving Clyde 10/1 and parting company in 52° 45' N., 25° 00' W., to proceed to Freetown calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1127/7 to C. in C., S.A.)

O.B. 272. 1030 on 10/1 (route)
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1504/7 to Admty.)

In order that local escorts may continue further to the westward with ocean convoys and consequently meet homeward bound convoys further westward than heretofore, the sailing dates of all outward convoys commencing with O.B. 272 are to be one day earlier than as scheduled in existing programme. (D.T.D. 2105/7)

H.4.102

List. (S.C. No Halifax 1209/7)

O.G. 49

CRISPIN leaves Clyde a.m./8 in convoy
O.G. 49. (F.O.C.N.P. 1210/7 to CRISPIN)

Sailed ANTHONY, ROCHESTER, escorting O.G. 49
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1710/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

O.G. Convoys.

Ships in O.G. Convoys which are bound for South Atlantic ports are to be detached from convoy at the Commodore's discretion when south of 45° N.

S.L.S. 59

Arrived LIBERIAN, ROD EL FARAG, (Eg.)
DAYROSE, LLANCARVAN, (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1428/7)
EX BIDDLESTONE

Estimated
Positions
W.N. 65
H.X. 99
O.B. 269

Position estimated at 2000/7/1. W.N. 65
058° 20' N., 005° 42' W., E.N. 52 058° 18' N
005° 54' W., ST MAGNUS East of Fair Island
bound for Aberdeen H.X. 99 060° 05' N., 013°
30' W., O.B. 269 unescorted 061° 30' N.,
019° 00' W., WOLFE, CILICIA approaching
Reykjavik and B.P. 42 respectively. KELLY
leaves Scapa for Greenock 1900. (A.C.O.S.
1531/7)

O.G.0.49

0400/6/1. Escort HEATHER. (N.C.S.O. Oban
1303/7 to C. in C., W.A..)

/S.L. 60.....

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.

- S.L. 60 Meet S.L. 60 31 ships unescorted 1000/9
068^a 53° 35' N., 16° 00' W., 068° 8 knots
then through 54° 15' N., 13° 20' W., 55°
55' N., 10° 00' W., Split in 55° 55' N.,
08° 30' W.
B. R/A Cochrane in CASTALWA for Manchester
C. Route K
D. 56° 05' N., 06° 38' W.
56° 16' N., 05° 48' W.
56° 22' N., 05° 49' W. thence to
anchorage in Lynn of Lorne North of Black
Island. (C. in C., W.A., 0700/7 to ABERDEEN
WITCH, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA,
PERIWINKLE, GARDENIA.)
- W.N. 66 My 1657/4. Retard sailing zero 25 hours
owing to fog. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0953/7)
- O.M. 271 1715/8 ROSEMARY. Eleven. (N.C.S.O. Milford
Haven 1000/7)
- W.N. 66 W.N. 66 cancel my 1631/7. W.N. Convoys now
reverting to old route as used previous
to W.N. 63. Amended pre-sailing telegram
for W.N. 66 as follows. (N.C.S.O. Sub-
Office Greenock, 1639/7 to C. in C., W.A.)
- F.S. 79 F.S. 79 expected time of arrival Nore Light
vessel 1400. Reference 0400 from H.M.S.
VIVIEN all 17 survivors (Ex SS H.H. PETERSEN)
are in VIVIEN, no casualties. (WALLACE, 1015/
7 to C. in C., Nore)
- F.S. 79 F.S. 79 arrived. Non arrivals:-
KOLSDAL and WESTOWN reported put into Tyne.
no trace PHEACIAN reported returned to Tees.
H.H. PETERSEN reported sunk.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 2359/7 to C. in C., Nore)

/F.N., F.S.....

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

F.N.,
F.S. Convoys

Under the present limitations of sailing imposed by dark mornings, minesweeping requirements and contrary winds, there is a risk of stragglers from F.N. convoys, particularly large slow F.N. convoys, being south of N. 5 buoy when the F.S. convoy begins to pass this position. Accordingly:- F.S. should not pass No 5 buoy ahead of time and F.N. and F.S. should keep each other informed when either convoy is not on timetable.

N.C.S.O's are requested to warn masters of the possibility of stragglers being encountered on opposite course between No 5 Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1143/7 to R.E.F. 29)

F.N. 79
F.N. 80

My 2155/3. Amend. Escorts for F.N. 79 WESTON, VIMIERA, for F.N. 80 VERSATILE, GARTH. (C. in C., Rosyth 1147/7)

F.S. 83

My 1745. SOUTHDOWN is now to escort MANCHESTER CITY both vessels sailing independently of F.S. 83 and proceeding p.m. today as necessary to clear the Forth defences in daylight and to arrive off T.2 buoy Tyne at 0900 tomorrow, where tug WATERMEYER will be available to assume escort and attend on MANCHESTER CITY SOUTHDOWN is subsequently to proceed to Harwich but is not to part company until contact is established with WATERMEYER. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1140/7)

Sailed 2300/7. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2321/7)

F.N. and F.S.
Convoys

Movements to 1200/8.

F.N. 77 due Flamborough Head 1900/7.

F.S. 79 arrives Southend 1600/7.

F.S. 81 due Flamborough Head 0330/8 (sailed Tyne 1500 (F.O.i/c Tyne, 1501/7) Destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1733/7)

F.S. 82 due Flamborough Head 1200/8 (Sailed Methil 1530/7. 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1617/7) Destinations of all ships (F.O.i/c Tyne, 1721/7)

F.N. 78 sails Southend 0830/8.

(C. in C., Nore, 1200/7)

/F.N. 78.....

War Diary7.1.1941
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.

F.N. 78

Convoy F.N. 78 weighs 0930/8 ships to date 17. 2 A/S Trawlers join as additional escorts from Harwich. GUILLEMOT escorting S/M H. 44 leaves Sheerness 0900/8 for Blyth. (C. in C., Nore. 2050/7 to WALLACE, VIVIEM)

H.X. 103
S.C. 19

Your 2251/6 concur but consider it inadvisable for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed East of about $027^{\circ} 00' W.$, to avoid U-Boat area and from fuel consideration. If therefore ORONTES is likely to be delayed it would seem preferable for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to escort H.X. 103. Use of ROYAL SOVEREIGN as close escort for one of these convoys will release an A.M.C. for S.C. 19. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1036/7 to Admty.)

H.X. 99

710. From next position after rendezvous H.X. 99 steer to a point $356^{\circ} 244$ miles from splitting point thence to splitting point. U-Boat estimated near $59^{\circ} 14' N.$, $12^{\circ} 43' W.$ (C. in C., W.A., 1105/7, to V.A. Parker, PENRITH CASTLE)

To avoid U-Boat estimated to be near $59^{\circ} 14' N.$, $12^{\circ} 43' W.$, amend route for H.X. 99. From $60^{\circ} 05' N.$, $15^{\circ} 00' W.$,
 $60^{\circ} 05' N.$, $09^{\circ} 30' W.$, Split in:-
 $56^{\circ} 00' N.$, $09^{\circ} 00' W.$,

Commodore has been informed separately but on making contact confirm that Commodore possesses above route. (C. in C., W.A., 1113/7 to LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, ANEMONE)

In view of ANEMONE sighting submarine intend rejoining convoy. Passed near position reported by EMPIRE THUNDER and found only three abandoned boats belonging to her. (SHIKARI, 1223/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.N. 64

Arrived 1100/7 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1126/7)

/O.B. 270.....

War Diary7.1.1941
TuesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys- Contd.

- S.L. 60. ESPERANCE BAY is to leave S.L. 60 at 2000 tonight and proceed to Newcastle-on-Tyne. Route $56^{\circ} 50' N.$, $18^{\circ} 00' W.$, 180° Barra Head 10 miles then through Minches using Eilean Troddy passage keeping south and east of a line joining and following positions:- $56^{\circ} 47' N.$, $07^{\circ} 13' W.$, $57^{\circ} 40' N.$, $06^{\circ} 49' W.$, $57^{\circ} 57' N.$, $06^{\circ} 00' W.$, $58^{\circ} 38' N.$, $05^{\circ} 38' W.$, then through $58^{\circ} 44' N.$, $05^{\circ} 12' W.$, thence through Pentland Firth keeping south of a line $58^{\circ} 43' N.$, $03^{\circ} 23' W.$, Swona Lighthouse $58^{\circ} 39' N.$, $02^{\circ} 53' W.$, (C. in C., W.A., 1345/7 to C. in C., Rosyth etc.,)
- S.C. 18 Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier one days run to westward of R.V. on route already ordered. LACONIA turn round at R.V. and not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 1658/7 to LACONIA)
- W.N. 65 W.N. 65 in position $57^{\circ} 39' N.$, $06^{\circ} 35' W.$, at 1300. (A.C.O.S. 1535/7 to Admty.)
- W.N. 67 Cancel my 1203/7 and substitute 2015/9. 15 ships. Route. Code "Rusty" (N.C.S.O. Glyde 1659/7)
- E.N. 51 Arrived less GIRONDE (N.C.S.O. Oban 1726/7)
- E.N. 53 List with destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil 2010/7) 1830/7. HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, FOWEY. 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1957/7)
- W.N. 66 My 1301/6. Cancel second sentence and substitute after passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N. 66 due Duncansby Head 1700/10 (C. in C., Rosyth 2129/7 to FOWEY).

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B

VANSITTART and four ships of Convoy W.S. 5B (b) sailed from Barry Roads. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0500/7)

→ W.S. 5 B Avonmouth section 0550/7 escorted by VANSITTART and HINIESTA. 4 sailed. (N.C.S.O. Avonmouth 0615/7)

There has been fog in Clyde area for the past few days which persists. 5 ships of W.S. 5 B are still up river. If the weather does not improve Clyde portion of Convoy will be unable to sail. Further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0901/7 to Admty.)

My 2340/31. Southern route is to be taken. Omit position B two. (D.O.D. (H) 1012/7 to C. in C., W.A. and F.O.'s and N.C.S.O's Command)

My 0901/7, fog still persists. Clyde portion will be unable to sail today, Tuesday. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1147/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

J14, J15, J17, H 28 and J 33 fog bound at Glasgow. Very doubtful whether any movement possible today as first ship must move not later than 1500 on account of tide. If no movement today none possible until a.m. 9/1 owing to times of high water on 8/1. Further report will be made at 1500. (D.S.T.O Glasgow, 1250/7 to Admty.)

Clyde portion of W.S. 5 B is delayed by fog. (11) Sail Liverpool portion to Moelfre Bay. Arrange A/S and fighter protection. (C. in C., W.A., 1257/to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

→ Convoy W.S. 5 B delayed. VANSITTART take Bristol Channel ships to Belfast. N.O.I.C. Belfast sail LINCOLN and VANSITTART with Bristol Channel ships to R/V which will be signalled by N.O.I.C. Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A., 1301/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast VANSITTART)

/AUSTRALIA.....

War Diary

7.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B-
Contd.

AUSTRALIA and destroyer escort are to proceed to Moelfre Bay, Anglesey to await further orders, leaving harbour today as previously arranged. AUSTRALIA and convoy anchor destroyer escort carry out close A/S patrol. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1303/7 to AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WITHERINGTON

Clyde portion of Convoy is delayed by fog. Sailing of Convoy is therefore postponed 24 hours and all times are to be amended accordingly.

C. in C., W.A. is requested: (a) to hold or deflect other portions of Convoy as necessary: (b) to issue necessary instructions to KENYA and ARGUS. (D.O.D. (H) 1456/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1250/7. (J14, J15, J 17, H28, J33 fogbound at Glasgow) No movement possible today. Pilot Master reports earliest possible time for movement of first ship will be 0730/9/1. (D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 1500/7)

Sailed AUSTRALIA, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WITHERINGTON escorting W.S. 5 B to anchor Moelfre Bay await instructions. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1755/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Reference 1301/7 from C. in C., W.A., E.T.A. 038 degrees New Island Light 1.7 miles 0900/8 WINCHESTER CASTLE, BORDE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MONARCH OF BERMUDA in company. Request berths on arrival. VANSITTART requires 160 tons of oil fuel. (VANSITTART, 1750/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

If weather is clear sufficiently request you will sail either NAIAD or PHOEBE to provide A/A protection to Liverpool portion of W.S. 5 B anchoring Moelfre Bay. (C. in C., W.A., 1915/7 to F.O.Greenock)

My 1456/7. Convoy is further delayed. C. in C., W.A. requested to (a) sail convoy when fog permits. (b) amend programme as requisite. (c) inform all necessary authorities. (D.O.D. (H) 2344/7 to C. in C W.A.)

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operating Against Vichy French.

Repatriation
of French.

Your 1234 4/and my 1253/ Portuguese ship GUINE after disembarking French at Casablanca and remaining passengers at Villa Rea de Santo Antonio is available. Should arrive Gibraltar 12/1. Accommodation. Cost. Request immediate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1128/7.)

Your 1128/7. Admiralty investigating. Another possibility. You will be informed later if Portuguese ship GUINE required. Meanwhile report any reduction in high charges quoted. (DEWD. 2005/7.)

French
Convoys.
(intercepted.)

Mo12-15/41.

Request following information regarding five French ships CHARLES PLUMIER, L'ORAGE, AVANT GARDE, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SENATEUR DUHAMEL.

(A) Which of these ships could be manned by Free French elements among crews sufficiently for passage to U.K. with armed guards. (B) Vichy members of crews. (i) Are they still on board or have they been sent to France. (ii) If still at Gibraltar total number (officers and men).

2. C.C.S.O.'s 1630/4/12. Report speed of LES GEMEAUX on auxiliary engine in present state of ship's bottom also probable speed and endurance with clean bottom.

3. Speed of SALLY MAERSK in present condition and whether possible to dock for bottom cleaning in near future if required. (D.E.W.D. 1230/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1657. If tanker is being escorted by French destroyer she is not to be interfered with and H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH is to proceed to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2001/7 to SCARBOROUGH.)

See also next page

French warships
leave Beirut.

Beirut reports that all French warships left Beirut a.m. today proceeding Northwards. They are believed to consist of light cruisers VALMY and GUEPARD two sloops, Netlayer, GLADIATEUR and four submarines. D.N.A. Athens advised. (C.O.I.S. 2243/7).

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Excess".

→ Your 2350/6 re W.S.5.B, DUNCAN and all destroyers of 8th and 13th destroyer flotillas including JAGUAR have sailed for operation "~~Excess~~" with exception of WISHART escorting ARGUS and KENYA. WISHART is not due Gibraltar till 10/1 S.O. Force H has only eleven destroyers in company which barely meets (correct group) requirements. Have therefore no destroyers available for this duty. (F.O.C.N.A. 1026/7, to Admty.)

S/M's.

Estimated position of S/M's at 0800/8 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1444/7.)

Suspicious.
tanker off
Cape Sinos.

A large suspicious tanker was sighted 1310/7 off Cape Sinos course Southerly in territorial waters. Description. Speed. Vessel cannot be identified. LOCH OSKAIG in touch but unable to overhaul. SCARBOROUGH and trawlers of Western Patrol instructed to investigate and board if encountered clear of territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708/7.) *See previous page*

Escort for
MONARCH
OF BERMUDA
and CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

→ Cancel my 2350/6. (D.O.D.(F) 1708/7. to (F.O.C.N.A.) *See p. 191*

S/M.
depot ship
for ~~fit~~.

I consider it is essential that a submarine depot ship should be based at Gibraltar as soon as possible to act as depot ship for 8th S/M F for submarines on passage through Gibraltar and for S/M's on surface carrying out patrols in Western Mediterranean from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1712/7.)

My 2229/4, Freightship MATHURA sailed from Swansea 1/1. (D. of S.T. 1747/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.SONITA.

My 1732/ re overdue Shipping, Panamanian BONITA arrived St. Michaels Azores 27/12. (806) Freetown 0752/7.)

ITAPE.
Incident.

Re. Adty. 1824/18/12/40. CARNARVON CASTLE'S report. (C. in C. S.A. 0859. N/7.)

MENDOZA.
(French.)

MENDOZA loading meat. Has 990 tons on board: stated ship will sail 8/11 B.I. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1025/7 to R.A.S.A.D. etc.)

Sailings
from Plate
ports.

Delay sailings for Freetown and U.K. of ships less than eleven knots speed from p.m./7, and less than 12 knots from p.m./8. It is intended to sail all ships available in a group about 12/1. Further instructions will be sent. (C. in C.S.A. 1055N/7 to N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, N.C.S.O. Monte Video.)

My 1055/ All ships available from River Plate ports are to be routed and sailed as follows. Object to keep ships in a group as far as possible through this area. Cover will be provided for group as a whole. Report number of ships likely to be available and probable dates of sailing. (C. in C. S.A. 1757N/7.)

Orders to
DEVONSHIRE,
Convoy.
W.S.5.A.

My 1247/5, DEVONSHIRE is to rendezvous with convoy at 0800/10 in position 004° 00' 010° 22' W. Convoy sails Freetown 1200/8 to position 000° 40' S 005° 20' W, speed of advance 10½ knots escorted by HAWKINS. Force K is to cover till rendezvous then proceed through H 35 H 34 I 34. FURIOUS escorted by NEPTUNE and DELHI is operating off Takoradi till 11th. (C. in C. S.A. 1115N/7. to DEVONSHIRE.)

S.S. KOLL ~~overdue.~~
overdue.

Overdue shipping, Norwegian ship KOLL. *Arrive* ~~ARRUDA~~ departure 9/12 due Buenos Aires 29/12 has not arrived. (S. O. (1) Freetown 1204/7.)

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

S.S. KING
ARTHUR.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 0946/31/12.
(50(1) Capetown 1240B/6.)

Suspicious
ship sighted
by ROWANBANK.

Master of British ship ROWANBANK reports sighting suspicious ship 6 miles N.E. (N) position $023^{\circ} 04' 011^{\circ} 17'$ at 1910 G.M.T./21/12. Request Master of British ship GLENAFFARIC may be asked whether his was ship sighted. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1318/7. to S.O.(1) Colombo.)

? Raider.

U.S. ALGIC reported by W/T sighting on 30/12 in $025^{\circ} 001^{\circ}$ "Large white painted green similar to tanker surrounded by four small craft apparently submarines heading south east". This was at first identified here as Norwegian whale ship TERJE VIKEN expected here by agents, but since state that this ship anchored Clyde in damaged condition. Ship might be German whale ship UNITAS last heard of at Hamburg or possibly disguised GRAF ZEPPLIN which left Kiel between 3rd and 15th July and has not apparently been located since. I have asked Trinidad for full report on arrival of ALGIC there. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1530/7.)
? Group omitted.

Capacity of
Port to
handle
transports.

Your 0030/6 (B). Maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in 48 hours. Nine or possibly ten ships during a stay of 48 hours at Capetown. N.O. in Charge Durban is replying to para.(C) direct. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1538/7 to Adty.)

Convoy.
W.S.5.A.
bunkering.

Your 1954/30/12, One Tanker in addition to shore stocks of oil fuel will be required to assist in fuelling convoy at Durban. Request one may be detailed and name reported. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1549/7. to D. of S.T.)

7. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

F.A.A.
Stores.

South Atlantic Contd.
A.T. 1614/5. Fleet Air Arm Stores referred to are for aircraft of FORMIDABLE and not for Trinidad. (D.O.D.(F) 1644/7. to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoy
W.S.5A
Escort.

HAWKINS is to proceed as ordered. S.O. Force "K" after Convoy W S 5A, has sailed and is to escort Convoy under orders H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, after rendezvous on 10/1 to Durban. SHROPSHIRE will probably relieve DEVONSHIRE near Cape, SHROPSHIRE and HAWKINS being Convoy escort to Aden. (C. in C.S.A. 1845N/7 to HAWKINS.)

Operation
"Monsoon."
(probably improvised) M03422/41

A.C.N.S.(F) 2147/7 see Operations Volume.

Force K.
Sweep.

Re. Adty. 0120/6. List with positions and routes of southbound ships south of 20° N bound for Plate and Cape. (D.T.D. 2231/7 to C. in C. S.A., 80 Force K, R.A.S.A.D.)

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Aircraft
Reinforcements

Chiefs of Staff No 45 to C. in C's Med and M.E., (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1153/7)
See Mediterranean Vol.

Air Report
Tripoli
Attacked 6/1.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. Weather conditions unsuitable Naples Taranto and Sicilian objectives. Therefore only 6 Wellingtons operated night 6/1 against Tripoli in order to allow 10 for attack night 7/1 on Naples weather permitting. Naples with very large concentration of naval and merchant shipping as reported in my "I" 12 6/1 presents priority target. Last night's attack on Tripoli lasted from 1755 to 1910. Total weight of bombs released 24,000 lbs G.P. Many sticks dropped among M/V's in centre of harbour causing explosions and cloud of smoke. Direct hit amidships on 1 large M/V followed by explosion. Probable hit on smaller cargo ship. A.A. fairly accurate, some from 2 stationary ships half mile north of harbour probably destroyers. (H.Q., R.A.F. Med., 0730/7)

U/B's in
Gulf of Bomba

Aircraft reconnaissance report enemy submarines in anchorage in South of Gulf of Bomba, 5/1. (Capt. S.1. 0903/7, to ROVER)

Operation
M.C. 4.

Provisional plan of operations. (C. in C., Med. 1157/7) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air
Operations

A. 814. 7/1 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Operational Summary No 211 up to 1200 hrs. 7.1.41.
1. Egypt. Dusk 5/1. 4 Blenheims dropped 6,600 lbs L.G. bombs on Tobruk. Night 5th/6th Jan 2 Blenheims bombed Tobruk. Day 6/1 3 Blenheims bombed Marwuba. 3 Blenheims dropped 5,600 lbs of bombs on Derna results unobserved owing to interception by enemy fighters. 11 Blenheims attacked Tobruk some bombs falling on harbour ~~while others~~ while others fell on town near barracks. Single Blenheims bombed Gazela, El Adem and Derna landing grounds, results unobserved owing to cloud.

/3 Blenheims.....

War Diary7.1.1941
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanAir
Operations-Contd.

3 Blenheims abandoned attack on Appollonia owing to interception by fighters. All aircraft returned safely from above operations. Hurricanes maintained patrols throughout day between Bahdiab and Tobruk destroying one and probably two aircraft and damaged two. Australian Gladiators patrolled over Bardia area to cover our troops against enemy air attack.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1249/7)

A. 814 7/1 X 8481. H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.
Operational Summary No 211, up to 1200 hours
7.1.41. Part 2.

Reconnaissance reported on movements on roads and tracks between Cirene and Tobruk 10 ships between 3,000 and 5,000 tons in Benghazi Harbour. 1 ship 5,000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers approaching harbour. Night 6-7/1. 8 Wellingtons dropped 25840 lbs of bombs on Tobruk hitting barracks, stores sheds and M.T. vehicle park with resulting large fires which were visible at a distance of 30 miles. Intense and accurate A.A. fire encountered. All aircraft returned safely. M.E. report that our troops have occupied El Adem and encircled Tobruk defences. 40 unserviceable aircraft abandoned by enemy captured on El Adem landing ground.

2. Greece. Day 6/1. 9 Blenheims dropped 9,900 lbs of bombs on Valona hitting large buildings south of barracks and starting a number of fires. Other bombs hit buildings near jetty. Blenheims encountered intense and accurate A.A. fire and were intercepted over target by 6 G.50's. 2 Blenheims failed to return. 2 other Blenheims damaged. 3 Blenheims despatched to attack 5 enemy destroyers reported shelling Himaba failed to locate target and returned with bombs. 1 Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

3. Sudan. Day 6/1. 3 Blenheims bombed Burye details of damage being unobserved owing to poor visibility.

/4. KENYA.....

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-

Air
Operations-Contd

4. Kenya. Day 6/1. 3 Blenheims S.A.A.F. patrolled from Mombasa and endeavoured to locate our minesweepers operating between Manya Channel and Lindi. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1257/7)

I. 15 7/1. Most Secret Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/7. All times G.M.T. 1345 to 1355 small formation of enemy aircraft approached Island from North but turned back short of Grand Harbour. 4 Hurricanes up. No naval or military items. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1710/7)

A 369 7/1. Daily Summary Operations 2 routine A/S patrols. 3 A/S patrols to East for H.M. Ships. Area covered Spartel to 2° West. (200 Group 1725/7)

15 inch
Bombarding
Ammunition

Present state of 15 inch bombarding ammunition. Request all that can be spared from U.K. may be sent at next direct opportunity. H.E. much preferred if available as some blinds have been reported with C.P.O. shell in soft sand. (C. in C., Med., 1345/6 to Admty.)

Information
for OSIRIS

London Flying Boats may be patrolling to Meridian 003° West. Trawler patrolling in vicinity 036° 00' N., 005° 10' W. (Capt. S (1) 1440/7 to OSIRIS)

TRUANT

Orders (Capt. (S) 1 1901/7)

Convoy
M.W. 5½

Convoy M.W. 5½ comprising H.M.S. BRECONSHIRE and SS CLAN MACAULAY sailed 1400/7 due Malta 0800/10. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1706/7)

Cooperation
with 13th Corps

My 1145/4. Position of our own troops precluding further bombardment of Bardia after 1600/3 TERROR and APHIS returned to Alexandria. LADYBIRD and GNAT remain at Sollum. Maintenance of supplies by sea to Sollum proceeding. Prisoners ferry service restarted 4/1. Tug(s) lighter(s) and motor boat(s) taken to Sollum in CINGALESE PRICE. Bombing and torpedo bombing attacks continue but no damage to date. Supply base being established at Bardia. (C. in C., Med. 1839/7)

/North

War Diary7.1.1941
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth African Coastal Route

Ref. memorandum S.O.O. 4 para 2 to submarines only latest information indicates North African Coastal route should be amended as follows- (Capt. (S) 1. 1911/7 to ROVER, TETRARCH)

East IndiesRANCHI to escort BATTERY

Hired Transport BATTERY with 400 R.W.A.F.F. Left Mombasa 0300Z/5 for Capetown speed of advance $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots route (a) $010^{\circ} 40' S$ $041^{\circ} 00' E$. (b) (group omitted) $00' 041^{\circ} 25'$ (c) $034^{\circ} 45' 029^{\circ} 30'$ (d) $037^{\circ} 10' 019^{\circ} 20'$. (ii) Proceed forthwith to join BATTERY and escort her to 030° south and then resume patrol. (iii) If contact A made by dark 7th/1 proceed 17 knots along BATTERY'S route to 030° south giving cover. (C. in C., E.I., 0506Z/7 to RANCHI)

Orders for CAPETOWN

CAPETOWN is to leave Trincomalee 0330Z/8 and proceed at 12 knots to position (a) $005^{\circ} N.$, $080^{\circ} E.$, and patrol between this position and position (b) $001^{\circ} 30' N.$, $083^{\circ} E.$

(ii) CAPETOWN is to leave patrol line so as to reach position (c) $004^{\circ} 10' N.$, $082^{\circ} 20' E.$, at 0630Z/11 and from this position is to proceed at 15 knots on course for Trincomalee until darkness 11/1 and then return at 12 knots to patrol line passing through position. (d) $005^{\circ} N.$, $084^{\circ} E.$

(iii) CAPETOWN is to arrive Colombo 1000Z/13. (C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/7)

Inquiry re Personnel Ships

G.O.C. India asks what ships with Military personnel are proceeding India during January and February. (D.S.T.D. India, 1030/7)

CERES COLOMBO

CERES is to leave Mombasa a.m./8 and proceed patrol off Kismayu. COLOMBO is to leave patrol so as to arrive Mombasa a.m. /9. (C. in C., E.I., 1040Z/7)

/Orders for....

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Orders for
HECTOR

HECTOR is to leave Colombo 0030Z/9 and proceed on patrol passing through position (a) 002° N., 076° 30' E., and (b) 006° 30' N 083° 30' E., and arrive at position (c) 008° 40' N., 081° 32' (?) E., at 0030Z/12.

(ii) HECTOR is then to patrol off Trincomalee and will be required to give cover to transports proceeding from Trincomalee to Colombo from 12 to 15 January. Further signal will be made giving times of departure of transports. (C. in C., E.I., 1146Z/7 to HECTOR)

M/S Group 142

Ships of M/S Group 142 are to be sailed 9/1 for Seychelles where they will replenish.

(ii) It is intended they shall subsequently proceed from Seychelles to Aden direct.

(iii) Discuss with S.O.Group and confirm passage from Seychelles to Aden can be done without refuelling or requiring water.

(C. in C., E.I., 1216Z/7 to N.O.i/c Kilindini)

Relief of
DEVONSHIRE
by SHROPSHIRE

Re Admty. 2326/5 (i) This will be arranged.

(ii) C. in C., S.A. is requested to signal rendezvous as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I., 1218Z/7 to Admty.)

Re report
German U-Boats
and
Aircraft Carrier
to operate in
Indian Ocean

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0710/6. Unlikely Germany could spare 500 ton U/Boats from the Atlantic Areas. 200 ton U/Boats with the armament detailed do not exist.

GRAF ZEPPELIN is believed to be in the Baltic and there is no evidence that she is yet operating.

The whole report is graded E.5. and is similar to others put about by Germans in South America in 1939.

(D.D.I.C., 2229/7)

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ABERDARE
HARROW.

Adty. 1807/1. Owing to defects ships will not be able to sail till middle of February.
(C. in C. China 0405/7).

Raider.

Your 0650/23/12/40 Master reports Italian sighted in eight degrees (Corrupt Group) corresponds exactly with Raider ATLANTIS except forward ventilators closer to funnel. INGE MAERSK altered course away and stranger passed six miles distance course 225° 12 knots.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0750Z/7 to CinC EI)

U.S.
Mediation
between
Thailand
and Indo-
China.

Proposing a mediator
(C. in C. China 0407Z/7).

Air Bases.

Admiralty - AirMinistry Policy
(Adty 1150/7 to C. in C. China)
See Operations volume.
(Lion copy only);

TEIY
MARU.

Reported to have left ^{Kobe} Keln 2/1
(C.O.S. Singapore 1146Z/7)

LYEEMUN.
*LYEEMOON

Your 0455/6. *LYEEMUN should be requisitioned by local government under its own powers.
(D.T.D. 1956/7 to Cdre. Hong Kong).

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

FORT ROYAL
(French)

Following from Navy Dept. From
Martinique: FORT ROYAL sailed for
Speke Point a Pitre 2/1.
(N.A. Washington 1207/7).

Arrived Martinique from Pointe a
Pitre 5/1
(B.N.A. Washington 1815/7).

Convoy
H.X. 102.

List (S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S. 1209/7).

SKRTL ?

Your 1615/12 Norwegian SKRTL has
not arrived Sydney.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 11?3/7).

Halifax
Escort
Force and
N.P.

It has been approved in principle
to combine the force available for
duty with the Halifax Escort Force
with those required for the Denmark
Straits area of the Northern Patrol.

2. It is intended, therefore, to
increase the strength of the Halifax
Escort Force by seven A.M.C's. This
should enable two to be always on patrol
in the Denmark Straits. Fuelling
and watering facilities will be
provided at Hvalfiord.

3. Request you will report whether
you anticipate any difficulties in
basing and maintaining those
additional ships at Halifax.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1301/7 to R.A.3.B.S.).

PORTLAND
OSORNO
ORDUNA.

My Talcahuano agent reports he thinks
PORTLAND will sail shortly to draw
PRINCE ROBERT from her support
escort duty leaving way clear for
German ship OSORNO follow ORDUNA
and possibly attack.

If Chilean Navy continues escort
beyond distance offered it will be
necessary to offer to replenish
oil consumed. ORDUNA due to sail
1600 G.M.T. January 8th. Please
instruct me if Chilean Navy be
requested to extend escort Northward.
(N.A. Valparaiso 2130/7 to C. in C.AWI).

/S.S. BURY.....

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.S. BURY
in distress.

Trinidad reports following received by British Ship KHETI in Merchant Navy Code 1500/25/12 begins. 044°N. 024° 32'W. require assistance as soon as possible to stand by me immediately ZSEL ends. KHETI arrived Trinidad today. ZSEL is secret call sign for British ship BURY.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica. 2301/7).

Australia.

21st M/S F. and
22nd M/S F.

Composition (A.C.N.B. 1524/7).

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KULMERLAND.

My 0501/5/12 re. whereabouts of German ships BURGENLAND, AESSBERGER and ERMLAND. Master of KUMSANG which anchored alongside German ship at Kobe 4th January states ship named KULMERLAND present. A.N.A. now at Kobe states her form is considerably different from ship properly so named. TEIYO MARU reported to have left 2/1. (C.O.S. Singapore 1146Z/7).

PORTLAND
FRANKFURT

Following from Navy Department. From Santiago De Chile 4/1. PORTLAND and FRANKFURT loading concentrates, cereals and legumes for Germany at Talcahuano. (N.A. Washington 1834/7).

PORTLAND
OSORNO.

N.A. Valparaiso 2130/7 See A.W.I.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

N.A. Buenos Aires 1025/7 (See South Atlantic).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO.

Departures January 6/1 LELLO for Genoa. (Barcelona 1728/7).

GERARCHIA.

Following from British Consul St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) via Sierra Leone. GERARCHIA from San Nicolau arrived St. Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) this morning. Was seen at sea without (corrupt group) flying no flag. (corrupt group) grey upper works black hull. 1401/5 ends. (S.O.(I) Gib. 2359/7 to Adty).

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE THUNDER
(Torpedoed 6/1)

Mobil 8/41.

Course Cape Wrath 2400 (?) at 0313 have picked up 30 survivors EMPIRE THUNDER 2 injured. Returning Oban via Stornoway. (KINGSTON ONYX 0325/7)

Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1108/7 to SALVONIA)

Your 1049/7. EMPIRE THUNDER sank 059° 14' N 012° 43' W., at 1045 B.S.T. 30 survivors including Master taken from 3 boats which have been cast adrift. Fourth boat sunk by torpedo 9 missing. (KINGSTON ONYX, 1210/7 to C. in C., W.A. etc.)

Overtaken Boat
and Raft Sighted

Patrol A/C from Stornoway reports sighting overturned boat in position 59° 47' N., 06° 25' W., and raft in position 59° 52' N 06° 15' W., at 1500. No sign of life. (A.C.O.S. 1942/7)

Submarines Reported

0917

One small fast ship bearing 056° 5 miles course 325° suspect submarine. (Fair Isle 0917/7 to A.C.O.S. R. to V.A. (S))

0943

Your 0943/7 (re suspected submarine) one Walrus being despatched from Sollum Voe (C. in C., Rosyth 1052/7 to A.C.O.S.)

1107

1 Submarine 60° 15' N., 14° 33' W., (ANEMONE 1107/7) *See also next page.*

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: 1 in area to Eastward of Cape de Verde Islands.

1 may be in about 54 N., 23 W., homeward bound.

3 in N.W. Approaches. They are probably between 54° and 56° N., and West of 13° W.

German: 1 about 37° N., 18° W., bound for Lorient.

1 about 35 N., 12 W., outward bound
1 was in 54° 50' N., 24° W at 1201/6 possibly moving northwards.

1 probably about 60° N.m 20° W.

2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches.

They are probably to N. or N.E. of Rockall (D.D.I.C., 1239/7)

War Diary

7.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By ANEMONE

No 1599/41.

C. in C., W.A., 1603. ANEMONE's 1107 position intended as 060° 12' N., 015° 27' W Sighted submarine on the surface possible sunk 4th attack when hydrophone effect ceased and air bubbles observed. 38th and last depth charge 1522 no contact there after. Took over from ANEMONE 1830 in position observed at 2000 as 60 27 14 55 who joined convoy then 12 miles 160° proceeding 060° 04' 009° 30' thence to separate otherwise unescorted 19 ships not present CAPE NELSON, EASTERN STAR, TENERIFFE. Trawler lost or unable to join me before dark given data to join convoy. Am investigating many streaks thin or much dispersed oil to windward no other evidence night and gusty visibility maximum asdic conditions perfect. Intend searching until 1107/8. (LA MALOUINE 2359/7)

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Home Commands.

Western
Channel
Patrol.

KASHMIR and JERSEY last night patrolled between the Start and the Lizard, to cover shipping in the Channel.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. CLYTONEUS (6278 tons) was bombed this forenoon in the N.W. Approaches and survivors state she was sunk.

Mining.

Operations.
P.W.1.

C.in C. Nore reported this operation completed at 1440 today (minelaying in Straits of Dover by M.T.B's). It is considered the operation was unobserved.

B.S.48.

Capt. ~~D.P.S.~~²⁰ reported this operation completed at 1601 today (minelaying in E. Coast War Channel).

Z.M.E.12.

ADVENTURE laid mines at the entrance to St. George's Channel before midnight 8/9.

STRATHEARN

Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was blown up today by a mine in the Thames Estuary. She was not in the swept channel.

One mine was exploded off Spurn Point.

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan coast and south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping today.

Attack on Naples.

Wellington bombers from Malta attacked Naples this evening. One stick of bombs was seen to drop on or very near the stern of LITTORIO battleship and others on port in stations, among a group of large merchant ships, and the railway station.

(Note. Photographic R.C. of Naples 10/1 showed a ZARA cruiser where LITTORIO was lying 8/1, and no battleships were seen.)

Shipping in Palermo harbour was also attacked.

/ Last night ..

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

247

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Last night, one Wellington bombed
Benghazi harbour.

East Indies.

D/F bearings indicate the possibility
of a German surface unit being at
Mogadishu. No shipping was seen there
on 5/1, but CERES will reconnoitre
on 10/1.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

U.P. Weapons
in Yantlet
Channel,
against
Minelaying A/C.

Adty. 1856/22 and Nore 7633/28S. T./40 of 25/12/40. In light of above Letter agree that proposal is impracticable. (D. of L.D. 0033/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

Meeting with
Prime Minister
10/1.

Asking him or his representative to attend Preliminary Meeting of Naval C's in C. at Adty. at 1600/9. (1st. S.L. 1213/8 to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command.) C. in C.C.C. will attend in person. (H.Q.C.C. 1645/8 to 1st. S.L.)

EREBUS and
Hatston.

Adty. 1340/5. If no objection to awaiting suitable weather it will not be necessary for EREBUS to proceed to Scapa; and, if this approved, request Adty. 2058/6 ordering Swordfish A/C to Hatston may be cancelled. (C. in C. Nore 1230/8 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 1130/8. (D.C. 1207/8.) At 2330/8. (D.C. 2350/8.)

Movements.

Nore Command.
Ships out of
Action.

My 0710/5. Delete JACKAL and BROADWAY. (C. in C. Nore 0802/8.)

RAMILLIES,
KELVIN,
PUNJABI,
KIPLING.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1020/8.)

VETERAN,
WOLVERINE
DEPTFORD.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1325/8.)

/SALOPIAN.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

SALOPIAN,
DERBYSHIRE
CILICIA,
WOLFE.

SALOPIAN and DERBYSHIRE leave Patrol for Clyde AM/11 to R/V with CILICIA and WOLFE at 1100/16 in 60° 40' N. 15°W. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1340/8 to Western Patrol.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1445/8.)

HOOD

RODNEY.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1757/7. B.C. One is requested to sail HOOD for Rosyth accordingly. R.A.D. is requested to provide screen of four destroyers for HOOD. The same destroyers to form screen for RODNEY sailing from Rosyth for Scapa as ordered by C. in C. Rosyth. (C. in C. H.F. 1623/8 to B.C.I.)

ARETHUSA.

Arrived Scapa from Oban. (A.C.O.S. 2042/8.)

CHITRAL,
LETITIA.

At 2230/10 in 58° 48' N. 7° W., steering 117° at 13 knots. F.O.C.N.P. please pass to 15th Group. (CHITRAL 2318/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proposed
Operation.

Proposed communication and Meteorological arrangements. (A.C.N.S.H. 0231/8 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) See Operations Volume.

Western
Channel,
Patrol.

Arrived Plymouth 1043/7 KASHMIR, JUPITER. Sailed Plymouth 2039/7 KASHMIR, JERSEY. (C. in C. W.A. 0729/8.)

Dover.
Enemy Minelaying
probably frustra-
ted.

There are indications that Enemy may have intended to carry out a Minelaying Operation off Dover early this morning; but R-boat R/C earlier in night reported presence of our M.T.B.'s and operation did not develop. (V.A. Dover 1032/8.)

P.Y.A.

3 Motor Launches patrolling tonight 5 miles Eastwards of Swept Channel between 56 and 54.E. Buoys. (C. in C. Nore 1619/8.) Motor Launches 106, 108, 110 (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2029/8.)

/MINNIE.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

C. in C. Nore 1704/5. Next suitable dates at Dover are 19th to 23rd. January inclusive. (V.A.Dover 1642/8 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation
"Rubble".

Mr. Mallet (Stockholm) 1215/8. See Operations Volume.

Submarines.

TAKU.

Your 2012/7. Will be dry-docked at Troon about 2100 today. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0257/8 to V.A.S.) Arrived Troon (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1915/8.)

O. 21.

Leave Patrol 1800/10. Route to Gap A. (S.9. 1151/8.)

SEVERN.

Leaves Clyde 1200/9 for Halifax. Route. (D.O.D.H.1157/8.)

TRIDENT.

Following Bombing Restrictions arranged and requested for you. (S.2. 1647/8 to TRIDENT.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/9. (V.A.S. 1723/8.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today: ^{"Anst"} ~~UNST~~, ^{"Sydeva"} ~~SYDERO~~, ^{"Stand"} ~~STAND~~, ^{"Hornli"} ~~HORNLI~~. ~~1100~~ Dusk... (C. in C. Rosyth 0816/8.) Patrol ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1316/8.) My 0002/1. Add Patrol ~~ROSE~~. Details. When flown will be included in daily Signal. (C. in C. Rosyth 2236/8.)

Haugesund
Area.

Propose sending 4 Skuas at 1030 to attack shipping in Haugesund Area. (Hatston 0920/8 to A.C.O.S.) Approved. (A.C.O.S.0946/8.) 4 Skuas left (Hatston 1040/8.) All A/C returned Hatston without attacking. Propose to repeat when weather favourable. (Hatston 1355/8.) Your 1355/8. Second paragraph approved., (A.C.O.S.1751/8 to Hatston.)

/Brest.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Brest.

53 and 59 and 217 Sqdns., to attack at dawn/9 the Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1155/8 and 1159/8.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship
bombed.
? CLYTONEUS.
(See 9/1.) 278

S.O.S. in 56° N. 14° W. (Valentia Radio 0944/8.) Detach one ship to assist Unknown Ship bombed. Tugs THAMES and SEAMAN being sailed. (C. in C. W.A. 1107/8 to ABERDEEN.) Sailed THAMES and SEAMAN from Campbeltown at 1140 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1155/8.)

Faroes.

German aircraft probably Heinkel 3 flew high over various parts of Faeroes between 1200 and 1330 today. Last seen flying Westward. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1517/8 to A.C.O.S.)

Signal fired
by Enemy A/C.

S.O.T.L.D.F. reports that Enemy Aircraft on being engaged by ARISTOCRAT near East Spile buoy at 1455/7 fired a Group of five red stars on altering course away from line of fire. (C. in C. Nore 1621/8 to Adty.)

Mining.

Peterhead
Area Search
of War
Channel.

My 1200/7/1. Cancel then return to Peterhead. On completion of search East side of War Channel intend 19th Group to turn and search West side of W.C. ahead of W.N.65. to Crude N. Scaurs expected time of arrival 0030/9 then return to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1140/8 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

GADRA.

H.M. Consul, Thorshaven 1838/6 to Min. of Shipping. Report where ship was mined. (D.T.D. 1202/8 to N.O.I.C. Faroos.) In 62° 21' N. 7° 7' W. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1943/8 to Adty.)

/P.W.1.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

252

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

P.W.1.
P.W.2.
P.W.3.

(Zugdeta Pass)

Operation P. W. one completed. Position. No ships seen. V4 considers operation was unobserved. Your 1231/6 - Para. 2. These operations will be carried out as soon as practicable. They will be known as P.W.2 and P.W. 3 respectively. (C. in C. Nore 1440/8.)

Harwich
Area,
Searches.

Q.Z.S. 117 searched by 5 F M/S covering a front of 22 cables negative result. Intend sailing 5 F M/S at 0830/12 to search area extending one mile either side of line from $51^{\circ} 48.3' N 1^{\circ} 40.8' E$ to $51^{\circ} 49' N 1^{\circ} 50.5'$. Further signal will be made. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1453/8.)

STRATHEARN.

N.O. i/c Brightlingsea reports:- At 1320 today, Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was blown up by mine, but not in Swept Channel in vicinity of Knoll Buoy. Five seriously injured nine slightly, survivors landed at Brightlingsea. Search for other survivors still being made. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1521/8.) Position about $51^{\circ} 45' 12" N. 1^{\circ} 10' 6" E$. 6 Dead, 7 seriously injured, 11 slightly. All officers missing except 2nd Engineer. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1727/8.)

Kinnaird
Head to
Duncansby.

Commencing dusk/11 available ships of 5th M S F are to carry out the following searching sweeps.

(1) Kinnairds Head to Duncansby Head eastward of dividing line A Z 787 and of centre line of Q Z S 160.

(2) Duncansby Head to Kinnairds Head westward of dividing line A Z 787 and of centre line of Q Z S 160.

Head
Sweep.

Sweeps are to be completed off Kinnairds Head by dark/12, when ships are to return to Aberdeen. (C. in C. Rosyth 1541/8.)

/B.S.48.....

War Diary.

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

253

Mining Contd.

B.S.48.

Completed. (Capt. D.20. 1601/8.)

Mine towed
by HOOD.

Your 1757/7. Marks imply British Mine adrift from S.N.3. Request verification and fuller description. (R.A.M.L. 1808/8 to A.C.O.S.)

Spurn Point.

At 0951/8 one Mine exploded by M/S Trawler in 123⁰ Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.9 miles. (F.O.Humber 1845/8.)

Z.M.E.12.

Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2352/8.)

Shipping & Convoys.

E.N. and
O.B. Convoys.)
Detachment)
of Ships)
to Loch Ewe.)

A.M. 2238/4, para. 1. Commodores of E.N. Convoys are to be instructed that ships for O.B. Convoys are not to be detached to Loch Ewe unless a margin of 24 hours is assured between the Time of Arrival and the time of R/V with the O.B. Convoy bound through the Minches. (D.T.D. 0056/8.)

Commodores.

Re. appointing Commodore or Vice-Commodore in Convoys and whenever 2 or more merchant ships sail in company. (D.T.D. 1928/8.)

Coastal Convoy.
~~COASTAL~~
~~CONVOYS~~
C.W.22.

Southend arrival and departure for Dover 8/1 with C.W.22 H.M.T. NETSUKIS (N.C.S.O. Thames 1145/8.)

Southend Departure 8/1 with C.W.22 for Ramsgate H.M.D. LORD RODNEY. For Dover H.M.T. BROCK. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1146/8 to Adty.)

F.S.81.

Humber 8/1 departure. H.M.T. AGATE with H.M.T's KINGSTON OLIVINE and LORD PLENDER in company at 0800 to join F.S.81 thence to Harwich. (F.O.Humber 0850/8.)

/Your 0840. Proceed.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. Contd.

Your 0840, Proceed to join F.S.81 due Sheringham Light float 1630 and form additional escort as far as Aldeburgh Light float thence to Harwich by Q Z F 7. (C. in C. Nore 1204/8 to SOUTHDOWN.)

F.N.78.
F.N.79.
F.S.81.
F.S.82.
C.W.22.

F.N.78 due Outer Dowsing 0430/9.
F.N.79 leaves Sheerness 0900/9.
F.S.81 due Aldeburgh 0600/9.
F.S.82 due Aldeburgh 0800/9.
C.W.22 due North Goodwin 1715/8.
(C. in C. Nore 1200/8.)

F.S.84.

GUILLEMOT after escorting H 44 to Blyth is to proceed to T.2 Buoy Tyne preparatory to acting as additional escort to F S 84 with special regard to S.S. CHANNEL FISHER whose safe passage to Sheerness is to be GUILLEMOT'S first consideration. (C. in C. Rosyth 1225/8.)

→ W.N.65.

Scapa departure 0940 FLEETWOOD to escort convoy W.N.65. (A.C.O.S.1011/8.)

Scapa, departure 1335/8, CURACOA for escort convoy W N 65. (A.C.O.S. 1431/8.)

E.N.54.

510. Act as additional A/A escort to E N 54 sailing at 2230/9 after passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W N 67 due Duncansby Head 1245/12. Code word for E N 54 Mission and W N 67 Rusty. (C. in C. Rosyth 1540/8 to JASON).

W.N.67.

→ F.S.83.
→ W.N.65.
E.N.53.

F.S.83 off the Tees 2000/8.
W.N.65 58° 12' N. 02° 20' W. 2000/8.
E.N.53 57° 52' N 02° 38' W. 2000/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1606/8.)

/W.N.66.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

255

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

W. N. 66.

W N 66 cancel my 1657/4.
W N Convoys now reverting to old route as used previous to W N 63.
Amended pre-sailing telegram for W N 66 follow. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1639/7.)

F. N. 79.

My 2155/3 and 0243/6. Cancel F.N.79.
Amend escorts for F.N.80 to read WESTON, VIMIERA, VERSATILE and GARTH. My 1147/7 is cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1644/8.)
O.B.273. Route (D.T.D. 1429/8.)

F. N. 80.

Ocean Convoys
~~OCEAN CONVOYS.~~

O. G. 49.

Sailed at 0435/8. Escorts GEORGETOWN, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE, LADY MADELEINE, ARAB. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0455/8.)

Sailed PEGASUS to rendezvous with OG.49. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0732/8.)

Sailed GEORGETOWN to join O G 49. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1034/8.)

O. B.272.

Your 1210/7. As PEGASUS is with O G 49, request you will order CRISPIN to sail with O B 272. (C. in C. W.A. 1259/8 to F.O.C.N.P.)

H.X.99.

751. After crossing 057° 00' N . H X 99 steer to amended splitting position 056° 30' N 008° 00' thence by route previously ordered. Pass to trawlers in company by V/S. (C. in C. W.A.1158/8.)

Estimated at 2000/8. H.X.99 058° 46' N 009° 20' W. (A.C.O.S. 1515/8.)

O.B.
271.

1000/8 sailed VANQUISHER for A/S practice then to escort O.B.271. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1939/8.) H.Y.48. Route (D.T.D. 1508/8.)
S.C.19. Advance sailing telegram (S.N.O. Halifax 1445/8.)

/Escort.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Escort Groups
Order of
Sailing.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Order of sailing of escort groups:-
6th O B 274 Jan.14th meet S L 61.
2nd O G 50 Jan.16th meet H G 50.
and S L S 61.
7th O B 275 Jan.18th meet H X 102.
4th O B 276 Jan 20th meet S C 19.
8th O B 277 Jan 22nd meet H X 104.
1st O B 278 Jan 24th meet S L 62.
5th no out convoy Jan 24th meet H X 103.
3rd. O.G. 51 Jan. 26th meet H.G.51 and
S. L. S. 62.
6th O B 279 Jan. 28th not in convoy.
(2) Special orders will be given for
8th escort groups meeting H X 104.
(C. in C. W.A. 1535/8.)

Troop Convoys.
TROOP
CONVOYS.
W. S. 5.B.

NAIAD sailed 0100/8 for Moelfre, ^{Bay} E.T.A.
1200/8 depending visibility.
(C.S.15. 0105/8.)

Adjust your speed so as to arrive Bell
and Light Float during daylight. Keeping
within one cable north of Dan Buoy laid
on Q.Z.S.129. Speed must not exceed 9
knots inside 20 fathom line and ships
must not anchor within that area and when
in convoy to be in line ahead 1 mile
apart before crossing 20 fathom line.
Attention is called to 952 A.Z. Ships
unable to enter harbour in daylight are
to anchor at Moelfre. All lights in
channel are extinguished. (N.O.I.C.
Liverpool 0229/8 to VETERAN.)

HIGHLANDER return to Liverpool forthwith
to refuel and rejoin convoy A.M./9, when
WITHERINGTON is to proceed Londonderry
for fuel and R/V as by orders to be issued
later. HARVESTER is to be detached to
refuel at Londonderry after rendezvous
with Clyde section. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool
1100/8.)

Intend sailing Liverpool section of W.S.
5.B escorted by NAIAD, AUSTRALIA,
HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER from Moelfre Bay
1630/9 speed 10 knots, to R/V with
Belfast and Clyde sections at 0930/10 in
position 270° Oversay 6 miles thence in
accordance with Admiralty 2340/31 and
1012/7. Speed of advance 13½ knots.
N.O.i/c. Belfast and F.O.i/c Greenock are
requested to comply accordingly.
WITHERINGTON will rendezvous from Lough

/Foyle.....

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Foyle and HARVESTER will be detached from rendezvous to refuel and rejoin convoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/8.)

Adty. 2344/7 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 0209/8. N.O.I.C. Liverpool requested to arrange R/V for Belfast and Clyde ships of W.S.5.B. with those from Liverpool at 0930/10. N.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.I.C. Greenock are to sail their ships accordingly.

(11) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to report as early as practicable on 9/1 January whether Clyde portion will be able to sail. (C. in C. W.A. 1247/8.)

Your 1301/8. VANQUISHER proceed forthwith to Moelfre Bay for A/S cover with W.S five B. HIGHLANDER enter harbour daylight/9 to refuel and rejoin convoy. When W S five B sails VANQUISHER proceed in accordance with previous orders. HARVESTER refuel as in my 1215/8. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1612/8 to 15th C.S.)

Request Fighter protection for W S 5 B 1630/9 until dark 0930/10 to limit range. Route. speed. Code word "Olive". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1650/8 to H.Q.F.C.)

Amended R.V. for W S 5 B is 0930/10, 270° Oversay 6 miles. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1707/8 to WITHERINGTON.)

Request fighter protection for Clyde portion W S 5 B. Details (F.O.Greenock 1720/8 to H.Q.F.C.)

W S 5 B ships at Clyde anchorage ready.

J. 19, 347 Influenza cases, 7 mumps but 20 doctors and 20 nurses on board. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 2050/8 to D. of S.T.)

8. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MIRAGE.

*No trace
in Lloyd's.*

Sailed H.M.T. ROCHEBONNE towing
s.s. MIRAGE. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth
1040/8. to C. in C. W.A.) Arrived.
(C. in C. W.A. 1809/8.)

CAPRICORNUS.

Salvage attempts abandoned. Air protection
need no longer be provided. (D.D. of
Salvage 1851/8.)

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Convoy.

Four French armed tugs, RHINOCERUS, TENACE, CETEMIN and one unidentified tug passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1640/7, escorting French M.V's ARCTURUS, 2532 tons, GUILVINEC, 3222 tons, TOURS, 4158 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. At 1745/7, a French destroyer made rendezvous off Gibraltar with small French cargo ships which she escorted southward (D.O.R., 9/1, S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1019/8).

CHARLES
C.A. PLUMIER
JOSEPH DUHAMEL
SENATEUR DUHAMEL

French Ships CHARLES PLUMIER, JOSEPH DUHAMEL SENATEUR, will be sailing in H.G. 50. at 1330/8. Presume possibility of attempt by superior French force from Casablanca to rescue these ships has been considered observing only two Corvettes are available as convoy escort. There are indications French Air reconnaissance to westward of Straits of Gibraltar. Can ships concerned be seized before sailing and fly British colours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1012/8 to Adty.)

Your 1012/8. Ships can not be seized before sailing. They are to remain at Gibraltar and await a proper escort. (V.C.N.S. 1200/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Repatriation of French.

Your 2005/7 Cost of passage in S.S. GUINE (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1722/8 to Admty.)

Policy towards Vichy French Ships.

V.C.N.S. 2206/8 to C.in C. S.A. See operations Volume.

North Atlantic.

Tanker sighted off Cape Sinos at 1310/7.

My 1708/7. P.c. and s. of tanker was 230 Cape St. Vincent 16 225° 12 knots at 1930/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0820/8).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/9 and movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1210/8).

ANTE-MATKOVIC.

Your 2002/7. Bunkers and stores were denied to Yugo Slavian ANTE MATKOVIC. Ship had sufficient bunkers to proceed to Lisbon. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1259/8 to Adty.)

S/M's reported.

N.A. Lisbon T.H.I. 1400/8, and 1613/8 see U-boat campaign.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy H.G.50.

Departures Gibraltar 1430/8 JONQUIL GERANIUM escorting H.G.50 until dark 12/1. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1446/8.)

CHARLES PLUMIER
JOSEPH DUHAMEL
SENATEUR DUHAMEL
L'ORAGE

Reply to Adty. 1220/7 asking for information re these ships (V.A.C.N.A. 2116/8).

South Atlantic.

SOUTHERN PRINCESS
Raider report.

Raider report from SOUTHERN PRINCESS Report corrupt group. (CANTON 0925N/8).

S.S. DEVON.

Overdue shipping my 1125/4 DEVON arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0925B/8.)

Force K
Convoy W.S.5A.

Force K is to leave Freetown after convoy WS 5A on 8/1 and together with HAWKINS act as Ocean escort until DEVONSHIRE joins 0800/10 January in position 004° 00' N. 010° 22' W. Force K is then to leave convoy and proceed to search as required through H 35 B and C, I 35 A, I 34 thence to K 33 to arrive centre of K 33 about 19/1. Group of Merchant ships will pass this area about same date see my 1757/7, Group of ships will continue as routed till 21/1 in absence of other information or instructions you should operate in vicinity of Group until required to leave to fuel at St. Helena. Instructions for further movements will be sent later. (C.in C. S.A. 0935N/8 to S.O. Force K).

Departure 1400/8 Force 'K' and HAWKINS with convoy W.S.5A; local escort VELOX, VIDETTE, MILFORD, BRIDGEWATER, ASPHODEL, and CALENDULA. Force 'K' proceeding on patrol on 10th after rendezvous with DEVONSHIRE.

(S.O.I. Freetown, 1801N/8). *See also next page*

Routeing of shipping.

My 2231/26/12. Cancel para. 2 and substitute; all merchant vessels sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct are to be routed eastward of position 40° N. (?33°) W. and westward of line joining positions (1) western extremity Cape Verde Island (11) 40° N. 19° W. (111) 50° N. 25 W. (1V) 56 N. 25 W.

Ships are to keep out of sight of land when passing Cape Verde Island and when near or passing through Azores ships are to cross meridian 25° W. between latitudes 56° and 59° 30' N. and may pass either north of south of Rockall outside 70 miles distant. Great care must be taken not to establish any focal points, particularly vicinity 56° N. 25° W. (C.in C. S.A. 09??/8).

/ Expansion of R.A.F. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Expansion of R.A.F. Commander Sierra Leone Area 1020/8 to W.O.

Basegrams. C.in C. S.A. 1122/8.

Italian a/c. Italian aeroplane left here Jan. 5 without passengers loaded with gasoline passenger seats removed and special gasoline tanks installed in replacement. (V-C. Natal 1050/8.)

S.S. KOLL (Norwegian) Arrived Buenos Aires 6/1 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1202/8).

Use of Walvis Bay as bunkering station. Following from D. of S.T. Reference you 1821/30 and S.N.O. Simonstown's 1702/24 instructions have been sent to M. of S. representative Capetown to arrange at once for selected ships to proceed Walvis Bay not exceeding two ships a day and taking about 200 tons each. Instructions as to ice fresh meat etc. have also been issued. (D. of S.T. 1311/8 to C.in C. S.A.).

CARAIBE (A.P.V.)
Ships
visiting
Mozambique

Your 0740/6.
(ii) Information about CARAIBE is incorrect. This ship visited Mozambique 10/11 and departed 12/11. She has not visited Mozambique or any Portuguese East African port since, nor has any other French ship. No neutral ship has sailed from Portuguese East African or Union port for Madagascar or Reunion since voyage of Swedish ship GLIMMAREN from Lourenco Marques 29/9 to Fort Dauphin. Information from Cheser Mauritius indicates extremely unlikely any other neutral ship has visited Madagascar from any port.
(iii) Have no information of any neutral ship intending to visit these islands. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1424Z/8, to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy W.S.5A.

Sailing telegram one convoy W.S.5A (9) names of ships in cruising order. (10) troops and stores (11) all ships to proceed along standard route in the event of separation (12) during night. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1518/8). *See previous page*

S.S. WILLIAM STRACHAN

Overdue shipping. Norwegian WILLIAM STRACHAN due Capetown 4/1 from Abadan not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1631B/8).

Handling of personnel ships.

At Durban. Reply to Adty. 0040/6. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1701/8).

/ Suspicious tanker

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

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Suspicious
tanker sighted
4/1. See P. 327.

Further to my 1615/4. When suspicious Tanker parted from ~~NUERVA~~ ANDALUCIA former increased to at least 17 knots. I consider it unlikely this vessel was Panamanian Tanker PETER HURLL as she was painted all grey and lacked Panamanian flag and name on side which is invariable custom. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1755/8.)

Southbound ships
crossing 20° N.
for Plate and
Cape.

Names, Speed, Approximate noon position 9/1, Route. (D.T.D. 1817/8).

Convoy S.L.S.62.

Sailing Telegram 1 Convoy S.L. S 62. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1843/8).

→ ASTURIAS,
orders.

Remain in L 31 and operate against French ships leaving Plate. (R.A.S.A.D. 1911Z/8).

DELHI,
orders.

Your 1136/8. Proceed to Freetown after fuelling at Lagos unless otherwise required by H.M.S. FURIOUS. (C.in C. S.A. 2005N/8).

Sweep by
CUMBERLAND
NEWCASTLE.

Your 2045N/6. Intend to employ CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE on this sweep. Owing to the absence of QUEEN OF BERMUDA, it will be necessary either (a) to uncover Rio de Janeiro focal area between January 11th - January 18th or (b) to abandon watch for French ships leaving Buenos Aires. In view of Admiralty 1928/21/12/40 consider (a) must be accepted. Intend cruisers to remain concentrated in L 31 for the present. NEWCASTLE fuelling about 12/1 before sweep starts.

→ ASTURIAS will remain in L 31 to intercept French ships. (R.A.S.A.D. 2043Z/8).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Publication
of sinkings
of Italian
Submarines.

Complaint (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 0942/8).

Mines for
Greece.

Admty's 2000/2 RORQUAL cannot be made available for this duty.
(ii) Mines from Malta cannot be transported in assemble state and no personnel can be spared to send to Greece to prepare these mines.
(iii) Consider it improbable that Italian submarines will attempt to dive under minefield in North Channel to Corfu. (iv) In view of above consider further minelaying operations in this area should be suspended for the present (v) (?if possible) a Mine Depot will be established in Eastern Mediterranean in about three months.
(C. in C. Med 1047/8 to B.N.A. Athens).

Mines off
Tobruk.

Asking for information re sweeping mines laid by A/c off Mersa Tobruk (C. in C. Med 1057/8).

Mersa
Tobruk
Mines.

10 cucumbers have been laid in approaches to Mersa Tobruk vide Q.B. 20. There is no evidence that any of these have exploded. If Mersa Tobruk falls intend to sweep Channel through mine field using ARTHUR CAVANUGH and MILFORD COUNTESS with double A.X. Request any information which may have been gained from previous experience of sweeping these mines may be signalled.
(C. in C. Med. 1057/8 to Admty).

/Air.....

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Operations

A. 816 8/1. Secret. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 212 up to 1200 hours 8/1/1941. Egypt 7/1. No bombing operations owing to bad weather. Our fighters patrolled over Tobruk area but encountered no enemy aircraft. One Sunderland patrolled Libyan coast for enemy shipping. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Bomba and Tobruk. Unconfirmed report states Italians have abandoned Gazala leaving 25 S.79's and 12 CR.42's burned out on 2 landing grounds. G.H.Q.M.E. report no change at Tobruk. 5. Sudan. Night 6/7 Jan. A/c's dropped 7000 lbs of bombs on submarine base Massawa. Bombs fell near submarine moorings but damage unobserved. All aircraft returned safely from above operations. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1202/8)

Malta Air Report.

1.16 8/1. Most Secret. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 8/1. Cagliari, Trapani. Naples, Messina. Naples 1 Littorio battleship 2 Cavour battleships 2 auxiliaries large number of M/V's ranging from 1000 tons to 12000 tons uncounted. No A.A. Photos spoilt by jamming shutter. Messina 5 cruisers 5 destroyers. No A.A. Taranto 1 damaged Cavour battleship M/V's. 4 cruisers 2 destroyers 2 T.B's Recco. did not cover dry dock. Photos. unsuccessful. Recco. Western Ionian Sea returned 0616 engine trouble. Enemy aircraft approached 5 time to within 35 miles north of Malta to-day. Hurricanes went up enemy turned back each time. As result recco. Naples 10 Wellingtons despatched to attack to-night. Local weather cloudy. No naval or military items. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1730/8).

/UPRIGHT.....

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

UPRIGHT.
movements

My 2211/3 (22213/3 intended) UPRIGHT will leave Malta at 1715 (Z-1)/8 through position $035^{\circ}35'N.$ $015^{\circ}00'E.$ (V.A. Malta 1647/8 to REGENT).

Air
Reinforcements.

N.A. Athens 1910/8 see Mediterranean Vol.

PATRIA.
(sabotage)

Your report P.T. 2995 of 2/12 on sinking of PATRIA by sabotage. Prisoners or illegal immigrants are not to be accommodated in ships in Palestine ports unless you are satisfied that proper precautions have been taken to prevent sabotage.
(C. in C. Med. 2029/8 to N.O.I/C Palestine Ports).

War Diary.

8.1.41.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy S.W.4B.

Re use of ships for conveying prisoners. Loading. Docking. (D. of S.T. 2043/8 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

STIRLING
CASTLE.

Your 0730/4 confirmed STIRLING CASTLE should proceed to Durban for drydocking and repairs and loading homeward cargo. (D. of S.T. 0150/8 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force).

BARBETTE.
BARNET.

Bombay departures 0900Z/8 Boom Defence Vessels BARBETTE and BARNET for Kuryan Muryan Bay. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0901Z/8).

SHROPSHIRE.
orders.

SHROPSHIRE is to leave Durban p.m./10 and proceed to position (a) 030° S. 033° E. and then patrol at 15 knots between position (a) and position (b) 022° 30'S. 039° 30'E. (C. in C. E.I. 1118Z/8).

RANCHI.
orders.

My 0506/7. On arriving 030° S. resume patrol. Leave patrol so as to arrive Durban A.M./11. Speed 15 knots throughout. (C. in C. E.I. 1120Z/8).

KANIMBLA.
to intercept
SIKLIANG.

My 1334/6 (i) KANIMBLA is now to arrive Mauritius P.M./16 (ii) French ship SIKLIANG from Saigon via Sunda Strait is expected to arrive Reunion 15 or 16/1 if met she is to be taken to Mauritius for examination (iii) on arrival position (c) patrol in area until 0600Z/15 and then adjust speed and movements to endeavour to intercept SIKLIANG subject to arriving Mauritius P.M./16 (iv). normal speed while cruising and on patrol should not be less than 15 knots. (C. in C. E.I. 1122Z/8 to KANIMBLA.).

/Raider.....

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Raider
reported
at
Mogadishu.

D/F bearings obtained from ^{Mauritius} MAURITIUS at 1457/1, 1423/4, 1534/4, 1457/7, 1506/7, 1511/7 and 1525/7 all G.M.T. indicate possibility of German surface unit at Mogadishu.
(D.D.I.C. 1129/8 to C. in C. E.I. C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Bombing of
Massawa.

Night 6/7 See Mediterranean.

Raider
reported
at Mogadishu.

Your 1129/8. No shipping seen at Mogadishu 5/1. CERES will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m./10.
(C. in C. E.I. 1708Z/8 to Adty).

China.

Transfer of
French Ships
to Panamanian
Flag.

French Shipping interests propose to transfer a number of their ships now at Saigon to Panamanian flag. French owners fear their vessels may be seized by Japanese if further trouble occurs in Indo-China. Attitude of H.M.G.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 0309Z/8).

Japanese
Attitude.

Towards British S.N.O.
(N.L.O. Shanghai 0939Z/8).

ABERDARE.
HARROW.

Your 0405/7 report the nature of defects which delay sailings.
(D.M.S. 1428 to C. in C. China).

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort of
ORDUNA.

Your 2150/7 (on sailing of German PORTLAND) Chilean Navy is not to be asked to extend escort. If offer to do so is made spontaneously it is to be accepted.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0111/8 to N.A.Valparaiso)

Submarine
sighted
1400/4.

Collector of customs Cayman Brac, reports that three fisherman sighted Submarine 1400/4 near Jackson on North coast of Little Cayman Hull appeared grey B O .
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 0907/8).

ORDUNA sailed from Valparaiso 1600 G.M.T./8 for Antefagasta due Jan.10th escorted by Chilean destroyer HYATT until dark. Maximum speed 13 knots owing to damaged propeller.
(S.O.(I) Callao 1532/8).

Suspicious
ships off
Alaska.

Following received from Navy Department. Scotch Cap Lighthouse Unimak Island Alask reported via coastguard on 6/1 steamer nationality unknown and with no flag heading for Bering Sea. Description.
(B.N.A. Washington 0955/8).

Suspected
Raider
reported.

Following received from Navy Department. At 2100/22/12 in position 25° 40'N. 84° 55'W. Master of S.S. TYDOLGAS sighted ^{at 2100} 20,000 tons (description) proceeding on a course towards Cuban coast. Master who is reserve Naval Officer, considered ship to be foreign raider of the auxiliary type.
(N.A. Washington 1001/8).

/LACONIA.....

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

LACONIA.
orders.
Convoy
S.C.18.

You should leave Convoy S.C.18 about 36 hours before arrival at r/v. Return route to Halifax is to pass close southward of position $043^{\circ} 30' N.$ $052^{\circ} 00' W.$ to give as much cover as possible to independent westbound shipping. (R.A.3 1039/7 to LACONIA).

S.C.19.
Bases
for U.S.

Advance sailing telegram (S.N.O. Halifax 1445/8). V.C.N.S. 1156/8.

Halifax
Escort
Force
and N.P.

Your 1301/7 only difficulty foreseen is over making good defects and re-fitting additional ships. Already A.M.C.'s have to wait for urgent defects to be made good and at present 29 merchant ships are held up in Halifax for repairs. Canadian authorities do not consider situation likely to improve even on re opening Gulf of St. Lawrence ports due to new construction commitment. Absorption of labour at St. John N.B. by refit of a capital ship would naturally aggravate existing state of affairs. It is therefore essential ships sent should not be in need of early refit. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1532/8 to Adty).

Australia.

Your 1331/29/12 and 0312/3 total requirement for U.S.9. now appears to be (Details) re ships. (D. of S.T. 1242/8 to A.C.N.B.).

Fremantle
defence.

A/T Defence type E two completed Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 1256Z/8).

War Diary.

8.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND.

My 1248/2 loading of German ships delayed owing to non arrival of cargo. PRINCE ROBERT. informed. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0847/8).

SALZBURG.

Istanbul 7/1 arrival Roumanian TRANSILVANIA Departure German SALZBURG Braila. (Galata 1218/8).

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SHAKESPEAR
Sunk 5/1.

Ref. I.D. Form S.A. (1) SHAKESPEAR
(3) 0930/5 018° 05'N. 021° 10'W.
(5) Submarine towed survivors to
Sal Island (6) On surface.
(7) Ship sunk by Gunfire.

From preliminary investigation it
appears SHAKESPEAR fought a very
gallant action for nearly two hours
until she received a direct hit on
her gun. Two of submarine's crew
believed to have been killed and
others wounded.

(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1850/8).

See next page

EMPIRE THUNDER.
(Sunk 6/1)

Following received begins:- A.C.O.S.
Repeated S.O.N.T. From N.O. i/c
Stornoway. Arrival/8, KINGSTON
ONYX with survivors 0623/8.
(A.C.O.S. 1139/8).

Submarines
Reported.

0115.

Following bearings obtained of
Italian U.Boat at 0115/8 G.M.T.
Flowerdown 220/3 Lands End 213/3.
Cooling Marshes 224/3.
(D.D.I.C. 0318/8).

1400/4

Off Little Cayman See A.W.I.

1216.

Enemy submarine suspected in position
034° 00'W. 021° 48'E at 1216 to-day.
(Capt. (S) I. 1339/8 to ROVER).

1343.

One submarine reported diving in
position ~~to~~ 244° Sanda Island 8 miles.
(ROCHESTER 1343/8).

My 1343. Commodore originated report
am searching the area. PICOTEE in
company.
(ROCHESTER 1355/8).

/2146.....

8.1.1941. ²⁷²
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Reported.
(contd).

2146.

By D/F. Position of Italian U-boat was 52° 30'N. 16°W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2214/8).

1400/7.

Submarine sighted by fishermen off Ribeira Grande (North coast San Miguel Azores) at 1400/7 it submerged, A o.

23 survivors of British ship (SHAKESPEAR) sunk off North East Coast of Island of Sal have arrived at Island. (N.A. Lisbon THI 1400/8). *See previous page*

0030/2.

Portuguese fishing vessel was boarded by submarine at 0030/2 in 25 55 N. 15 30 W. Captain spoke French but nationality unknown. (N.A. Lisbon 1613/8).

Estimated U-Boat
dispositions.

Italian.

- 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area possibly to S.E.
- 1 in Madeira area probably to N. or N.N.E.
- 1 about 51° N. 21° W. bound for Gironde.
- 2 West of 15° W. possibly moving N. or N.E. from about (a) 58° N. 17° W. (b) 58° N. 19° W.
- Another in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown, may be ineffective.

German.

- 1 off Portugal northbound.
- 1 in Madeira area southbound.
- 2 to northward or northeastward of Rockall may be moving to N.E. as reliefs arrive from North Sea.
- 1 in 60° 12'N. 15° 27'W. at 1100/7 may be ineffective. (D.D.I.C. 1328/8).

War Diary

9.1.1941.273
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
PYA

Three motor launches patrolled eastward of the swept channel off Lowestoft last night. M.T.B's patrolled off Dover.

Western Channel
Patrol

KASHMIR and JERSEY returned to Plymouth at 0054 ⁰⁰¹² today from patrolling between the Start and Lizard. No incidents are reported. See p. 276

British Air Activity

Bomber Command aircraft last night carried out heavy and successful attacks on the Naval Dockyard and Base, floating and other docks at Wilhelmshaven, docks and shipping at Emden and aerodrome at Borkum.

Enemy Air Activity

Slight damage was done in the dockyard in an attack on Plymouth at 2205 today by a single aircraft.

H.M. Trawler PEKEN was severely damaged by a bomb during attack on Yarmouth trawler base at 2120/9.

Tug SWARTHY was damaged alongside and some unimportant buildings were damaged at Portsmouth by a bomb dropped at 1910 today.

Mining

A mine was detonated off Spurn Pt, today. Aircraft were observed to drop 2 objects on parachutes, probable mines, south of Smith's Knoll today. Aircraft laid 4 mines off Dieppe this evening.

War Diary

9.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A., reports that HAWKINS has picked up 9 survivors of British tanker BRITISH PREMIER (reported overdue 27/12) which was torpedoed, presumably by a submarine whose periscope was sighted, on 24/12 in about 6° 20' N., 13° 20' W. The Master of SS HYDRONSSA reported that on 24/12 he passed what appeared to be a tanker on fire in this locality.

Mediterranean

Air Attack on
Malta by
German Aircraft

3 Wellingtons were damaged in an Air attack on Luqa aerodrome this morning. At least five enemy aircraft were shot down. A convoy anchored off Marsaxlokk was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon by 2 formations of 6 and 3 German aircraft.

Air Attack on
Benghazi

Last night, 8 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour, hitting 5 large ships and damaging buildings.

Air Attacks on
Tobruk

Three air attacks were made on Tobruk today. Offensive and protective patrols were maintained on the Libyan Coast.

2 Supply Ships
Sunk

PANDORA sank two Supply Ships off Sardinia this morning.

M01515/41 }
M08045/41 }

East Indies

Blenheims bombed Assab today.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/9. (D.C. 1148/9.) At 2330/9,
(D.C. 2340/9.).

"Deluge".
~~DELUGE.~~

Hvalford
Dover.

Re defence. (W.O. 1427/8.)
Re Adty. 2152/3. All 5.5 inch guns now
remounted and in action (HOFOR, London
1901/9.)

Movements.

Speed reduced owing to weather conditions.
Amended E.T.A. noon. (probably SALISBURY
0801/9.)

→ SALISBURY.

Report immediately your position at
0300/9, (D.C. 1005/9.)

→ SURCOUF
LA CAPRICIEUSE.

LA CAPRICIEUSE.

Your 1005/9 054° 34' N 005° 10' W.
(LA CAPRICIEUSE 1251/9.)

→ SURCOUF.

Your 1005/9 054° 34' N. 005° 07' W.
(SURCOUF 1253/9.)

KINGSTON
JACINTH
KINGSTON
TURQUOISE.
KINGSTON TOPAZ

Request you will order KINGSTON JACINTH
KINGSTON TURQUOISE and KINGSTON TOPAZ to
proceed to Ardrossan for coal after
passing Mull of Kintyre. (F.O.C.N.P.
1221/9. to Leith.)

→ SALISBURY.

Report your position course and speed.
(C. in C. W.A. 1251/9.)

Trials in
EREBUS.

In view of your 1230/8 not to C. in C.
Portsmouth my 1340/5 is cancelled.
(D.C.D. (H) 1258/9 to C. in C. More.)

BERWICK.

Route. Air Escort. Code word "Chain".
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1337/9, C. in C.
W.A. 1937/9.)

N.P. Trawlers.

N.P. trawlers lines occupied tonight.
3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1522/9.)

/NAIAD.....

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

NAIAD.

Your 1610/8. Intend to sail NAIAD for Tyne when DIDO sails for Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1539/9. to Adty.)

MARGARET.
ROSE.

Boom defence vessel sailed Tobermory 9/1 for Aultbea. No. W/T. (WESTERN ISLES 1710/9.)

EMERALD.

EMERALD is to be prepared to leave Plymouth P.M./11.

2. Re Adty 2350/ 23/12 owing to fog convoy W.S.5.B. has not yet sailed. You will be informed of convoy sailing. (C. in C. W.A. 1725/9.)

LINNET.

Intend sailing LINNET for Port A in accordance with A.L.T.O. 6477/40 in convoy W.N.68 to arrive daylight/13, 14/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1744/9.)

Operations.

Western
Channel
.Patrol.

Arrivals 1100/KASHMIR, JERSEY. (C. in C. W.A. 0051/9.)

Unidentified.
Vessel.

Following has not been identified, from Fair Isle. One small slow vessel bearing 255°, 10 miles course 130° at 1725. (A.C.O.S. 1137/9.)

Operation.
"Rubble".

Your 1215/8. Naval support will be sent as soon as ships have sailed. Fog still remains best possible conditions and chances of success in such weather should be high. (V.C.N.S. 1321/9 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Submarines.

Positions &
Movements.

At 0800/10. (V.A.S. 1653/9, 2301/9.)

/BRITISH.....

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Patrols
9/1.

Air patrols ordered today Thursday.

"Stal".

~~STAL.~~

~~STAL.~~ "Tugla".

"pop"

~~STAL.~~ p.m.

~~STAL.~~ "Sydaro".

S.A.1.A.

S.A.2.

S.A.3.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0730/9.)

Patrol ~~STAL~~ ^{"stal"} is being flown by moonlight tonight returning about 2330.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1728/9.)

Operations
tonight.

Operations for tonight 9th/10th Jan.

(A) Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack Cruiser in dry dock at Brest.

(B) Gardening by No. 812 Squadron Vineleaf. (H.Q. C.C. 1051/9.)

Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight 9th/10th January Cruiser in dry dock at Brest with Tims. Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons also operating against same target. (H.Q.C.C. 1052/9.)

Attacks on
Wilhelmshaven.
Emden.

1. Night 8/9 January.
Twelve Wellingtons attacked Naval Dockyard, Naval Base and floating docks and other docks at Wilhelmshaven. Petroleum sheds at Emden and aerodrome, at Leeuwarden. At Wilhelmshaven^{Emden} and the Bauhafen area. At Emden bursts were observed N.E. of petroleum sheds causing eight large explosions and solid mass of fire covering an acre. Twenty one Whitleys attacked Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, docks and shipping at Emden and aerodrome at Borkum. At Wilhelmshaven many fires both large and small were caused in the target area. At Emden many fires were started some of which were visible 45 miles away. Explosions followed, one very large one occurring when Whitley was 20 miles away. Explosions followed, one very large one occurring when Whitley was 20 miles away. At Borkum barrack blocks and hangars were hit and a fire started.

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Attacks on
Wilhelmshaven.
Emden.

Nine Hampdens attacked Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, aerodrome at Borkum, and merchant ships. At Wilhelmshaven many bursts observed on target and across dock area. Eight Hampdens laid mines successfully. (H&BC 187/9)

Enemy Air Activity.

Aircraft
plots.

Reference A.L. M 08881/40 of 4th July. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1029/9.)

S.S. CLYTONEUS.
bombed 8/1.)

Report if ship has been located with details. It is hoped to provide air search 9/1. (C. in C.W.A. 0005/9. to WILD SWAN.)

S.S. CLYTONEUS.
(bombed 8/1.)

Your 0005/9. Ship not located. Have searched from 055° 40' N to 056° 20' N. 014° to 016° W. Am continuing search. (WILD SWAN 0049/9. to C. in C. W.A.)

Am in company with ESPERANCE BAY in position 056° 45' N. 015° 35' W. She has just picked up one boat load of survivors from S.S. CLYTONEUS who was bombed 8/1 forenoon. Survivors state she has sunk. Am searching for 2 more boats. (WILD SWAN T.O.R. 1318/9.) T.O.O. missed.

ESPERANCE BAY reports 19 officers and 43 men from CLYTONEUS are on board ESPERANCE BAY and WILD SWAN. CLYTONEUS was bombed by one A/C 1044/8 and is reported to have sunk about 1900/8. (C. in C. W.A. 2351/10.)

My 1233. Have rescued remaining survivors. Incendiary injuries. Am proceeding to rejoin convoy S.L. 60. (WILD SWAN 1243/9.)

SWARTHY.

One H.E. dropped by A/C 1910/9. Tug SWARTHY lying alongside North Wall sunk by hit or near miss. All crew safe. Some damage to unimportant buildings. Nine service, slight casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2100/9.)

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

PEKEN
damaged.

About 5 bombs were dropped near trawler base 2120/9 one of which struck H.M.T. PEKEN doing some damage, extent not yet ascertained. Further information will be signalled later. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2325/9.)

Mining.

Sweep of
War Channel.

Weather permitting intend sailing 19th Group to R.V. Cruden Scaurs at 0800/10, and search east side of War Channel ahead of E.N. 54 to position 000 14 miles Kinnaird Head E.T.A. 1430/10. Thence return searching west side of War Channel ahead of WN 66. To Cruden Scaurs 2130/10, then return to Peterhead. E.T.A. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0955/9.)

Weather permitting, intend sailing 12th M/S Group, R.V. Scurdy Ness at 2359/9. Search East side War Channel ahead of E N 54 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1136/9.)

→ Operation
B.S.48.

Humber 9/1 arrivals TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID at 1000. (F.O.Humber 1015/9.)

A/C. minelaying.

Gardening tonight 9th/10th January by No. 22 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1050/9.)

SCOTT.

Cancel my 1043. Anticipate that SCOTT can be sailed to arrive Port Z.A. 1600/12. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1251/9 for A.M.L.)

→ Operation B.S.49.

Position etc. TEVIOT BANK escorted by one destroyer of 20th D.F. as detailed by D.20. C. in C. Nore to arrange air escort. (6) Operation to be carried out in daylight 12/1 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1539/9.)

See p. 353

Sweep off
Invergordon.

Sweep of Approach Channel to Invergordon before arrival of MOOLTAN (C. in C. Rosyth 1831/9 to F.O.I.C. Invergordon.O.C)

/Humber.....

9. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber.

Magnetic mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 1536 108°. Spurn Point Lighthouse 3.4 miles. (F.O.Humber 1924/9.)

Operation P.V. One.

Cancel my 2127 Operation P V one will be carried out between 2200/9 and 0030/10. (C. in C. Nore 2201/9.)

South of Smith's Knoll.

Aircraft observed to drop 2 objects on parachute probable mine in approx. 52° 43' N. 2° 13' E. (VERDUN 2222/9.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Result of photographic R.C. (P.I.V. St. Eval 1600/9.)

Kiel.

Preliminary report of Kiel R.C. 9/1. Both floating docks empty. Ships present - EMDEN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, SCHLESISAN, 3 destroyers, 9 U/B's. Area in vicinity of Holtenuau not covered by photographs. (D.D.I.C. 2305/9. to C. in C. H.F. etc.) Note. P.R.U.2045/9, also stated LÜTZOW present.

My 2249/14. Ex Norwegian Coast Defence ship TORDENSKJOLD is expected to leave Tonsberg (59° 16' N. 10° 25' E.) January 15/1 anchoring at Valloybukt (approx. 59° 14' N. 10° 29' E.), proceeding 16/1 for German port. She probably has no repeat no main armament but is believed to mount four modern A.A. guns of unknown calibre. (D.N.I. 1857/9 to C. in C. H.F. etc.)

Miscellaneous.

THAMES.

Para. 3. Adty. 2147/20/12. Is there any objection to Dutch Rescue Tug THAMES being stationed at Hvalfjord? (D.T.D. 1559/9 to F.O.i/c. Iceland.)

W/T. Installations.

F.O.Iceland 2049/9.

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Thursday.

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War Diary.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.EMPIRE
MARINER.Tug SALVONIA with disabled EMPIRE MARINER
in tow. (F.O.I/C. Greenock 1104/9.)ST. LAURENT.ST. LAURENT is experiencing an epidemic
of influenza which appears likely to put
ship out of action. (F.O.I/c Glasgow 1204/9.)M. L. 169.My 0400/9 M/L 169 returned to Humber at
1130. Defective steering gear. (F.O.I.C.
Humber 1215/9.)RUBENS.H.M. Trawler RUBENS has not arrived
Tobermory. (H.M.S. WESTERN ISLES 1220/9.)RUNDHORN.
ashore.
(Exam: Service v.)Norwegian Trawler RUNDHORN ashore 063°
32' N. 017° 50' W, all cargo jettisoned.
Position renders salvage difficult. Will
report further progress. (D.S.T.O. Iceland
1511/9.)Suggest small ships proceeding to Iceland
be warned to keep outside 100 fathoms line
till daylight. Special care necessary
in regard to deviation of compass degaus-
sing vessels. (F.O. Iceland 1937/9.)SANDDY.
missing.Norwegian Fishing Vessel SANDDY in sea
Trans: Service left Akureyri 28/12, reported
leaving Isa Fiord 1/1. Has not been heard
of since. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1650/9.)DUSKY
QUEEN.Whilst on patrol Drifter DUSKY QUEEN
grounded in approx. 51° 18. 3' N. 1° 23.
1' E at 0200/ Crew were disembarked by boat.
Strong North Westerly winds prevented
an examination at low water today but
vessel is lying on an even keel.
(V.A. Dover 1823/9.)SOBORG.Tug QUEENS CROSS arrived Clyde 1600/8.
Towing SOBORG. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1900/9.)

9.1.1941.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

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- E.N.53. 000° Duncansby Head at 0845. (A.C.O.S. 0944/9).
- F.S.83. 26 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/9) Add BALDER (Nor.) to my 1703/8. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/9). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1202/9).
- F.N.78. Expects to arrive 20 C Buoy 2000. (WALLACE, 0947/9) Ships to join, (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1634/9).
- W.N.68. Code "Mutual". 1030/11, escorts SPURS, PAYNTER. Route. W.N.O. Code "Limited" to R.V. with "Mutual" (position) at 1100/12. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0959/9).
- H.G.50. Cruising order and cargoes. (F.O.C.N.A., 1141/9).
- C.W.22. Arrival, all ships. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1217/9).
- O.B.273. 1030/12. Route. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1223/9).
- O.B.271. Sailed 1145/9, 8 ships, 9 knots. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1225/9) List (1430/9).
- H.X.100. Tankers STANDELLA and VANJA being detached in about 60.45 N., 25.00 W. for Iceland. Due at Reykjavik about 13/1. (D.T.D., 1231/9).
- O.B.274. Route. (D.T.D., 1541/9).
- F.S.84. Lists (N.C.S.O. Methil 1556/9, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1632/9).
- O.B.M.272. 1603/9. H.M.T. YORK CITY. Six. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1628/9).
- S.L.61. Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier. BULOLO to part company at this new R.V., and should not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. to BULOLO, 1851/9).
- W.N.67. Sailed 2008/9, ULLSWATER and STELLA POLARIS. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2155/9).
- E.N.54. List. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2332/9) POLYDORUS (Date) to Oban for Java, requires routes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2333/9).
- F.N. 78. Humber 9/11 departure H.M.M/L 169 at 0231 to join F N 78 thence to Methil for onward routeing. (F.O. Humber, 0400/9).

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Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)F.N.78.

Humber 9/1. Departure H.M. Trawler
CHRYSOLITE at 0235 to join F.N.78 thence
to Aberdeen.
(F.O. Humber, 0403/9).

Coastal Convoys.O.B.C. 272CRISPIN

CRISPIN leave Clyde p.m./10 in
Convoy O.B.C. 272.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1016/9).

O.B. 272.

Amending his 1504/7 (N.C.S.O. Mersey
1710/9).

F.S.83.

Humber 9/1. Departure HUSSAR at 0945
to join F.S.83 for Harwich.
(F.O. Humber 1017/9).

O.B.271WINCHELSEARHODODENDRONGENTIAN

WINCHELSEA sailed for Moelfre Bay, then
to escort O.B.271. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
1021/9.) Sailed RHODODENDRON and
GENTIAN escort for O.B.271 (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1450/9).

F.S.84.GUILLEMOT

My 1225/8 and S6 1555/8 CHANNEL FISHER
indefinitely delayed from T 2 buoy
GUILLEMOT is now to act as additional
escort to FS 84 parting company as
necessary to enter Harwich in compliance
with C.in C., Nore 1530/6.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1154/9 to GUILLEMOT).

F.S. and F.N.

F.S.81 arrive Southend 1500/9.
F.S.82 arrive Southend 1600/9.
F.S.83 due Aldeburgh 0600/10.
F.S.84 due Flamboro' Head 1200/10.
F.N.79 cancelled.
F.N.8?. Sails Southend 0930/10.
(C.in C. Nore 1200/9).

F.S.84.E.N.54.F.N.78.

F.S.84 off Berwick 2000.
E.N.54 sails Methil 2230.
F.N.78 E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 2000.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1550/9).

Ocean Convoys.H.X.99.

Add my 1515/8 (H.X.99, N P 41 and 42)
LOCHNAGAR 061° 10' N. 005° 00' W. for
Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S. 0101/9).

S.L.60.

F.O.C.N.P. 0500/9. S.L.60 route
(C.in C. W.A. 0959/9 to CAVINA).

?

Not Met. (ABERDEEN 1200/9).

H.G.49.

Meet H G 49 31 ships 1000/11
LEITH, KINGSTON JACINTH, KINGSTON
TURQUOISE, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE,
KINGSTON TOPAZ, (Positions, Route).
(C.in C. W.A. 1207/9 *to whom?*)

H.X.103.ROYAL SOVEREIGNORONTES.

Your 1036/7. Concur that ROYAL
SOVEREIGN should be used as escort for
H.X.103. ORONTES should sail from
Clyde a.m./23 in order to R/V with
/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN..

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)H.X.103.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN
ORONTESROYAL SOVEREIGN at noon G.M.T./25
(position). Further details.
(D.O.D.(H) 1506/9 to R.A. 3 B.S.)SOMERSETSHIRE.Request Military Hospital Ship
SOMERSETSHIRE be sailed about 16/1 for
Suez via the Cape and thence as ordered
by C.in C. M.E. to embark invalids.
(D. of S.T. 1102/9 to P.S.T.O. Clyde).SAN FRANCISCO.Intend sailing French Ship SAN FRANCISCO
1030/10 for Gibraltar for onward routing
to Toulon. Routed in accordance with
Admty. 1913/28/10. Speed 12 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1513/9.)Troop Convoys.
W.S.5B.Your 1247/8 ships have been unable to
proceed down river by forenoon tide today.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1144/8).787. N.O. in Charge Liverpool 1215/8
sailing of W.S. 5 B. postponed 24 hours
owing to fog. (C.in C. W.A. 1509/9).My 1650/8 (Fighter protection for W.S.5B.)
Retard all same day by 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1625/9 to H.Q.F.C.)I am informed by harbour master Glasgow
that conditions were quite suitable for
bringing ships of W.S.5 B down river on
last night's tide and that individual
pilots were prepared to do so.
Request you will inform me why every
endeavour was not made to carry out this
important movement.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1816/9 to D.S.T.O.
Glasgow).Sailing delayed by fog. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 1842/9).

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Enemy Raiders.

Situation.

My 1951/4. Raiders A & B. No news since B shell Nauru 26/12. A mine was located off Hobart 4/1. This may have been laid at same time as KULMERLAND mined Bass Straits. These ships may have separated and it is possible one may appear on South American Coast or in Indian Ocean.

Raider C. No firm news since attack on Nowshera late November South East of Madagascar. Unexplained QQQQ signal read in vicinity Equatorial Channel on 16/12 and RRRR signal by Mombassa on 31/12 may have been false report by Raider as no ships are known to be overdue.

Raider D. D/F fix N.E. of Bermuda on 20/12 and South of Iceland on 5/1 suggest one or more raiders have returned home.

Raider E. D/F on 4/1 indicated raider 600 miles south of St. Helena, and on 9/1 somewhere in same area, possibly endeavouring to make contact with supply ship. TRIBESMAN overdue Cape from U.K. since 14/12 may be victim of "E".

ADMIRAL SCHEER still unlocated.

(D.N.I. 2205/9 to C. in C's etc).

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Gibraltar
Passages.

Four French armed tugs RHINOCERUS, TEMACE, CETEMIN and one unidentified passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1640/7 escorting French M.V's ARCTURUS, 2532 tons GUILVINEC, 3222 tons, TOURS, 4158 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. At 1745/7 a French destroyer made rendezvous off Gibraltar with a small French cargo ship which she escorted southward. (D.O.R. 9/1).

Repatriations.

My 1722/8. Portuguese ship GUINE arrives Casablanca Jan 10th. If this ship is required for transporting French it is essential that she should not come to Lisbon as permission would then have to be obtained from Portuguese Government for her to carry out this trip. Companhia colonial are willing to interpret their present permission for transport of French troops as covering this voyage. Request your immediate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1515/9 to Adty).

MONTESQUIEU.

French merchant ship MONTESQUIEU 3300 tons left Dakar, 6/1 for Bordeaux. Ship is of course to be sunk if encountered. (V.A.S. 1602/9 to S/M's Area B).

Oran.
Dakar.
Intelligence.

Following from Navy Department (1) From ~~SEA~~ 31/12. Two submarines one destroyer in harbour. Two Italian Merchant Vessels formerly French prizes one 8,000 tons loaded and one 6,000 ton in ballast funnel grey both preparing leave.

DUNKERQUE will sail for Toulon in next (one) (as received ? two) or three weeks. From Dakar 7/1 French ship EXPLORATEUR GRADIDIER carrying Native Troops arrived from Morocco. French JEAN L.D. sailed for Madagascar. (N.A. Washington 1550/9 to Admty).

War Diary.

9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

→ SCARBOROUGH

Arrived Gibraltar 0900/9
(S.O.I. Gib. 0908/9).

OSIRIS.

Arrived Gibraltar 1100/9
(S.O.I. Gib. 1102/9).

WISHART.

Arrived Gibraltar 1230/9.
(S.O.I. Gib. 1254/9).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 1 routine
A.S. Patrol. 1 surface Recco East.
1 surface Recco West. Flying curtailed
owing to weather. Area covered 4^o
West to 7^o West.
(200 Group 0173/9).

→ SCARBOROUGH.
H.G. 50.

Gibraltar departure 1430/9.
SCARBOROUGH to R/V with H.G. 50.
(S.O.I. Gib. 1440/9).

OLYMPUS.

Estimated position of submarines at
0800/10 and movements for following
24 hours. OLYMPUS on patrol off
Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1622/9).

South Atlantic.

BAYANO.

Your 1101/25. British ship BAYANO
has not arrived. When should
(?it) have been expected.
(C. in C. S.A. 0146/9 to N.O.I.C.
Kingston).

71 Cancel my 0046/9 (0146) ?
BAYANO arrived Freetown 1100/9.
(C. in C. S.A. 1120/9 to N.O.I.C.
Kingston).

JUMNA.

Overdue shipping. British ship JUMNA
Mersey departure 16/12 due at Freetown
6/1 has not arrived.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1222/9 to Admty).

/CUSTODIAN.....

War Diary.9.1.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).CUSTODIAN.

Overdue shipping CUSTODIAN due Capetown from United Kingdom 5/1 not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1815B/9).

A.M.C. Refits.
ARAWA.

The frequent alteration in completion dates of A.M.C. refitting makes it difficult to arrange escort programme ARAWA'S date of completion has been given as ready to sail 5/1, now sailing 9/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 0221N/9 to Admty).

Relief of
DEVONSHIRE
by SHROPSHIRE.

Your 1218/7/1. SHROPSHIRE should rendezvous with convoy and relieve DEVONSHIRE a.m. on 21/1 (position).
(C. in C. S.A. 1025N/9 to C. in C.E.I).

Minesweepers.

Simonstown arrival 9/1 minesweepers group 109 consisting of SWONA, SKUD~~B~~ 5, 4 and 5.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1105Z/9).

Shipping in
20° N.

Southbound ships crossing 20° North MARTON for Plate, RAWNSLEY and LOSSIEBANK for Cape. Positions and routes.
(D.T.D. 1511/9 to C. in C. S.A. S.O.Force K. R.A.S.A.D.).

DRAGON
STRATHMORE
ORION
LARGBAY.

Your 1705 N/8 and your 2057N/8 not to all addresses. DRAGON'S anticipated date of completion and readiness for sea 20/1 for defect of port propeller shaft (? mechanising). Ship would be reinstated for moderate speed in original serious defective condition at Three days notice. Intend therefore to divide 580 service personnel between STRATHMORE and ORION and sail these ships independently for Freetown. LARGBAY to retain her existing 148 service personnel.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1522B/9 to C. in C. S.A).

/Corvettes.....

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9.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

Corvettes.

75 Request information when two Corvettes not being retained in accordance with Admiralty 1716/30/12. may be expected at Freetown where they are urgently required. (C. in C. S.A. 1345/9 to F.O.C.N.A).

Shipping
River Plate.

Your 1757/7. Probable number of ships from River Plate eight. Six sailing 13/1 and two sailing 14/1. Admiralty pass to R.A.S.A.D., S.A.D. A & W.I. Squadron, F.O. Force K. (N.C.S.O. Montevideo 1608/9 to C in C. S.A).

Sailing of
M/V's to
avoid U.Boats.

In view of Admiralty 1905/6 passed in my 1901/8 my 0959/8 is cancelled and para. two my 2231/26 as amended by my 0009/5 is to be reinstated. (2) When giving alternative routes that to the eastward of Cape Verde Islands is to conform to my 2231 Dec 26th that to the westward is to conform to Admiralty 1905 Jan 6th and thence as in my 2231 Dec. 26th (C. in C. S.A. 1845/9 to S.O.I.'s Freetown Capetown).

Convoy
Facilities.

Your 0030/6. (Maximum number of ships in a mixed troop transport and supply ship convoy that can be efficiently handled in a two day stay at (a) Freetown (b) Capetown (c) Durban) 12 or a larger number of ships provided total requirements do not exceed oil fuel 7000 tons, coal 2000 tons, water 4000 tons. (C. in C. S.A. 1951N/9 to Admty).

Navigation
Lights.

To give further protection to merchant shipping from raider attack in open waters of South Atlantic, request instructions be issued (amending A.M.S.I. 293) as follows. In area 9 Navigation lights should not normally be burned to the South Eastward of a line joining Cape Horn and Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2017/9 to Adty).

/DUNEDIN.....

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Targets.
for
Wellington
A/c.

Signal A.446 30/12 originated by A.O.C. in C. Middle East. Herewith repetition. (Begins) A.O.C. Mediterranean Repeated. C. in C. Mediterranean from A.O.C. in C. Further to my A. 456 29/12. As a temporary measure your Wellington effort may be directed generally against naval targets and C. in C. Mediterranean will signal you direct repeated this Headquarters his order of priority preferred. This arrangement is subject to cancellation by me any time when situation demands your Wellington attack be diverted to other targets. T.O.O. 1832/30. (Ends). (A.O.C. Malta 0745/9 and 2235/9 to Air Min) (Note:- Above is signal referred to in C. in C. Med's 1705/2).

Italian
Convoy.

Susak report graded B.O. that Italian convoy will sail from Syracuse on 10/1 for Libya along coast of Sicily across to Tunis down Tunisian coast to Tripoli or Benghazi. Number of ships and time of sailing unknown. (S.O.I. Med. 0903/9 to Med Fleet etc).

TETRARCH
PARTHIAN

As own force will be operating in Ionian Sea it has been decided to route submarines TETRARCH and PARTHIAN via Corinth Canal to Piraeus where each submarine will spend 2 days before proceeding Alexandria. (Orders and routes)

5. Recognition. When approaching Greek waters and until reaching Piraeus S/Ms are to wear largest ensign at masthead and one horizontal before Conning Tower. Challenge and identification Signal ~~XXXX~~ on Aldis. 6. All communications between Greek Authorities and S/Ms must pass through Capt. (S) 1. (Capt S.I. 0947/9 to TETRARCH, PARTHIAN).

/PARTHIAN.....

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

PARTHIAN

C. in C., Mediterranean requires submarine to be east of 021 degrees 00' East and North of 038° 00' North by 0200 G.M.T. 13/1. My 2000/8 Greek pilot boat will expect PARTHIAN in position 352 from 0500 to 0600 G.M.T. 13/1. (?N.A.Athens, 1430/9 to Capt. S. 1.)

Air Operations

Operational Summary No 213 up to 1200 9/1/41.

Egypt 8/1. Blenheims bombed Tobruk in order to weaken enemy resistance, detailed reports not yet been received.

(iii) Offensive patrols were maintained throughout the day by Hurricanes over Tobruk area but no enemy aircraft were encountered. Australian Gladiators patrolled over the Bardia area. Reconnaissances reported no movement between Bomba and Tobruk.

(iv) 2 Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan coast for enemy shipping, 5 merchant ships 1 hospital ship were seen off Appollonia course West, 2 merchant ships each towing a motor boat with floating mine, further North course West 1 Sunderland dropped depth charge and 2 bombs on suspected submarine without results. No change has yet taken place at Tobruk.

Para 2. Greece Day 8.1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1228/9)

Malta Air Report

Naples and Palermo Attacked

X. 9187. 1. 17 9/1. Special operational Summary.

(1) 10 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn. despatched 8.1.41 to attack battleships, merchant vessels, dry docks, railway station and junction Naples. Of 6 Wellingtons, each armed with 5 times 500 lbs. S.A.P. plus 7 250 lbs. S.A.P. bombs, 4 attacked 2 battleships at Angloini Quay, 1 attacked industrial area on and north of repair basin and 1 attacked alternative target Palermo harbour. Attack lasted from 1750 to 1930 G.M.T.

/(2).....

War Diary

9.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Naples & Palermo
Attacked 8/1-
Contd.

(2) Results observed. Naples. 1 stick observed to drop on or very near stern of Littorio battleship causing dull red glow visible 5 minutes after leaving the target, and light A.A. in this area to cease fire. Several sticks hit buildings one Angloino Quay and railway lines at quay case and towards town. 1 stick caused bursts of fire among large M/V's to the west of repair basin. Fires also caused along waterline from north end dry dock to jetty to westward. 2 sticks fell between and on railway station and ship-building aeroplane and metal works.

(3) Palermo. One flash seen either one ship moored on north side of middle jetty or on jetty itself followed by a cloud of white smoke. A second flash on wharf between middle and south jetty. Of three Wellingtons each armed with ten 250 lbs. G.P. and 240 lbs incendiary sent to attack merchant shipping and dock facilities Naples two bombed shipping in Naples and one Palermo harbour.

(4) Remaining 7 aircraft with 10 250 lbs S.A.P. and 240 lbs. incendiaries sent to attack Naples railway station. (results observed)

(6) Vessel seen off west coast of Sicily near Trapani steering north possibly cruiser

(7) Regret delay in despatch of this signal owing to air raid on Malta.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1315/9)

C.B.'s
For Greece:

Your 0907/1. Approved. C.B. 1842 has been superceded by O.U. 6350 which should be issued instead. Six copies of C.B. 1966, 1970 and 3036 will be forwarded by first opportunity. Greek Officers should be cautioned to exercise every care in safe-guarding. (D.A/S.W. 1431/9 to C. in C., Med,)

/Air Reco.....

War Diary

9.1.1941
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air
Reconnaissance,
Oran,
Mers-el-Kebir

Photographic reconnaissance of Oran and Mers-el-Kebir is required as soon as possible. Air Ministry have been asked if they can assist but advantage should be taken of any opportunity that offers. (D.N.I., 1859/9 to S.O. Force H.)

Requested that photographic reconnaissance of Oran and Mars-el-Kebir may be carried out by aircraft operating between Gibraltar and Malta as opportunity offers. Appreciated if this could be carried out as soon as possible as matter is urgent. (D.N.I., 1900/9 to A.1. 3 (b) Air Ministry)

Malta,
Air Report

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 9/1. All times G.M.T., Part 1. Reconnaissances.

(i) 0500 to 1312 Sunderland closing patrol between Sicily and Sardinia to report movements of enemy shipping. 0639 sighted 1 M/V 3,000 tons at Cape Bon. 0550 to 1400 Sunderland on patrol Western Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. Nil report. 1032 to 1400 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto. Returned due bad weather in Ionian Sea.

Naples,
Reconnaissance

(ii) 1026 to 1613 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Messina and Naples and investigate damage done by Wellingtons 148 Sqn. reported in my 1.17 9/1. Naples Harbour 2 battleships (1 CAVOUR and 1 LITTORIO 4 cruisers 8-10 destroyers 1 M/V 17,000 tons 3 M/V's 10,000 tons 12 5,000 to 7,000 ton M/V's number of smaller M/V's

(iii) 1007 to 1414 Glenn Martin recco Gagliari Trapani Castelvetro. Gagliari. 1 submarine 1 auxiliary 5,000 tons 2 M/V's 2,000 tons. A.A. Nil. Trapani. 3 destroyers 2 auxiliaries 5,000 tons Slight inaccurate A.A. Aerodrome. 1 S. 79 and 20 to 30 fighters. Castelvetro aerodrome, 1 S.79, 1 large Biplane and 3 CR 42's.

/Part 2.

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Malta
Air Raids

Part 2. Air Raids.

(iv) 0907 to 0926, 12 to 15 Macchi 200's in 3 formations. 6 came low and carried out attack on Luqa aerodrome. Remainder stayed overhead at 8,000 feet. Ground attack resulted in damage to 3 Wellingtons. No casualties. 6 Hurricanes on patrol engaged enemy at 8,000 feet. 4 Macchi 200's shot down dived into sea. Confirmed. 2 enemy pilots baled out some distance out to sea. 1 picked up severely wounded and now in Military Hospital. A fifth Macchi 200 shot down confirmed. No bombs dropped. Weather fine and clear.

German
Aircraft

(v) 1514 to 1545 enemy approached in 2 formations of 6 and 3 identified as Ju. 87's. They circled round to south and carried out dive bombing attack on convoy anchored on Marsaxlokk. All bombs fell wide of shipping. 1 bomb exploded on land near gun position but no damage or casualties. 4 Hurricanes up but no interceptions. Further formation 12 CR 42's seen by Hurricanes but were too high for interception.

(vi) 1632 to 1712 enemy formation approached N.E. and circled south. Three Hurricanes on patrol but raid did not materialise. Weather heavy cumulus at 10,000 feet. Visibility very good. Naval report no damage to shipping in Marsaxlokk. Army report 1 aircraft down this morning's raid. (H.Q., Med. 1900/9)

Lorries
for Greece

Can any more lorries be supplied to Greece? If so there seem to be many Greek ships loading coal etc., in U.K. for Greece and many of these could probably ship some lorries as deck cargoes. Request this be investigated and early consignments made if possible. Greek Government are ready to arrange purchase themselves but I presume committee prefer to keep supply in its own hands. Between 3 tons to 30 cwt. are suitable, preferably 30 cwt. (N.A. Athens, 1903/9 to Admty., for W.O.)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

Kismayu.
Air Operations.

C.in C. E.I. 0430Z/6. Suggestions re blocking of harbour by air attack. (Hd. of M., 1538/9 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations Volume.

Kismayu.

Air photographs taken 7/1 show one ship had left Kismayu. Missing ship appears to be similar to Italian ship DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI. Mogadiscio being reconnoitred 10/1 by CERES. (C.in C. E.I., 0458Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, etc.)

LUCIA
defects.

LUCIA reports defective fire row tubes in all boilers due to circumferential cracking. Intend to retube A and B row tubes in all boilers at first opportunity. (C.in C. E.I. 1050Z/9).

S/Ms etc.,
operating
in Indian Ocean.

F.O.C.R.I.N's 0710Z/6 and C.in C. East Indies 1134/6. My 1530/7 to S.O.(I) Colombo is being passed to you separately for information. (S.O.I. Capetown 1106/9 to Admty. etc.)

Massawa,
a/c attacks.

My 0456/6. Aircraft also attacked submarine moored in Massawa overshooting target by 75 yards. One destroyer observed in Floating Dock. Another attack was carried out night 6th/7th, 7000 pounds of bombs falling near submarine moorings but damage unobserved owing to glare of numerous searchlights. (C.in C. E.I., 1108/9).

U.S.9.
Escort.

215. With reference to escort of U.S.9, approximate sailing date from Fremantle 11/2, it is requested you will provide escort in East Indies Station. This request is made with reluctance but is made necessary by heavy commitments in Australian Station. Escort would then be SYDNEY to rendezvous in Australian Bight; HOBART thence to rendezvous in Indian Ocean; CANBERRA thence as arranged by C.in C. East Indies. (A.C.N.B. 1141Z/9 to C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report.
Massawa attack

Sudan. Night 7th/8th. 3 Blenheims and 3 Wellesleys attacked the Power Station and the Submarine Base at Massawa. Results of bombing of Power Station not observed owing to the glare from search-lights. Several bombs fell in target area at Submarine base starting 1 fire. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1229/9).

/ HAWKINS.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HAWKINS
AUSTRALIA
SHROPSHIRE
CORNWALL.

0229/31/12, 2346/31/12, 1642/6/1. It is intended that
A. HAWKINS should accompany AUSTRALIA to join the Home Fleet temporarily.
B. SHROPSHIRE should be detached from Aden to start refit as soon as CORNWALL completes.
C. CORNWALL should remain on the East Indies Station.
(2) C's in C. concerned are requested to take necessary action.
(D.O.D.(F) 1316/9 to C-in C's East Indies and Med.)

LYCAON
ANTENOR
DAUNTLESS

? 4° 4' N

British ship LYCAON will arrive position 044° North 094° East at 1630Z/10 from position 010° South 053° East (ii) ANTENOR is to escort LYCAON until relieved by DAUNTLESS (iii) Request C.in C. China will arrange for DAUNTLESS to relieve ANTENOR on relief is to proceed Colombo through position 000° 30' North 083° East adjusting speed to arrive 0930Z/13. (C.in C. E.I., 1456Z/9).

Air Report.

Summary No.211 for 24 hours ending 1500 9/1. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron armed reconnaissance Assab area. Nothing to report on satellite landing grounds or in harbour. 1000 lbs. bombs dropped on Podowns point 14 053 hours. 3 Blenheims 4's provided fighter escort convoy B.S.12. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1835/9).

U.S.9.

China.

Your 1242/8 (substitution of QUEEN MARY for QUEEN ELIZABETH in convoy U.S.9) paragraph two concur. (C.in C. China, 0517Z/9, to D. of S.T.).

Indo-China,
Free French
Report.

991. From Schompre to General de Gaulle No.43, 7/1 and General Catroux. Have had conversation with Capitaine de Vaisseau Jouan who told me Decoux negotiated alone with Japanese achieving following points
(i) Recognition of Indo China's integrity.
(ii) Release of all prisoners.
(iii) Payment for all damage.
In Tonkin they have so far kept their word, but have stated should de Gaulle movement appear they would occupy all Indo China. He asked me not to launch any movement and to cease all propaganda activity. He expressed following views regarding situation with British "all hope for British victory but drastic orders from Vichy made stoppage of shipping necessary. Under present circumstances it should be possible for British to send ships to Saigon from time to time". (C.in C. China, 0803Z/9 to Admty.)

/ Interference with Shipping ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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China. (Contd.)

Interference
with
Shipping.

Request information whether decision has yet been reached on my 0531 Dec. 1st observing that illegal interference with British shipping on China coast continues and protests produce little or no result.
(C.in C. China 0811Z/9 to Adty).

Indo-
China
Trade.

My 0947/4. Captain Jouan returns to Singapore for further discussions 15/1 and movements of shipping are being resumed as from tomorrow 10/1.
(C.in C. China 1400/9 to Admtly).

Keppel
Harbour
Defence.

It is approved to protect Western Entrance to Keppel Harbour between Main Island and Blackang Mati Island with controlled minefield, consisting of 1 guard loop and 4 mine loops, preparation for laying being carried out from Changi C.M. Base. Report by signal estimated for work involed. Minefield should be planned locally further details concerning mines are being forwarded under A.L. T.O. 6421/40).
(D.T.M. 1845/9 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Armed
Raider
Report.,
5/12.

Colon reports U.S. Ship EXMOUTH sighted offensively Armed Merchant ship distant 500 yards position 037 30'N., 022 30'W. 5/12. Wearing white ensign which substituted for another believed German when EXMOUTH recognised as being U.S. Ship. Description 18000 tons passenger cargo type buff upper works black hull seven each side two masts one funnel.
(A.2.)
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1008/9 to Admtly, etc.)

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

T.C. 9.

(D.O.D.(H) 1353/9 to R.A. 3.B.S., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1614/9 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

Australia

Raider
Intelligence

Pacific raider W/T intelligence. No information available regarding NARVIK. MANYO MARU and TOKYO MARU fitted similarly. (Details of W/T). German crew state ships in daily communication with Germany but time and frequency used not divulged. Norwegian officer informed two days after occurrence that news of sinking of VINNI already received in Norway. Same officer also told Raider carried special set for jamming. Raider removed complete transmitter from HOLMWOOD and possibly from other ships and may have used them to simulate messages from British ships. This may explain temporary aerial mentioned earlier which was rigged in MANYO MARU before Nauru attack. No broadcast receivers in use in RANGITANE for 4 days before disablement. That ship's receiver of modern type and radiations unlikely. Experience obtained with RANGITANE's distress message fully bears out policy contained in Admty. message C.S. Above message is also reply to Capt. on Staff Singapore 1037Z/31 to A.C.N.B. (A.C.N.B. 0900Z/9)

Raider
6.6 inch
Shell

Examination of base of certain castings of a shell from Raider nicknamed NARVIK recovered from RANGITANE by master of that vessel indicates shell was fired by a 17 C.M. (6.693) gun. (A.C.N.B. 1501Z/9 to Admty. etc.,)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

300

BABITONGA

German firm reported to be endeavouring to transfer 886 tons Diesel oil in drums from a Rio de Janeiro warehouse to BABITONGA, which has been at Santos since August, 1939. (D.S. 493, 10/1).

ESPANA.

At Oslo, reported (B.2) as converted into a barrack ship and lying at Granti[?]Quay. (D.S. 493, 10/1).
Grahli.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Graded B. one, MENDOZA sails to-morrow 10/1 for Montevideo where completes with fuel and cargo. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1040/9).

War Diary.

9.1.1941.

Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

301

CAVINA
(Ocean boarding
vessel).

The following has been read.
S/M bearing and distance 180 degs
1 mile my position 52.30 N., 18.22 W.
course is 054 degs. (CAVINA, 0220/9,
0255/9.)

723. Cancel my 0914/8/1 to CAVINA only.
Join S.L.60 which meets local escort in
position 53 degs 35' N. 16 degs 00' W.
at 0900/9. Thence through 55 degs 00' N.
10 degs 00' W. If submarine is chasing
you do not lead her to convoy.
(F.O.C.N.P. 0500/9, to CAVINA).

BASSANO

British 4843 tons.
SSSS de GCK 57. 24 N. 18. 40 West,
BASSANO torpedoed.
(Valentia Radio, 1619/9).

BASSANO torpedoed in position 057°
24' North 18° 40' West at 1719.
Investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 1733/9
to WILD SWAN).

Following intercepted by R.S.S. YORK
on 6700 k/c's (begins) SSSS BT
57. 24 N., 18 40 W., BASSANO torpedoed
BY 1619/9 G.M.T. (Ends).
(F.O. Humber, 1810/9).
BASSANO was bound independently from
New York to Glasgow with a general
cargo. (D.S., 493).

SHAKESPEAR

S.S. SHAKESPEAR, (names of killed or
missing:)
(St. Vincent, C.V., 1720/9 to Admty.)

From preliminary investigation it
appears SHAKESPEAR fought a gallant
action with U-boat for nearly 2 hours
until she received a direct hit on her
gun. 2 of U-boat's crew believed to
have been killed and others wounded.
(D.O.R. 10/1).

BRITISH PREMIER.

U.65

Nine survivors of British tanker
BRITISH PREMIER (5872 tons) were picked
up by HAWKINS at 0830, 3/1 in position
8 degs 8' North 14 degs 42' West.
Ship was torpedoed at 1545/24/12
presumably in about position 6 degs
20' North 13 degs 20' West (see my
1911/29) and sank 14 hours later.
Submarine did not surface but survivors
state that periscope was seen about
half a mile from ship. Only one boat
got away with 10 men. Seaman Gunner
Jack Price died from burns on ?24/12
and was buried at sea. Survivors
consider remainder were either killed

/by the explosion

(See also 6/2/41 - more survivors - 41 days in open boat)

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Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

302

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

BRITISH PREMIER.
(contd.)

by the explosion or by the flames which soon enveloped the ship and sea around. (C.in C. S.A., 2109N/9, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

(Following is repeated Admiralty for information). Addressed F.O.I.C. Greenock. S/M sighted on the surface in position 054 degrees 49' 005 degrees 10' west. Our course 337 degrees, speed 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0300/9).

1348.

S.W. area of Bay of Biscay, indefinite. (D.S. 493).

1728)
1740)

52° N., 22° - 23° W., say 460' W. of Valentia. (D.S. 493).

1942.

51½° - 52½° N., 18° - 20° W., say 320' W. of Valentia. (D.S. 493).

Reference Admiralty Message A.F. (position of enemy submarine) Position 52° 29' N. 18° 22' W. at 0155/9 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0428/9).

1400/7.

Fisherman sighted a submarine off Riviera Grande San Miguel 1400/7, submarine dived on being sighted. (Capt. S.8, 0940/9, to OLYMPUS).

Gibraltar.

Following broadcast from Dakar radio station had passed through Straits of Gibraltar into Atlantic on patrol. (C.in C. S.A., 1616/9 to Admty.) (See 1937/11).

1915/8 reports 10 Italian ships

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian

- 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
- 1 in Madeira area.
- 1 about 52° N. 18° W. bound for Gironde.
- 1 in 52° 30' N. 16° W. at 2146/8, northbound.
- 1 about 59° 30' N. 16° W. at 0620/9.
- 1 between 58° N. and 60° N. 18° W. and 20° W.

German.

- Possibly 1 in Freetown area.
 - 1 near Canaries southbound.
 - 1 off Spain northbound.
- Situation in N.W. Approaches is obscure. Number and position of U/Bs. operating cannot be estimated. Two of three are N. or N.E. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1318/9).

War Diary

10.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy
W.S.5 B

The Clyde section is still held up by fog. Owing to the danger of air attack the Liverpool section sailed this evening for Belfast.

Defence of
Convoys

Arrangements are now being made to provide a certain number of ship borne fighters for defence of convoys. (M.S.M., para 21)

British Air Activity

Attack on
Brest

In good weather last night 10 aircraft of Coastal Command dropped I.B's, H.E. and land mines in the dock area at Brest. Two direct hits on the cruiser are reported.

Operations
curtailed by fog

Skuas left Hatston today to attack shipping in the Haugesund area, but were compelled by fog to return. All flying by 200 Group today was cancelled owing to the weather.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
Portsmouth

Some damage from blast was sustained in Portsmouth dockyard by a bomb dropped last night.

An unknown ship reported at 1515 being attacked in the swept channel east of Felixtowe.

Mining

Thames

All outward bound traffic in the Thames from Gravesend was stopped this morning.

/ SS MIDDLESEX....

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

SS MIDDLESEX (9583 tons) was sunk by mine in the Bristol Channel this morning. Movement of ships eastward of Barry was suspended.

SS DORSET COAST was mined and damaged off Cardiff this afternoon and was towed to Penarth. (D.O.R.)

Operations Against Vichy French

The Admiralty today issued revised instructions for the treatment of French Merchant ships.

O.B.V. MARON early this afternoon intercepted the French M.V. CANTAL about 350 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Excess"

M06234/41 }
M09796/41 }

C. in C., Med. reports that Operation "Excess" (passage of M.T. ships through the Mediteranean) was carried out as planned. Five Swordfish were flown off for Malta on Day 3. Early that afternoon Force H was attacked unsuccessfully by 8 aircraft, two of which were shot down single handed by Lt. Comdr. Tillard in a Fulmar. Five mines were cut 15 miles west of Pantellaria that day.

Today, while the westbound convoy was approaching Malta the escort sighted and engaged two enemy destroyers 15 miles south of Pantellaria and sank one (probably VEGA) the second destroyer escaping.

/GALLANT.....

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FridaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanOperation
"Excess"-Contd.
GALLANT and
ILLUSTRIOUS
Damaged

GALLANT was hit by a mine or submarine torpedo 25 miles S.E. of Pantellaria and had her bows blown off and was towed to Malta by MOHAWK, covered by 3rd C.S. and BONAVENTURE.

Shortly after noon today air attacks commenced on the Battle Fleet, which was covering the westbound convoy into Malta. Dive bombers, high level bombers and torpedo aircraft were employed. Five of the bombers were J.U. 87 with German markings; these attacked with great determination and skill, suggesting German personnel. This was the first really large scale ^{air} attack to which the Fleet had been subjected. ILLUSTRIOUS was hit by 6 bombs and proceeded to Malta with severe damage and casualties, steering by engine. Sixteen of her aircraft were destroyed, but the remainder landed at Malta. Fulmars shot down six J.U. 87 and one or two S. 79 and damaged others.

Air Attack on
Messina

Wellington bombers from Malta last night attacked Messina. Cruisers and ships in harbour were straddled, and bursts and fires were seen amongst port installations.

Tobruk and Benghazi were bombed today.

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Defence of U.K.

Deluge.

At 1130/10. (D.C. 1145/10, 2007/10).
At 2330/10. (D.C. 0001/11).

Iceland.

K.H.M. required for Reykjavik. Signal Station repaired at Hvitanes (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1449/10).
Amendment to G.O.C. Iceland Force 0469/8 (G.O.C. Iceland Force No T.O.O. recd. 0905/11).

Movements.

GAUSE. *no trace.*

My 1842/9 and 0115/10 GAUSE will sail at 1000/10.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock ? 0810/10 to H.Q.F.C., Adty.)

NORTHERN REWARD.

NORTHERN REWARD sailed for T.R.37. (F.O. Iceland 1140/10.)

→ MARON CANTAL

Have French ship FNRH (CANTAL) in company. Request instructions. (MARON 1220/10).

N.P. Trawler lines occupied tonight Friday. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1507/10).

RAMILLIES.

RAMILLIES return to Clyde in company with DUCHESS of YORK. Destroyers proceed to meet REVENGE, ARGUS, and KENYA as previously ordered. (D.O.D.(H) 1555/10 to RAMILLIES).

→ MARON CANTAL

Your 1220/10. *for sailing see p. 316* If fuel permits send ship to Clyde following route and join H.G.50. Otherwise send or escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.P. 1758/10 to MARON).

ESPERANCE BAY.

MANCHESTER sails Scapa 0130/11 for Tyne. E.N.54 convoy may be met after passing Duncansby Head. Expect air A/S escort by Anson aircraft from daylight/11. Single seater fighters standing by for your protection in the event of air attack. Code Word ~~HATCH~~ *Hatch* "Re lights. (C.in C. Rosyth 1826/10 to ESPERANCE BAY).

(D) 5.

Adty's 1555/10. Proceed North of Rockall to R/V carrying out A/S sweep. (C.in C. W.A. 2013/10 to Capt.(D) 5.)

/ PRIMULA

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

PRIMULA

Intend sailing PRIMULA so as to join F.S.85 off Harwich for passage to Woolwich on 13/1.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2310/10).

Operations.

Battle
cruiser
sweep

Intend to leave Scapa at 0100/11 in HOOD with REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, and six destroyers. Speed of advance 20 knots through position 58° 55' N. 07° 00' west thence course 300°. If no further information is received intend to turn for Scapa at 0001/12. Force will be addressed as battle cruiser force.
(B.C. one 2241/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

Fleet Units leave Scapa 0100 tomorrow Saturday to Westward.
(A.C.O.S. 2256/10 to ships and authorities concerned.).

Submarines.

TRIDENT
LA MOQUEUSE

Orders (Capt.(S) 2 1427/10 to TRIDENT, LA MOQUEUSE). Informing authorities concerned (S.2. 1627/10).

Positions.

0800/11 (V.A.S. 1658/10).

*amended by 1141/12
P.386*

THUNDERBOLT

The following may be encountered one merchant ship from Ayr to Falmouth e.t.a. 1400/11 one merchant ship from Mersey to Falmouth e.t.a. 1200/11.
V.A.S. 1936/10 to THUNDERBOLT).

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British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following additional patrols ordered to-day Friday:
Fugle Hornli. (C.in C. Rosyth 0808/10).

My 0808/10. Add ~~SYDERO~~. "Sydero".
(C.in C. Rosyth 0932/10).

4 Skuas to attack enemy shipping in Haugesund area.

My 0920/8 and 1355/8 Intend to repeat operation today Aircraft leaving at 1045.
(Hatston 0935/10).

Attack on shipping in Haugesund area.

My 0935 4 Skuas left 1050.

My 0935. All aircraft returned Hatston. Aircraft failed to reach objective due to fog. (Hatston 1357/10).

Attack on Brest.

AP/744/10/1. Available aircraft No.217 Squadron to repeat to-night 10/11 January operation as detailed in my AP/742 9/1. Nos.53 and 59 Squadrons also engaged on same target.
(H.Q. C.C. 1155/10, 1157/10).

Attack on Brest.

During night of January 9th/10th weather conditions good, 10 aircraft of coastal command dropped I.B's H.E. and land mines in dock area Brest.2 direct hits on Cruiser reported. (D.D.I.C. 1600/10).

In consequence of the arrangements now being made to provide a certain number of ship borne fighters for defence of convoys it would be appreciated if 804 Squadron could shortly be released from duty in connection with defence of Scapa so that aircraft and personnel may be diverted to new duty - W.P. (39) 8 refers.
(5th Sea Lord 1648/10 to Air Min.)

Operations cancelled.

All flying cancelled owing to weather.
(200 Group 1700/10).

Patrol to intercept enemy.

Request air patrol during daylight/11 in the following area. Rockall, a position 58° 40' N. 12° 30' W. bounded by lines in a direction 300° from these two positions, Patrol to extend as far in a direction 300° as practicable. Object to intercept enemy surface forces attempting the Iceland Faroes passage.
(C.in C. H.F. 2343/10).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Yarmouth.
PEKEN
(bombed 9/1.)

My 2325/9. PEKEN has sustained severe damage from direct hits by bombs. Holes plugged, have pumped ship dry. Ship will be docked at Fellows Yard at 0650/10. One Rating slight injury. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0051/10).

Very slight damage at Yarmouth (Shotley Gates 1650/10).

Attack on
Plymouth 9/1.

Plymouth raided by single hostile aircraft at 2205/9. One H.E. bomb dropped in Devonport civil area and one suspected in Hamoaze. A number of I.B's fell in North Dockyard causing slight damage and fires one of which was not extinguished until 0035/10. Casualties so far reported one Naval, one Civilian killed seven civilians seriously injured. (C.in C. W.A. 0850/10).

Attack on Portsmouth.

Following damage was sustained in the dockyard by blast from bomb dropped in water off Promontory between C and D locks on the night of 9 Jan. (Supt. C.E. 1305/10).

W.N. Convoy.

Following has been read:-
Air attack is imminent on even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1435/10).

Following has been read:-
Fighter aircraft are being sent to the assistance of even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1436/10).

Following has been read:-
No air attack imminent on even numbered W.N. Convoy. (Lyness 1454/10).

?

Following has been received on 385 kc/s. Begins ship being attacked by enemy 52.03N 01.42E. 1515 Ends. (C.in C. Nore 1541/10).

British a/c over
Faroës.

Unidentified twin engines monoplane flew low over Thorshavn and Tteraa between 1355 and 1425 no attempt was made by aircraft to identify itself, so it was fired on at both places. Subsequent inquiries indicate aircraft had painted markings with letters S/YG on fuselage. Type possibly Whitley. Request proposals in my submission 011/4 of 14/12 may be communicated to those concerned. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1625/10 to A.C.O.S.).

Convoy W.S.5B.

Enemy air attack imminent on ~~OLIVE~~.
(Rosyth W/T 1916/10).

"OLIVE".

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HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Thames.

Stop all outward bound traffic.
(F.O.I.C. London 0832/10 to Adty.)

My 0832/10 traffic is released as far
as Gravesend. (F.O.I.C. London 0850/10).

Operation Z M E 14.

Position etc. Operation to be carried out
on night of 11/1 or as soon after as
practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1044/10 to
C.in C. W.A.).

Operation Z M E 14.

Your 1044/10 Z M E 14. Repeating
Details. 15' N. 5 degs. 33' W.
(ADVENTURE 1555/10).

S.S. MIDDLESEX.
Mined.

Mined 192° Flat Holm ^{Is} point 8 miles,
Movement of ships to Eastward of Barry
Suspended. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1117/10).

S.S. DORSET COAST.

Mined and damaged off Cardiff 1530 and
subsequently towed into Penarth Dock
(D.O.R. 11/1).

Operation P.V.1.

P.V. One will be carried out between
2130/10 and 2330/10.
(C.in C. Nore 1135/10 N.O.I.C. Harwich
1610/10).

A/C minelaying.

A.P./745 10/1. Operation for tonight
10/11 January. Gardening by No. 812
Squadron. (H.Q.C.C. 1157/10).

AP/746 10/1. ^{"Gardening"} ~~minelaying~~ tonight 10th/11th
January by No.22 Squadron.
(H.Q.C.C. 1159/10).

MOST SECRETCorrection.

In message 1159/10 from H.Q. Coastal
Command, concerning gardening for night
10th - 11th, for "Chrysanthemums" read
"Xeranthemums".

Operation
S.N.71.

Intend to sail SCOTT for Denies Straits
13/1 to carry out preliminary sounding
for operation S.N.71.
(R.A.M.L. 1548/10).

Sweep.
Invergordon
for MOOLTAN

Your 1831/9. S A Trawler LACENNIA has
been detailed and will rendezvous with
SOUTHERN FIELD as suggested by N.O.I.C.
Dundee at 1730/13. (N.O.I.C. Leith
1820/10).

Humber 9/1.

My 1924/9. Mine was exploded by LL
M/S Trawlers VARANIS and GWENLLIAN (details).
(F.O. Humber 1825/10).

Sheerness
7/1.

Amendment to his 1635/7/1.
(Capt. M.S. Sheerness 1949/10).

/ My 1453/8/1.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

My 1453/8/1. Intend sailing 6 Fleet Minesweepers at 0915/12/1 to search area extending one mile either side of line from 51° 48.3' N. 1° 40.8' to 51° 49' N. 1° 50.5' E., commencing to sweep at 1030 turning at the Eastern limit at 1130 in sweeps at 1230 and returning to harbour, at about 1430. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2308/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Raider report.

Disguised Merchant raider.
54 - 06 N. 25 - 29 W. MATHURA.
Suspicious vessel following.
(Lyness 0904/10).

Cancel MATHURA's QQQQ. (CALIFORNIA 0950/10, MATHURA 1113/10).

French Trawlers
with German Crews
fitted with W/T
reporting British
Movements.

Your 1856. Request any further information available including particulars if possible which would assist ships to identify these trawlers. (C.in C. H.F. 1022/10 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.S. SNYG.

(i) Norwegian Haugesund Dagblad begins:-
"Steamer SNYG mined and sunk off Norway crew saved. Reports that (? foreign) mines are laid off Norwegian Coast are gaining credence and recent numerous sinkings is evidence coastal traffic is extremely dangerous." Ends.

(ii) From Secret source Oslo I learn SNYG was due to discharge Trondjhem early January and afterwards be requisitioned for German Auxiliary Service. (N.A. Stockholm 1107/10).

N.I.D. Comment.

Another Press Report from Oslo via Stockholm confirms this sinking, and alludes to "latest" British mines.

Request you will reply to C.in C. Home Fleet 1022/10. (C.in C. W.A. 1457/10 to D.N.I.)

R.C. of Kiel.

Result of further examination of photographs (D.D.I.C. 1540/10).

/ 3 enemy units in
N. Atlantic.

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Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

3 enemy units in
N. Atlantic.

There are indications from D/F that 3 enemy units may be at sea in the North Atlantic, one to S.W. of Iceland, one to westward of Ireland and one between Ireland and the Azores. Type of vessel cannot be established but possibility that they are surface vessels cannot be ruled out.

(D.D.I.C. 1641/10 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A., C.in C. S.A., R.A.3., F.O.C., N.A., A.C.O.S., C.in C. A.W.I., V.A.S.)

Repeated (V.A.S. 1838/10 to S/M's on patrol Area B.).

Enemy unit W. of
Ireland.

By D/F at 1617 B.S.T. enemy unit in position $54^{\circ} 40' N.$, $17^{\circ} 00' W.$
Unreliable fix. Frequency does not indicate whether U/B or surface ship.
(D.D.I.C. 1800/10 to Ships and Authorities Orkneys and Shetlands and Western Command, H.Q.C.C.)

By D/F at 1800/10 position of enemy unit was $054^{\circ} 40' N.$ $017^{\circ} 00' W.$ unreliable fix. No indication whether U-Boat or surface ship. (C.in C. W.A. 1913/10 to SEVERN).

By D/F at 2117/10 position of unknown enemy unit was $51^{\circ} 25' N.$ $11^{\circ} 20' W.$
Unreliable fix.
Nothing to show whether surface vessel or U/B. (D.D.I.C. 2225/10 to Ships and Authorities Western Command North and South, H.Q.C.C., C.in C. H.F.)

Following positions of enemy units obtained by D/F

1. at 1617/10 in approx. $54^{\circ} 40' N.$ $17^{\circ} 00' W.$ At 2117/10 in approximately $51^{\circ} 25' N.$ $11^{\circ} 20' W.$
2. At 1300/10 in position $51^{\circ} 20' N.$ $8^{\circ} 50' W.$ Coastal Command aircraft sighted a M/V with grey funnel and broad white band on which was painted a Red Cross. (D.D.I.C. 1300/10. Recd. by D.N.I. from C.C.).
3. At 1600/10 U.Boat reported 1 mile off Cape Cod $51^{\circ} 38' N.$ $10^{\circ} 05' W.$
(D.D.I.C. 2259/10 to Ships and Authorities Areas A & B., H.Q.C.C., H.O.F.O.R.S.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys.

SAN
FRANCISCO.

(French Merchant Ship) sailed Liverpool 1030/10 and proceeds to Gibraltar with safe conduct from British German and Italian Governments.
(A.C.W.A. 1449/10 to Ships and Authorities Western Approaches.

O.B.271.
VANQUISHER.

O.B.C. 271 cancelled through fog. Proceed forthwith to R/V with Liverpool portion in accordance with previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0105/10 to VANQUISHER).

Division. Amended route. (D.T.D. 2000/1).

O.B.C. 272.
HONEYSUCKLE.

Sailed HONEYSUCKLE escort for O.B.C.272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0955/10).

O.B.O. 271.

Sailed (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1203/10).

O.B.O. 272.
CANDYTUFT.

Sailed CANDYTUFT escort for O.B.O.272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/10).

O.B.272.
O.B.M.272.
O.B.C.272.
O.B.O 272.
O.B.C.271.

O.B.272 Cancelled. (C.in C. W.A. 1219/10).
O.B.272. Liverpool section cancelled. O.B.272 to R/V with O.B.C.272 and O.B.O.272 1530/11 O Altacarry 8 miles. Ships from O.B.271 to be included in O.B.272. (C.in C. W.A. 1209/10)

O.B.M.272.
WELLINGTON.

Sailed WELLINGTON to R/V with O.B.M.272.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0940/10).

Suspicious
Conduct of
Greek S.S.

ARBUTUS reports:- "At 1625/3 in approx. 56° 57' N., 13° 16' W. MICHAELIS hoisted out of control balls and pulled out of line. ARBUTUS made enquiries and got reply "Engine trouble speed reduced pleased stand by". By 1830 he had practically stopped. Weather - overcast wind rising squally force 10.

MICHAELIS
In O.B.268.

At 2130 Greek showed a flashing light. ARBUTUS signalled in reply at least four times over whole period. There was no answer. Flashing continued apparently from abaft the funnel. Signalled him to stop with-out result.

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Shipping and Convoys.

MICHAELIS
in O.B.268.

At 2200 shot at light with rifle.
At 2230 machine gun still without effect.
Light continued to flash until 2345 when
Greek was lost in a rain squall, touch was
not regained when weather cleared at 0015
and it is estimated that he got under way
during that period and on a different
course. Estimated visibility of the
light in that weather was 2 miles".
(Capt: D.Liverpool 1302/10).

F.S.
and
F.N.

Forecast of sailings (C.in C. Rosyth
1329/10).

F.N.80.

Ships' destinations. (N.C.S.O.Thames.
1536/10).

F.S.84.
GUILLEMOT.

GUILLEMOT sailed to join F.S.84.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0208/10).

F.S.83.

Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames 2116/1).
Also SANFRY ex Humber for Ipswich.
(N.C.S.O.Thames 1818/10).

F.N.78.

H.M.T. CHRYSOLITE arrived 0930/10 with
F.N.78. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1238/10, 0954/10).

F.N.80.
F.S. and
F.N.

* SALAMANDER from Harwich with F.N.80 to
Humber. Convoys:- F.S.83 due at Southend
1600/10. F.N.80 due at Sheringham 0230/11.
F.S.84 due at Aldeburgh 0800/11.
F.N.81 sails from Southend 0830/11.
(C.in C. Nore 1200/10).

* See also next page

F.S.87.

My 2155/3. Amend escort to read
VERSABLE and VIMIERA. (C.in C. Rosyth
0931/10).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.E.22.

Of six ships which might be available for C.E.22. on 12th, two are doubtful starters. In view of this it is for consideration that sailing date should be deferred. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/10 to C.in C.Nore).

F.N.80
SALAMANDER.

Harwich 10/1 departure SALAMANDER at 1223 for Grimsby with F.N.Convoy. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1232/10).

See previous page

F.N.78.

Arrived (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1701/10).

E.N.53.
E.N.55.

Arrived all 11 ships at 1615/10. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1841/10). 1830/11. Escort. Additional escort for E.N.55 HASTINGS. Code words etc. (N.C.S.O.Methil 1649/10).

→ W.N.66.

Scapa departure 1120 FOWEY, COLUMBINE and 1330 CURACOA all to convoy WN 66. (A.C.O.S. 1332/10).

W.N.67(0).

1400/10 Route etc. (N.C.S.O. 1200/10).

→ W.N.66.
E.N.54.
F.S.85.

Convoy W.N.66. off Rattray Head 2000 with CURACOA in company who returns to Scapa from Buchan Ness 19th. M/S Group are sweeping ahead of F.N.66 until Cruden Scaurs then proceeding to Peterhead. Convoy E.N.54 off Banff 1800. Convoy F.S.85 sails 2300. (C.in C. Rosyth 1456/10).

E.N.55.
HASTINGS
W.N.68.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.55. sailing at 1830/11. On meeting transfer to W.N.68 due Cape Wrath 0130/13 and Duncansby Head 1200/13. Code word for E.N.55 ~~W.N.68~~ and W.N.68 ~~METHIL~~ "Mutual". (C.in C. Rosyth 1517/10 to HASTINGS.)

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Shipping and Convoys.

E.N.54.
HAMLET.
F.S.85.

My 2331/9 add departure HAMLET as additional escort for E.N.54. WOOLSTON and VESPER with F.S.85. (C.in C. Rosyth 2305/10).

→ H.X.99B.

Request you will sail DERBY COUNTY in time to meet H.X.99 B estimated to reach 053° 48' N., 005° 08' W., at 1900/10. (C.in C. W.A. 1143/10 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

Re arrival (SARDONYX 1440/10).

H.X.88.
H.X.100.

Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 2000/10).

→ H.X.99 B.
SARDONYX.

Propose to leave H.X.99 B on anchoring in Moelfre Bay. (SARDONYX 1640/10).

H.G.49.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0053/10).

S.C.19.

Ocean escort AURANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3 1014/10).

Troop
Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

Aty. 2231/3 and N.O.I.C. Greenock 1651/8 (Requesting fighter co-operation for 1 battleship, 4 destroyers and 1 liner in connection with W.S.5). Owing to delay in sailing intend to use alternative route through position (P) and (Q). (RAMILLIES 0946/10).

Sailed RAMILLIES, KELLY, KELVIN, KIPLING, PUNJABI, DUCHESS OF YORK. E.T.A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/10).

later order - see p. 306

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Shipping and Convoys.

Your 1816/9/1. Information given by Harbour Master at Glasgow not accurate. Pilot Master reported that even if weather cleared completely movement could not be carried out.
(D. of S.T.Glasgow 1030/10).

Your 1509/9. Ships have been unable to proceed down river by forenoon tide today Friday. Every endeavour will be made on this evening tide when movement would commence 2000.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/10. Intend to remain Bangor until further orders.
(HIGHLANDER 1201/10).

W.S.5.B.

If sailing of W.S.5.B. is again postponed suggest Liverpool section should proceed to another anchorage tonight Friday since they will have been in present exposed anchorage for 3 days and appeared to be in considerable danger of air attack last night against which cruiser(s) could not afford adequate protection.
(C.S.15 1213/10 to A.C.W.A.)

My 1213/10. One aircraft approaching from Mersey passed 9,000 yards from convoy. There was bright moon but hope ground mist prevented us from being spotted.
(C.S.15 1247/10).

C.S.15's 1213. Clyde ships still delayed. C.S.15 is requested to sail Liverpool section to Belfast Lough keeping A/S Yacht in company.

(2) N.O.I.C. Belfast is to sail HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER forthwith to join C.S.15 as ordered by latter.
(C.in C. W.A. 1413/10 to C.S.15, N.O.I.C. Belfast). *See next page*

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W.S.5B (Gen^l)
ARAWA
1941

Shipping and Convoys.

Admty. 2251/2. Sailing ARAWA with W.S.5.B. ARAWA reports her maximum station keeping speed is 14.5 knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 1420/10).

Two generators in J.29 have broken down. Ship cannot possibly sail as arranged. (P.S.T.O.Clyde 1510/10).

HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1413/10.E.T.A. Moelfre Bay 1915. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1531/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

My 1509/9. Sailing time of W.S.5.B. is uncertain as Clyde ships are still delayed. (C.in C. W.A. 1605/10).

C.in C. W.A. 1413/10. Convoy sails 2300. E.T.A. Eastern End QZS 45 at 0900/11. Request position in which pilots will board ships. (C.S.15? 1714/10 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

My 1413/10. If Clyde ships can get down river tonight request you will arrange R/V with Liverpool and Bristol Channel ships as early as practicable in daylight/11. (A.C.W.A. 1739/10 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

Extra escort for W.S.5.B. as far as Azores is considered necessary.

2. RAMILLIES has therefore been ordered to return to the Clyde. She should refuel and then act as additional ocean escort to this convoy until in the vicinity of the Azores.

3. DUCHESS OF YORK has been ordered to accompany RAMILLIES to Clyde. She is to be sailed in convoy W.S.5.B. and both ships are to proceed to Halifax after parting company with the convoy. (V.C.N.S. 1849/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.,
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

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W.S.5B cont.

My 1413/10. Due to air activity you are to sail as soon as possible.
(C.in C. W.A. 1931/10 to C.S.15.)

831. My 1318/5 not to all addressees. A/S escort W.S.5.B. now be as follows from Clyde OTTAWA, CHURCHILL, FEARLESS, BRILLIANT, WATCHMAN, BEAGLE, LINCOLN, LEOPARD. From Belfast HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, VANSITTART. From Londonderry JACKAL, LEAMINGTON, WITH-ERINGTON.

From Liverpool FORESIGHT on completion of defect.

(2) S.O. LINCOLN.

(3) Destroyers from Londonderry are to be sailed to a R/V which will be given by F.O.I.C. Greenock.

FORESIGHT is to be sailed to overtake convoy (C.in C. W.A. 1905/10).

Enemy aircraft operating to South Isle of May. Keep clear of this area. H.X.99 has been ordered to keep to Westward of 5° W.
(C.in C. W.A. 2203/10 to C.S.15.)

My 1102/10 ships have been unable to proceed down river by this evening tide. Next suitable tide will be 0830/11.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2217/10).

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1648/8.(?1650/8 requesting fighter protection for W.S.5.B. code word ~~OLIVE~~). "Olive" sailed 2140/10 for Belfast Lough. E.T.A. before daylight/11
(C.in C. W.A. 2317/10).

T.C.9.

Your 1353/9 not to C.O.A.C.Halifax. RAMILLIES can be made available as escort for T.C.9.
(F.O.C.3.B.S. 1511/10 to Admty).

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Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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Ships out
of Action.

Amendment to O710/5/1.
(C.in C. Nore 0802/10).

C.in C. H.F. 1558/7 and F.O.I.C.Glasgow's 2004/9. Approved for ARGUS to be taken in hand on arrival by Messrs. John Brown, Clydebank, for fourteen days for urgent repairs only.
(D.O.D.(H) 1046/10).

MOOLTAN.

Your 1130/6. MOOLTAN will be ready to sail after Tuesday January 14th.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne. 1237/10).

MOOLTAN now being prepared at Tyne for laying up at Invergordon requires to proceed from former Port as necessary to arrive off Cromarty Whistle Buoy at 1330/16.

Can MALCOLM be utilised as escort for this passage subsequently proceeding to ultimate destination? Minesweeping entailed precludes any advance in date.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1503/10).

SIKH.

Anticipate temporary repairs to SIKH for passage to Tyne will be completed 18/1 and vessel will then sail weather permitting.
(R.A.D. 1441/10).

FAME.

FAME should be ready for towing to Chatham 31/1 approx. Propose to tow as a hulk, and request tugs may be arranged for that date.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1509/10 to Admty).

M.G.B.52.

M.G.B. 52 arrived here owing to weather and engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1532/10).

M.L.169.

F.N.78. F.O.Humber's 0400/9 M/L 159 not arrived. (M.L.169 to join F.N.78).
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1551/10).

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Friday.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SANDÖY.

SANDÖY. My 1650/9. Arrived Reykjavik 10/1 having been weather bound Patreksfjord 5 days.
(D.S.T.O Iceland, 1615/10).

S.S. TORQUAY.
S.S. HORSNA.

S.S. TORQUAY loaded with coals, Blyth to Aberdeen, arrived 1500/10, with badly damaged bow, master reports collided with S.S. believed to be S.S. HORSNA in ballast N.E. by N. 9 miles from 22 Buoy Firth of Forth at 0610/10.

Latter vessel afloat when last seen near this position.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/10).

BOREAS.

BOREAS should complete ready to leave London a.m./17.
(F.O.I.C. London 1648/10).

ARAWA.

Reasons for delay in completion.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1718/10).

INGLEFIELD.

INGLEFIELD will join C.in C. H.F. on completion of current refit.
(C.in C. Nore 1732/10).

CAPRICORNUS.

Resumed operations this afternoon. If weather continues shall endeavour to refloat vessel tomorrow.
(Salvage Officer Yantlet, 1745/10).

BENMOHR.

Following has been read. S.O.S. 56N 9 W BENMOHR. Collision sinking now going boats.
(Port Patrick Radio 2357/10).

Review.

Return to War Diary.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1407/10th Jan. OUT

- To F.O.C. Northern Patrol 634
- C. in C. Western Approaches 13.
- C. in C. South Atlantic 376.
- C. in C. East Indies 236.
- C. in C. Mediterranean 438.
- C. in C. Home Fleet 535.
- F.O.C. North Atlantic 115.
- S.O. (Force H) 66.

Date 10.1.41.

321A

Naval Cypher (D)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

It is desired to clarify instructions in my 0042/3 which is accordingly to be cancelled and following revised version substituted. (Begins)

1. Following general instructions replace all previous instructions for the treatment of French merchant ships whether escorted or unescorted. These instructions come into force forthwith. In cases where the instructions in paragraph 3 below with regard to escorting warships conflict with any existing instructions concerning the restriction of the movements of French warships, the latter repeat latter will prevail.

2. Escorted ships

(a) Notwithstanding the instructions contained in Articles 65-67 of the Naval Prize Manual, escorted merchant ships are not to be interfered with except when ordered by the Admiralty.

(b) The rights described in those Articles are not, however, abandoned, and H.M. Government have decided escorted ships passing from West to East through the Straits of Gibraltar shall be subject to control. The Admiralty will give instructions on each occasion when an operation to give effect to this policy is to take place.

(c) When an operation to intercept escorted ships is to take place the Admiralty will instruct the Senior Naval Officer concerned to carry out operation RATION.

(d) H.M. Ships employed on the interception of escorted French ships are to be guided by the following instructions:-

(i) Attempt to stop ships should only be made if H.M. Ships are in overwhelming force.

(ii) The Commander of the escorting warships should be informed, by means of a boarding officer if possible, that the merchant ships must proceed to a named British port for examination and requested to order the merchant ships to proceed there. Every courtesy possible is to be shown to the Commander of the escorting warships.

- 2 -

(iii) If the Commander of the escorting warship refuses to order the merchant ships into the British port, they should be taken or sent in without further reference to him, in accordance with the usual procedure laid down in Articles 78 and 79 of the Naval Prize Manual. If necessary, fire may be opened on the merchant ships under the authority there given.

(iv) If the escorting warships attempt to prevent the merchant ships being sent or taken in, force may be employed to compel them to desist from intervening. British warships must not, however, fire the first shot against the escort. In no circumstances are the escorting warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port even if they have tried to resist the exercise of control over the merchant ships.

3. Unescorted ships

(a) All such ships not known to be under the control of the Allies or de Gaulle are to be sent in under armed guard or escort to a British port for examination.

(b) If French warships subsequently dispute possession of a ship while being sent or brought in she is to be surrendered under protest unless the British force present is overwhelmingly superior, in which case action is to be taken as in paragraph 2(d)(iv).

4. In the Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be entered for the purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships.

5. The name and cargo of all French ships brought into port are to be reported immediately and the ships detained pending instructions. They are not to be treated as enemy ships.

6. The French have not been informed of the action contemplated, but they have been told that we must continue to exercise our full rights of blockade against the enemy. (Ends).

1407/10.

for Head of M. (86)
Approved 1st Lord.

1st Lord(5)	D.N.I.(4)
1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.
V.C.N.S.	I.P.
A.C.N.S.(H)	W.D.
A.C.N.S.(P)	Duty Captain
A.C.N.S.(T)	Head of M. (6) (M. 920153/40)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.
D. of P.(2)	D.D.I.C.
D.O.D.(F)	E.P.S.
D.D.O.D.(P)	D.T.D.
D.O.D.(H)	

War Diary

10.1.1943²²
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Treatment of
Merchant Ships

Desired to clarify instructions in my 0042/3, which is accordingly cancelled and following revised version substituted.
(2) Escorted Ships. (3) Unescorted Ships
(4) In Straits of Gibraltar area only, French territorial waters may be entered for purpose of intercepting either escorted or unescorted ships.
(5) Names and cargoes to be reported and ships detained- not to be treated as enemy ships.
(6) French not informed of action contemplated, but have been told we must continue to exercise our full rights of blockade against the enemy. (hd. of M., 1407/10, to F.O.C.N.P., C. in C's, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.) Full text in Lion copy only.

Your 0042/3 and your 2206/8. There are certain areas in which the purpose of merchant ships and warships become the same and it is assumed any Vichy French warships whether escorting merchant ships or not together with merchant ships they may be escorting are to be prevented from going to any Free French West African port in accordance with instructions concerning warships and I intend my instructions on this point shall remain in force. My 2001/30/12 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 1801B/10, to Admty amended 1036/11)

French merchant ships escorted by French warships are not to be interfered with except as laid down in South Atlantic Station message 133 G of 30/12 and para 4 of my memo No 125/62 15/11. That is only if proceeding to Free French West African Ports. (C. in C., S.A., 1857N/10 to S.A. Station 138G)

Use of
Force

Your 1830/6. So far as possible escorting warship should be disregarded and procedure in Article 78 applied to merchant ships only. If warning shot with live round cannot be fired ahead of merchant ships without risk of being misunderstood by the escort, it should be fired astern of merchant ships. Detailed instructions cannot be given for every variation in circumstance but warning shots should, if possible, be so placed as to avoid the appearance of opening attack upon escorting warships. (Hd. of M., 0117/10., to F.O.C.N.A)

/URANIA.....

War Diary

10.1.1941
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

URANIA

French trawler URANIA sent Gibraltar should arrive p.m/10. (CIRCASSIA, 0543/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Repatriation

It is desired that French ship SAN FRANCISCO sailing Liverpool 1030/10 to Marseilles under safe conduct should call at Gibraltar to embark French merchant seamen and other nationals for passage to Marseilles. Similar procedure was agreed to in the case of French ship OREGON. Request you approach French N.A. urgently. (Hd. of M. 1345/10 to N.A.Madrid)

Your 1515/9. It is hoped that GUINE will not be required but final decision cannot yet be given. See my 1345/10. (Hd. of M 1359/10 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon)

French Convoy

1045/10 French Light Cruiser ALBATROS[§] escorting French ship[§] BELAIN D'ESNAMBUQ. P. C & S., 038° 17' N., 009° 29' W., 315° 14 knots. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1453/10 to Admty. F.O.C.N.P.)

My 1453/10. Add French BOREAL. (S.O.I. Gib., 1531/10)

Dakar
Intelligence

Following from Navy Department. Arrived Dakar 8/1. MAURICE DELMAS with African soldiers from Morocco and KAKOULIMA from south.

Departure French tanker FIRUZ with 8000 tons Diesel oil requisitioned by French from Vacuum Oil Company escorted by small naval vessel for Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1535/10 to Admty.)

War Diary

10.1.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Ammunition
for Eastern
Mediterranean

C. in C., Mediterranean 1345/6.
During stay at Gibraltar, MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE are each to embark certain ammunition for onward passage to Eastern Mediterranean in W.S.5 (b), subject to ships not being unduly delayed in arrival at Freetown. Intended that a replenishment will be despatched to Gibraltar at first opportunity, probably by O.G. Convoy sailing from U.K. on 16/1. (D.T.S.D., 1140/10 to F.O.C.N.A)

CLEMATIS
CYCLAMEN
JONQUIL
GERANIUM

A.M. 1716/30/12. Intend sailing CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN for Freetown 1800/11 and retaining JONQUIL, GERANIUM until return of "VEES" from Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1242/10 to C. in C., S.A.)

SCOTTISH

Gibraltar departure 1505/10 SCOTTISH for T three. (S.O.I., Gib. 1524/10)

OLYMPUS

Position of submarine at 0800/11 and movements for following 24 hours OLYMPUS on patrol Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A., 1558/10)

Routes for
evading
U-Boats

Request instructions as to whether routing from Gibraltar, Las Palmas, Funchal to Southward should now conform with Admty. Messages 1612/19/11/40, 1758/26/11/40 and 1905/6/1/41. (F.O.C.N.A., 1720/10)

ARK ROYAL
Aircraft

Your 1558/15/9/40. If an opportunity occurred for ARK ROYAL to exchange 800 Skua Squadron for a Fulmar Squadron, would you prefer this to retaining 800 Squadron. (D.N.A.D., 1739/10 to S.O. Force H.)

Enemy Units

There are indications from D/F of enemy Unit(s) between Ireland and Azores. (F.O.C.N.A., 2140/10 to DERBYSHIRE, SALOPIAN)

/RESOLUTION....

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

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RESOLUTION.
BONAVENTURE.
JAGUAR.

It is intended that RESOLUTION, BONAVENTURE, JAGUAR should return to U.K. from Gibraltar in company. It is considered that RESOLUTION should be accompanied by four Destroyers throughout her passage from Gibraltar to Portsmouth.

F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange for three destroyers from Gibraltar to accompany this force as far as about 45° N., there to be relieved by three Destroyers to be detailed by C.in C. W.A. which, with JAGUAR, will escort RESOLUTION to Portsmouth.

BONAVENTURE to proceed as required by C.in C. H.F. (D.O.D.(H) 2303/10 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Defence of
Takoradi.

Am concerned about protection of Takoradi from attack from seaward. Presume aerodrome and assembly depot there is now of great importance. This is near coast and open to bombardment from seaward. Seaward defence Takoradi consists of one four-inch gun ex a merchant vessel and one 12 pounder. Report Raider not very far away recently has emphasized importance of this, also probability activities at Takoradi are now known. Recommend (a) two six-inch guns be provided and mounted there early as possible and suggest possibility that two now at Simonstown might be used if none available from elsewhere. (b) that of aircraft passing through three or four bombers should be maintained always available for operations against any vessel attacking from seaward. This would be an even more important deterrent than guns.
(C.in C. S.A. 0057/10 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (Contd.)

WILLIAM STRACHAN.

Overdue at Shanghai. My 1631/8.
WILLIAM STRACHAN arrived at Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0937B/10).

Shipping.
in 20° N.

Southbound ships crossing 20 degs. North for Capetown:-(Approximate noon positions and Routes) GOVERNOR 9 knots MUNCASTER CASTLE, 13½ knots. My 1817/8 para.2 add:- CLAN MACNAIR, 12 knots. (Approx. posn. 9/1 and route).
(D.T.D. 1152/10 to S.A.Station).

Operation
"Monsoon"

M03422/41

Operation ^{"monsoon"}~~monsoon~~ completed. Nine Fulmars 39 Hurricanes flown ashore one unserviceable Hurricane retained on board. Expected time of arrival Freetown with NEPTUNE, ISIS, and ENCOUNTER 1230/12. Will require three days in harbour.
(FURIOUS 1341/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

French
M/V's
ASTURIAS.
CUMBERLAND.
NEWCASTLE.

If MENDOZA or other French ships sail on or before 31/1 you are responsible for arc between Uruguayan coast and line 105° from English Bank Light Vessel. CUMBERLAND will take sector between 105 and 160 from English Bank Light Vessel and NEWCASTLE remaining in sector to south. After 13/1 cruiser will not be available for search. B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1835/9 January. Presence of ASTURIAS just outside 3-mile limit might encourage French ships to leave Uruguayan territorial waters and enable action to be taken. ASTURIAS is to read ~~series~~ - Falkland Is. routines while operating against French ships.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1522Z/10 to ASTURIAS).

ENTERPRISE.
raider decoy
message.

Transmit a warship raider distress message at about 0700 tomorrow 11/1 on 500 k/cs as if coming from a merchant ship subsequently cancelling message. Object is to encourage enemy raider believed to be in K 36 to proceed to westward.
(C.in C. S.A. 1759N/10 to ENTERPRISE).

(H.S.Note:- This message was not received in time. See 1841N/11).

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN.
CAP DES
PALMES.

Departure 1230/10 DUNEDIN escorting French ship CAP DES PALMES in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic. 2047N/9. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1945N/10).

G.R.
Squadron
Freetown.

Following from G.O.C. Defence problem of Sierra Leone and Freetown. Am convinced R.A.F. aircraft are urgently required at Freetown particularly for distant reconnaissance. As indicated in my JL/8 dated 8/1 R.A.F. proposal now includes the stationing of one G.R. Squadron at Kissi town near Freetown I have consulted C.in C. South Atlantic who has telegraphed his recommendations to Admiralty in his 1559N of 1/1 and am fully in agreement with him that G.R. Squadron should be sent out earliest. Personnel could be housed in temporary accommodation pending completion of permanent quarters. Request Air Ministry be asked to despatch this squadron as soon as possible. (Comdre, Sierra Leone Area, 1950/10 to W.O).

PRETORIA
CASTLE.
S.L.62.

Departure 1630/10. PRETORIA CASTLE as ocean escort Convoy S.L.62 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1745/9. Local escort of two A/S trawlers until dusk 13/1. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1951/10).

Suspicious
Tanker.

Your 1615/4 and my 1755/8. N.C.O. Buenos Aires reports after investigation vessel was undoubtedly Norwegian tanker GEFION which arrived Buenos Aires 8/1 from Curacas. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2051Z/10 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro). *See P. 262.*

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

Italian
Schooners
Sunk.

During operations for the capture of Bardia, enemy kept up communications with Tobruk by means of auxiliary motor schooners of 200-300 tons. One of these was sunk by WATERHEN on night of 26/12, and on night of 29/12 VOYAGER captured one, thereby rescuing 8 military British prisoners of war who were being taken to Tobruk. Two more were captured on 31/12 by DAINTY (D.O.R., 10/1, D.S., 493, 10/1, Signal (not marked to W.D.) (C. in C., Med., 1531/2/1 delayed in transmission.) *See diary 2/1/41, p 58*

A/C. Attacks,
Sollum.

Torpedo bomber aircraft made several attacks on our ships in Sollum Roadstead at dawn and dusk during operations. No ships were hit, one torpedo bomber is believed to have been shot down. (D.O.R., 10/1, D.S., 493, 10/1, C. in C., Med., 1531/2/1.)

Air
Operations.
Messina
raid.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. As result of reconnaissance Messina p.m. 9/1, Seven Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack naval units and shipping in harbour and marshalling yards Messina night 9/10. Attack from 2155 to 2235. Total weight of bombs dropped 12,000 lbs. G.P. 9,000 lbs. S.A.P. 480 lbs. incendiaries. Each aircraft made several runs from average height 9,000 feet. One straight stick fell across cruisers in south part of harbour and a burst seen on waterfront near bow of one cruiser. Observation of bombs near ships in south harbour made difficult by an effective smoke screen from cruisers covering them during the attack. Following shipping seen. 2125 one M/V 8,000 tons five miles south of Cape Passero course north. 2242 two destroyers or cruisers 15 miles N.E. Cape Passero course north. 2244 two M/V's 10,000 tons 5 miles north of Cape Passero course 270 degrees 2249 three M/V's 8,000 tons 5 miles south of Cape Passero course 315 degrees. All aircraft returned undamaged. (H.Q.R.A.F. Med. 0730/10.)

Enemy Units.

From D/F Bearing Italian Warships call signs three (? O) P, seven V J and three Z W appeared to be about 70 miles West of Cephalonia at 0700 G.M.T. today Friday. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 1140/10.)

/15 inch.....

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. Contd.

15 inch
Ammunition
for
bombarding.

Your 1345/6. In addition to 120 rounds of 15" H.E. mentioned in my 1140/10, 100 rounds of 15" C.P.C. are being despatched in W.S.5(b). Further stocks will be sent in W.S.6. 1154/10. to C. in C. Med.) D.T.S.D.

Operation
"Excess".
Italian
Destroyer.
sunk.
GALLANT.
mined
ILLUSTRIOUS
bombed.

M06234/41 }
M09796/41 }

"Excess"
"EXCESS" now approaching Malta. 2 destroyers sighted by escort and engaged 15 miles south of Pantellaria. One sunk probably VEGA. Other escaped. BONAVENTURE expended 75% of low angle ammunition. GALLANT hit by mine or S/M torpedo 25 miles south east Pantellaria. Bow blown off. Proceeding to Malta in tow. No ammunition for BONAVENTURE on station. ILLUSTRIOUS hit by bomb about 1230 proceeding to Malta. (C. in C. Med. 1237/10 to Admty.S.O. Force H., V.A.Malta.)

ILLUSTRIOUS, JAGUAR and British ship ESSEX arrived safely. HERO and HASTY sailed to join you 2130. (V.A.Malta, 2047/10 to C. in C. Med.) See also p.334

Request early report of damage to H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS. (V.C.N.S., 2324/10. to V.A. Malta.)

"Excess"
Operation "EXCESS" carried out as planned.
(ii) D minus one, convoy sailed p.m. to the westwards returning through the Straits after moon set and hugging Spanish coast during D one crossing to Algerian coast during the night.
(iii) D.I. Force H sailed a.m. and proceeded along African coast. 821 X flight underwent endurance tests.
(iv) D.2 BONAVENTURE joined convoy at dawn and MALAYA at dusk. Remainder of Force H covered to the North East, until dark and then proceeded at 22 knots to the eastwards.

/(v) D 3. 5

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

jo/ (v) D.3. 5 Swordfish flown off for Malta at 0500 from longitude 007° 15' E. All arrived safely. Sixth Swordfish did not take off owing to defects. Force H remained convoy at 0915, Dawn carrier reconnaissance reported Force B in error as enemy units. Force B joined convoy 1000. F.O.C. 3 C.S. reported while passing Pantellaria in bright moonlight he was challenged over long period by aircraft using general call sign followed by word "CHESTER", aircraft disappeared to N.E. 5 mines were cut 15 miles west of Pantellaria.

(vi) At 0940 shadower observed on R D/F but fighters failed to locate owing to clouds. Dawn reconnaissance returned at 1145 having sighted no enemy vessels. One Swordfish Force-landed 30 miles ahead of Fleet crew saved. Sunderland on patrol seagoing side made a nil report at 1236.

(vii) At 1320 R D/F reported raiding approach. 10 S 79 sighted of which 8 attacked at 1346 H L B 10 to 11 thousand feet. Very marked improvement A/A fire which obviously disturbed attack. Force H used ladders. Near misses on MALAYA and GLOUCESTER, no damage or casualties but many bombs fell well clear. Two S 79s. shot down single-handed by Lt. Commdr. Tillard in Fulmar. Three Italians picked up.

(viii) Enemy formation of 9 S 79 seen by aircraft to leave Cagliari at 1425 and picked up subsequently by R D/F did not attack. 3 C R 42 engaged without result by Skuas who were out-maneuvred.

(ix) At 1735, 3 contacts on M L A attacked and depth charged but no result observed. Possibly non S/M. Available carrier reconnaissance sighted no enemy surface vessels. Force H parted company after dark and during absence of rise. (? stars or machines.) It seems probable presence of convoy was not detected until A.M. on D.3. In spite of previous instructions CLAN CUMMING acted as if leading Exodus of Jews from Egypt. Quality of fuel used by M.T ships for these operations is important. (S.O. Force H. 2335/10 to Adty.)

/Air attacks.....

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Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

(v) D.3. 5 Swordfish flown off for Malta at 0500 from longitude 007° 15' E. All arrived safely. Sixth Swordfish did not take off owing to defects. Force H remained convoy at 0915, Dawn carrier reconnaissance reported Force B in error as enemy units. Force B joined convoy 1000. F.O.C. 3 C.S. reported while passing Pantellaria in bright moonlight he was challenged over long period by aircraft using general call sign followed by word "CHESTER", aircraft disappeared to N.E. 5 mines were cut 15 miles west of Pantellaria.

(vi) At 0940 shadower observed on R D/F but fighters failed to locate owing to clouds. Dawn reconnaissance returned at 1145 having sighted no enemy vessels. One Swordfish, Force-landed 30 miles ahead of Fleet crew saved. Sunderland on patrol seagoing side made a nil report at 1236.

(vii) At 1320 R D/F reported raiding approach. 10 S 79 sighted of which 8 attacked at 1346 H L B 10 to 11 thousand feet. Very marked improvement A/A fire which obviously disturbed attack. Force H used ladders. Near misses on MALAYA and GLOUCESTER, no damage or casualties but many bombs fell well clear. Two S 79s. shot down single-handed by Lt. Commdr. Tillard in Fulmar. Three Italians picked up.

(viii) Enemy formation of 9 S 79 seen by aircraft to leave Cagliari at 1425 and picked up subsequently by R D/F did not attack. 3 C R 42 engaged without result by Skuas who were out-maneuvred.

(ix) At 1735, 3 contacts on M L A attacked and depth charged but no result observed. Possibly non S/M. Available carrier reconnaissance sighted no enemy surface vessels. Force H parted company after dark and during absence of rise. (? stars or machines.)

It seems probable presence of convoy was not detected until A.M. on D.3. In spite of previous instructions CLAN CUMMING acted as if leading Exodus of Jews from Egypt. Quality of fuel used by M.T ships for these operations is important. (S.O. Force H. 2335/10 to Adty.)

/Air attacks.....

10. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Air Attacks
Benghazi.

Operational Summary No. 214 up to 1200 hrs. 10/1/41. (1) Egypt. Night 7th/8th Jan. 1 Wellington dropped 2750 lbs of bombs on Benghazi harbour starting 2 small fires on jetty. Night 8th/9th Jan. 8 Wellingtons dropped 18,000 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi harbour hitting 4 ships between 7,000 and 10,000 tons moored at the Central Mole and a fifth ship outside the outer Mole. Fires and explosions were also started amongst Government buildings near the Central Mole. (A.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1241/10.)

Air Report.
Tobruk.

Day 9/1. Blenheims made 3 attacks on Tobruk during the day hitting barracks and small vessels in harbour. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols beyond Tobruk and protective patrols over Sollum throughout the day. The defences at Tobruk were successfully photographed in the face of intense A.A. fire. 2 Sunderlands patrolled the Libyan Coast for enemy shipping sighting 2 merchant ships and 1 tug towing a lighter north west of Appollonia. 1 merchant ship was anchored off Derna. Night 9/10th Jan. Wellingtons bombed Benina and Berka Aerodromes starting large fires at Berka. Considerable damage done to aircraft at Benina.

Benina
Berka.

Greece.

Greece day 9/1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (N.O. R.A.F. M.E., 1246/10.)

Malta Air
Report.

X.9673. I.20 10/1. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 10/1. All times G.M.T. Wellingtons operations against (Messina?) reported in my I.19 10/1.

Part I. Reconnaissances. 0743 to 1200 Glenn Martin photographic reconnoiter Palermo prior to attack by 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. evening 10/1. 2 destroyers or torpedo boats near middle pier 3 large M/Vs and 8 medium M/Vs in harbour. At 0900 hours sighted 4 cruisers probably C class position 37. 35' N. 12. 10' E. in line astern escorted by 3 E-boats. Course 540 degs. speed 20 knots. One unidentified monoplane encountered over objective.

/On return.....

10. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report.

On return journey sighted two Ju.87s. east of Pantellaria 2000 feet above. 0833 to 1325 Glenn Martin photographic recco Naples and Messina. Naples reported ZARA cruiser on S side of Angioino Mole where previously LITTORIO was. No battleship seen though searched for. 5 cruisers and 4 destroyers in harbour also large liner 20,000 tons, 1 M/V 10,000 tons 5 other smaller M/Vs. At 0931 sighted 3 destroyers position 37.35 degs. N. 11.55 degs. E. course 180 degs. speed 25 knots. Messina, 3 cruisers at southern end of harbour, 3 destroyers alongside pier near railway terminus, also 3 TBs. and fleet auxiliary or M/V in harbour. 0845 to 1350 Glenn Martin photographic recco Taranto and Syracuse. Taranto. Outer harbour damaged battleship and 7 medium M/V's. Inner harbour along destroyer pen 3 cruisers 5 destroyers two fleet auxiliaries. Unable to distinguish object in dry dock. Photos may reveal. 26 seaplanes in inner harbour. At bearing 148° off Taranto distance 49 miles 3 masted schooner anchored with TB. TB opened fire Glenn Martin. Presumably look outs. Syracuse. 4 medium and 3 small M/V's in Western part of harbour also 7 seaplanes. 0500 to 1520 Sunderland recco western part of full Ionian patrol. Nil report.

Malta Air Raids.

Part 2. Enemy air activity. 0747 to 0750 one Breda 20 approached from North and after circling to the west approached and flew over Island about 20,000 feet. Probably recco as no bombs dropped. A.A. engaged. 1045 to 1110 formation of enemy aircraft approached Island from N.E. and when approximately 30 miles joined by another formation approaching from the West. When 15 miles distant enemy withdrew". 6 Hurricanes, up but no interception. At 1400 hours enemy formation of bombers and fighters reported heading for our naval units which were approaching Malta. 6 Hurricanes despatched to intercept. One engagement no result observed. Enemy turned north without attacking. Further enemy formations approached Island approximately 1520 hours. 7 Hurricanes up but no interception and enemy turned away. (H.Q. Mediterranean 1740/10.) Received from Air Ministry 0640/11.

/U.S. Munitions....

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

U.S. Munitions.
for Greece.

Inform War Office Lord Hankey Committee from N.A. Athens a shipment of unknown tonnage has been bought in America by Colonel Papavassiliou, now at Greek Legation, Washington. Shipment includes 160,000 rounds of mountain gun ammunition 22,000 Brandt bombs and 225 tons of Bronze, and General Heywood considers it of primary importance that it should arrive here before 8/3. Request early shipment in as fast ship as possible. (Athens, 1325/10, to Admty.)

ROVER.

Keep West of (?) Longitude 023° 20' West from 2000 to 2359/11. British air and surface force will be operating close to North-east your area. (Capt. S.I, 1701/10 to ROVER.)

Sweeping
own mines,
Tobruk.

Your 1057/8. Both Double A and Double L are effective particularly the latter with double pulsing ships as in Corvettes. To ensure complete clearance Channel should be cross swept at an angle of sixty degrees or more from the first sweep. Model experiments and theory show that D.W.I. should also be effective. D.W.I. at 120 feet above mine and 120 knots will sweep a path of 230 feet wide at 30 milliamp relay setting or 320 feet wide at 20 milliamp relay setting. Delay of 5 seconds in mine ensures safety of D.W.I. 1803/10. to (C. in C. Med. D.T.M.)

C.B. for
Greeks.

Your 0907/1. C.B. 01764(39) may be issued to Greek Liaison Officer. Distributing authority Alexandria is being informed. (D.T.D. 1816/10.)

/BONAVENTURE.....

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN COMMANDS.

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Mediterranean. Contd.

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

My 1815/6. BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR may leave Malta Southward 11/1, proceeding direct from N. of searched channel to Pantellaria. Keeping well clear to Northward. T.O.O. 1823/10. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1909/10, to TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER.)

PARTHIAN.

My 0947/9. Adjust speed so as to be east of 021 deg. east and north of 038 deg. north by 0200 G.M.T. 13/1. Pilot boat will expect you from 0500 to 0600 G.M.T. at position E. (Capt. S.I. 1953/10. to PARTHIAN.)

Movements.
(Op. "Excelsa") etc:

Friday 10/1 departure GLOXINIA, arrival ILLUSTRIOUS, JAGUAR, arrival and departure HYACINTH, PEONY, SALVIA, DIAMOND, JANUS, DEFENDER, HERO, JERVIS. (V.A. Malta, 2357/10 to Admty.)

See p-329-

East Indies.

Air Report
Massawa.

Ops. Summ. No. 214 up to 1200 hrs. 10/1. Sudan. Day 9/1. 1 Blenheim photographed power station and submarine base at Massawa. 3 Blenheims photographed Kassala (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1242/10.)

SHROPSHIRE.

Departure SHROPSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 118z/8. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1251z/10.)

Red Sea.
Shipping.

Volume of traffic to be passed through Red Sea during next three months will be nearly double present amount. For consideration whether the less important ships should be sailed independently or in small groups for mutual protection against aircraft. Request you will reconsider views expressed in your 1142/2/10. on the following grounds:
(A) Quick turn-round of shipping has become vital.
(B) Dangers of submarine, destroyer and air attack appear now to be much reduced.
(C) In view of (A) the risk of some damage or losses to shipping must be accepted.

/2. With

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indian.
Mediterranean Contd.

Red Sea
Shipping.

2. With a view to further economising ocean-going shipping the Ministry of Shipping are desirous of making more use of Port Sudan as a trans-shipment port utilizing a feeder service from Suez. This should also have the effect of relieving congestion at Port Said. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1406/10. to C. in C. E. I.)

FLAMINGO.
SHOREHAM,
YARRA.

Your 1045/10. Expected time of arrival FLAMINGO and Aden 5 ships 0730Z. SHOREHAM's asdic out of action until a.m. /12. Propose detaching her at dawn 11/1, retaining YARRA until dawn 12/1. (LEANDER 1435Z/10, to S.N.O.Red Sea.)

"Q" Report,
THURLAND
CASTLE.

Following 2 messages read by Jacobs radio.
(i) QQ QQ 028 degs, 44' South 035 degs. 10' East, THURLAND, ^{CASTLE} unknown ship. Following Tim of receipt 1252.
(ii) THURLAND CASTLE's course true south T.O.O. 1300. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1315B/10.)

My 1315/10. Following received from THURLAND CASTLE (begins) Please cancel distress message time of receipt 1342/10. (Ends). This was received by Jacobs radio in P/L followed by following in Merchant Navy Code (begins). Cancel distress message T.O.O. 1343/10. (Ends.) Note was same as in Original distress message. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1529B/10.)

British THURLAND CASTLE in position 028° 44' South 035° 10' East made a "Q" distress signal at 1052Z/10. Ship sighted may have been H.M.S. RANCHI. (C. in C.E.I., 1456Z/10 to E.I.Sqdn.)

My 1456/10. British THURLAND CASTLE cancelled distress message at 1142Z/10. Cancellation was made in accordance with A.M. D.V. (C. in C. E.I., 1744Z/10. E.I. Sqdn.)

/B.S.12.....

10. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies
Mediterranean Contd.

B.S.12.

X.9601. A.523 10/1, Summary No. 202 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 10/13 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts for convoy B.S.12. no operations over Iea or Quteibis country. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1731/10.)

Policy and
Strength.
Malaya
Far East.

China.

Chief of Staff No. 39, having examined tactical appreciation and report on Defence Conference. Pages 3 to 8, Air Forces; Pages 9 to 25, Land Forces, 26 Command; 27 Finance; 28 Communications, 29, Naval. We are raising with Australia and New Zealand question of disposition of their naval forces in the event of war with Japan. 30. No alterations to limits of China and East Indies Naval Commands other than those recently authorised are intended. (Air Ministry 1040/10, to A.O.C. in C. Far East.) Full text in Lion copy only.

N.E.I.
Navy.

Admiralty 1707/24/10, Dutch Admiralty have suggested to C. in C. Dutch East Indies that he should arrange operations and visits in consultation with C. in C. China and, through him, with Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. They suggest that he should arrange with N.B. for tanker to use Port Moresby as a base, from which it would proceed to rendezvous with cruiser as necessary. Request you will afford all assistance possible. (D.T.D.(F). 1931/10, to C. in C. China, A.C. N.B.)

lion

304

W D

FAR EAST

336A

1040/10

M E S S A G E

1330/10th January.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From Air Ministry.

Date 10.1.41.

Time 1140

CYPHER.

Addressed A.O.C. in C. Far East.

X.776 10/1 SECRET.

Following from Chiefs of Staff:-

C.O.S. No. 39.

Have examined Tactical Appreciation and Report on Defence Conference and note that they agree generally with major defence policy recommended in our appreciation.

2. We are fully alive to the weaknesses in land and air forces particularly the latter and we are doing all that can be done to remedy this situation having regard to the demands of theatres which are already the scene of war.

AIR FORCES.

3. We agree that 582 aircraft is an ideal, but consider 336 should give very fair degree of security, taking into account experience in Middle East (where our air forces had 3 to 1 inferiority at start of present campaign), Malta and air defence Great Britain. Japanese should not be over-estimated. The target of 336 cannot be increased before end 1941 and remains subject to general situation and supply of aircraft.

4. Suggested air reconnaissances South China Sea appear too ambitious.

5. We will endeavour to form five squadrons fighters during 1941. Air Ministry will communicate with you direct on re-equipment and reinforcement policy.

6. Air Ministry will also communicate with you direct on aerodrome policy. General principle is that you should have sufficient aerodromes to allow you to concentrate two-thirds of air forces provided for the defence of Malaya and Borneo in either North Malaya or South Malaya with reasonable facilities for a limited concentration in Burma and Borneo. At present this policy will be limited to air forces recommended in C.O.S. Appreciation and accommodation visiting units to be minimum necessary for temporary operations. Proposed concentration Borneo and accommodation requirements Burma appear unduly large. Recommendation of C. in C. China that Sembawang and Penang be available for air force use agreed.

7. Provision aircraft specially for army co-operation work would appear uneconomical. Please submit your views, including possibility of training personnel locally. A.C. Co-operation Unit will continue available for spotting for fixed defences.

8. We propose to strengthen Far East air staff with a view to allowing you to form a Group or Wing H.Q. for Burma when units become available and need arises.

LAND FORCES - MALAYA AND BORNEO.

9. Agree that our original recommendation final land strength was under-estimate and that 26 battalions including 3 for Borneo, is reasonable. This figure will be reached by June 1941 after arrival Indian Division.

10/....

10. Proposed scales for A.A. defence approved. In addition Light A.A. Regiments for defence of divisions operating on mainland will be found. A.A. equipments can only be provided gradually. You should consider the scale of A.A. defences eventually required in Borneo in the light of the use you propose to make of aerodromes in Borneo.

11. Anti-tank guns and rifles will be despatched when possible.

12. Provision of additional A.A. searchlights for Singapore and Penang under consideration.

13. Fixed defences to complete Singapore and Penang under consideration.

14. We agree with proposed primary role of local forces, but suggest steps to implement it should not be taken sooner than absolutely necessary, in order to avoid damping of enthusiasm of volunteers.

LAND FORCES - BURMA AND EASTERN INDIA

15. We consider both threat of attack and demands for land forces have been over-stated. We consider scale of air attack on Burma to be light and on Eastern India in existing circumstances virtually negligible.

16. Threat from Chiengrai or Chiengmai limited by communications. We estimate 4 enemy divisions could be maintained at Railhead, but unlikely even one division could be maintained Burma side of frontier.

17. Immediate reinforcement by 7 battalions cannot be met, but following steps will remedy situation to certain extent.

18. We are taking steps to provide equipment for 4 battalions now forming, and suggest latter should be raised as quickly as possible.

19. We are approaching India regarding possibility of earmarking one Brigade Group, including two batteries and an additional Field Company, on pack basis, for despatch to Burma in emergency.

20. Demand for Field and Mountain Artillery cannot be met.

21. Anti-tank artillery not available, but anti-tank mines will be despatched.

22. Tanks cannot be provided at present.

23. As regards Field Companies, cannot ask India for more than 2 (see 19 above). We are examining possibility of finding one more from home.

24. Your scale of A.A. defences approved and will be met as far as possible.

25. Increase in Army Headquarters under consideration.

3.
11
COMMAND.

26. We note question of Command in Burma raised by representative from India, but do not propose to reconsider it at present.

FINANCIAL

27. Financial question has been referred to Burma Office but no demand for assistance yet received from Burma.

COMMUNICATIONS.

28. Regarding improvement of communications generally you should go ahead and consult with Governments of Burma and F.M.S. direct.

NAVAL

29. We are raising with Australia and New Zealand the question of disposition of their naval forces in the event of war with Japan.

30. No alterations to limits of China and East Indies naval commands other than those recently authorised are intended.

1040/10

A.M.C.S. 1330/10

Advance copy sent 1st Lord., Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F)., C.S.O. to 1st S.L., & D.N.I.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

D.C.

E.P.S.

Head of M

I.P.

V.D.

(Received from Air Ministry
1708/10)

10.1.1941.
Friday.

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ASUKA MARU.
German
Stowaway.

Havana reports Ernst Fer Popp German Fireman ex German ship 761 (CONSUL HORN) stowaway in ASUKA MARU continuing in ship to Japan. Ship sailed Baltimore 29/12 Tampa Florida. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 0904/10 to Admty etc.)

VOLTAIRE.

Intend sailing VOLTAIRE as ocean escort to H.X.102 returning to St. John N.B. for refit. (F.O.3.B.S. 0911/10 to Admty. etc.)

HAMILTON
stranding.

Your 1232/30. Assumption confirmed. Regret delay in replying. (Head of M. 2049/10 to C.N.S.Ottawa.)

U.S.
Bases.

Admiralty's 1156/8. Charge d' Affaires 3224 of Dec. 22nd and 3317 of Dec. 28th both to Foreign Office. Can you say what is definition of "Cays adjacent to Morgan's and Tucker's island" does United States Navy intend to use Castle harbour at all for flying boat or does it intend to use Great Sound only? Greenslades original intention as expressed in his memorandum to Governor Bermuda was to use Great Sound under certain conditions only. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1201/10 to N.A.Washington).

New Zealand.

ACHILLES
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

New Zealand Government desire ACHILLES to escort EMPRESS OF RUSSIA carrying approximately 450 Australian and New Zealand air personnel to Vancouver as far as Honolulu arriving approximately 0430Z/17. ACHILLES will require approximately 800 tons of oil fuel. Request permission of U.S. Government may be obtained. (N.Z.N.B. 0259Z/10 to Admty.)

If concurrence of U.S.A. Government is obtained escort EMPRESS OF RUSSIA to Honolulu. Fuel there and return direct to Auckland.

If concurrence is not obtained escort as far as possible. Oil at Suva on return to Auckland. You are on no account to go below 30 per cent of oil fuel capacity. (N.Z.N.B. 0303Z/10 to ACHILLES).

My 0259Z/10. To Admiralty. New Zealand particularly anxious regarding safety of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA owing to number of airmen

/carried

MOST SECRET.

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WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

carried and quantity of smoke she makes,
they would be most grateful if you could give
as much escort as possible.
(N.Z.N.B. 0324Z/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

10.1.1941.
Friday.

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WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORTUNA.

FORTUNA is preparing to depart probably today, will report departure. (Gijon T.H.I. 1400/10).

Italian Merchant ships.

DERNA.

Departure 9/1 Italian ship DERNA for Genoa. (Barcelona 1936/10).

French Merchant ships.

MENDOZA.

United Press state that Captain of MENDOZA informed press that British Asst. N.A. had told him Navicert was not required for ships voyage. This is complete fabrication. British Embassy and Consulate have informed press that no Navicert has been or will be given.

(N.A. Buenos Airas 1845/10 to D.N.I. etc.)
(Plans for interception see South Atlantic.)

2326.

War Diary

to
 9.1.1941.
Thursday *Friday*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH PREMIER
(Sunk 24/12)

Overdue shipping. My 1848/27 BRITISH PREMIER was sunk by Submarine in position 6° 20' N., 13° 28' W., at (?) 24/12. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1301/10 to Admty.)

BASSANO
(Torpedoed 9/1)

Your 1723/9 (? 1733/9) have recovered 55 of crew from boat in position 057° 58' N., 017° 38' W., Ship sank in 5 minutes, one man killed. Am proceeding to Londonderry. (WILD SWAN, 1647/10 to C. in C., W.A.)

Returned to harbour. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2148/10 to THAMES, SEAMAN)

Submarines Reported

Bordeaux

Eli states that at ship yard Dylebacalan near Bordeaux there are twenty Italian submarines undergoing repairs at present time. Telegram No 6378/6/1. (Consul-Gen Tangier, THI 1110/10 to Admty.)

At 1600/10 U-Boat reported 1 mile off Cape Cod 51° 38' N., 10° 5' W., (D.D.I.C. 2259/10)

Submarines Attacked

By ANEMONE.
1045/7.

Following is precis of ANEMONE's attack on U-Boat:-
 On January 6 at 0900 escorting O.B. 269 E.P. 50° 20' N., 13° 20' W., ANEMONE sighted and investigated Swedish Motor Trawler SAN TOOY brilliant navigation lights new paint on sides bound Fleetwood to Reykjavik.
 Weather precluded search so rejoined Convoy. Later Trawler observed following Convoy. Gave trawler written instructions to report British Consul, Reykjavik. After dark while steering to meet H.X. 99 sighted same trawler following Convoy. Decided to shadow as Trawler was by now considered suspicious. Shadowed till 0430 when Trawler dowsed navigation lights and was lost. At 1045/7 steering to meet H.X. 99, submarine on surface proceeding high speed on course of incoming Convoy. Sighted port quarter, closing ANEMONE, who let her close until

59° 20'
see M. 01599/41 / p 25
in Case 8032

/attack.....

SECRET

War Registry

Can you please supply copy of a
signal reporting an attack on a U-Boat
by USS MILFORD at 1335/10?
May be from MILFORD or from CinC
South Atlantic.

Geo. W. Hurford

War Diary

109 W. III

12/1/41.

Regretted that signal
cannot be traced from
information furnished.

J. E. Greene.

War Diary

J. E. Greene
12/1/41

(0
9.1.1941
Thursday *Fiday*

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked- Contd.

attack was possible. ANEMONE turned, opened fire 4" gun. Submarine turned. After one hit with 4" gun Submarine dived. ANEMONE carried out 7 deliberate attacks Consider submarine total loss. Inference is that Trawler was assisting Submarine by passing reports.
(Capt. D., Londonderry, 1725/10)

By MILFORD
1335/10.

Attacked U-Boat contact in 2.50 N., 9.20 W
230° Cape Palmas, Liberia, 140' (A.2.)
(D.S. 495, 12/1)

NEW BANK NOTES WERE ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY BUT THE JAPANESE A

AUTHORITIES ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

General-Patrols, Trade Routes

A reorganisation of A.M.C's of the Northern Patrol, the Halifax Escort Force and the trade routes was approved by the Admiralty today. Certain A.M.C's released from the Northern Patrol, other than those allocated to the Halifax Escort Force, will be transferred to the trade routes. 2 A.M.C's will be maintained on patrol in the Denmark Strait. The Western Patrol is to be carried out by 10 ocean boarding vessels operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P. CHITRAL, from Northern Patrol, and COMORIN and VOLTAIRE from Halifax Escort Force, are to join the Freetown Escort Force.

Battle Cruiser
Sweep

There were indications from D/F yesterday that 3 enemy units might be at sea in the North Atlantic, one to S.W. of Iceland, one to westward of Ireland and one between Ireland and Azores. B.C. One in HOOD, with REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM and 6 destroyers left Scapa early this morning to sweep.

Air R.C. was also ordered.

Western Channel
Patrol, and
M.T.B., Sweep

Two destroyers again patrolled last night between the Start and Lizard, to protect shipping. Two M.T.B's left Dover this evening to sweep for a group of about 10 merchant vessels believed to have passed Cape Gris Nez at 1835 steering south westwards. The M.T.B's failed to sight the group. Visibility was good, but north easterly winds and the state of the sea caused considerable interference from spray.

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11.1.1941
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Attack on
Brest

Last night, 14 aircraft of Coastal Command bombed Brest and claim two direct hits on the bows of the cruiser. A small force of heavy bombers also attacked the cruiser; bombs were dropped across the dock, but results were not seen.

Owing to weather conditions routine patrols in the North Sea and Channel were not flown today.

Targets at Rotterdam, the mole at Zeebrugge (2 hits made) and barges in a canal in Holland were attacked by Bomber Command today.

Enemy Air Activity

Portsmouth
Dockyard
Attacked

Major damage was caused in the dockyard during an attack on Portsmouth last night.

Ramsgate

A single enemy bomber attacked Ramsgate this afternoon. No naval damage is reported.

SS BEACHY

M01098/41.

SS BEACHY, Reserve ship attached to Convoy H.G. 49 was bombed and sunk today in the N.W. Approaches.

SEAMAN

M0801/41.

Rescue tug SEAMAN today shot down an aircraft which attacked her in the N.W. Approaches and took 3 prisoners.

SS GREYFRIARS

In Convoy F.N. 80 from Portsmouth to Blyth was bombed off Grimsby at 2300 today. (D.O.R.) and went ashore (D.S. 495)

ADVENTURE

M01631/41

Whilst proceeding to position for mine-laying operation Z M E 14 ADVENTURE was machine gunned ~~last~~ this evening by a single aircraft. No material damage or casualties were caused.

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11.1.1941
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Enemy
Minelaying

British tanker BRITISH FIDELITY was mined in the Bristol Channel this morning and was docked at Cardiff. Normal traffic to and from Barry had been resumed some hours earlier. Swansea and ports to the eastward were now closed.

Enemy Minelaying aircraft last night operated in Liverpool Bay and were suspected off Penlee Point.

A mine was exploded in the Thames Estuary by VALOROUS. The ship was not damaged.

Milford Haven was closed this evening owing to mining by enemy aircraft.

Mines were dropped by enemy aircraft in the approaches to Plymouth at 2030 today and the port is closed.

Faroes
Minefield

Another Trawler, ~~possibly~~ ORIOLE, was sunk this afternoon in the British Minefield off the Faroes. N.O.I.C. Faroes reports that the instructions issued to Aberdeen trawlers dated 5/1 do not appear to be clearly understood by them.

Operations Against Vichy French

With reference to the revised instructions for treatment of French Merchant Ships, C. in C., S.A., considers that to surrender a captured French ship to French forces of equal or inferior strength on demand would have a most unfavourable effect in Africa and amongst native populations. He considers it would be better to resist and only withdraw if in the face of clearly superior force.

The French merchant ship MENDOZA, which arrived at Montevideo today from Buenos Aires, has on board 15 French passengers for Marseilles.

M06211/41

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

M06234/41 }
M09796/41 }

Force H arrived at Gibraltar this evening from Operation "Excess" RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers.

South Atlantic

Simonstown intercepted a raider signal at 0535Z today, but no bearing was obtainable.

Mediterranean

Operation "Excess"

3rd C.S., after escorting GALLANT to the neighbourhood of Malta, proceeded eastward at high speed to join YORK covering convoy M.E. 6. They were shadowed by aircraft on most days and were attacked this afternoon when about 180 miles East of Malta. Both GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON were hit, and the latter had to be abandoned and sunk.

Air Attack on Palermo

6 Swordfish of 830 Sqn. F.A.A. raided Palermo last night with good results, obtaining hits on shipping and warehouses. No cruisers were in port at the time and only one destroyer.

Air Attack on Benghazi

1 Wellington bombed Benghazi Harbour last night, starting a fire on the jetty. 7 other Wellingtons bombed Benina and Berka aerodromes.

Bomba

The enemy seaplane base at Bomba was reported to have been apparently deserted by the enemy.

Malta

Enemy aircraft approached Malta 4 times between 1718/10 and 0840/11 but all turned back to avoid Hurricanes except one which flew over on reconnaissance at 23,000 feet and dropped no bombs. With certain aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS, Malta is now well off for fighters.

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War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

ROVER

M06215/41

M07959/41

ROVER, submarine, in 33.48 N., 20.31 E., is making for Malta with battery severely damaged and may be unable to dive.

East Indies

Enemy aircraft bombed Perim this evening 11 bombs fell in the sea and 5 on land causing no damage or casualties. 3 attacks were also made on the Australian sloop PARRAMATTA, without damage.

U-Boat Campaign

Periodical summary of the anti-U-Boat Campaign is promulgated in D.T.D.'s 1641/11. The last attack on an escorted convoy was made on the night of 5/12/40, since when attacks have been confined to stragglers, ships dispersed from convoy, or ships sailing independently.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern
Patrol.
A.M.C.'s.

My 1011/11. 1. F.O.C.N.P. is requested:-

(a) To arrange for all A.M.S.'s leaving Clyde after 10/1, for patrol to proceed to Halifax on completion of patrol and to inform R.A. 3 B.S. of his proposed programme for transfer of A.M.C.'s to Halifax and of his future patrol requirements.

(b) To inform Admiralty when CHITRAL will be available to sail for Freetown.

2. R.A.3.B.S. is requested to sail COMORIN and VOLTAIRE for Freetown, as convenient after the arrival at Halifax of two A.M.C.'s of the Northern Patrol.

3. Arrangements will be made for the future carriage of mails and for passages between Iceland and the United Kingdom. (A.C.N.S.H. 1012/11 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Formation
of 12th
Escort
Group.

I intend to form 12th escort group based on Londonderry for escort of Mercantile convoys. Nucleus of group will be VENOMOUS, WATCHMAN, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, KINGCUP, VERBENA, PETUNIA. My 1312/2/12 and 1754/1/1 are amended accordingly. My 1206/30/12 is cancelled. (C. in C. W.A. 1923/11.)

Northern
Patrol and
Western
Patrol.

Approved that N.P. area to be patrolled by A.M.C.'s should be Denmark Strait; and that Western Patrol should be carried out by Ten O.B.V.'s, to be operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P. (D.O.D.H. 1011/11.). See America and West Indies.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~DELUGE~~

At 1130/11. (D.C.1155/11.)
At 2330/11. (D.C. 2351/11.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RAMILLIES,
DUCHESS OF YORK. }

Returned to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0003/11.)

ARAWA.

Adty. 0003/11. Request you sail ARAWA as soon as possible to Freetown by following Route. (C. in C. W.A. 0447/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Sailed - See p. 363.

AUSTRALIA,
HIGHLANDER,
HARVESTER.

Arrived Liverpool (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1015/11.)

KASHMIR,
JERSEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1057/11. (C. in C.W.A. 0027/12.)

8 M/V's.

Intend to sail Group of 8 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE from Needles at 1730/11 for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/12. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1153/11.) *See also p 359*

PRINCE OF WALES.

My 1640/4. Owing to minelaying by aircraft that has been taking place in approaches to Liverpool request you will give consideration to sending LEGION or some other ship with good A/A armament to act as A/A Guardship in the Channel for four or five days before this movement takes place. (A.C.N.S.H.1406/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1439/11.)

MANCHESTER.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1527/11.)

Operations.

M.T.B.
Sweep
off
Gris Nez.

In view of indications that a group of about ten vessels were passing Cape Gris Nez at 1835/11 steering south-westwards M.T.B's 69 and 72 were ordered to intercept.

/M.T.B.'s.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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M.T.B.
Sweep
off
Gris
Nez.

Operations Contd.

M.T.B.'s left harbour at 1900/11 and returned at 0020/12 reporting having swept to a distance of 25 miles south-westward of Gris Nez without sighting any ships. Visibility was good but northeasterly winds and the state of sea caused considerable interference from spray. (V.A. Dover 0055/12. to Adty.)

Western
Channel
Patrol.

KASHMIR and JERSEY left Plymouth 1700/10. (C. in C.W.A. 0057/11.)

Battle-
Cruiser
Sweep.

Scapa departures:- HOOD, REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ESCAPADE and ECLIPSE. (A.C.O.S. 0101/11. to Adty.)

Expect A/S Air Escort of one Sunderland about 1000/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0138/12 to R.A. 1st. B.C.S.)

Operation
P. Y. A.

Cancelled tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1923/11)

Submarines.

UNBEATEN.

Your 1336/9. Intend to sail unescorted at 1500/13. Route to R/V 110 Start Point 3 miles with A/S Trawler at 1000/14. (S.5. 1001/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

SURCOUF)
PORPOISE)

Your 1044/8. (SURCOUF to relieve PORPOISE) Admiral Muselier concurs. Request you arrange. (A.C.N.S.H. 1149/11. to V.A.S.) (F.F. Admiral 1540/11 to Adty.)

URGE.

Escorted by THIRLMERE passes Bell Rock 1630/11 for Scapa. E.T.A. 0900/12. (S.9. 1301/11.)

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1312/11.)

TIGRIS.

Arrived, escorted by CUTTY SARK. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1512/11.)

Greenock Area

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1525/11.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1538/11.)

/British.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bantry Bay
Search.

One A.S.V. Hudson to carry out the following search to investigate peculiar W/T activity off Bantry Bay. Attack any ships outside Eire territorial waters not showing lights but hospital ships even if showing lights are to be attacked. Aircraft to be dispatched forthwith. Possibility of U-Boat in area. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0022/11 to O.I.C.)

Dutch and)
Belgian)
Coasts.)

On 11/1, nine Blenheims attacked Oil Storage at Rotterdam, a Convoy of 6 ships 15 miles West of Helder, one 1000 Ton M/V. 10 miles West of The Hague, 4 E-Boats 5 miles West of Ijmuiden, and Barges Docks and Shipping at Zeebrugge, Flushing, and Rotterdam. General results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0029/12.)

Patrols.

An A/C will be patrolling over Minch Barrier between 0245 and 0400 from St. Abb's Head to Whitby and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0040/11 to WOOLSTON, VESPER.) Your 2343/10 Patrol will be flown by Sunderland A/C extending 135 miles along 300°. (C. in C. Rosyth 0132/11 to C. in C. H.F.) Ordered today: I.P.O.P. at Dusk, ~~0818/11~~. (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/11.) Patrol ~~0818/11~~ "Horn li" cancelled for today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/11.)

Brest.

During night 10th/11th, 14 aircraft of Coastal Command dropped S.A.P. Bombs, I.B and one land mine at Brest. Fires seen in Target area, two direct hits claimed on bows of cruiser; accurate observation prevented by S.L. glare and gun flashes. (D.D.I.C. 1004/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Isle.....

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Isle of Sheppey.

During past year a tendency has been observed for enemy aircraft to mine Eastern Entrance to Swale possibly due to mistaking that area for Nore anchorage. It is proposed to encourage this mine-laying by deploying decoy balloon barrage on three nights before full moon in area East of Isle of Sheppey enclosed by lines joining following positions.

Decoy Balloon Barrage.

Balloons at operational height on approximately same siting plan as at Nore anchorage. Period proposed 9th to 11th. February inclusive. Your concurrence is requested. (A.C.N.S.H. 1234/11 to Air Ministry.)

Night Operation.

AP/747 11/1. No. 22 Squadron to repeat tonight 11/12 operations ordered for night 10/11. vide H.Q.C.C. AP/746. 10/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1417/11 to 16 Group, North Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth Damage in Dockyard.

From 1855/10 to 0130/11 attacked with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. Major damage in Dockyard, R.N. Barracks, VERNON. Considerable damage Haslar, Oil Fuel Depot. Some other minor damage. Casualties apparently very small. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0440/11.) Preliminary report of damage. Casualties so far ascertained 14 Civilians, all slight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1252/11.)

SEAMAN.
(Rescue Tug.)

M0801/41.

At 1130/10. in 056° 42' N. 015° 20' W, attacked by enemy aircraft, machine gunned, and near misses by bombs. Second mate wounded. Enemy aircraft brought down and destroyed. Three prisoners, one injured. Estimated position at 06 (00)? 300° 74 miles from Tory Island. Your 0125 and 0445/11 acknowledged. Injured needing attention. (SEAMAN 0650/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ANTHONY.

Attacked by A/C in 53° 34' N. 16° 4' W. (ANTHONY 1100/11.)

/BEACHY.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

BEACHY.

M 01098 | 41

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

(British, 1600 Tons) Bombed at 1100, sank 1425, in 53° 29' N. 16° 24' W. Survivors picked up by LADY MADELINE and ARAB. Casualties unknown. (ANTHONY 1431/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Ramsgate attacked.

At 1355 today single enemy bomber flew very low over Ramsgate dropped two 250 K G H E bombs killing one woman and one child. 4 houses seriously damaged. 50 others slightly damaged. Aircraft obscured by cloud and could not be engaged efficiently by machine gun fire. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1836/11.)

S.S. GREYFRIARS.

In F.N. 80 from Portsmouth to Blyth was bombed and sunk off Grimsby N2300/11 (D.O.R. 12/1.)

Mining.

Possible Dangerous Area.

To keep clear of possible dangerous area proceed up longitude 5° West until North of Calf. of Man. (C. in C.W.A. 0003/11 to C.S.15.)

Plymouth.

Minelaying from A/C suspected in 170° Penlee Point 5 cables. (C. in C.W.A. 0102/11 to EMERALD, JUPITER, KASHMIR, JERSEY.)

Bristol Channel.

My 1117/10. Normal Traffic has now been resumed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0530/11 to Adty.) Ships not allowed to sail from Swansea and ports to Eastward. Inward Traffic not to proceed Eastward of Wrecksea Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1027/11 to Adty.)

BRITISH FIDELITY.

(British Tanker, 8465 Tons) Mined in Swept Channel. (Portishead Radio 0813/11) Engines totally disabled. Require Tugs. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 0840/11.) Position 51° 22' 30" N. 3° 5' 30" W. (F.C.I.C. Cardiff 1027/11 to Adty.) Ship now in Queen Alexandra Dock, Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807/11 to Adty.)

War Diary.

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Z.M.E.14.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1900/11, lay at 2240, and return on completion about 0300 (ADVENTURE 0919/11.)

B.S.49.

Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0715/13, and take departure from 62 D Buoy at 0945/13. To initial position and returning to 62 D. Laying will begin at 1115/13. (50 Minelayers, Immingham. 0952/11.)

Adty. 1539/9. INTREPID detailed. (D.20. 1004/11 to C. in C. Nore.)

See p. 279

Peterhead Area.

Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S group rendezvous Scurdy Ness at 2300/11 search east side of War Channel ahead of E N 55 to Cruden Scaurs 0800/12 turn and sweep west side War Channel to Scurdy Ness. 1631/12. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1131/11.)

Search of

War Channel.

Approach Channel searched 90%, Weather permitting intend sailing 19th group to rendezvous Cruden Scaurs at 0800/12, and search West Side of War Channel ahead of E N 55 to position 028° 10 miles Kinnaird Head. 1330/12 thence return searching west side of War Channel ahead of W N 67 to Cruden Scaurs. E.T.A. 1900/12. Then return to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1210/11.)

Thames Estuary.

Mine exploded 100° No. 2 Yantlet Buoy 4½ cables. No damage to ship. (VALOROUS 1334/11 and 1341/11 to C. in C. Nore.) About 20 mines more dropped in the early part of the nights 9/10 and 10/11/an., in the Southend area, the majority to the northward of Yantlet Channel. (D.S.494.)

Mining of Little Sole Bank.

To be augmented by ADVENTURE during January as follows. Request you take charge of operations. (A.C.N.S.F. 1407/11 to C. in C. W.A.). See Operations Volume. "1/41" p 8.

/Operation.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. cont:

Operation "Bottle"
NOTICE.

It is desired to repeat Operation of June 1940. If you concur, request arrangements at earliest convenient date. (A.C.N.S.H. 1409/11. to A.O. C. in C. C.C.) See Operations Volume.

Minelaying
by CACHALOT.

Details decided on as follows. V.A.S. to issue orders. (A.C.N.S.H. 1410/11 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Minelaying)
by INTREPID)
and IMPULSIVE.)

Following details decided. Request you take charge of operation. (A.C.N.S.H. 1411/11 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

Faroes-Iceland
Minefield.

My 1550/3/1. Please confirm Gap proposed in para. 4 is agreed. RAML. requested to amend his proposals for laying this portion accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H. 1759/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

Smith's
Knoll.

Master S.S. BALDER Norwegian reports that at 2220/9, an aeroplane dropped two mines on parachutes $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles 185° from Smith's Knoll Light Ship about 1 Cable astern of ship whilst proceeding south in convoy. This was last ship of line in convoy. Moonlight night clear and fine. Aircraft sounded about 100 yards above him but was not seen. (F.O.I.C. London 1610/11.)

Off Yarmouth.

Keep South of latitude $052^{\circ} 40' N$, except for urgent reason. Possible parachute mines vicinity $052^{\circ} 43' N$. $002^{\circ} 13' E$. (C. in C. Nore. 1853/11 to WORCESTER.)

Milford
Haven.

Port closed owing to Mines being dropped from A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1920/11.)

/Faroes.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Faroes.

Trawler MANX KING reports by telephone that at 1700 today a trawler, possibly ORIOLE, was sunk by mines with all hands 2.5 miles North of Stakken North Point Stromoo. Amplifying report later. Instructions as issued to Aberdeen trawlers dated fifth January do not appear to be clearly understood by them. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 2130/11. to Adty.)
See also P. 390.

Plymouth.

Closed owing to Mines. (C. in C.W.A. 2204/11.)

Shetlands.

Enemy Intelligence.

Following unidentified reports from A.E.S.1. Sumburgh. One small slow vessel bearing 142° 4 miles course 080° at 0440 and one small slow vessel bearing 113° 3 miles course E. 080° at 0500. (A.C.O.S. 0559/11.)

Unknown Unit.

By D/F at 1236/11 unknown enemy unit in position 055° 030' N. 021° 00' W. Unreliable fix. (C. in C. W.A. 1407/11 to SEVERN.)

Norway.

(1) Reported Wilhelmsen motor vessel TORONTO fitting out as auxiliary cruiser Akers Yard Oslo. C.2.
(2) ARFIN JARL which was sunk at Vado off Agersund in Finland in 7 metres when bound for North Norway is now being salvaged. C/3. (N.A. Stockholm 1606/11 to D.N.I.)

SAN TOOY.

Icelandic trawler SAN TOOY said to be bound Fleetwood to Reykjavik has been ordered to report to British Consul Reykjavik. Please report her arrival or failure to arrive within next three days. (D.N.I. 1657/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) (D.N.I. 1657/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) Note by D.N.I. This refers to Captain D. Londonderry's 1725/10. "Suspicious Swedish trawler."

/E-Boats off.....

11. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

E-Boats off
Terschelling.

A/C reports 5 E-Boats at 1730/11 off Terschelling steering West. (C. in C. Nore 2025/11.) E-Boats reported at sea. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2142/11 to WIDGEON, etc.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BENMOHR.

EASTWALES.

(British, 5920 Tons.) My 1805/10. Search in 56° N. 9° W. for BENMOHR in collision at 0059/11. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0125/11 to THAMES, SEAMAN.) Have picked up survivors of BENMOHR in collision with EASTWALES in Convoy. My position 297° Inistrahull 65 miles. Am standing by. (CAMPANULA 0200/11 to C. in C. W.A.) Proceed to assist EASTWALES (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0456/11 to SUPERMAN.) Arrived CAMPANULA and BENMOHR. 17 of BENMOHR's crew aboard CAMPANULA. No injured. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0300/12 to C. in C.W.A.)

UBEROUS.

(L.L. Drifter) Went ashore in Foyle Channel abreast Brookhall. Drifter heeled over and sank; no injuries or casualties to personnel. Clear of Channel. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0256/11. 1825/11.)

LANCASTER.

Your 1046/1. Delayed by defects. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0407/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

ROY.

(Norwegian) Convoy F N 89. Engine broken down and anchored 2 cables N.W. of 59 buoy. Am attempting to take her in tow. Request tugs. (SALAMANDER 0845/11 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

H.M. Tug ST. CYRUS sailed 1022/11 to assist S/S ROY ~~at 59 buoy~~, engine defects at 59 buoy. Tug IRISHMAN sailed with Salvage Officer 1359 to S/S. GREYFRIARS bombed at 59A buoy. H.M.S. SALAMANDER is standing by with M/S trawlers. (F.O.Humber 1615/11.)

S.S. ROY.

S.S. GREYFRIARS.

My 1615, Situation at present, SALAMANDER standing by Norwegian steamer ROY whose engines are broken down and now anchored ½ mile S W of 59 buoy. Tug ST. CYRUS sent from here fouled propellor and returning to harbour. Tug IRISHMAN has at present failed to find the abandoned steamer GREYFRIARS in neighbourhood of 59 A buoy. IRISHMAN ordered to contact SALAMANDER. Tug SCOTSMAN now leaving harbour. Survivors of GREYFRIARS landed at Grimsby. 1. dead 3 missing. (F.O. Humber 1920/11.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M.L. 169.

Returning to Humber with defect.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1042/11 to Adty.)

FORESIGHT.

Defective auxiliary machinery. Unable
to sail before 13/1. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool
1800/11.)

MERSEY.

Owing to enemy action anticipated will
not be ready for a considerable time.
(Admt. 1811/11.)

S.S. BODNANT.
(Collision 30/12.)

Report how many survivors you have on
board. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1825/11 to
CHITRAL.)

11.1.1941
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

O.B. 272

Sailed SURPRISE as additional A/S escort to 52.30 N., 25.00 W., thence to Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0515/11) See also South Atlantic. Sailed 0311/11 (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0405/11)

Convoy Positions

D.T.D. 1402/10.

O.B. 274

1130/14. Route etc. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1534/10)

S.C. 18

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1959/10)

H.X. 101

Will be met by A/S escort 24 hours earlier. AUSONIA turn round at new R.V. and not wait for A/S escort if not met. (D.T.D. 2136/11 to AUSONIA)

O.B.O. 272

Sailed. Escort CANDYTUFT. Ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1113/11)

E.N. 55

Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1932/11)

1830/11. Additional escort HASTINGS. 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1931/11)

W.N. 67

Ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1121/11)

H.X. 100

Meet (C. in C., W.A., 1539/11)

H.G. 50

R.V. etc. (D.T.D. 1317/11)

O.G. 50

Route (D.T.D. 2036/11, 1557/11)

F.S. 85

Ships and destinations (F.O.I/c Tyne 1759/11)

8 M.V's

Intend to sail Group 8 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers CAPE CORMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE from Needles at 1730 today for Dartmouth. Expected time of Arrival 0815/12. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1153/11, amended 1430/11) *See p. 348*

5 M.V's.

My 1153/11. Sailed 5 M.V's escorted by CAPE CORMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1903/11)

H.X. 100

Londonderry departure 11/1. MALLOW, SKATE, SCIMITAR, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN PRIDE for H.X. 100. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1354/11)

War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

E.N. 54 Scapa arrival 1500, JASON from Convoy E.N. 54. (A.C.O.S. 1720/11)

W.N. 88 (0) No ships (N.C.S.O. 1110/11)

H.X. 102 Halifax 11/1 VOLTAIRE, Ocean escort H.X. 102. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1841/11)

H.X. 99 Names of arrivals (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1629/11)

Cape Wrath Your 1815/10. (Proposal to omit all forces and convoys not West of Cape Wrath during dark hours) No objection. (C. in C., H.F., 1909/11)

F.S. 85 8 ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2140/11 to WOOLSTON, VESPER)

F.N. 80 Details of ships (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1728/11)

F.N. 81 Sailed 1020/11, 24 ships

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B RAMILLIES and DUCHESS OF YORK returned to Clyde. (Extra escort for Convoy W.S.5 B) (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0003/11)

W.S. 5 B. sailed from Moelfre 2120/10 six ships ATHLONE CASTLE 31, WINDSOR CASTLE 41, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND 32, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA 42, BRITANNIC 33, SAMARIA 43, Commodore Sir R.A.S. Hill, R.N.R. in ATHLONE CASTLE. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 0934/11)

List of transports (20) and capacity (total 42192/) (D.S.T., 1154/11, to C. in C's etc.)

Intend sailing Clyde portion of Convoy W.S. 5 B at 0015/12 to R/V with Belfast portion and destroyers from Londonderry in position 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0930/12 Thence in accordance with Admiralty's 2340/31 and 1012/7. F.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.i/c Londonderry are requested to comply accordingly. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1110/11 to Admty.)

/My 1110.....

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War Diary

11.1.1941
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B. -Contd.

Shipping

My 1110. Time of sailing and R/V delayed three hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2329/11 to Admty.)

Owing to condenser defect CHURCHILL will not sail with W.S. 5 B. (N.O.I.C., Greenock 1825/11)

Your 1030/10/1. The position was correctly stated in my 1816/9. In view of the circumstances no opportunity of carrying out the movement should have been lost and it would have been undertaken if its urgency had been impressed on the pilots. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1644/11 to D.S.T.O. Glasgow,)

Your 1849/10 to C. in C., W.A., Intend to part company in position 041° 05' N., 032° 25' W., (RAMILLIES, 1940/11 to Admty)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.French
Convoy.

My 1453/10. French Light Cruiser ALBATROS parted company off Cape Roca, returning steering 145° 25 knots. Gibraltar 1038/11. Spanish Minelayer JUPITER class passed from West to East.
(S.O.(I) 1127/11 to Admty, etc.)

Policy.
French
M/Vs.

Your 0042/3 and your 1407/10, 3 (b). This appears to instruct to the effect that H.M. Ships having seized a French Merchant Ship, if French warships subsequently dispute the possession, the British ships unless British force is overwhelmingly superior are in any circumstances to hand seized ships over without any resistance or show of resistance, I assume that this is not the case.

2. I propose to give instructions as follows, (begins). As in para.3 (b) of your 1407/10 subject to following - if offensive action is taken by the French ships or the demand is peremptory or in the form of an ultimatum without attempt to parley, action is to be taken to resist by force if necessary, action to be broken off as required if opposing force is clearly superior. If French ships in demanding surrender of merchant ship discuss matter in friendly spirit, British warship is to reply that this cannot be done without other authority, and at the same time report to the Senior Officer and Admiralty, if unable to report or reply not received within reasonable period ship to be handed over. (Ends).

3. I must point out that I consider to surrender captured French ship after capture to French forces which may be equal or inferior in strength on demand would when known have a most unfavourable effect in British and French territory in this area and amongst native populations. I consider it would be better to resist, fighting it out if British force is superior or approximately equal and only withdraw after action is started if in the face of clearly superior force (C.in C. S.A. 1713/11 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ Force H.
MALAYA.
RENOWN.
ARK ROYAL.

Expect to arrive between 1900 and 2200 today. Request MALAYA be berthed detached ~~MOLE~~ Mol. disembark 120 15 inch H.E. shells, proceeding into dock a.m. tomorrow Sunday weather permitting, 2 lighters to be placed alongside tonight. RENOWN will berth bow south. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL require 600 and 550 rounds 4.5 H.E. respectively. Intend ARK ROYAL should disembark to North front 2 Swordfish 2 Fulmar and one Skua before dark. Request +I may be kept informed of weather (corrupt) Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H. 0057/11 to F.O.C.N.A., A.S. Gibraltar).

Air
Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 route A/S patrols. 1 surface recco. east 2 A.S. patrols for H.M. Ships approaching from east. Area covered 130° west to 6° West. (200 Group 1700/11).

→ Gibraltar arrival 11/1, from 1950 and 2200 S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, FOXHOUND, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, DUNCAN, FORESTER, FURY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2230/11).

South Atlantic.→ ARAWA.

Your 1811/6 and F.O.C.N.P.'s 1420/10. C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail ARAWA independently to Freetown as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(H) 0003/11 to C.in C. W.A.)

Freetown
Escort
Force.

Ships to join. (D.O.D.(H) 1011/11). See America and West Indies.

→ Sailed ARAWA 1045 to Freetown in accordance with Admiralty's 0003/11 and C.in C. W.A. 0447/11. Speed 13 knots. (route). Thence according to C.in C. W.A. 1811/6. E.T.A. (date). (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1240/11 to Adty. amplified 1410/11).

→ ARAWA left Clyde 11/1 for Freetown (route). (V.A.N.P. 2204/11 to Western Patrol).

WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)SURPRISE.

Sailed SURPRISE as additional A/S escort of convoy O.B.272 to (position) thence to Freetown expected time of arrival 1600/29 (route). Has been instructed to call at Ponta Delgada on passage for fuel. Holds S.P.'s as for FLOWER class corvettes (etc). (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0515/11 to Admitalty).

H.M. Anti-Submarine Yacht SURPRISE leaves position in 052 degs. 40' 025 degs. 00' West at approximately 1200/15 for Freetown (route). (F.O.C.N.P. 1530/11 to Western Patrol).

Operation
" Monsoon. "

MO 3 422/41

X.924/10/1 my D.3. 9/1 and D.7. 10/1, completed information arrival Monsoon aircraft. (Takoradi, 0945/11 to Air Ministry).

Your 1341/10. Evolution well executed. (1st S.L. 1220/11 to FURIOUS).

Raider
Report.

At 0535Z/11 on 8400 kc/s RRRR RRRR. Signal strength Q.S.A.3. No bearing obtainable. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1010Z/11).

FEARLESS,
FORESIGHT,
VELOX,
VIDETTE.

My 1624/6. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT after arrival at Freetown are to remain temporarily under the orders of C.in C. South Atlantic. When FEARLESS and FORESIGHT arrive Freetown VELOX and VIDETTE to return to Gibraltar. The two corvettes retained by F.O.C. N.A. in accordance with A.T.1716 of 30/12, should be sailed from Gibraltar to join C.in C. S.A. when VELOX and VIDETTE arrive Gibraltar. When these corvettes arrive at Freetown. FEARLESS and FORESIGHT are to join Force H. (D.O.D.(F) 1144/11 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

CLEMATIS
CYCLAMEN.

My 1242/10. CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN routed through position D.020 00'North 018 40' W. Request onward routing instructions be signalled to CLEMATIS. (F.O.C.N.A. 1152/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN sail 1800/11 for Freetown routed through 033° 30'N., 009° 40'W. 029° 05' N., 012° 30' W. speed 12½ knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1720/11 to MARON, CIRCASSIA).

Gibraltar departure 11/1. CLEMATIS and CYCLAMEN expected time of arrival Freetown 1400Z/1 Saturday 18/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1832A/11).

ENTERPRISE
raider
decoy
message.

Regret my 1759/10 was not passed to ENTERPRISE in time. Message was routed via Simonstown. Attempts to pass message by wireless to Simonstown up to 2140 was unsuccessful and message was then passed by cable. It had not however reached N.O.I.C. Simonstown by this means by 1927/11. This latter failure is being investigated and further report will be made. ENTERPRISE arrives Simonstown 0900/12 no further action is being taken.
(C.in C. S.A. 1841N/11 to Admty.)

Tankers.

Your 1549/7. Either BETH carrying 3500 furnace and 5000 diesel due Durban 19th or HAVKONG 14000 furnace due 24th could be made available for convoy. Please report as soon as possible which tanker you propose to use bearing in mind any delay to any tanker most undesirable.
(D.S.T. 19441/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.ROVER.

ROVER in approximate position 033° 48' 020° 31' at 0530/11 with battery severely damaged making for Malta may be unable to dive. Last reported course and speed 290° 14 knots at 1931/10.
(Capt: S.l. 0803/11 to R.A.l.B.S. Group 201).

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air Attack.
Palermo.

Special Operational Summary. Following recco. of Palermo on 10/1. 10 Swordfish 830 Squadron were detailed to attack shipping in the port on night 10/11 Jan. 4 aircraft returned soon after take off due to engine trouble. 6 aircraft carried on and were over target from 1900 to 1945, dropping a total of 10,500 lbs. S.A.P. 6,250 S.A.P. and 6,250 L.P. Only 1 M/V 8,000 tons seen on all 3 inner jetties and first aircraft scored a very near miss his third bomb hitting warehouse behind centre jetty. Remaining 5 aircraft attacked concentration of about 12 ships along Outer Mole and round repair basin 1 definite and 4 others or near misses on shipping. Further hits were made on warehouses alongside repair basin and 1 stick started large fire and minor explosions among warehouses behind repair basin. 1 attack made on gun position in harbour but result not seen. No cruisers were in port at time and only 1 destroyer.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0850/11).

Air Report.

Summary No. 210 up to 1200 hrs. 11.1.41.
1. Egypt. My A.822 10/1.
On night Jan. 9/10 3 Wellingtons dropped 6,000 lbs of bombs and incendiaries on Benina Aerodrome and 3 further Wellingtons dropped the same on Berka Aerodrome. Day 10/1. No bombing operations. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols throughout the day over the Tobruk area while Australian Gladiators patrolled in the neighbourhood of Sollum. Enemy aircraft bombed Sollum on 9/1 and dropped Thermos bombs in sixth Australian Division area west of Tobruk on night 10/11 Jan. No change in military situation at Tobruk.

2. Greece. Day 10/1. 1 Sunderland patrolled in the South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1229/11).

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Air Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 11/1. All times G.M.T. Reconnaissances. 0445 to 1457 Sunderland sweep ahead of east-bound convoy. At 0559 one 2 funnel ship 15,000 tons flying tricolour and marked with Red Cross position 035 degs. 23'N., 17 degs 32'E course 150 degs. speed 8 knots. 0530 to 1515 Sunderland patrol Western Ionian Sea. Nil report. 0600 Glenn Martin despatched to reconnoitre Taranto for shipping and Catania and Comiso aerodromes. Glenn Martin signalled at 0900 Brindisi 1 Battleship 1 cruiser 2 M/Vs. Since then no news of this aircraft which failed to return pilot was not instructed to reconnoitre Brindisi.

2. Air Raids. 1718 air alarm given when enemy aircraft bombed our naval units at sea off Malta. A second night alarm at 1802 to 1820 hours but in neither case did aircraft come over Malta. 1 Hurricane was up during these alarms. 0645 to 0745 1 S.79 flew over Malta on recco. at 23,000 feet and was heavily engaged by A.A. fire. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. 1 Hurricane saw enemy aircraft too far away to intercept. 1 Hurricane crashed. Pilot killed. Cause at present unknown but not due to enemy action. 0830 to 0840 enemy aircraft circled North of Grand Harbour. 6 Hurricanes up but enemy aircraft did not cross coast. During both these day alarms Glenn Martin was up with task of shadowing any identified German aircraft seen especially dive bombers in order to locate their base.

3. Offensive action. Operations by Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. against Palermo night 10/11/1 and reported in my I.21 11/1.
(H.Q. Med. 1745/11).

ILLUSTRIOUS
damaged by
A/C 10/1.

M012725/41 }
A 0655/41 }

ILLUSTRIOUS was attacked at 1240 by about 25 dive bombers, by high level bombers at 1330 and again by 15 dive bombers at 1610 and by torpedo aircraft at 1920 and received six bomb hits and several near misses from heavy bombs estimated about one thousand pounds, five bombers were JU.87 with German markings. Damage. Casualties. Fulmar shot down six JU 87 and one or two S.79 and damaged others. 7 Swordfish and 7 Fulmar landed Halpar, 11 Swordfish and 5 Fulmars lost in fire.
(V.A.Malta, 1035/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)ILLUSTRIOUS
No dock at
Malta.

ILLUSTRIOUS seriously damaged and flooded abaft 136 station. No dock large enough to take her. Consider she should immediately proceed Eastwards if the constructor decides she is sufficiently seaworthy, being screened by GRIFFIN and MOHAWK. She would steer on engines as steering engine and rudder are out of action. Request immediate decision. (V.A.Malta, 1115/11 to C.in C. Med.)

ILLUSTRIOUS
to remain
MOHAWK
GRIFFIN.

Your 1115/11. ILLUSTRIOUS must remain at Malta until moon conditions are more favourable. Every effort must be made to make her more seaworthy, and improve steering. Sail MOHAWK and GRIFFIN for Suda Bay at dusk proceeding at high speed. (C.in C. Med. 1351/11 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

Am concerned at BONAVENTURE's shortage of L.A.(? ammunition). I am holding her and JAGUAR at Malta in any case until air reconnaissance has relocated the Italian battle Fleet and main cruisers force and suggest deferring her sailing until a more favourable period of moon. (C.in C. Med. 0817/11 to Adty).

BONAVENTURE,
JAGUAR,
GALLANT.

494. Intend to sail BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR for Gibraltar at 1600 (- 1) today 11/1. GALLANT arrived in tow of MOHAWK 1130 (- 1). (V.A.Malta 1249/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Following ammunition reserve for BONAVENTURE should be available at Gibraltar. (Details). PRINCE. 500 rounds left U.K. via Cape for Alexandria. Reserves will be increased to 1 outfit for 10 gun Dido at Alexandria by first opportunity via Cape and to three quarters outfit for 10 gun Dido at Gibraltar in approved proportions. (D.T.S.D. 1401/11 to C.in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., BONAVENTURE.)

495. Your 1013. Signals have crossed. MOHAWK and GRIFFIN will sail tonight for Suda Bay. Retaining BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR GALLANT now in dock arrived 1130 (minus) one. Your message to F.O.C. 3rd C.S. passed by aircraft in position 035° 20' N., 016° 15' E at 1115, (minus) one. F.O.C. 3rd C.S. is retaining DIAMOND with him. (V.A.Malta, 1431/11 to C.in C. Med.)

* Sailed - See
next page

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)GALLANT.
damage.

GALLANT has fore part missing as far back as number one boiler room bulkhead except that bridge structure in intact. Number one boiler room flooded. Ship is in dock. 65 ratings but no Officers dead or missing. 15 ratings injured or wounded now in Military hospital Imtarfa.
(V.A. Malta 1709/11 to C.in C. Med.)

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

Your 0917/11 to Admiralty only. Concur in deferring sailing of BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR until the moon is more favourable.
(D.O.D.(F) 1832/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Saturday 11th arrival GALLANT, BONAVENTURE arrived and departed GRIFFIN, MOHAWK.
(V.A.Malta, 1905/11).

A.S.10.

Convoy A.S.10 arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1047/11).

French
Shipping.

Your 1819/3. General Catroux has communicated this request direct from General de Gaulle who is in turn in communication with the Minister of Shipping with a view to the ships being managed by free French Authorities. Ministry are in opposition to this observing that three of the ships are being used for trooping but will raise no objection if he agrees to administration only by French agent.
(D.T.D. 1609/11 to S.N.O. Suez).

U.S.K.

F.O.C.North Atlantic's 2004/6. (route).
(To arrive Grand Harbour 0700/16).

2. Keep to east side of deep water channel between Skerki and Pantalleria where a south easterly setting of half of two knots may be experienced. Cape Bon light is reported to be exhibited normally.

3. U/Boat patrols have been reported to West and South of Pantellaria.
(Comdr#.(S) Malta, 1857/11 to U.S.K.)

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

(SOUTHAMPTON ^{M06199/41} Sunk, (GLOUCESTER) bombed. ^{M07840/41}) C.S.3. with GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON appear to have parted company with GALLANT about 0400. At (? 1500) when about 180 miles 105 degrees from Malta ships were attacked by dive bomber aircraft both being hit. 7th C.S. and Battle Squadron some 120 miles away immediately steered to their assistance. Fire broke out in SOUTHAMPTON in vicinity of X Barbette and gained ground until it covered after engine room and after magazine. From information at my disposal it would appear it was not possible to flood magazine and at (? 1906) signal was received from C.S.3. that ship had had to be abandoned and that he intended to sink her. This action in the circumstances I approved. All Forces now proceeding to R/V southwest of Crete.
(C.in C. Med. 2155/11 to Adty).

East Indies.S.W.4.B. congestion at Durban.

As S.W.4.B. will arrive Durban when W.S.5.A. is there resulting in extreme congestion in the harbour, it is desired that only those cleared ships in SW.4B, which are evacuating families, shall proceed to Durban and that other ships bound for U.K. should bunker at Capetown. I have not however been informed of bunkering, homeward loading or docking of S.W.4.B. ships.
(C.in C. E.I. 0544Z/11).

Convoys.

Departures 0540Z/11 CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY with B.S.12 $\frac{1}{2}$. Arrival 0600Z FLAMINGO with 5 ships from B.S.12.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0652Z/11).

Arrival 0730Z/11 SHOREHAM Departure 1445Z/11 CALEDON for B.S.12 $\frac{3}{4}$.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1455Z/11).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Convoy
Facilities.

621. Admiralty 0031/6 and 1642/6.
(i) Consider 25 ships the maximum number in a W.S. convoy that can be passed through Red Sea. Limitation is imposed by number of A/S Vessels available for escort it being assumed a B.N. or B.S. convoy will be running concurrently and that threat of attack remains on the same scale as at present.

(ii) The speed of advance of fast W.S. convoy would probably have to be reduced below 15 knots because most Red Sea Sloops cannot maintain this speed.

(iii) A convoy of over 25 ships is also unwieldy to handle and dispose of in narrow and mineable waters in Southern Red Sea and entrance to Gulf of Suez.

(iv) Ref: 0031/6 from Admiralty para. 2 any number of ships can be accommodated unprotected in outer anchorage Aden where they would have to wait about 5 days for onward escort. If there are personnel ships among them the troops could not be brought ashore for exercise nor water taken out to ships. One or at most two transports a day could be watered in inner harbour.
(C.in C. E.I. 1216Z/11 to Adty).

AUCKLAND
CRICKET
PROTECTOR.

11/1 Masirah arrival and departure AUCKLAND for Bombay. CRICKET with PROTECTOR in company for Aden expected time of arrival 0330Z/15.
(AUCKLAND 1247Z/11).Na

"Natel"
Reserve
message.

Admiralty General Message. 689A of 11th/1. C.in C. East Indies is requested to arrange for the onward transmission of "NATEL" Natel" messages to S.N.O. Aden and S.N.O. Persian Gulf. Passing instructions to this affect will not be included in the heading of the message.
(D.S.D. 1542/11 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.

Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS. *East India, continued.*Air
Report
Berbera
attacked.

Summary No. 213 and operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 11/1. Following sorties of 8 Squadron made armed photographic reconnaissance over Somaliland and adjacent, 0425 to 0625 1 Blenheim saw no activities. Tug Argan Dash Hargeisa Burao Sheikh Laferug Berbera 1000 lbs. bombs dropped in long dive attack on coast defence gun position Berbera, target missed no opposition Berbera, moderate A/A Hargeisa 0455 to 0535 1 Blenheim saw no activities between coast Harrar and Jiggiga. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron provided fighter escort for convoy B.N.12½, no casualties, all times G.M.T. (Aden 1731/11).

Japanese
Agents,
Egypt.

Your 1406/10/1 M.E.I.C. reports Japanese agents in Egypt have been instructed to collect information on shipping arriving and departing Suez and whether in convoy or unescorted. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1809/11).

Perim
bombed.

Following has been read. Enemy aircraft bombing Perim. (Bombay W/T 1810Z/11).

PARAMATTA
bombed.

H.M.A.S. PARAMATTA was bombed at 1820Z/11 off Perim, 3 attacks, no damage. (C.in C. E.I. 1922Z/11).

China.Thailand -
Indo-China
dispute.

Following from Foreign Office (deals with situation between Thailand and Indo-China and possibility of British and U.S. Mediation.) (Hd. of M to C.in C. China), (1207/11) Full text in Lion copy only.

America and West Indies.DESPATCH.

DESPATCH is to leave Jamaica a.m./15 and patrol Square F.30 C. Leave patrol so as to arrive Jamaica p.m./20. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0952/11).

RAJPUTANA

Halifax arrival 11/1 RAJPUTANA from B.H.X.101. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0901/11).

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT
1207/11th Jan.

Lion

TO:- Commander in Chief China 78
repeated H.M.R. Tokio
H.M.R. Bangkok
H.M.R. Shanghai
H.M.R. Washington
Governor Rangoon
Governor Hong Kong
Governor Singapore
Government of India

DATE:- 11.1.41.

372a

FROM:- Admiralty
IMMEDIATE
AIDAC

Following from Foreign Office. Begins.

"Bangkok telegrams Nos. 12, 17 and 21 and Tokyo telegrams Nos. 22 and 31 (mediation between Thailand and Indo-China)

We have not yet received reply of United States Government concerning mediation (see Foreign Office telegram No. 6 to Bangkok), but situation seems to call for further action. You are requested to make very confidential communication to Admiral Decoux at earliest possible moment on following lines.

2. We have noted with interest Captain Jouan's statement that French authorities would welcome mediation of United States Government or United States Government and His Majesty's Government jointly. We have at once communicated with United States Government and are awaiting their views. Meanwhile we should like Governor General to know that we are ready to give any assistance within our power in seeking peaceful solution of dispute.

3. Our information coincides with that of Captain Jouan as to important quantities of aircraft and other war material which are being sent by the Japanese into Thailand. Japan is clearly using the dispute as a cloak for extending her own influence in Thailand and Japan alone will profit both in Thailand and Indo-China by its continuance. In the paramount interest of checking further Japanese encroachments its localisation and settlement is of urgent importance and we feel that Admiral Decoux will take broadest view and will not allow the smaller conflict to overshadow larger interests at stake.

4. Pending reply of United States Government we have not approached Thai Government with any offer to assist in promoting negotiations. But we have urged moderation and shall continue to do this and to warn them of the dangers of the course upon which, with Japanese encouragement, they have embarked.

5. We do not at this stage ask Admiral Decoux to disclose to us in detail what settlement he is prepared to discuss with the Thais. This must

naturally/.....

naturally form subject of direct negotiation between French and Thai authorities. But in order that we may at appropriate moment assist in bringing about such negotiations on basis capable of producing results we should welcome any indication which he may communicate to us regarding scope of negotiations which he would be willing to undertake with Thai Government and manner in which they can be most rapidly undertaken. Would he be prepared to send influential representative to Bangkok, or does he contemplate negotiations elsewhere? We should wish to pass on to the United States Government such information as Admiral Decoux chooses to give us." Ends.

1207/11

for Head of M. (86)

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 3rd S.L.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.T.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 C.C.C. to 1st S.L.
 D. of P. (2)
 D.C.D. (F)
 D.D.C.D. (F)
 E.C.D. (H)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.T.D.
 D.S.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of T.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 E.M.S.
 I.F.
 W.D.
 Duty Captain
 Head of M. (30) and for W.C.O.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.NORVINN.

Your 1054/18/12. (No trace in W.R.) Panamanian ship NORVINN not arrived Trinidad Press reports arrived Chester 2/1. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1301/11).

Convoy
T.C.9.

Your 1042/4 and 1734/6 and Admiralty's 1353/9. Availability of shipping for convoy T.C.9 is now as follows:- (details re DUCHESS OF YORK, ORONTES, and WARWICK CASTLE. In view of commitments for these vessels on return to U.K. sailing date from Halifax must be not later than 5/2. Most desirable that all vessels should load homeward cargo to maximum extent within dates required, and in view of short turn-round for ORONTES propose sailing date 5/2 should be arranged. GEORGIC cannot now be available for this day.
(D.O.D.(H) 1706/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Japanese
Shipping.

Japanese schedule. N.Y.K. California Caribbean Service. ARIMA MARU sailed La Guaire New York 9 days late. Delayed 5 days Panama. Reason unobtainable. O.S.K. California East Coast South America Service. MONTEVIDEO MARU delayed Panama 22nd to 27/12 in unsuccessful attempt to disembark 100 Jewish German passengers.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1821/11).

A.M.C's
Halifax
Escort
Force,
Northern
Patrol,
etc.

It has been approved. (a) To allocate the A.M.C's of the Northern Patrol between the Halifax Escort Force and the Trade Routes.

(b) That the Halifax Escort Force should continue the duties of North Atlantic Convoy Escort Force and a reduced Northern Patrol.

(c) That the Northern Patrol area to be patrolled by A.M.C's should be the Denmark Strait.

(d) That two A.M.C's will at all times be maintained on patrol in this area.

(e) That the Western Patrol should be carried out by 10 O.B.V's who will be operated and administered by F.O.C.N.P.

/(f)

WAR DIARY.

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

(f) That A.M.C's released from Northern Patrol, other than those allocated to Halifax Escort Force, will be transferred to the Trade Routes.

2. Facilities for fuel and water are being provided at Hvalsfiord and will be available by the end of January.

3. The A.M.C's of the Halifax Escort Force will be administered by R.A. 3 B.S. and based on Halifax. Operational control will be as follows:-
By R.A. 3 B.S. Whilst acting as convoy escort, in Canadian waters, returning from patrol. By F.O.C.N.P. After leaving convoy on passage to patrol, on Patrol, While in Icelandic waters.

It should, for the present, be assumed that A.M.C's leave the convoy in 25° W.

4. All A.M.C's irrespective of their proper station, undergoing repair in U.K. will be administered by F.O.C.N.P.

5. The ships to join the Halifax Escort Force from the Northern Patrol are:-
CILICIA, WOLFE, CIRCASSIA, SALOPIAN, LETITIA, CALIFORNIA, DERBYSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE, CHESHIRE.

6. The ships to join the Freetown Escort Force are:- (a) CHITRAL from the Northern Patrol (b) COMORIN and VOLTAIRE from the Halifax Escort Force.

7. CHESHIRE will be in dockyard hands until 12/3 and CILICIA commences her refit in U.K. on 18/1.
(D.O.D.(H) 1011/11 to F.O.C.N.P. R.A. 3.B.S)

Australia.

MORESBY
MANOORA
WESTRALIA.

MORESBY arrived Cairns 2344Z/9 MANOORA escorting TRIENZA left Nauru 0930Z/10 for Ocean Islands. WESTRALIA arrived Sydney 2042Z/10.
(A.C.N.B. 0620Z/11).

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia. (Contd.)Raider
Victims.

My 0631Z/26/12. (re survivors from captured ships and S.P. 02272(8) to S.P. 02272(9) believed to be in enemy hands). Following is precis of reports regarding disposal or otherwise of Merchant ships' books from HOLMWOOD, VINN, RANGITANE, TRIADIC, NOTOU, TURAKINA, RINGWOOD, TRIASTER, TRIONA. (also gives details of survivors still held prisoners from certain ships.
(A.C.N.B. 1000Z/11).

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.FORTUNA.

German merchant ship FORTUNA 2700 tons was expected to leave Gijon yesterday Friday.
(V.A.S. 1631/11 to S/M's Area B).

SPEZIA
BELLONA.

10/1 Departure German S.S. SPEZIA and BELLONA both for Marseilles.
(Valencia, 1540/11).

German steamers SPEZIA and BELLONA left Valencia 10/1 for Marseilles. Grey Hull, black funnels, name obliterated.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 2347/11).

Italian Merchant ships.ALABAMA.

My 2101/25/11 ALABAMA arrived Puerto Cabello.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1819/11).

French Merchant Ships.MENDOZA.

French ship MENDOZA has arrived Montevideo.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0800Z/11).

Nov 21/41.

(A 1) French ship MENDOZA is carrying 15 French passengers from Buenos Aires for Marseilles.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2026Z/11 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

11.1.1941.

Saturday.WAR DIARY.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Summary
of Anti-
Submarine
Operations.

In amplification of my 1029/6 to N.C.S.Os. at Home, only, the following periodical summary of the anti U/Boat campaign is promulgated for the confidential information of masters of merchant vessels.

2. The tactics of U/Boats attacking convoys have been to attack on the surface at night relying on their small silhouette to avoid detection. These attacks appear to have reached their zenith in late October. In November there was a decline in the number of convoys attacked and the last attack on an (escorted) convoy (up to date) was made on the night of 5/12.
3. Since this date attacks have been confined to stragglers from convoy, ships that have dispersed from convoy or ships sailing independently giving loss of 25 ships.
4. There is no reason to suppose that attacks on escorted convoys have been given up but the circumstances in which some U/Boats have been lost may well have discouraged the enemy from this form of attack. Moreover it is hoped that the measures enumerated in paragraph 5 below may continue to reduce the number of attacks on convoys.
5. In an endeavour to give additional security to convoys the following measures have been taken:-
 - (a) Escorting convoys further west than hitherto.
 - (b) New forms of night dispositions of escorts and their tactics for dealing with night attacks.
 - (c) A wider degree of diversion of the routing of convoys in order to obtain evasion.
6. In addition the U/Boat base at Lorient has had almost constant attention from the R.A.F.
7. A tendency has been noticed for the U/Boats to move their area of operations to the westward. During October-November this was to the Eastward of 15 degs. West. In the latter part of December the majority

/ere

MOST SECRET.11.1.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Summary
of Anti-
Submarine
Operations.
(Contd.)

were operating in 20 degs. West. It may be that the healthy respect of U/Boats for air attack has driven them further westward. The situation at the present however, is fluid and it is difficult to forecast future movements.

8. The coloured flare used by merchant ships to indicate the side of the ship the torpedo hit has been abolished on account of the misleading information given when the wrong signal is used.

9. The provision of a small depth charge in the form of a projectile capable of being fired from a merchant vessel's L.A. armament is under consideration.
(D.T.D. 1641/11 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

Ships attacked.NALGORA
(torpedoed
2/1).

One life-boat with 19 survivors of British NALGORA have arrived at Ponta Delgada Do Sol San Antonio, Cape Verde Islands. GONCALVES ZARCO proceeding to bring to St. Vincent. Three other life-boats with 79 of crew missing. I am sending ~~Whaler~~ POLAR V and SKUDD VI to search for these.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent C.V. 1425/11).

RISANGER
(torpedoed
27/12.)

Norwegian Tanker BELINDA arrived Capetown 10/1 1941 with entire crew and one motor life-boat of Norwegian RISANGER sunk by submarine 27/12 on 012 30' North 021 30' West, survivors included 24 Norwegians 4 British and one Finn. (2) Submarine fired torpedo(s) which exploded with great force and would have been sufficient to sink ship but 20 minutes later surfaced and fired 40/50 inaccurate rounds from gun. RISANGER was not zigzagging when torpedoed. (3) Submarine large type painted dark grey hull dark brown superstructure, probably Italian. (4) RISANGER's Code books weighted and thrown overboard. (5) Survivors will be landed at Capetown. Norwegian consul informed.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1006/11 to Admty, C.in C. S.A.)

ANASTASSIA.

Greek, 2883 tons, from Sydney N.S., overdue at Belfast since 23/12, is now presumed lost. Italians claim she was sunk by submarine on 19/12 or 20/12.
(D.S. 495 12/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.1.1941.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1456. 55.20 N., 12° W. 275 Bloody Foreland
130', position indefinite. (D.S. 495).
1236. 55.30N., 21° W., 273° Bloody Foreland
440' position indefinite. (D.S. 495).
0730. 37.45 N., 20.10 E., 30'W. of Zante.
(Mediterranean). Indefinite position
of Italian U/Boat (D.S. 495).
2330. U/Boat estimated in position 047° N.,
006° 30'W., at 2330/11.
(V.A.S. 2356/11 to Submarines Area B).

South Atlantic.

Your 1616/9. (report of Italian
Submarines) Similar broadcast from
Zeesen 1030/8 indicated that reference
was to whole period of the war.
(D.N.I. 1937/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

In N.W.Approaches situation remains fluid
and estimates are unreliable.

German. 3 may be within 150 miles radius
from Rockall.
1 in about 55° 30'N., 21° W at 1236/1.
1 may be off S.W. Ireland.
1 arriving Lorient from S.W.
1 or possibly 2 in Cape de Verde Islands,
or Freetown area.

Italian. 1 in Cape de Verde Islands Area.
1 about 46° N., 1° W. bound for Gironde.
1 may be within 60 miles radius of 54
30'N., 17° W.
1 may be within 60 miles radius of 59°
30' N., 16° 30'W.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/11).

Submarines Attacked.

At Brest,
and by
THUNDERBOLT.

Your 0942/8. (Quotes Egyptian press state-
ment that Italian submarines in Brest were
damaged or sunk by air attack).

701905/41

/There

11.1.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked. (Contd.)

At Brest
and by
THUNDERBOLT.
(Contd.)

* TARANTINO

There is no confirmation that enemy submarines were either damaged or sunk during this R.A.F. attack. If this had been the case information would have been promulgated in Natel. Origin of Egyptian press report quoted is being investigated at this end. Regret report of sinking of Italian submarine by THUNDERBOLT was not reported to you by "Natel" or other means. THUNDERBOLT'S report stated she attacked Italian U/Boat probably of ARGO class with torpedoes on 15/12 position 045° 25' North 001° 23' West. Sinking considered highly probable.
(D.N.I. 1938/11 to C.O.I.C. Alexandria).

War Diary

12.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy
W.S. 5 B.

A total of 21 ships sailed this morning from Belfast and Clyde.

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked TIRPITZ and the dock area at Wilhelmshaven. Other ports in Germany were also attacked. Results were not seen.

An aircraft of Coastal Command this afternoon obtained one hit on the stern of a 4600 ton merchant ship off Sogne Fiord. A 4000 ton ship was attacked off the Norwegian Coast this forenoon and is believed to have been hit.

Beaufort aircraft attacked Lorient late this evening.

Enemy Air Activity

EMERALD was attacked this evening off Lands End. No damage is reported.

A single enemy aircraft raided Plymouth on two occasions this evening. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

Mining

Enemy
Minelaying

The re^{su}ndescence of heavy enemy mine laying, which apparently commenced on the night 10/11 Jan., when it is estimated that 25 minelaying aircraft were employed, appears to have continued on the same scale last night.

/Barry.....

War Diary

12.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Barry and Bristol Channel ports were closed again this morning, and after being opened this afternoon for a few hours they were closed once more after SS TIJUCA (Norwegian) had been damaged (this ship was taken into Barry Docks) Swansea was closed late this evening owing to suspected minelaying.

Plymouth was reopened this morning after being swept; one mine was detonated off the breakwater.

Preston was closed this morning. Fishing trawler STRATHRYE was sunk at 2010 off Liverpool and the port was closed.

Normal traffic was resumed to Southend this morning. A mine was detonated off Yarmouth.

Milford Haven was reopened this afternoon subject to local restrictions; two mines were detonated off St. Anne's Head.

ADVENTURE last night laid mines in St Georges Channel.
Minelaying by Bomber Command aircraft off the north coast of Germany continued last night.

Operation
Z M E 14
R.A.F.
Minelaying

North Atlantic

Force H.

M03379/41

S.O. Force H has only 4 destroyers of the 8th and 13th Flotillas available for his force and all local duties, and one of the four has a gun out of action.

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

As FORMIDABLE is to join the Mediterranean Fleet, F.O. Force K, is to transfer his flag to a cruiser.

When additional A/S forces are available C. in C., South Atlantic is considering using Bathurst for fuel and other facilities in order to give these vessels further radius to northward.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

10 Italian aircraft approached Malta this morning but no raid developed.

Benghazi, Derna Barracks, Benina and Berka aerodromes were successfully bombed last night.

Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome heavily last night. At least 9 aircraft were seen to have been destroyed. Photographs taken today showed a number of aircraft, probably German.

Operation "Excess"

The M.T. ships arrived at Piraeus about noon today.

M06234/41 }
M09794/41 }

East Indies

PARAMATTA was bombed again today, but was not damaged.

M03692/41 }
M04407/41 }

Convoy U.S. 8 (5 ships with troops for Middle East) arrived at Colombo this morning escorted by CANBERRA.

French Merchant Shipping

MENDOZA sailed from Montevideo at 2225 G.M.T. today.

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/12 (D.C. 1202/12) At 2330 (D.C. 2307/12)

'Deluge'

Portland
Defence

Since 2795/07/252 of 18/12 further serious deterioration in A/S defence has occurred Request repair ship may be detailed as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1310/12)

Movements

KENYA

After junction with REVENGE and A/S escort KENYA is to proceed independently at best speed to Clyde through position 60° N., 12° W. (C. in C., W.A., 0001/12 to C.S. 10)

My 0001/12. If fuel permits KENYA proceed direct to Plymouth so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2. miles at 1030 on day of arrival. (C. in C., W.A., 1331/12 to C.S. 10.)

Allocation of
Town Class
Destroyers

My 1053/15/10. Allocation of BRIGHTON to Liverpool is cancelled. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER will relieve BATH and ST. ALBANS with R.A.M.L. BATH and ST ALBANS will be taken in hand for stage 11 and ballasting at Chatham and will be turned over to Norwegians and allocated to Liverpool for 5th 6th 7th or 8th escort groups. My 1504/23/12 VOLUNTEER will relieve WIVERN about 17/1. VANOC will relieve WILD SWAN about 27/1. (C. in C., W.A., 1103/12)

REVENGE

To keep North of O.B. 271 proceed through 62° 05' N., 12° W. Thence through Minches. (C. in C., W.A., 1317/12)

VALOROUS
SOUTHDOWN

My 1017 VALOROUS proceed to Sheerness by Q.Z.S. 195 and 185 awaiting SOUTHDOWN by East Canna Buoy and entering Medway Channel astern of SOUTHDOWN. SOUTHDOWN due East Canna about 1500. Sweepers will sweep ahead SOUTHDOWN from Medway Gate to Garrison Point. (C. in C., Nore, 1347/12)

Northern Patrol

Movements of various A.M.C's (F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12)

Trawler Lines
Tonight.

2 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1526/12)

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

B.C.S. One
Sweep

Expect A/S air escort one Sunderland about 1000/12. (C. in C., Rosyth 0138/12 to R.A. 1 B.C.S.)

> My 1545/12 HOOD and REPULSE screened by SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ESCAPADE, ECLIPSE arriving Dunnet Head 0001/13 Monday from West.
Proceed as necessary to R/V with HOOD off Dunnet Head at that time. (R.A. (D) 2105/12 to ECHO)

HOOD
RODNEY

* HOOD is to proceed direct to Rosyth so as to arrive at Number 14 buoy at a5a5/13. R.A. (D) Home Fleet to provide three destroyers to screen HOOD to Rosyth and subsequently form screen for RODNEY returning to Scapa. Destroyers joining the screen from Scapa to have steam one hour's notice by 2200/12.
F.O.C. One B.C.S. to report time and position of rendezvous for new screen for HOOD. (C. in C., H.F., 1240/12)

> E.T.A. Scapa in*HOOD with REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM and 6 destroyers 0001/13. C. in C., 1240/12 fresh screen to rendezvous 0001/13 off Dunnet Head. Request following lights. E.T.A. May Island 1240/13. C. in C., Rosyth requested to arrange fighter protection and A/S air escort for 13/1. (F.O.C. 1 B.S. 1651/12) * See previous signal above

Western Channel
Patrol

Return to Plymouth arriving 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1030/12. (C. in C., W.A., 0843/12 to KASHMIR)

Start Point Light is to shown full brilliancy tonight/12 from 1900-2200. (C. in C., W.A., 1651/12)

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

→ TRIDENT

24 hours delay. Request R.V. be arranged at the same time on 14th advanced 20 miles further North. C. in C., W.A., pass to Fr. Sloop LA MOQUESE (TRIDENT, 0453/12 to Capt. (S) 2)

TAKU
TALISMAN
CUTTY SARK

Orders TAKU escorted by CUTTY SARK for patrol. CUTTY SARK to R.V. with TALISMAN and escort her to Clyde. Details. (S.2. 0921/12)

→ TRIDENT
LA MOQUESE
Movements

Amending his 1627/10. (S.2. 1141/12)

Positions
At 0800/13.

And movements for the following 24 hours. (V.A.S. 1719/12)

British Air Activity

Patrols

Today Sunday (C. in C., Rosyth, 0814/12)

S. B. R.

OPS/87 12/1. Submarine bombing restrictions. (H.Q.C.C. 1128/12)

Lorient
to be Attacked

AP/754 12/1. Available aircraft No 217 Sqn. tonight submarines and Naval Dockyard Lorient with Magnums. (H.Q.C.C. 1150/12)

Cruiser at Brest
to be Attacked

AP/753 12/1. Available aircraft Nos 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack tonight cruiser in dry dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1151/12)

C. C. Narrative

1700-2300 (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12)

/Bomber Command....

War Diary12.1.1941
SundayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity-Contd.

Bomber Command Intelligence Summary 641,
0001 to 1200 hours, 12/1.

Summary of Operations.

1. Night 11/12 January. 16 Wellingtons attacked Royal Arsenal and the Riv Ballbearing Factory at Turin, a military objective on the River Po south of Turin, Naval Dockyard and docks at Wilhelmshaven, Docks at Bremen, and a Military objective on the Embankment of the Ems River at MFGP 1823. At Turin two direct hits on S.W. Corner of target observed causing a large blue green explosion also several bluish explosions from incendiaries which continued intermittently for twenty minutes. At Wilhelmshaven incendiaries caused yellowfire and red explosions. 22 Hampdens attacked naval base and dockyards in Verbindungs Hafen and Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, oil stocks and docks at Bremen, concentration of shipping twenty miles N. of Emden, two merchant vessels at MFGP 3540, a stationary merchant vessel N. of Kiel, and a small ship six miles ENE of Kiel, also AA concentrations at Bremen, and Wangerroog. At Wilhelmshaven two bursts were seen at S.W. corner and two on Southern Edge of Bauhafen and other bursts in the Naval Dockyards. Five Hampdens successfully laid mines. For results see summary of bombing results No 641.

Ship Movements.

Night 11/12. Delfzijl approximately ten miles N. 0600 hrs. 500 ft. four merchant vessels about 6000 tons each stationary, also one destroyer steaming north. (H.Q., B.C., T.H.I. 1625/12)

War Diary12.1.1941
SundayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityA/C shot down
by SEAMAN

Arrived SEAMAN with three German Air Force Prisoners. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0930/12, 1022/12)

ADVENTURE

Whilst on north westerly course near Smalls at 2015/11, preparatory to operation Z.M.E. 14 ADVENTURE was machine gunned by single hostile aircraft a few hits were scored. No material damage or casualties. (ADVENTURE 1520/12)

EMERALD
Attacked

Have been attacked by Enemy Aircraft. My position 049° 51' N., 5° 22' W., (EMERALD 1955Z/12) (u/p. 397)

Keep destroyers with you as long as necessary. (C. in C., W.A., 2043/12 to EMERALD)

MiningBarry &
Bristol Channel
Ports

Barry and Bristol Channel Ports to the Eastwards are closed owing to suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff, 0955/12)

My 0955/12 these ports are now open. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1531/12)

Owing to suspected minelaying Barry and Bristol Channel ports to the Eastward are closed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1952/12)

Operation
B.S. 49

B.S. 49. Weather permitting escort of three Blenheims will meet you N.E. of Humber L.V. at 0845/13. They will accompany you till 1500. Report if protection is desired after that time. (C. in C., Nore, 1000/12 to S.O.M/L Immingham)

Operation B.S. 49. All times in my 0952/11 to be three hours later owing to late arrival of testing apparatus. (S.O. M/L Immingham 2059/12)

SS BERTA.....
A.

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

^H
SS BERTA
Sunk

Press reports Swedish Steamer BERTA^H 1215 tons sunk by mine in Sound near Copenhagen 11/1 (N.A. Stockholm 1007/12)

Thames

Normal traffic is now resumed to Southend Instructions for ships anchoring. (F.O.I.C., London, 1015/12)

Operation by
CACHALOT

V.A.S. 1046/12 See Operation Volume

Plymouth

Enemy aircraft dropped 3 mines in Approaches to Plymouth about 2030/11. Channel has been swept and port is open. (C. in C., W.A., 1048/12)

Cancel my 2204/11. Port of Plymouth is open. (C. in C., W.A., 1051/12)

One Red Mine detonated 1106 breakwater light 257° 11.7 cables. (C. in C., W.A., 1620/12)

Preston

1100/12 Port of Preston closed due to mine laying. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1305/12)

Operation by
SEALION

V.A.S. 1044/12 See Operations Volume.

Yarmouth

LL Drifter detonated magnetic mine in position 7 cables 188° N.W. Seroky Buoy at 1205 today. (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1335/12, 1350/12)

Milford Haven

My 1920/11 Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1400/12)

Mine report. Red mine detonated by single L in position 150° St. Anne's Head Light 5.3 cables. Red mine detonated by Babe double L in position 061° St Anne's Head Light 19 cables. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1903/12)

/Southampton....

War Diary12.1.1941
SundayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.Southampton

O.M. laying operations completed. (O.C.O.M. Southampton, 1451/12)

Harwich

Fleet sweepers have searched area as follows. One German mine cut in position 51° 47' 30" N., 1° 43' 15" E. One mine exploded in sweep in position 51° 48' 48" N 01° 43' 54" E., explosive float found in position 51° 48.8' N., 01° 42.7' E.

ORIOLE
Sunk 11/1

My 2130/11 I have nothing to add after interviewing Skipper of Trawler MANX KING (N.O.I.C., Faeroes 1730/12)

Sweeping
Loch Ewe,
OrkneysYour 1849/10 and 1509/11. After completing clearance sweep of the Approaches to Loch ~~Ewe~~ ~~EWE~~ and all anchorages likely to be used LL sweeps are unless otherwise ordered to return to Scapa. Further sweeping should also be carried out along the north shore in the direction of Rudh re up to the 20 fathom line. (A.C.O.S. 1740/12 to N.O.I.C. Aultben)Faeroes-Iceland
Minefield

C. in C., H.F. 1937/12 See Operations Volume.

SS TIJUCA

51° 23' 20" N 3° 03' 10" W. TIJUCA (Norwegian) mined. Barry A and ports to eastward closed incoming traffic ordered to anchor west of Breaksea L.V. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2150/12)

My 2150/12 SS TIJUCA has been taken into Barry Docks. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2220/12)

Swansea

Port of Swansea closed owing to suspected mine-laying. (F.O.I.C., 2219/12)

Liverpool

Port of Liverpool closed due to mining by E/A. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2208/12)

Mine report 1800/12. One mine detonated by LL sweep 53° 34' 54" N., 3° 32' 14" W. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2243/12)

391

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

2 M/S

39 W Hd. from Aircraft 144 Squadron Duty Q
2 minesweepers bearing 090 distance 5
miles course 030 position TLBC0000 T.O.R.
1134. (Nore 1100/12)

5 M/V's

Following received 30 W Hd from A/C 144
Squadron duty Q. 5 merchant vessels
bearing 090 15 miles Course 030 position
T L R C (Nore W/T 1105/12)

Reference 1105 4 Merchant Vessels Course
243 6 knots. (Nore W/T 1145/12)

~~TORONTO~~
~~ARFIN~~
~~JARL~~

See P 355.

Concerning Norway.

(1) Reported Wilhelmsen motor vessel
~~TORONTO fitting out as auxiliary cruiser~~
~~Akers Yard Oslo. German pressing for~~
~~completion March 1st but understand~~
~~Norwegian workers trying to delay. C. 2.~~
(2) ~~ARFIN JARL which was sunk at Agere-~~
~~off Agersund in Finland in 7 metres when~~
~~bound for North Norway is now being salvaged~~
~~G. 3. (N.A. Stockholm 1606/11)~~

See Page 355.

16 S/M's in
Bordeaux

Pru Sortie H/581 1150/12 shows in Bordeaux
16 submarines in Bassin afloat and dry
docks being decrease of two since 3/1/41
(Pru Benson) (1855/12)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.1.1941.
Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.OTTAWA
CHURCHILL.

My 0430/12. OTTAWA did not sail owing to shortage of crew caused by influenza. CHURCHILL unable to sail owing to condenser defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0434/12).

BENMOHR
EAST WALES
in collision
10/1.

Your 1941/11. Have been unable to overtake CAMPANULA and damaged ship.
(T.A.E. at Bar 1645. GARDENIA 0701/12).

S.L.60. BENMOHR arrived Kames Bay drawing 40 ft. aft, EAST WALES cruising round unable pass Boom until tomorrow anchor Flukea Gone. Both ships for Oban and have been in collision. Mails saved. No casualties.
(N.C.S.O.Oban, 1710/12).

EMPIRE
CONFIDENCE.

WHITETHORN escorted EMPIRE CONFIDENCE to Reykjavik from position 064° N., 024° W. Engine disabled.
(F.O.Iceland 0920/12).

* SAN TOOY
A.T. K 48.
* ANEMONE

Your 1617/11 (? 1657/11 intended) to F.O. Iceland only. Following is a repetition of my 1725/9. Icelandic manned trawler SAN TOOY G G 65, registered in Sweden, arrived Reykjavik from Fleetwood P.M./8 States damaged by armed trawler K.48 whilst latter attempted to come alongside at 0730/6 in approx. 060° N., 015° W. Request confirmation 1725/9 Ends. Minor damage to bows sustained by SAN TOOY.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1000/12).

* H.M.S. ANEMONE.

See 12.1.41.

P. 421

ULSTER
MONARCH.

Time required to complete renewal D G coils 14 days. Request early confirmation that ship can be made available to carry out the work.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1112/12).

F.O.I.C Greenock's 1110/12 and F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1112/12. It is important that programme for ULSTER MONARCH in my 1838/10 should be adhered to if possible. Temporary repairs should therefore be carried out.
(A.D.O.D.(C.O.) 1803/12).

WAR DIARY.

12.1.1941.

Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)FORESIGHT.

Re sailing.
(D.O.D.(H) 1131/12).

GALATEA.

Delayed by defects.
Expected date of sailing is now 19th January
(C.in C. Nore 1400/12).

DERBYSHIRE
CIRCASSIA.

DERBYSHIRE will arrive Clyde 18/1 and
CIRCASSIA about 22/1. Request they may be
taken in hand for refit on arrival prior
to being sailed for patrol and Halifax.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1450/12).

MOOLTAN.

Representatives of D. of S.T. owners and
fitting contractors will attend on board
MOOLTAN at 10/13 to facilitate decision
as to her future employment.
(D. of S.T. 2325/12).

MOST SECRET.12.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.M/V's
entering
Loch Ewe.My 1749/11. Merchant vessels entering
Loch Ewe (instructions).
(D.T.D. 1605/12 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).Coastal
Convoys.F.S.84.
W.N.67.Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames 0758/12)
W.N.67 000° Dunnet Head 4 miles at 1000.
(A.C.O.S. 1003/12).Scapa Departure 0900 CURACOA and JASON
to escort Convoy W.N.67 MONTGOMERY for
Liverpool.
(A.C.O.S. 1020/12). *See also next page*E.T.A. 057° 50'w. at 2000/12.
(STELLA POLARIS 1110/12 to C.in C. Rosyth).Scapa arrivals:- PASS OF BALATER. From
W.N.67. Departures:- MONTGOMERY 0908
POOL FISHER with W.N.67. THIRLMERE for
Aberdeen.
(A.C.O.S. 1850/12).C.E.22.Request sail HAWFINCH and COAL/TIT R/V
with C.E.22 off Elbow Buoy for onward
passage to destination.
(C.in C. Nore 1220/12 to N.O.I.C.
Ramsgate).F.S.86.Departure F.S.86. COLUMBINE for Tyne.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1450/12).E.N.56.
W.N.69.Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.56
sailing at 2200/13 after passing Dunnet
Head proceed to Scapa A.C.O.S. requested
to sail FOWEY to join W.N.69 due
Duncansby Head 1330/16.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1533/12 to FOWEY).2200/13. Additional escort FOWEY. 25
ships. Code words.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1821/12).

WAR DIARY.12.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)F.N. F.S.
Convoys.

Movements to noon/13. PRIMULA from Harwich to join F.S.65 for onward passage to Thames. F.N.81 due Flamborough Head 2100/12. F.N.82 due Outer Dowsing 0630/13. F.S. 85 due Aldeburgh 0600/13. F.S. 86 due Flamborough Head 1200/13. (C.in C. Nore 1200/12).

F.N.81.

Ships to join.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1632/12).

W.N.67.)
E.N.55.)
E.N.81.)
F.S.86.)

Movements tonight 12/13. W.N.67 Buchan Ness 2330/12 CURACCA parts company and returns to Scapa. *See previous page.* E.N.55 off Buckie 2200/12. F.N.81 Whitby 2200/12. F.S.86 Berwick 2000/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/12 amended).
1800/12

8 M/V's.

Portsmouth Night Movements.
8 M/V's escorted by 2 A/S Trawlers
Dartmouth to Needles.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1443/12).

O.B.273.

Sailed 0330/13. Escort LADY LILIAN.
10 ships. (details (N.C.S.O. Oban 0929/13)
N.C.S.O. Mersey 1229/12).
Sailed 2150/12 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde
2230/12).

Ocean
Convoys.H.G.49.
ANTHONY.

If not in contact rejoin your convoy before dark.
(C.in C. W.A. 1319/12 to ANTHONY).

H.G.52.

Estimated 1 00/19 ROCHESTER will bring back H.G.52. detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. Station.
(C.in C. W.A. 1939/11 to ROCHESTER).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

12.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)H.X.100.My 1613/8. ALNMOOR destination Glasgow.
(D.T.D. 1059/12).H.X.101.
S.C.18.Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Adty.
(D.T.D. 1621/12).
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2327/12).
Route (D.T.D. 1332/12).Halifax
convoys
H.X.104.

My 2232/4. It is understood that you consider escort position has not yet eased sufficiently to commence use of Iceland for refuelling escorts. H.X.104 will be routed by Northerly route as arranged but it is at your discretion whether the Iceland Scheme or normal arrangements as in my 1916/4 is used for this convoy.

(D.T.D. 1622/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.104.

Route. (D.T.D. 1342/12).

Troop
Convoys.W.S.5.B.Sailed Clyde portion of convoy W.S.5.B. escorted by RAMILLIES, PHOEBE, FEARLESS, WATCHMAN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT French Light Cruiser LEOPARD in accordance with my 1110/11 as amended by my 2329/11.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0430/12 to Admiralty).*See also p. 395.*F.O.Greenock 1110/11 and 2329/11 latter not to all addressees. Sailed 10 liners with C.S.15 AUSTRALIA, VANSITTART, LINCOLN, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER.
(F.O.Belfast 0625/12 to Admty.)

W.S.5.B. and DUCHESS OF YORK sailed 0400/12. (P.S.T.O.Clyde 0900/12 to D. of S.T.)

My 2340/31 cancel lettered positions B one, B two and C. Alter course in position 56° 35' N., 09° 00' W., to new position C. (Position).
(D.O.D.(H) 1201/12 to C.S.15).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

12.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Intend sailing EMERALD at 1630/12 to join W.S.5.B. in (position) passing between Lands End and Scilly Isles and through $050^{\circ} 30' N.$, $010^{\circ} W.$
(C.in C. W.A. 1251/12 to C.S.15).

Sailed CHURCHILL to join convoy W.S.5.B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/12 to Adty).

Sailed 1630 EMERALD to R/V with W.S.5.B.
(C.in C. W.A. 1721/12 to Adty).

My position course and speed FH $049^{\circ} 54' N.$,
 $5^{\circ} 30' W$ 290^o 22 knots.
(EMERALD 1944Z/12 to JERSEY).

12. 1. 41.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

M.V. Escorted.

Gibraltar 1025/12 French Armed Trawler LA TOULONNAISE escorting French Merchant Ship SAGITTAIRE with Army Lorries passed from Eastward to Westward. (S.O.I.Gib., 1141/12, to Admty etc.)

OLYMPUS.

North Atlantic.

My 1558/10. OLYMPUS still on patrol. (F.O.C.N.A., 1158/12.)

Force H.
Destroyers.

Number of destroyers of 8th D/F and 13th D/F now available for Force H and all local duties is 4 of which one has one gun out of action. 2 more should be available in 7 days. State of remainder as follows:- (a) 4 at Freetown. (b) One (? in) U.K. (c) One having condensers retubed by RESOLUTION. Completes 26/1. (d) One refitting completes 27/1. (G.O. Force H, 1512/12. to Admty.)

Ammunition.

Your 1401/11. Following at Gibraltar (details.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/12 to Admty.)

Convoy.
W.S.5.B.

My 2341/31 - paras. 2 and 6. FORESIGHT has again been delayed sailing and cannot join W S 5 B. PHOEBE is therefore to continue with FEARLESS escorting CAPETOWN CASTLE and MONARCH OF BERMUDA until relieved by a Destroyer from Gibraltar. F.O.C. North Atlantic is requested to sail one destroyer to relieve PHOEBE (position) about 1200 B.S.T./16. PHOEBE is then to return to Scapa. 2250/12 to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.15., PHOEBE) (D.O.D.(F).

South Atlantic.

CUSTODIAN.

Overdue shipping. My 1815/9. CUSTODIAN arrived Capetown. (G.O.l. Capetown, 1045/12.)

/ROXANE.....

War Diary.

12. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROXANE.

Overdue shipping ROXANE due Capetown 8/1 from Aden not arrived. (G.O.I. Capetown, 1143/12.)

Shipping
in 20⁰n.

Southbound ships crossing 20 degs. N, Paragraph 1, for Plate, ST. MERRIEL, 9 knots, Paragraph 2 for Cape. TYNEBANK, 10 knots, GLENAPP, 9 knots, (Routes.)
(i) 05 degs. 00' N. 21 degs. 00' W.
(j) Equator 11 degs. 00' W.. (D.T.D. 1214/12. to S.A. Station.)

Force K.
Sweep,
Shipping
positions.

Your 0120/6. para.(b) (1).
(i) Normal broadcasting of full details of all sailings is not done on account of over loading coding and W/T.
(ii) Before sailing warships are supplied with information of all ships on plot that they might expect to encounter.
(iii) This information is supplemented by signal giving details of sailing, subsequent warships departures, or of ships likely to be encountered.
(iv) During operation such as present full details of ships movements that apply will be given. (C. in C.S.A., 1415N/12. to Admty.)

CORNWALL.

Your 1316/9, para. C. CORNWALL belongs to South Atlantic Station. Request whether intention is that CORNWALL shall remain on S.A. Station or join E.I. Station. (C. in C. S.A., 1553/12. to Admty.)

FURIOUS,
NEPTUNE,
ISIS and
ENCOUNTER.

Arrived 1430/12.
(G.O.I. Freetown, 1617z/12.)

Force T.

Your 1741/10, It is important that Force "T" should start operations as early as possible. The delay necessitated by repairs to D.G. equipment cannot therefore be accepted. (D.O.D.(F.) 1749/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

/FORMIDABLE.....

War Diary.12. 1. 41.Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.FORMIDABLE
to replace.
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Owing to damage to ILLUSTRIOUS it has been decided that FORMIDABLE must join Mediterranean Fleet forthwith. FORMIDABLE and one cruiser from Force K are, therefore, to be detached from their present sweep about 15/1, and proceed to the Cape making good 18 knots. Date of arrival Alexandria. Important that the escorting cruiser should return to South Atlantic as early as possible. She should be turned back at Aden if C. in C. E.I. can provide onward escort, if not she should be turned back at Suez. F.O. Force K is to transfer his flag to this cruiser as convenient before she parts company with FORMIDABLE. The other cruiser of Force K is to continue to operate under C. in C. S.A. (D.T.D.(F) 1910/12 to C. in C.S.A.

A/S Vessels.
use of
Bathurst
for fuel.

F.O.C. North Atlantic's 1050/8/1. Remarks on possibility of submarines fuelling at Sal and of Italian air reconnaissance. When additional A/S forces available am considering using Bathurst for fuel and other facilities in order to give A/S vessels further radius to northward. (C.W.C.S.A., 1915/12. to Admty.)

MediterraneanOperation.
M. C. 6.
cancelled
Movements.

Mo 6199/41

My 1231/9. Operation M.C.6. cancelled Following movements now in progress.
A. WARSPITE, VALIANT, GLOUCESTER, returning to Alexandria expected time of arrival a.m./13B. BARHAM, EAGLE, YORK, 7th C.S. proceeding Suda Bay to fuel tonight 12/1.
C. V.A.L.F. in ORION with PERTH proceed thence to Piraeus, embark military and R.A.F. for Malta, thence to Malta to arrive dawn 14th, embark passengers ex BONAVENTURE and sail for Alexandria at dusk 14th.
D. Remaining force under F.O.C. 1st. B.S. to make a feint to westward in daylight 13th, then to deliver F.A.A. attack on Dodecanese night 13/14th, then cast to westward again with V.A.L.F. at daylight on 15th.

/E.After.....

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation.
M. C. 6.
cancelled,
movements. Contd.

E. After joining V.A.L.F. whole force returns to Alexandria except YORK and 4 destroyers to remain in Aegean for convoy and covering duties. (C. in C. Med. 1031/12. to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

Intend to defer sailing of BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR until P.M. 19th or 20th so that they can leave at dusk and get well past Pantellaria by moonrise. In view of BONAVENTURE's shortage of ammunition it is for consideration that Force H should come eastward in support. (C. in C. Med. 1041/12, to Admty.)

Your 1041/12. RENOWN. ARK ROYAL and SHEFFIELD with 5 destroyers will be available if passage of Narrows postponed till night 21/22, otherwise 4 destroyers. (S.O. Force H. 1915/12. to C. in C. Med.)

Greeks.
P/V.
Equipment.

B.N.A. Athens 1930/5. Ships will require a hinge boom or other form of (corrupt group) to w. This paravane equipment not available on Mediterranean Station. Consider Greeks should be supplied with this equipment if can be spared. (C. in C. Med. 1107/12. to Admty.)

Air Attacks
in Tobruk.

H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary, No. 216 up to 1200 hours 12/1/1941. Day 10/1. 3 Blenheims dropped 3,000 lbs, of bombs on Tobruk one falling very near the remainder in centre of town. (SAN GIORGIO). Night 10/11 Jan. One Wellington dropped 2500 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi, harbour starting one fire on the jetty. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1133/12.)

Benghazi.

Air Report,
Benina and
Berka, Raids.
Bomber
Seaplane.
Base deserted.

(Night 10-11/1.)
Day 11/1. No bombing operations. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols westward of Tobruk throughout the day without encountering enemy aircraft. The seaplane base at Bomba has apparently been deserted by the enemy. Military situation at Tobruk unchanged. 2. Greece. Day 11/1. No bombing operations. 1 Sunderland patrolled the south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1137/12.)

/Shipments.....

War Diary.

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean, Contd.

Shipments to
Greece,
PORT WYNDHAM.

In addition to personnel, shipping is most urgently required for 84 vehicles and 100 tons of equipment Egypt to Greece 16/1. Propose to allocate PORT WYNDHAM for this service, do you concur? She will not be used for P.O.W. my 1542/11. refers. (S.S.T.O., Egypt, 1255/12 to D. of S.8.)

ILLUSTRIOUS
damage,
GALLANT,
repairs.

ILLUSTRIOUS is flooded aft and divers are plugging hole with wood. When complete it is hoped to pump her out and get at flooded compartment to ascertain damage. Rudder and propellers appear undamaged. 1 compartment forward is flooded and holes are being patched and welded. Same will be done aft when holes get above water. All petrol has been removed. GALLANT is being repaired sufficiently to float and so release dock for further commitment which can then be met. (N.A. Malta, 1517/12.)

U/B.
Oxia Island.

Capt. (3) 1, 1355/12. See U-Boat Campaign. CAMPAIGN.

Turin.

Raid by Bomber Command, night of 11-12/1. (See Home Commands, British Air Activity.)

Malta
Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 12/1. 1045 - 1328 Glenn Martin recco Augusta and Catania. Augusta Harbour 15 seaplanes no shipping. Catania harbour no shipping. 18 fighters and 18 bombers seen dispersed probably more, 0725 - 0738 10 Macchi 200's approached from N.E. at 15,000 feet came to within sight of Grand Harbour, and withdrew north. 4 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars up but no interceptions. No naval or military items. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med., 1720/12, amended 0024/13.)

/Shipment.....

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipment
of Phosphates.
iron ore and
Toluene to
Italy from
Africa.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Following information received (graded B.1.) from French Army Reserve Officer recently arrived from Tunis. The anticipated delivery to Axis powers from Tunisian mines are by means of phosphates. Monthly shipments of 80,000 tons to Italy and 58,000 tons to Germany anticipated. Shipments will be made through Sfax, Sousse and Tunis. Shipments also to include Algerian phosphates delivered from Lone. Exports already begun (started about 1½ months ago.). Generally ships of several tonnages, and morale of crews is not very high. Shipments for Germany and Italy all go through Italy and only Italian ships are used. Care must be taken because French vessels also load phosphates at Sfax and Sousse destined for France. (b) Iron 30,000 tons Iron Ore are anticipated for Italy but not within any fixed period. This iron will be shipped principally from Tunis also possibly from Bizerta. Transport will be made by Italian ships. No iron shipments yet made. (c) Toluene, 4000 tons of this product used in manufacture of explosives have arrived from Morocco and are to be shipped to Italy. This product at present stocked at La Goulette, South (?jetty) awaiting a ship. Will not leave for another fifteen days or three weeks. (S.O.I., Malta, 2359/12, to Admty.)

East Indies.

^R
PARAMATTA.
bombed.

My 1922/11. PARAMATTA bombed again, no damage. Cable Ship RETRIEVER in company. (C. in C.E.1, 0236Z/12, to Admty etc.)

U.S.8.

Colombo arrival 0445Z/12, CANBERRA escorting convoy U.S. 8. (S.O.I, Colombo, 0454/12.)

RANCHI
patrol.

RANCHI is to leave Durban 15/1 and escort SELANDIA as far as 022° 30' south (ii) RANCHI is then to patrol at 15 knots between (b) 022° 30' s. 040° e. and (a) (?030°)s. 035° e. (iii) RANCHI is to clean boilers on return to Durban from patrol about 24/1. (C. in C.E.1., 0742Z/12. to RANCHI.)

/SHROPSHIRE

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.SHROPSHIRE.

My 1118/8 SHROPSHIRE is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban p.m./15.
(2) SHROPSHIRE'S 1029/9 approved to take work in hand at 8 hours' notice on return to Durban. (C. in C.E.I., 0802Z/12. to SHROPSHIRE.)

QUEEN MARY
AQUITANIA.

(ex U.S.8)

Intend sailing QUEEN MARY and AQUITANIA to Fremantle on completion of transhipment. (C. in C.E.I., 1312Z/12. to A.C.N.B.)

Air Report.

Summary No. 214 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 12/1. (i) 1000 pounds bombs dropped in medium level attacks on lorries at Sheikh and jetty at Berbera. Both targets missed. Lorries machine gunned. Negligible AA Berbera. (iii) 3 Blenheims 203 Sqn. provided Fighter escorts for Convoy B N 12½ using advanced base Kamaran one remaining overnight. (iv) PARNAMATTA on Perim patrol reports bombing attacks 1827 and 1906 11/1. Perim reports 11 bombs in sea and 5 on land causing no damage or casualties. All times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 2107/12.)

Berbera BombedConvoy EscortPARNAMATTA and
Perim BombedChina.Operation.

British Ambassador Tokyo's No. 38 to Foreign Office. Operation not practicable with my present force of two D class cruisers of very limited endurance. (C. in C. China, 0329Z/12.)

Thailand,
Indo-China.

Development of tension between. Possible intervention by Japan. Remarks and suggestions. (C. in C. Far East to Air Ministry, 0427/12.) See Operations Vol.

DIOMEDE.America & West Indies

486. Leave Bermuda p.m./13 and patrol Southern half of squares F 30 A and F 30 B. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda p.m./18. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022/12 to DIOMEDE.)

/Rocket.....

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Rocket
Defence
Air
Attack.

Adty. General message 672. A, 5/1,
(Re P.A.C. Rockets defence against
low level bombing. I have received
no previous information regarding the
introduction of this device. Request
details may be communicated, also
details of any other A/A weapon of this
sort other than the U.P. of which I
have full information. (C. in C. A.W.I.,
1056/12 to Admty.)
His views. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1121/12, to
Admty.)

U.S. Draft Lease
of Base.

PORT TOWNSVILLE.

British Motor Vessel PORT TOWNSVILLE
ashore near Portland Point, Jamaica,
Patrol Vessels HAUKEN and DOUGLAS
ALEXANDER standing by and endeavouring
to render assistance. (N.O.I.C. Kingston
1850/12. to Admty.)

MANOORA
TRIENZA.

Australia.
MANOORA arrived Ocean Is. 0156Z/11
escorting TRIENZA. (A.C.N.B., 0245Z/12.)

Raider
Intelligence.
NARVIK,
TOKYO,
MARU,
MANYO
MARU.

Your cable 9/1. (One and (Two) NARVIK at
no time carried name, flew a flag or wore
any Japanese or other markings. None did
she resemble in lines, general colour
scheme any Japanese ship. (B one) TOKYO
and MANYO MARU, lines in general colour-
ing resembled Japanese ships accurately
to deceive officers at short range.
(A one.) TOKYO MARU supply and decoy ship
no guns, wore Japanese flags painted on
side abreast of fore mast and fore-end
of bridge structure and also name painted
bows and stern in English, port of
registry Osaka. None of these covered at
any time although ships stood by in all
attacks and decoyed TRIONA by visual
distress signals. (B. one) MANYO MARU wore
Japanese flags painted on sides abreast
of funnel and fore mast and on tarpaulin
covering numbers two and three hatches.
Name in English with Japanese above on
each bow and stern port of registry Tokyo,
(A. one) Names not covered during any
attack. (B.2.) German flag flown at
outside of HOLMWOOD, RANGITANE. (B.I.)
Not observed during attack on other ships.
Painted Japanese flags on sides abreast of
funnel not covered HOLMWOOD, RANGITANE,
TRIADIC, VINNI attacks.

/B.I. Nazi.....

12. 1. 41.
Sunday.

406

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia Contd.

Raider
Intelligence
NARVIK,
TOKYO.
MARU.
MANYO-MARU.

(B.I.) Nazi flag painted on canvas dropped over Japanese flag during recovery of boats of TRIADIC RANGITANE and during attack on KOMATA. (A.I.)
(3) Captains of RANGITANE, HOLMWOOD, and Japanese officer on the bridge TOKYO MARU. No confirmation one seen MANYO MARU. None seen in NARVIK. General remarks. Engineers who did some work in the MANYO MARU consider certain welding and painting Japanese. (C.3.) NARVIK not MANYO and TOKYO MARU North of the Equator on 10/10 and took large quantity of stores all with Japanese markings from latter. All three ships departed southerly course 12/10, (C.2), and attacked RINGWOOD west of Nauru on 15/10. All stores except certain medical in TOKYO and MANYO MARU of Japanese origin. (B. one.) Certain German officers stated raiders mail reached them in Japan. (B. one.) TOKYO MARU was in Kobe April 1940. (B. two) And probably as late as August (C. three.) (A.C.N.B., 1300Z/12, to N.A. Tokyo.)

War Diary

12.1.1941
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER

Kobe departures 11/1, ANNELIESE ESSBERGER
(35.) (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0408/12)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE GRANDE

Italian Ship CONTE GRANDE bunkered 300
tons Oil Fuel 10/11. (S.O.I., Montevideo
0111/12)

ENDERTA

Present at Kobe flying Italian Flag.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0408/12)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MENDOZA

French ship MENDOZA continuing loading.
Expected to complete p.m. today, Sunday
or a.m. to-morrow, Monday. (S.O.I.
Montevideo 1044Z/12)

French ship MENDOZA sailed from
Montevideo at 2225 G.M.T. today 12/1. (S.O.I
Montevideo, 2230Z/12)

War Diary12.1.1941
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedNALGORA
(Torpedoed 2/1)

Your 1425/11 Survivors from SS NALGORA and my 1033 (not to Admiralty) Occupants of other three life boats have been picked up, one boat load by UNGENI with 34, two by NOLISEMENT which brought 46 survivors to Freetown. Total number of survivors accounted for 99. (C. in C., S.A., 1305N/12 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent.)

Submarines Reported

1211	Vicinity of 57° 30 N., 20° W., very indefinite (D.S. 496)
1557	About 51° N., 28° W., indefinite (D.S. 496)
2141	About 54.30 N., 15° W., (Italian) very indefinite (D.S. 496)
2112	45°-46° N., 3° - 4° W., (Italian) Indefinite (D.S. 496)
2307	45°-47° N., 3° - 4° W., (Italian) Indefinite (D.S. 496)

Am over enemy submarine in position 54.17 N 12.51 W. (A/C, 0130/12 to Stranraer)

Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 220 estimated speed 10 knots. (A/C 0135/12 to Stranraer)

Send one Destroyer to attack submarine reported by aircraft in position 054° 17' N., 012° 51' W., at 0130/12. Ship detailed report name after leaving convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 0241/12 to LEITH)

My 0241. S/M was sighted on the surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220° speed ten knots. (C. in C., W.A., 0249/12 to LEITH)

/Estimated.....

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SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

In N.W. Approaches an uncertain number of U/B's are searching widely. Reliefs may enter area from N.E.

German. 1 in 54° 12' N., 13° 02' W., at 0130/12 may move S.

2 within 150 miles of Rockall probably to W. of N.W.

1 about 55° 30' N., 21° W.

Possibly 1 about 57° N., 10° W.

1 off S.W. Ireland.

1 or possibly 2 in Freetown area of which one may have been in 2° 50' N., 9° 20' W at 1335/10.

1 in about 50° N., 31°-33° W., at 0517/12 possibly searching Halifax Route.

Italian. 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area

1 about 46° N., 5° W., bound for Gironde

1 about 57° 30' N., 20° W., at 1105/12.

1 West of 15° W., between 57° N., and 60° N

(D.D.I.C., 1343/12 C. in C., W.A., 1719/12/ to SEVERN)

Estimated U-Boat disposition, German, one off South West Ireland, Italian, one about 046° North 005° West bound Gironde. (V.A.S, 1621/12 to S/M's Area B)

My 1621/12. A second Italian Submarine may be making Gironde. Endeavour to intercept. (V.A.S. 2259/12 to TALISMAN)

Mediterranean

Presence of enemy submarine suspect in vicinity of Oxia Island. Greek submarine sighted on 8/1, 2 red lights which did not come from friendly ships and on 11th heard unidentified propellor noise. (Capt. S. 1. 1355/12, to PARTHIAN)

Submarines AttackedBy ANEMONE 7/1

Your 1601/11 Asking for verification of position. My 1725/10 Re ANEMONE attack on U-Boat. Position was transmitted from here as 59-20 N., 13-20 W., (Capt. D. Londonderry 0015/12 to Admty.)

1. The arrangement of the War Diary is as follows:-

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| HOME COMMANDS | - Policy |
| (Classification | - Defence of United Kingdom |
| by subjects) | - Movements |
| | - Operations |
| | - Allied Air Activity |
| | - Enemy Air Activity |
| | - Mining |
| | - Enemy Intelligence |
| | - U-Boats |
| | - Navigational |
| | - Technical |
| | - Casualties and Defects |
| | - Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS | - North Atlantic |
| (Classification | - South Atlantic |
| by stations) | - Mediterranean |
| | - East Indies |
| | - America and West Indies |
| | - Australia and New Zealand |
| | - U-Boat Campaign |

Additional subject headings are sometimes employed temporarily, e.g. when an important operation is in progress.

2. The following volumes should be used to supplement the War Diary: the dates given in brackets are those on which the series held by War Diary commences:-

- (a) Movements of H.M. Ships (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (23 February 1940).
- (b) Western Approaches (daily) Situation Reports (1 September 1943).
- (c) Dispositions and Movements (Foreign Stations) (1 September 1943).
- (d) Convoy Returns (Positions of convoys and composition of escorts, positions of independent ships and H.M. ships: from Combined Plot) (1 March 1941).
- (e) Daily Convoy Summary (Report made by Admiralty to Connav, giving arrivals and departures, with composition of convoy) (21 June 1943).
- (f) Air Staff Operational Summary (prepared by Air Ministry War Room) (1 July 1941, No.222)
- (g) Daily Operations Report for First Lord (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (13 September 1939).
- (h) List of abbreviations.
- (i) List of Convoy letters.

ADH 199 2222

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13.1.1941
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep
for Raider

The Battle Cruiser Force returned today from their sweep (see 11/1) HOOD proceeded direct to Rosyth.

Atlantic
Convoy Escorts

The proposals for escorts of H.X. and O.B. convoys refuelling in Iceland has been postponed.

British Air Activity

Brest was again successfully attacked last night by aircraft of Bomber Command. A successful attack was also made on the oil refineries at Porto Marghera near Venice.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked the docks at Lorient with good result.

Bad weather caused a reduction in the number of patrols flown today.

Enemy Air Activity

Apart from a Greek steamer machine-gunned at the entrance to St. Georges Channel and an unsuccessful attack by a single aircraft this evening on ships in the convoy anchorage at Milford Haven, no offensive enemy activity against shipping is reported today.

Very slight damage to Naval property from incendiary bombs was caused in a raid on Plymouth this evening. The Gas Works and Electrical Generating Station were badly damaged.

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation
B.S. 49

TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID today laid mines in the East Coast Barrier.

R.A.F.
Minelaying

Bomber Command aircraft last night laid mines off the north west coast of France.

Enemy
Minelaying

Enemy minelaying aircraft continued to operate in Liverpool Bay last night.

Liverpool was reopened at 1500 and Preston at 1630. Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Plymouth (by ASAMA, no report of damage), in the Thames Estuary, Milford Haven and probably off Margate.

Two mines were detonated today in trawl midway between the Isle of Man and the coast of Lancashire. This is a new minefield.

Operations Against Vichy French

SS MENDOZA

Mob 211/41

The French MENDOZA (See 11/1) which left Montevideo at 2233 G.M.T./12 stopped outside territorial waters. ASTURIAS sent a boarding party, which boarded when MENDOZA had drifted (probably with assistance of her engines) and was anchored 2 miles off shore.

On the ship refusing to proceed under the orders of ASTURIAS the boarding party withdrew. ASTURIAS remaining in sight outside territorial waters. MENDOZA later got under way for the Plate.

SS CANTAL

MARON reports that she is experiencing difficulty with the French SS CANTAL which she is bringing in to Gibraltar. MARON is unable to board, and suspects that CANTAL has sent a signal by W/T.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

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13.1.1941
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

SS CANTAL-Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. has informed MARON that if French warships dispute possession of a ship whilst being brought in she is to be surrendered under protest unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior. In no case is a British ship to fire the first shot, nor are French warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port, even if they have tried to resist exercise of control.

C. in C., S.A., has informed ships in the same sense

East Indies

Several air attacks were made on Assab between 1445 and 2030 today.

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War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Enemy Use
of French
Ports.

Your 1600/10. The persistent and gallant attacks on the cruiser at Brest should go far to discourage the use of French ports.
(C. in C. H.F. 0924/13 to Adty).

ADVENTURE.

It is desired to break routine nature of ADVENTURE's programme which should now be known to enemy.

2. Propose therefore that ADVENTURE proceed to Liverpool Bay after laying Z.M.E.15 on night of 14/1, remaining there as an A.A. guardship in addition to any unit C. in C. H.F. may decide to send, until about 22/1.

3. ADVENTURE to return to Milford Haven in time for further operations of the G.Q. series.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1334/13 to C. in C. W.A).

11th M/L
Flotilla
Base.

Admiralty 1616/30/12 and my 1220/31/12. In view of probable operational requirements of 11th M L Flotilla it is proposed to base them at Harwich Felixstowe, or Ipswich as arranged by F.O.I.C. Harwich. Base and operational use of 6th M.G.B. Flotilla is under consideration.
(C. in C. Nore 2140/13 to Adty).

HOLDERNESS.

Strongly recommend as urgent requirement that HOLDERNESS be fitted with R/D F. gear.
(C. in C. Nore 2146/13 to Adty).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1150/13 (D.C. 1153/13).
At 2330/13 (D.C. 2356/13).

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.
JERSEY.

Sailed from Plymouth 0627/12
(C. in C. W.A. 0021/15).

REPULSE, EDINBURGH.)
BIRMINGHAM, SOMALI.)
BEDOUIIN, TARTAR.
ESKIMO, ECLIPSE.
ESCAPADE.

Arrived Scapa 0100/13
(A.C.O.S. 0119/13).

KEPPEL, ELECTRA
ECHO.

Sailed from Scapa 2300/12
(A.C.O.S. 0119/15).

CIRCASSIA.

Leaves P.3. and Q.3 AM/14 for Clyde.
Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1022/13).

T.L.C's
3 and 4.

To sail on completion of trials
from Tyne to Inverary via the Caledonian
Canal, sailed in convoy, or provided
with escort in open water. A delay
of up to three days could be accepted
if by so doing suitable escort could
be arranged.

Tugs are not considered necessary.
(D.O.D.H. 1107/13 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Request your remarks and proposals
for sailing.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1603/13 to F.O.I.C.Tyne)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers.
(F.O.C.O.S. 1442/13).

5 M/V's.

Intend sail, escorted by ST. CATHAN
and CORNELIAN at 1700 from Needles
for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/14.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/13)

Sailed, less FIDELE (C. in C. Portsmouth
1852/13).

ST. ALBANS.
CHARLESTON
and A.M.C's.

R.A.N.P. 1454/12. As I have heavy
commitments for Destroyers can you
assist with two destroyers to R/V
in position 19 miles 270° from Cape
Wrath at 1200/15 with CHITRAL, LETITIA
and two Home Fleet Destroyers to escort
A.M.C's westward. They will R/V with
CILICIA, WOLFE, SALOPIAN and DERBYSHIRE
in 060° 40'N. 15 W. at 1300/16 to
escort them to Minches.
(C. in C. H.F. 1627/13 to R.A.M.L.)

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Your 1627/15. ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTOWN will be sailed for this duty (R.A.N.L. 1746/15 to C. in C. H.F).

HOOD. ECHO.)
ELECTRA. KEPPEL.)

Arrived 1530/15 (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/15).

RODNEY. ECHO.)
ELECTRA. KEPPEL.)

Sailed 1630/15 for Scapa (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/15).

PHILANTE.

To proceed to Liverpool when ready, to act as A/A Guardship in Channel as directed by F.O.I.C. Liverpool (C. in C. W.A. 1641/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

P.V.1.

Will be carried out between 2200 and 2359 tonight (C. in C. Nore 1021/15).

Operation is cancelled for tonight (C. in C. Nore 1851/15)

MARON.
CANTAL.

Experiencing difficulty with CANTAL. Request supplementary escort in the event of French warship appearing. Suspect having sent signal by short wave (? transmission). Impossible to board. My position, course, and speed 034° 00'N. (7010°) 18'W., 056°

Invasion
Exercise "Victor."
Exercise "Victor."

Military Staff Invasion Exercise will begin 0800/22 and continue unless cancelled till 1800/25. Naval Shore Authorities to co-operate by passing or originating signals. (D.O.D(H). 2335/15).

13.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TAKU.

Sailed with CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 0921/12 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0915/13).

TALISMAN.

My 0921/12. Delete all reference to TALISMAN. (S.2. 1007/13).

My 2259/12. Leave Patrol by Route in S.2. 1107/9. Thence to Plymouth for docking (V.A.S. 1031/13 to TALISMAN).

R/V with Trawlers at 0900/16 in 215° Eddystone 10 miles. (S.2 2246/13 to TALISMAN).

UNBEATEN.

S.5. 1001/11. Sailed (C. in C. Portsmouth 1633/13).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1711/13).

SURCOUF.)
PORPOISE.)

On completing working-up about mid-February it is intended that SURCOUF should relieve PORPOISE based at Halifax for Atlantic Convoy Escort duties. (V.A.S. 1914/13 to B.S.3.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered today: ^{"Hornet" "Bart".} ~~HORNET~~, ~~BART~~ (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/13).

Lorient.)
Quiberon.)

A.P. 756/13/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient and Hotel O.P. at Quiberon (H.Q.C.C. 1304/13 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

A.P. 757/13/1. 217 Sqdn to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. Disposition of S/M's is as follows (H.Q.C.C. 1306/13 to 15 Group, St. Eval)

/Thames.....

War Diary.

13.1.1941.⁴¹⁷
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Thames Estuary.
Flying of
Barrage Balloons.

Following addressed to 952 Sqn. and Cdre. Sheerness has been received from C. in C. Nore reference 1750/10 Begins.
Cancel my 1022/15/IC. It is intended that on moonlight nights barrage balloons in the Estuary should be flown as follows. (Details).
O.C. 952 Squadron is requested to decide daily how the balloons are to be flown, informing Commodore Sheerness of his decision. Ends.
C. in C. F.C. is considering these proposals. Request that C. in C. Nore be asked to submit such proposals through usual channels in future. (Air Ministry 1605/13 to Adty).

A/A Policy
during
Air-Raids.

Following is repetition of my 1353/13 begins:- Whilst fully appreciating urgency of developing new methods of countering night bombing, recent experience at Portsmouth throws doubt on the wisdom of the scheme of with-holding A/A fire to allow our planes to operate when a heavy attack is in progress.

Have been into question fully with A/A authorities and, though our planes contacted twice, enemy planes were cruising round practically unhampered. Balance must be struck between deterrent and aim-disturbing effect of A/A guns and chances of our planes contacting and we think that whilst the scheme of operating our planes is still in its infancy the advantage lies in keeping the A.A. guns going in the case of a large town under heavy attack.

I realise the complexity of the problem and put forward this view for consideration. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1613/13 to Adty).

/Suspected.....

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13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Suspected.
Sabotage.

N.A.S.C.M. 3. Re suspected Sabotage
in one Albacore aircraft.
(St. Merrym 1619/13 to Adty)

Escorts.

Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft
from about 2200 until about 0300/14
when it will be relieved by Whitley
A/C for two Sorties and thereby two
Sorties of Hudson aircraft. Sorties
are of 4 hours each. Aircraft will
identify themselves to S.N.O. on
arrival.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1802/13 to
WHITEHALL, etc).

Expect escort by Sunderland A/C from
0100/14, by Whitley A/C from 0730,
and then by two Sorties of Hudson A/C
commencing at 1115 and 1500. A/C
will identify themselves to S.N.O.
on arrival.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1804/13 to MALLOW,
SKATE, etc).

Oban.
Night Flying.

O/750/13/1. Reference resumption
of Night Flying at Oban, present
situation is as follows.
(H.Q.C.C. 1920/13 to Adty)

H.Q.C.C.'s 1920/13. It is of great
importance that night flying at
Oban should be resumed without delay.
As an immediate step request that
every effort be made to keep the
present landing area clear of obstruct-
ions. (D.O.D.H. 2333/13 to C. in C.W.A)

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth.

Single enemy aircraft raided Plymouth
at 1935/12 and 2235/12 dropping one
large H.E. in each raid.

In first raid private property
only damaged, with some casualties
including 3 dead and 3 seriously
injured all believed to be civilians.

In second raid bomb fell in garden
of Admiralty House, no casualties or
material damage.

(C. in C. W.A. 0900/13 to Adty).

/Pentland....

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Pentland
Skerries.

Unknown number of unidentified A/C
in sight, steering West. My position
050° Pentland Skerries (REGAL 0953/13).

LEONIDAS.

(Greek, 4573 Tons) Machine-gunned
by A/C in 51° 31'N. 5° 20'W.
(LEONIDAS 2045/13).

Mining.

B.S.49.

Sailed TEVIOT BANK and INTREPID at
0955 (F.O. Humber 1025/13).
Operation completed (Capt D. 20th
D.F. 1515/13 to Adty).

A/C Minelaying.

For tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1302/13).

Z.M.E.15.

To be carried out on Night 14/1 or
soon after. Details.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1353/13 to C. in C. W.A.
ADVENTURE).

Liverpool.

Re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/13).
Closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2314/13).

Off Montrose.
Search of
Channel.

On 15/1 available ships of 5th
M.S.F. are to carry out a 50% Oropesa
Search of channel 2 miles each side
of centre line joining the following
positions:-

A. 56° 36'N. 02° 06'W.
B. 56° 36'N. 01° 08'W.

Dummy moored mines may be encountered
at about 01° 10'W. On completion
ships to return to Aberdeen.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1529/13).

Intend sailing 6 fleet sweepers and
two P.M.'s at 0830 tomorrow Tuesday
14/1 to carry out cleaning sweep
extending 5 miles to westward of
centre line of Q Z S 151 between
position X and Y. Getting sweeps
out at Y at 1030, in sweeps at 1530
entering harbour at about 1730.
Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1535/13 to C.in C Nore)

/Faroes-.....

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Faroes-Iceland
Minefield.

Adty. 1330/3 and 1739/11 and C. in C.
H.F. 1937/12. Propose Gap as
follows.
(R.A.M.L. 1601/13 and 1602/13 to Adty).

Plymouth.

At 0855 Mine detonated in 198°
Breakwater Light 2¼ miles by ASAMA
(C. in C. W.A. 1624/13).

Preston.

Re-opened (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/13).

Thames Estuary.

Red Mine detonated at 1540 in 289° No.2
Sea Reach Buoy 3 cables.
(Capt M/s Sheerness 1707/13).

Liverpool.
STRATHRYE
sunk.

Mine report to 1800/13. Fishing
trawler STRATHRYE mined and sunk at 2010
/12, 53° 30' N., 3° 59' W. No casualties
One mine detonated by LL Sweep 197°
C 9 Black Buoy 1½ cables (Crosby
Channel). 2 mines detonated in
trawl 54° 18' N, 4° 00' W.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1829/13).

Milford Haven.

Ground Mine self-detonated at 1920/12
in 095° St. Ann's Head Light 5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/13).

Margate.

Coast Guard, Margate report loud
Explosion at 1950 probably due North
from Margate Lookout (N.O.I.C.
Ramsgate 2005/13).

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War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

BISMARCK.

M08624/41

Report of damage.
(HMR. Belgrade 9/1 to Adty).

Brest
Belle-Isle-sur-Mer.
Ile de Groix.

)Warships, S/M's, and M/V's seen during
)Night 12/13.
) (H.Q.B.C. 0005/14 to Air Ministry).

Convoy S.C.18.
Report of
Shadowing.

Convoy being shadowed by Surface
Ship in 53° 13'N. 27° 33'W.
(LACONIA 0854/13 and 0934.Z/13).
Am closing LACONIA at full speed
(COMORIN 1035/13) Details (LACONIA
1545.Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.)
Have intercepted s.s. HIGHLAND BRIGADE
who sighted Convoy at 0800/13.
Am returning Halifax.
(COMORIN 1910/13 to C. in C. W.A.).

SAN TOOY.

F.O.I.C. Iceland's 1725/9. Armed
trawler K.48 was H.M.S. ANEMONE
endeavouring to board SAN TOOY whose
movements were suspicious, see my
1725/10. SAN TOOY sustained slight
damage. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1355/13
to Adty).

E-Boat.

One Enemy M.T.B. in sight 180° St.
Albans 5 miles. (Portsmouth W/T
1915/13).

E.-Boat suspected near Sunk Head at
2140.

(C. in C Nore 2205/13 to PYTCHLEY,
COTSWOLD, etc.).

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROY.

Tug IRISHMAN towed ROY to Hull, and released on completion at 1530/13. (F.O. Humber 1006/13).

LANCASTER.

My 0407/11. Date cannot be given when Air Compressors can be completed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/13).

NAIAD.

My 1539/9. Main items are as follows. Adty 0730/10 refers. (C. in C. H.F. 1714/13 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

WINDERMERE.

Arrived Reykjavik with Engine defects (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1828/13).

CITY OF
BEDFORD.

See Ocean Convoys HX 97.

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War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

A.M.C.
Movements.

Admiralty's 1011/11/1. A.M.C'S will arrive Halifax on completion of a Northern Patrol following approximate dates. LETITIA 4/2, CALIFORNIA, WOLFE 16/2, SALOPIAN WORCESTERSHIRE 28/2, CILICIA DERBYSHIRE 12/3, CIRCASSIA 24/3, CHESHIRE on completion large repairs. To maintain cycle first A.M.C. for N.P. from Halifax should sail with H.X. convoy mid February, WOLFE will require to clean boilers on arrival Halifax. Date for WORCESTERSHIRE, CILICIA, DERBYSHIRE, and CIRCASSIA depend on completion of refits. Northern Patrol instructions and communications orders for A.M.C's at present based on Halifax have been sent in RAMILLIES.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1230/13 to B. S.3).

Iceland
Escort.
Scheme.
Convoy
Cycle
Escort
Groups.

1. Even with sufficient ships to form ten mercantile escort groups the Iceland scheme could only be put into force about once a month. The extra escort time involved is out of all proportion to the extra escort given and I propose therefore that the scheme should be postponed indefinitely.

2. My policy is to form nine mercantile escort groups each consisting of 8 destroyers and 8 corvettes. I consider that until this end has been attained no alteration involving extra escort group should be made to convoy system.
(C. in C. W.A. 1353/13 to Adty).

H.X. and O.B.
Escorts.
Re-fuelling at
Houlfjord.

My 2232/4. These proposals are postponed and will not be carried out with Convoys O.B. 277 and H.X. 104. Further signal will be made before the proposals are brought into force. (A.C.N.S(T), 2051/13 to C.in C.W.A)

Ammunition.
Ship.

W.D. ship R.77 left Swansea 12/1 carrying following stores for N.A.S.O. Alexandria.
(Armament S.O. Cardiff 1230/13 to Admty).

War Diary.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

COASTAL CONVOYS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

- F.S. 86. 23 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0941/13).
- F.N. 83. Postponed 24 hours fog. (C. in C. Nore 1024/13) 8 ships 3 trawlers and M.L. 169 join at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1939/13).
- F.S. 85. Harwich 13/1 departure PRIMULA at 0848 to join F.S. 85 for London. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0902/13 to Admty etc).
- F.N. 81. LONDONDERRY, VERDUN with F.N. 81 expected to arrive 1500/13. (LONDONDERRY 0904/13 to C. in C. Rosyth) *Arrived - See next page*
Arrived 1715/13.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1728/13 to Admty).
- Convoy positions. D.T.D. 1322/13 to C. in C. H.F.
- W.N. 67. Arrived 1440/13 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1500/13).
- W.N. 98. Movements tonight 13/14. One Capital Ship, three destroyers May Island
E.N. 56. 1900 Northward. WHITE BEAR with two
F.S. 87. submarines Noss Head 2000 Westward
F.N. 82. through Pentland Firth. 12th M/S Group from Aberdeen to Scurdy Ness. Expected time of arrival 2359 then sweep ahead of E.N.56. BRITOMART sails Aberdeen 2359 to Scapa. Expected time of arrival 0900. Convoys W.N. 98, Buchanness 2000, E.N. 56 sails Methil 2200, F.S. 87 sails Methil 2300, F.N. 82 eta 20 C. Buoy 1830. (C. in C. Rosyth 1634/13).
- O.B. 274. Sailed ARBUTUS for Clyde and DELPHINIUM for Oban, escorts for O.B.C. and O.B.O. 274 respectively. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/13).
- O.B.M. 274. 1805/13 H.M. Tug HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Two. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1830/13).
- MEANDROS (Gk.) (14) Halifax e.t.a. 28/1. ANNA (Gk.) (24) Buenos Aires e.t.a. 16/2. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1831/13).

/W.N. 68.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

COASTAL CONVOYS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

W.N. 68:

Passed Rattray Head 1815/13 B.S.T.
(SPURS, 1815/13).

F.S. 86

Norwegian M/V VESTMANROD of Skudenes anchored one mile W. of B.8 buoy is being instructed to proceed with F.S. 86 A.M. tomorrow Tuesday. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1901/13).

F.S. 85.

F.S. 85 arrived except VESTMANROD, reported awaiting FS 86. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1928/13).

W.N. 69.

1900/13. H.M. Trawlers FOXTROT (S O) and RUMBA. 23 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1950/13).

O.B. 273.

SALUTA returned Clyde with Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2010/13).

O.B.C. 273.

FINNANGER (Nor. Tanker) ordered to return by escort and now in Rothesay Bay. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2131/13)

→ E.N. 56.

List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2200/13 to Admty, etc).

2200/13. H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY, MORRIS DANCE Additional escort FOWEY. 22 ships. None for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2204/13).

→ F.S. 87.

Sailed 2300/13. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2301/13)

Sailed in F.S. 87. FRUMENTON 6675 London. JAMES HAWSON M/V6075 London (N.C.S.O. Methil 2302/13).

F.N. 81

W.N. 67

E.N. 56

→ F.S. 87

Rosyth 13/1. Arrivals additional to my 1833/13. LONDONDERRY and VERDUN with F.N. 81. JASON, STELLA POLARIS, and ULLSWATER with W.N. 67 includes POOL FISHER from Scapa.

Departures Additional to my 1833/13 LADY ROSEMARY, MORRIS DANCE, and FOWEY latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth with E.N. 56. LASSO for Leith. LACENNIA for Invergordon. VERSATILE and VIMIERA with F.S. 87. (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/13).

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HOME COMMANDS.

OCEAN CONVOYS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd)

- S.C. 19. Sailing Telegram.
(S. Can. N.O. Halifax 1027/12).
- H.X. 101 Tanker BRITISH SPLENDOUR to proceed
to Southampton to discharge. Request
you sail her from Barry.
(D.O.D.H. 1105/13 to C. in C. W.A).
- H.X. 102 Sailing date, route etc.
(D.T.D. 1314/13).
- S.L. 63 Advance Sailing Telegram. Additional
Ships for S.L.S. 63.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1129/13 to Admty).
- H.X. 104. Intend normal arrangements to be
in force as in your 1916/4.
(C. in C. W.A. 1347/13 to Adty).
- O.G. 48. FOLKESTONE arrived 1430/13, escorting
O.G. 48 (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1500/13).
- H.X. 97: Scattered by weather west of R.V.
and convoy did not reform.
CITY OF BEDFORD sunk in collision,
VALPARAISO not yet reported, remainder
arrived. (D.T.D. 1721/13).
- H.G. 49 B. Estimate will reach position in
Section E. part 1 para 2 W.A.C.I at
2100/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1743/13 to
ROSEMARY).

Sailed ROSEMARY to meet at R/V and
escort to Barry Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1842 to
C. in C. W.A.).
- S.L.S. 60 }
H.G. 49 } Following arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde
2230/13).
- S.L. 60. EAST WALES for Oban arrived
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2230/13).
- H.X. Request routes of H.X. convoys may
be communicated observing that 18
Group is at present responsible
for providing air escorts.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1628/13).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys (contd).

Troop Convoys.

In TC Convoys the Master of one of the Merchant Ships should be appointed Commodore (or Vice-Commodore if ocean escort carries out the duties of Commodore) and should be supplied with S.P. 02555.
(D.T.D. 1915/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SALLY MAERSK
SURIOT
OCTANE
CHANTILLY

Re crews of French ships SALLY MAERSK, OCTANE and CHANTILLY, action should be taken as in Admty. 2014/6/12. Any Danes on board SALLY MAERSK and willing to serve on Allied ships will be paid at N.M.B. rates as from the date of their expressing willingness to serve. Admty. 2121/9 suggest you use the seven Danish seamen from the JOHANNES MAERSK to fill any vacancies in the crews of the above ships. (D.T.D. 1149/13 to TO F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy if
Resistance
offered to
Interception

If French warships dispute possession of a ship while being brought in she is to be surrendered under protest unless British Force present is overwhelmingly superior. In any case British ship is not to fire the first shot against the French warships. In no circumstances are warships to be ordered or forcibly brought into port even if they have tried to resist exercise of control. (F.O.C.N.A., 1716/13 to MARON)

My numbers 125 (corrupt group) 62 817 15, 1940 as amended by South Atlantic Station Message 133 G of 30/12.

(1) In accordance with recent instructions from Admiralty, if Vichy French Merchant ships are being sent in or brought in and French warships subsequently dispute possession the merchant ship is to be set free under protest unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior, in which case force may be used to compel them to desist from intervention, but British warships are not to fire first shot. In no case is French escorting warship to be ordered or forcibly brought into port.

(2) If French warship appears and disputes possession this is to be reported to C. in C., S.A., and Admty. but if no other instructions are received within reasonable period action is to be taken as in (1) above. (C. in C., S.A., 1347N/13 to South America Division South Atlantic Station, repeated CUMBERLAND, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.)

War Diary

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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

FORESTER

Admty's (?2250/12). FORESTER ordered to pass through position 043° 40' N., 022° 00' W., steering 318° at 1200Z/14/15. (F.O.C.N.A., 1212/13 to PHOEBE)

see next page

Bunkers
Gibraltar

Re A.L. M 021175/40 of 5/12. Request Ministry of Shipping be instructed to arrange that ships proceeding Gibraltar are informed that they are required to have 24 days bunkers on leaving Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1234/13 to Admty.)

Skua
Operation

Your 1859/9. Weather conditions precluded photographic reconnaissance on return passage from "Excess" Operation will be carried out by Skuas at first favourable opportunity. (S.O.Force H., 1410/13 to Admty.)

Aircraft in
ARK ROYAL

Your 1739/10. As opportunities for using Skuas for offensive operations are few and in view of added importance of fighters of maximum speed should prefer Fulmar squadron in place of 800 Skua Squadron. (S.O.Force H., 1415/13 to Admty.)

Air
Services

Lufthansa have maintained regular service past week, Alalittoria have only one once. (N.A.Lisbon, 1434/13 to Admty.)

→ OSIRIS

OSIRIS leaves Gibraltar 1830/14 routed through 180 Cape Trafalgar 14 and 036° 50' N., 011° W., thence in accordance with V.A.(S) 1028/3. OSIRIS will shift to Home Station W/T watch at 0001/17. All times B.S.T. (F.O.C.N.A., 1556/13 to Admty.)

→ OLYMPUS
OSIRIS

Estimated position of S/M's at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours.
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OSIRIS leaves Gibraltar 1830/14 proceeding on surface routed through 180 Cape Trafalgar 14 and 036° 50' N., 011° 00' W., speed 10 knots (F.O.C.N.A. 1606/13)

/Air Report....

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War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Air Report

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recco. east. 1 A.S. patrol for convoy approaching from west. Area covered 4° W., to 7° W., (200 Group 1700/13)

ARK ROYAL

My 1232/10., 1259/2 and 1201/4. Request I may be informed when repairs can be commenced. While repairs are in hand speed will be limited to 26 knots and since some time will be required to work up to this speed I do not consider ship will be in a fit state for operation in Western Mediterranean. (S.O. Force H., 1900/13 to Admty.)

FORESTER
W.S. 5 B.

Gibraltar 2215/13 departure FORESTER in accordance with Admty. 2250/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2240/13) *See previous page.*

South Atlantic

Suspicious Ship

Following received in plain language from master of Norwegian KOLLBJORG. (Begins) Doubtful ship passed 1200 G.M.T./12 position 033° 10' south 051° W., steering 45° true. (Description) White name plate on top bridge with black letters reading DELNORTE. Gun aft. Fully loaded speed about 13 knots looked like Yankee-built ship 1 20 about 6000 tons (Ends) DELNORTE left Buenos Aires 10/1 for Santos. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 01112/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ENTERPRISE

Your 1749/12. ENTERPRISE was taken in hand 13/1 for self refit with dockyard assistance. Ship will be at 24 hours' notice and will be ready for service a.m. 20 (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 18032/13 to Admty.)

VELOX
VIDETTE

Arrival 0730/13 VELOX and VIDETTE. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0940N/13)

/ROXANE.....

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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ROXANE

Overdue shipping, my 1143/12 ROXANE arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0944B/13)

ISIS
ENCOUNTER
FURIOUS

→ ISIS and ENCOUNTER are to be sailed forthwith for Gibraltar at best speed, VEES being used for A/S escort of FURIOUS as far as necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1104/13 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1104/13/1. VELOX has engine defect and will be out of action until 20/1. VIDETTE available 15/1 when FURIOUS will be ready to sail. Unless delay to FURIOUS can be accepted intend to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE with VIDETTE only as escort, 15/1. ISIS and ENCOUNTER sailed for

→ Gibraltar 1700/13 (C. in C., S.A., 1901/13 to Admty.)

CLEMATIS
CYCLAMEN

Onward route from 020° 00' N., 018° 40' W should pass through (a) 011° 30' N., 018° 40' W., (b) 008° 30' N., 014° 30' W., (C. in C., S.A., 1115N/13 to CLEMATIS CYCLAMEN)

HARWICKE
GRANGE

Sailed St. Vincent (C.V. 10/1 for Plate. (Approximate noon position 14/1 and Route) (D.T.D., 1223/13 to South Atlantic Station)

Troop
Convoys

Request name of commodore's ship in future troop convoys calling a Freetown, including W.S. 5 B, may be signalled to facilitate berthing. (C. in C., S.A., 1435N/13 to Admty.)

"Q" Report

Following received at 1122N very faint from unknown ship (Begins) QQQQ 015° 25' N., 025° 29' W., suspicious vessel following me, my course 180° Or 280° speed 13 knots. (DELHI, 1345/13 to C. in C., S.A.) Repeated to PRETORIA CASTLE, (C. in C., S.A., 1628/13)

/CANTON.....

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MondayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.CANTON

My 1135/4. Leave patrol so as to arrive at Freetown a.m./17. (C. in C., S.A., 1727N/13)

Force K.

Proceed in accordance with Admiralty's 1910/12, a.m./16 accompanied by NORFOLK & DORSETSHIRE carry out instructions contained in my 0935/8. Presume you will not require fuel at S. Helena. If fitting in with your point of departure and not too far off direct route suggest you pass through K 36 and then to neighbourhood of western edge of Cape Trade Route. (C. in C., S.A., 1801N/13 to S.O. Force K.)

SHAKESPEAR
(Torpedoed 5/1)

British Consul Cape Verde's 1825/6, N.C.S.O. ST Vincent's 1425/11 and my 1917/12. 23 of crew of SHAKESPEAR were landed in Sal Islands on 6/1, some injured. Portuguese sloop GONZALVES ZARCO went there on 7th/1 and brought back survivors to St. Vincent 8/1.

NALGORA
(Torpedoed 4/1)

2. 19 of crew of NALGORA landed on San Antonio Islands on 11/1 and were to be brought to St. Vincent by GONZALVES ZARCO 11/1.

3. Desirable to interview survivors, and for other reasons for one of H.M. Ships to visit Porto Grande, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, and obtain touch with Consul. Suggest these incidents provide opportunity to send ship to thank Portuguese for measures taken and help given the survivors and possibly help in arrangements for repatriation. MILFORD could arrive St. Vincent 19/1 (C. in C., S.A., 1841/13 to Admty.) *Reply: (p. 469. 449).*

Destroyer
Report

Following from South Georgia passed to you (Begins) Leith Harbour reports having sighted a destroyer off that port about 1330 G.M.T. (Ends) Have asked for more details. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1959/13 to R.A.S.A.D. amended 0025Z/14)

/Troop.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Troop Transport.
East Africa

Re transport of mechanised division.
(S.N.O.Simonstown 2223B/13 to Admty.)

NEPTUNE

Your 0215/12. Request information
regarding final destination of NEPTUNE.
(C. in C., S.A., 2315/13 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian
Consuls.

Details of agreement made with Italian Govt. for release of diplomatic or consular officers. (Hd. of M., 1234/13, to "A" Message Home and abroad.)

Mine.

Floating mine reported in 42-47, N, 7. 25E, (between Corsica and Toulon.) (D.S.497.)

BONAVENTURE
JAGUAR.

Your 1041/12. Concur in retaining BONAVENTURE and JAGUAR at Malta for the present as BONAVENTURE's movements will have to be reviewed in the light of cruiser situated in the Mediterranean. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/13, to C. in C. Med.)

Adty. 030/13. S.O. Force H 1915/12. Intend JAGUAR and BONAVENTURE should proceed to Alexandria (? with) V.A.L.F. in order to keep number of ships in Malta as low as possible while ILLUSTRIOUS is there. (C.in C. Med., 0809/13. to Admty etc.)

PANDORA.
2 Ships *M01515/41*
sunk. *M08045/41*

E.T.A. 0700/15. Have sunk two supply ships off Sardinia A.M. 9/1. (PANDORA, 0813/13, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operations
7/1-13/1.
Communique.

Propose issuing following communique as soon as Admiralty (?is) satisfied that next of kin have been informed.

7.

It is recommended that the loss of SOUTHAMPTON should not be divulged as it is impossible that Italians can be aware of it. A very early reply is requested as delay in issue may lead to exaggerated rumours. (C. in C. Med., 0901/13, to Admty.) Reply. see 0303/14.

/Operations

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Operations.

M.C.4. ("Excess").

M.C.6.

Report.

M06234/41

M09796/41

M06199/41

My 1015 Part 1. Operation M.C. four (~~M.C.4~~) and M C six.

2. Passage of ~~Excess~~ ^{"Excess"} to South-west of Sardinia is given in S.O. Force H's 2355/10. 3rd C.S. on passage West was challenged by Pantellaria and altered C. 200 fathom line to open their distance whereupon five mines were cut by two ships in position 36 50½ N. 11.38½ E.

3. Meanwhile battlefleet left Alexandria a.m./7, proceeding Suda Bay via. Kithera Channel instead of Kaso as they were sighted by reconnaissance aircraft at 1140. 7th C.S. and YORK had been covering movements of Corvettes and Oiler BRAMBLELEAF to Suda Bay where they had arrived. a.m./8. Fuelled and proceeded Westwards to cover M.W.5½ convoy (?and) Corvettes which reached Malta to time without incident.

My 1015/13 Part 2. 4. Battle Fleet sailed 1400/8 after fuelling destroyers following in support to westward. Air search sighted nothing. Enemy aircraft reported a number of units but apparently not Battle Fleet.

5. On 9/1 7th C.S. made rendezvous with Battle Fleet and were detached to remain to eastwards of Malta to cover M E 6 which sailed at 0700/10.

6. Battle Fleet continued westwards and met cruisers at rendezvous arriving just as action with enemy destroyers started as given in my 1237/10. Battle Fleet came up to support but turned East when it was seen to be unnecessary. At this time GALLANT was mined or torpedoed. Fleet then covered convoy and detached 3rd C.S. and BONAVENTURE to cover GALLANT who was taken in tow by MOHAWK.

/ My 1015

13. 1. 41.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Jan 10

Operations.
M.C.4. ("Excess.")
M. C. 6. Report.

My 1015 Part 3. Fleet was shadowed ^{and Fulmars shot down one shadower} at 1127 over Linosa. At 1223 air attack developed first by two T/B air craft on Battle Fleet torpedoes missing astern after avoiding action. At 1235 some 25 or more J U 87 and 88 dive bombed attacking with great determination and skill suggesting German personnel. ILLUSTRIOUS severely hit. For damage and casualties see V.A. Malta's 1035/11. WARSPITE sustained slight damage from near miss or graze under starboard hawse pipe and two slight casualties from machine gun fire.

My 1015 Part. 4. 8. Fulmars intended for chasing torpedo bombing aircraft were unable to intervene. Anti-aircraft fire not good due to lack of fire discipline, this being first large scale dive bombing attack really experienced by Mediterranean Fleet. One Fulmar and one Swordfish shot down, crews saved. Two enemy aircraft shot down by gunfire.

9. ILLUSTRIOUS set on fire in 3 places and had steering gear disabled. She left the line and was out of control till 1530 when she was able to make towards Malta steering by engine only. Battle Fleet operated in support. At 1330 ILLUSTRIOUS and convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by high level bombers and between 1600 and 1700 a second dive bombing attack by about 30 aircraft developed on ILLUSTRIOUS and on battleships. ILLUSTRIOUS believed hit again and VALIANT had one killed and 3 wounded from near misses. Heavy bombs, about thousand pounds, used in all these attacks.

My 1015/13. Part 5.

10. ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft in air at time of first attack had been ordered to Malta to refuel and Fulmars were able to intervene in last attack. They claim shooting down 6 or 7 Ju. 87's, (? 4 or 8) S 87 and damaging others.

11. By 1730 ILLUSTRIOUS was making good 17 knots and had fire partially under control. She was unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo aircraft at 1920 before entering Grand Harbour about 2100 still steering by engine. Lack of seagoing tugs at Malta was severely felt.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Operations
M.C.4 ("Excess")
M.C.6. Report.

My 1015/13 Part 6. "~~Excess~~"
12. Meanwhile ~~EXCESS~~ had been joined by CALCUTTA from Malta and later by WAIWERA and LANARKSHIRE and after detaching ESSEX to Malta convoy proceeded eastwards. Convoy M E 6 had left Malta A.M./10 escorted by Corvettes and was proceeding South of Medina Bank.

13. Battle Fleet after seeing ILLUSTRIOUS under coast of Malta turned South and later West to close forces with GALLANT but on receipt of air reconnaissance report Italian battleship had left Naples, battlefleet turned back to eastward at 2000 to overhaul convoys. Contact was made with ~~EXCESS~~ "Excess" A.M./11 and with V.A.L.F. and 7th C.S., YORK having been detached to convoy M E 6 further to southwards.

My 1015/13. Part 7.

11*

14. GLOUCESTER and SOUTHAMPTON left GALLANT about 0500/?th to BONAVENTURE MOHAWK and GRIFFIN who saw her into Malta. 3rd. C.S. then followed Fleet at high speed and were ordered to join YORK covering M.E.6. They were shadowed most days and attacked at 1500 by 12 dive bombers who arrived down sun and achieved surprise. Both ships hit, GLOUCESTER by unexploded bomb on director tower which killed 9 and wounded 14. One aircraft on A/S patrol landed in sea crew saved. SOUTHAMPTON heavily hit vicinity after engine room causing large fire which defied control. Ship had to be abandoned and sunk as reported in my 2155/11.

24th

My 1015 Part 8 and final.

15. B.S.I. in BARHAM with EAGLE and destroyers at Alexandria had left there P.M./10 for operation MC.6, which, however, had to be abandoned. Intended F.A.A. attack on Tobruk P.M./11 also had to be cancelled due to low visibility.

/All force.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

16. All force less convoy escort rendezvous in position 034° 40'N, 023° 10' E. at 0800/12 and were detailed for further operations as set out in my 1031/12. "~~ships~~" arrived Piraeus about noon /12. (C. in C. Med., 0949, 0951, 0953, 0955, 1001, 1007 and 1015/13.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

State of aircraft (1) at Hal Far, (2) in ILLUSTRIOUS, (3) lost at sea, (4) ashore in Egypt. (ILLUSTRIOUS 1515/13.)

LIVERPOOL.

Your 0115Z/7. LIVERPOOL not expected to sail before mid February at the earliest. (C. in C. Med., 1007/13, to C. in C. China.)

BONAVENTURE.
JAGUAR,
Service
Passengers.

Your 1031/12 para. C. and 0809/13, intend to send all passengers for U.K. to Alexandria in these ships. (V.A. Malta, 1031/13 to C. in C. Med.)

BONAVENTURE.

Situation with regard to ammunition in BONAVENTURE is better than at first appeared. (details.) (V.A. Malta, 1131/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Report
Benghazi
and Derna
bombed.

X.1512. A.828 13/1.
Operational Summary No. 217 up to 1200 hours 13/1/1941, Night 11/12, 2 Wellingtons dropped 3500 lbs, of bombs on the quays at Benghazi starting fires in the railway yards along the docks and in the town. 1 violent explosion was also caused. 3 Blenheims dropped 3300 lbs. of bombs on Derna Barracks starting 1 small fire. All our aircraft returned safely.

/Day.....

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean Contd.

Air Report.
Benghazi
and Derna
bombed.

Day 12/1 no bombing operations. Reconnaissances reported 7 merchant ships of 3000 tons 3 ships between 2 and 3000 tons and 1 hospital ship of 9000 tons in Benghazi harbour. No off shore shipping observed in Benghazi area. 1 Sunderland reconnoitered the coast of Cyrenaica to Tokra for enemy shipping. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1201/13.)

U.S. Submarine
Observer.

Commander Fife U.S.N. Submarine observer arrived a.m./12. Intends to proceed on next patrol in TRIUMPH thence to Alexandria. (V.A.Malta, 1353/13, to C. in C. Med.)

SOUTHAMPTON.

In continuation of my 2155/11, further details of damage to SOUTHAMPTON. Ship was finally sunk by torpedo which apparently set off magazine. Approximate casualties 80 killed or missing, 100 wounded including 40 seriously. (C. in C. Med., 1359/13, to Admty.)

Menace of
Dive
Bombers,
Sicily.

Your will no doubt be discussing with A.O.C. in C. what measures are possible for dealing with the dive bombers in Sicily. With the 12 Hurricanes which were transported in "~~Excess~~" and the Fulmars ex ILLUSTRIOUS it would appear that Malta is well off for fighters. It might be possible for A.O.C. in C. to spare some Blenheim Fighters for Malta. (1 S.L., 1649/13, to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
'Excess.'

Arrival 13/1. C. in C. WARSPITE, VALIANT GLOUCESTER, JERVIS, JANUS, GREYHOUND, DIAMOND, VOYAGER, HERO, DEFENDER, ULSTER PRINCE. (S.O.I, Alexandria, 1705/13.)

Malta
Air Raids.

X 1613. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 13/1. Air Raids. a.m. Our enemy formations approached. Fighters up. No interceptions. 1020 to 1035 enemy aircraft possibly JU 88 flying high crossed the Island presumably reconnaissance. Fighters up. No interceptions.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Part 2. Reco's.

Reconnaissance.

2100 to 0700 Sunderland effected anti-convoy patrol between Malta and Tunisia. Nil report. 0629 to 1224 Glenn Martin reconnoitred Naples unobserved by enemy. Naples. 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 9 fleet auxiliaries 2 liners 20,000 tons 1 liner 15,000 tons large and several small M/V's. Upon receiving signal from this aircraft at 0730 reporting enemy convoy of 4 destroyers 2 auxiliaries 6 M/V's 10,000 to 12,000 tons at 37.39' N. 11.44' E. course 228° speed 10 knots another Glenn Martin was despatched, 1315 to 1512, to discover convoy and return immediately after sending sighting report. Nil report notwithstanding excellent visibility. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med., 1730/13.)

Malta Air Report. Catania aerodrome attacked.

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. My A.75, 12/1, 10 Wellingtons 148 squadron attacked Catania aerodrome night Jan. 12/13. Photos taken on recon a.m. 12/1, showed No. of aircraft probably JU 87's. Total weight of bombs dropped 31 500 lbs G.P. 1920 lbs. Incendiaries 500 (corrupt group) incendiaries (Results). 1 Wellington hit by A.A, landed in sea 15 miles from Malta, all crew rescued by British A/S trawler. A second Wellington 5 crew failed to return. (H.Q.Malta, 1800/13.)

Aircraft Convoys.

Convoys arrivals on 13/1. 2 Fulmars 18 Convoy. 21 Convoy, 2 Blenheims 6 "Monsoon" Hurricanes. Request you inform Admiralty and FURIOUS. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E. 1854/13, to Air Ministry.)

4 Destroyers. 8 M.V's

A/C reported 0840 A/13. 4 destroyers 8 Merchant ships position 037° 40' N, 011° 44' E; 228 degs. 10 knots. (Comdr.(S) 1855/13. to UPRIGHT, REGENT, (Position N.E. of Cape Bon.)

Troop Transports.

Your 2111/8, 1342/11 and 1255/12 C. in C. Med. 1151/12 and S.T.O. Alexandria's 1835/11. Allocation of ships named now appears to be as follows. Request probable dates of release for commercial service of certain ships. (D.S.8.1940/13, to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

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War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CERES
Mogadiscio

Reconnaissance of Mogadiscio 10/1 by CERES showed no ships present. (C. in C., E.I., 0432Z/13)

CERES
COLOMBO
Kismayu

CERES is to leave Kismayu Patrol so as to arrive Mombasa a.m/16 subject to not less than 20% of fuel remaining on arrival.
COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa a.m/14 and proceed patrol off Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I. 0748Z/13 to CERES, COLOMBO)

Enemy Unit

Bearings obtained at 2117/12 G.M.T. on 8470 kc/s indicate presence of unknown enemy unit in South Indian Ocean, probably in the vicinity of Kerguelen. Text of message QQ AOZ YSK K. Bearings were:- Ascension 318/3, Halifax 105/4, Bermuda 120/Flat, Kranji 207/1.
Possible that the unit repeated the message at 2137/12 G.M.T. Bearings obtained by Home Stations of second transmission inconclusive. (D.D.I.C., 1032/13 to C. in C's)

Persian Gulf
Defence

0428/28/840 re additional local naval defence craft for Persian Gulf. Intend to take following action from Station resources. Other requirements. (C. in C., E.I., 1058Z/13)

Ships Visiting
Mozambique

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1424/8. Only course open appears to be for diplomatic action to arrange repatriation in a British or French ship. Can such action be taken? (C. in C., E.I., 1102Z/13 to Admty.)

Air
Operations

Proposed at Assab, Massawa, Kismayu. Remarks on Admty 1726/3 and 1538/9 (C. in C., E.I., 1222Z/13) See Operations Vol.)

/Enemy Unit....

War Diary

13.1.1941
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Enemy Unit Intercept

Capt. on Staff Singapore 0908/13 (circulated D.N.I., O.I.C., D.S.D. 9 only, re groups of code intercepted by KRANJI.)

→ SHROPSHIRE could investigate Kerguelen and Amsterdam Island after fuelling Durban, arriving former (date) Force T could take her (? comma) escorting W.S. 5 A to (position) or alternatively KANIMBLA could do so from Durban to Aden.

Am inclined to think this might be a wild goose chase due to time factor and that it is better to keep available ships on trade routes.

Intend therefore to keep to present dispositions unless you have other information indicating that search is advisable. (C. in C., E.I., 1352Z/13 to Admty.)

Raider Reports

Your 1352Z/13 paras 2 and 3 concur. With reference to my 2235/13 to C.O.I.S. and my 1032/13 to other addresses a possible explanation is:-

(i) The apparently fake raider reports of 1520/16/12 and 2345/31/12 coupled with the large number of bearings received by MAURITIUS between 1st and 12/1 might have been transmitted by a captured ship during the period whilst the raider was resting.

(ii) The bearing near Kerguelen might indicate the departure of the raider from that Island. (D.D.I.C., 2332/13 to C. in C., E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE

Proceed now to Durban and complete with fuel as soon as possible. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/13 to SHROPSHIRE)

CHANTALA Perim

Departure 1430Z/13 CHANTALA for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1445Z/13)

SSSS Report 2/1, STAFFORDSHIRE

British ship STAFFORDSHIRE reports when in 008° 11' S., 050° 50' E., 2037 G.M.T./2 following fragment of message was intercepted quoted "from V R S, S S S S Unread G A D G O torpedoed west of Mauritius". French message was not obtained due to strong atmospherics and G A D G O appeared end of ship's name, unknown here. (S.O.I Capetown, 1706B/13.) (Note. V.R.S. is call sign of Mauritius W/T station)

/Air Report....

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13.1.1941.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Air
Report

A. 529. 13/1. Summary No 215 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 13/1. No operations over I.E.A. One Blenheim 203 Sqdn. returned from convoy duties base Kamaran. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1812/13)

America & West Indies

Canadian
Corvettes

With reference to your naval appreciation for 1941 containing the welcome proposal to place certain corvettes and minsweepers at our disposal for as long as the general strategical situation remains unchanged, I should be grateful for information as to which ships will be made available during 1941 together with approximate dates. (1st S.L. 0003/13 to C.N.S. Ottawa)

U.S. Base,
Bermuda

In connection with U.S. Base U.S. Govt. envisage necessity on occasion for U.S. ships and planes to leave for destinations in Atlantic or Caribbean Sea before formal approval can be obtained from Government concerned. They intend to notify Local American Consulate only in these cases. Governor of Bermuda has no objection. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1104/13 to Admty.)

PORPOISE

Halifax arrival 13/1 PORPOISE from H.X. 99. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1220/13)

Troop
Transport

Your 1706/11/1. Request confirmation numbers which can be accommodated for passage to U.K. in DUCHESS OF YORK 3070, ORONTES 3226, WARWICK CASTLE 700. Request brief summary of passengers in these 3 ships on westbound voyage. Is WARWICK CASTLE sailing direct or calling at Halifax? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1242/13 to Admty.)

B.H.X. 103

Departure B.H.X. 103. Ocean escort MONTCLARE returning Halifax through 043° 15' N., 060° 00' W., (N.O.I.C., Bermuda, 1243/13 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

ROYAL CROWN

ROYAL CROWN arrived New York 10/1 from Milford Haven without warning. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1455/13 to M. of Shipping)

Leakage in Blockade

Method by which essential oil being sent from France to Dakar. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1623/13)

DIOMEDE

Bermuda departure DIOMEDE in accordance with my 1022/12. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1703/13 to Admty. etc.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
ARROWHEAD
H.X. 103

Intend to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN and ARROWHEAD as ocean escorts to H.X. 103. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is being instructed to leave convoy as necessary to comply with your 1506/9. ARROWHEAD instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1859/13 to Admty.)

Australia

Raider,
Japanese Markings

My 1300Z/12 part two. Following is specific example. Captain Fish, Master KOMATA, states when NANYO MARU closed his vessel to shell her off Nauru on 7/12 the foremost Japanese markings which were on ship's side just abreast foremast were exposed. This categorical statement is to some extent qualified by fact Captain Fish is still suffering from his wounds and privations. After "dropped over Japanese flag" in my 1300Z/12 insert "amidships". (A.C.N.B., 0324Z/13 to N.A. Tokyo.)

ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE will be at Ocean Is. in February. Request a tanker be diverted to fuel ADELAIDE at Tulagi. Tanker should be at Tulagi by 10/2. (A.C.N.B., 1049Z/13 to D. of S.T.)

ADELAIDE escorting MAUNGANUI and CITY OF DELHI left Sydney 0335/13 for Cook Straits. N.Z. (A.C.N.B., 1516Z/13)

WAR DIARY.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER.

Kobe 12/1 ANNELIESE ESSBERGER (35)
returned to anchorage.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0824/13).

SALZBURG.

Arrived from Burgas. (Varna 1710/13).

FORTUNA.

German FORTUNA reported as ready to sail
from Gijon 10/1.
(A.N.A. Madrid 2015/13).

Italian Merchant Ships.

GERARCHIA.

Jan. 4th arrival Italian GERARCHIA for
San Nicolao Island, Cape Verde Islands.
(St. Vincent C.V. 0905/13).

WAR DIARY.

13.1.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Mo 6211/41.

French ship MENDOZA anchored in territorial waters 041 degs. 10.5 miles from Lobos Island Light.
(ASTURIAS, 0736Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Boarding party boarded on anchoring. All methods of persuasion failed. MENDOZA still at anchor. Remaining in sight outside territorial waters.
(ASTURIAS, 0812/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Your 0916Z/13. / Intercepted outside territorial waters but drifted during boarding operations.
(ASTURIAS 1030Z/13).

/ Not yet received.

ASTURIAS when in position 082 degs. 11.7 miles from Lobos sighted MENDOZA inside Lobos Islands at 0515 G.M.T. MENDOZA was intercepted just outside territorial waters but before boarding boat arrived alongside MENDOZA had anchored inside territorial waters. No force was used and when Captain MENDOZA rejected request to weigh party withdrew. MENDOZA still at anchor in position 041 degs. Lobos 10.5 miles. Have ordered ASTURIAS to keep touch until further orders, report movements and take opportunity offered to intercept within limitation of Admty's D108/22/12 (to C.in C. S.A. and R.A.S.A.D. only).
(R.A.S.A.D. 1150Z/13 to Admty.etc.)

Your 1150Z/13. Uruguay Minister of Foreign Affairs has learnt of attempted detente of French Ship MENDOZA. He has expressed some concern and has requested H.M.Representative Montevideo to call and present his explanation. Details of interview will be telegraphed.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo to R.A.S.A.D. 1533Z/13).

My 1533Z/13 Minister for Foreign Affairs was under impression that MENDOZA sailed with Navicert and was satisfied when told that she had not received our permission to sail. He has asked H.M.Minister for a written assurance that there was no infringement of territorial waters. This will be done at a further interview arranged for this evening.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1942Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

13.1.1941.

MONDAY.FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

Following is translation of W/T message intercepted from French ship MENDOZA to French N.A. Buenos Aires (begins) We are watched by a Cruiser and Auxiliary Cruiser. Owing to outlay of coast capture is certain if we continue voyage. Consider prudent to return to Montevideo Roads.

(Ends).

(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1924Z/13 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 1150Z. Have been in company with ASTURIAS and further statement of circumstances follows.

On sighting, ASTURIAS ordered MENDOZA then outside territorial waters to steer east and then to stop. Ship failed to comply with either signal and MENDOZA steered towards Uruguayan territorial waters. ASTURIAS endeavouring to cut her off, collision being narrowly avoided. She then appeared to stop when 3 point 6 miles from shore and boarding party from ASTURIAS was sent. MENDOZA continued to drift inshore probably using engines and was anchored 2 miles from shore when boat reached her. Boarding was continued with object of inducing Captain of MENDOZA to proceed under orders of ASTURIAS. On finding himself unsuccessful officer and boarding party withdrew. No force or coercion was used at any time. MENDOZA remains at anchor 041 degs. Lobos 10.5 miles.

ASTURIAS states he entered waters west of the line Santa Maria - Cape San Antonio as he considered my 1522Z/10 (not to Admiralty) cancelled the restriction. C.in C. S.A. please pass my 1522Z/10 to Admiralty. MENDOZA has broadcast in plain language on 500 kilocycles that she was boarded by a British auxiliary cruiser 10 miles east of Lobos in Uruguayan territorial waters (this position is not in Uruguayan territorial waters) and later that she was anchored two miles from coast with British on board.

(R.A.S.A.D. 1808Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

My 1808Z ASTURIAS report at 1951Z, MENDOZA appears to be returning to Montevideo. (R.A.S.A.D. 2206Z/13)

French ship MENDOZA is now returning River Plate and is expected to arrive off Montevideo at 0130 G.M.T./14 and enter port after daybreak. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2232Z/13 to Admty.)

War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SHAKESPEAR
NALGORA

Landing of survivors at St. Vincent (C. in C., S.A., 1841/13) See South Atlantic.

My 1305/12 and VELOX 1930/4 (re survivors from NALGORA) Survivors rescued by NOLISEMENT state NALGORA attacked by one submarine. Hit by one torpedo certain, possibly second later. Ship abandoned about 15 minutes after attack. Submarine then shelled ship intermittently for about 2 hours. Ship last seen in flames. Submarine described as being 500 to 750 tons, rather squat, with raised and rounded bow, having one gun forward of conning tower and one semi automatic gun. Ship was not zigzagging. (C. in C., S.A. 2005N/13 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

- 0328 There are indications of a German submarine in arc between 047° to 049° N., and 005° to 007° W. (V.A.S. 0328/13 to S/M's Area B)
- 1540 West of the Shannon. Very Indefinite. (D.S. 496)
- 1656 About 48° N., 28° W., say 750' W.S.W. of Fastnet (D.S. 496)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

In N.W. Approaches an uncertain number of U/B's may increase effect against shipping and move gradually inwards.

- German. 1 with 30 miles radius of 55° 30' N 20° 30' W.
- 1 within 60 miles radius of 51° N., 28° W.
- 1 within 60 miles radius of 57° N., 18° 30' W¹/₂
- 1 in vicinity of Porcupine Bank
- 1 within 60 miles radius of 59° N., 15° W may move to North Eastward.
- 1 in Freetown area.

/Italian.....

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War Diary

13.1.1941.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions-
Contd.

Italian. 1 to Southward of Cape de Verde Islands.
1 entering Gironde today
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.
1 within 60 miles radius of 56° 30' N., 17° W.,
1 may be North of 57° N., West of 15° W.
Possibly one south of 55° N., West of 14° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1340/13)

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

S.C. 17

The slow convoy from Sydney C.B. was 36 hours late at R.V. on account of weather. There were 8 stragglers, which all eventually arrived.

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Coastal Command last night again successfully attacked the docks at Lorient.

Enemy Air Activity

No attacks on shipping or naval establishments were reported today.

Mining

Liverpool

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in Liverpool Bay area is believed to have continued last night. The extent of aircraft mine-laying in this area is causing concern, and the question of air defence is being examined. The port was re-opened this morning.

Thames

The mining situation in the Thames Estuary has now made it impossible to continue servicing the barges and lighters of the balloon barrage. It is intended as a temporary measure to evacuate the crews from all barges and deflate the balloons. A few balloon drifters can be kept in swept waters.

M01302/41

Fast minesweeper FITZROY was damaged by a mine today and was towed to Harwich.

Operation
Z M E 15

ADVENTURE laid mines at the entrance to St. George's Channel late this evening.

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA sailed from Montevideo Roads at 1515 G.M.T. today and anchored in Pinta del Este Bay.

MARON brought SS CANTAL into Gibraltar this evening.

South Atlantic

MO1814/41 }
CW16303/41 }

SS EUMAEUS was sunk by a U-Boat today about 110 miles west of Freetown. C. in C., S.A., has suggested sending one of H.M. ships to visit Cape Verde Islands which it was thought that U-Boats working in the Freetown area might be using; but the Admiralty consider this undesirable.

Mediterranean

5 Wellingtons last night bombed Benghazi harbour.

East Indies

3 Wellesleys last night bombed Asmara. Sheikh Said and Difnein Island were also attacked.

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/A.
Guardship
in
Channel.

Your 1406/11. LEGION will not be sufficiently worked up for this duty and no destroyer can be spared from Home Fleet at this date. The only ship available in CURACOA but I am loath to withdraw her from her present duty as A/A defence for the W.N. and E.N. Convoys. (C. in C. H.F. 0907/14 to Adty.)

Supply of
Oil for
Swedish
Navy.

Your 1525/30.
1. Request details of amounts of and types of oils Swedish Navy desires.
2. What benefits do you anticipate would accrue.
3. What guarantees could be obtained that oil would not be diverted to other than Swedish naval uses and what value would you attach to such guarantees.
4. Germany now supplies certain types of oil to keep Swedish Industries operating in her own interests. Would supply by us to Navy cause any relief to Germany. (V.C.N.S. 1753/14 to N.A. Stockholm.)

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/14. (D.C. 1156/14.) At 2330/14. (D.C. 2333/14.)

REVENGE,
KELLY,
KIPLING.

Passing Trevoze Head 1515/15. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0745/16. (REVENGE 0100/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

ARGUS,
CALIFORNIA,
KELVIN.

E.T.A. Clyde 1525/14. (REVENGE 0100/14.)

PUNJABI.

Detached to Scapa. (REVENGE 0100/14.)

RODNEY.
ECHO,
ELECTRA,
KEPPEL.

Arrived Scapa 0930. (A.C.C.S. 1021/14.)

/LEGION

14. 1. 41.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.Contd.LEGION
DOUGLAS.

F.O.C.N.P.'s 1454/12, C. in C. H.F. 1627/13, and R.A. M.L. 1746/13. LEGION with DOUGLAS proceed passing Switha 0430/15 to R/V at 1200/15 in 270° Cape Wrath 19 with CHITRAL, CHARLESTOWN, LETITIA, and ST.ALBANS. LEGION take destroyers under his orders and provide escort to 061° 10' North 015° 00' West subsequently escorting CILICIA, DERBY-SHIRE, SALOPIAN, WOLFE from 060° 40' North 015° 00' West to North Minch. On completion LEGION and DOUGLAS return to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F.1045/14 to LEGION, DOUGLAS.)

CHITRAL
LETITIA.

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12, and thence to comply with Admt. 1012/11. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1401/14.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1529/14.)

JERSEY.

To join REVENGE's Escort at 1615/15 in 50° 26' N. 5° 32' W.(C. in C. W.A.1839/14 to JERSEY.)

BRIGAND.
B.D.V.FOSS.

BRIGAND, towing FOSS, sailed Scapa 195 0/14 for Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S.2042/14.)

T.L.C.'s 3
and 4.

Your 1603/13. Intend sail AM/18 for Inverness with STOKE CITY as Escort. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0934/14.)

ARAWA.

To avoid possible U-Boat proceed through 49° N. 29° W. and thence as ordered. (C. in C. W.A.1315/14 to ARAWA.)

Operations.Laying
Buoys in
Minches.

Northern Lighthouse Board Tender will be sailing from Oban A.M./17 to lay buoys in Minches. In fine weather this operation may be completed in two days. Request if possible some form of escort may be provided. Northern Lighthouse Board will communicate with F.O.I/c Greenock. (D.O.D.H. 1719/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Iceland.....

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Iceland.

Recommend following adjustment of "Alabaster" Force. (G.D.C. Iceland Force 1410/14 to War Office. O.491.Cipher 14/1.)

Submarines.

TALISMAN.

My 2246/13. For 16/1 read 15/1 throughout. (S.2.0628/14 to TALISMAN.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S.1606/14.)

SEVERN.

Following are positions of PARDO and HIGHLAND BRIGADE at 1300/14 and 1100/14 respectively. (C. in C. W.A.0857/14 to SEVERN.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol ~~SAIR~~^{"Fair"} cancelled for today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0926/14.) Patrol ~~1424~~ is being flown this P.M. (C. in C. Rosyth 1424/14.)

Liverpool
Air Defences
against
Minelaying.A/C.

Adty. concerned at extent of sea-mining from air in Liverpool Bay area. Measures to improve air defence in Liverpool area now being studied intensively by you and Air Ministry. Suggested however that detailed study on the spot with Naval Authorities concerned of the mine laying threat might reveal a possible solution by slight adjustments to existing local defences. Request this investigation be put in hand. (Air Ministry 1120/14 to Fighter Command.) (H.Q.F.C.1845/14 to H.Q.No.9. Group.)

Thames
Estuary.

The mining situation in the Thames Estuary has now made it impossible to continue servicing the barges and lighters of the balloon barrage. Supplies of food and fuel are being kept up with difficulty by barge but balloons cannot be taken to and from the shore for servicing or balloon casualties replaced by this means.

Balloon
Barrage.

/A few.....

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Balloon,
Barrage.

A few balloon drifters can be kept in swept waters but until the whole area can be swept, or pending a revision of the lay-out of the barrage, it is intended as a temporary measure to evacuate crews from all barges and lighters and deflate the balloons. Request that future policy may be reviewed at an early date. In the meantime ratings and removable equipment will be kept in readiness at Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 1124/14. to Adty.)

Kerrera.
Sound.

Your 2333/3 and H.Q.C.C. 1920/13.

In view of urgency of resumption of flying, it is considered that modifications necessary to A/S obstructions in Kerrera Sound to enable it to be used by aircraft should be carried out forthwith, reduced effectiveness of these obstructions being accepted. (C. in C.W.A. 1231/14 to Adty.)

Lorient.
Quiberon.

AP/759. Repeat tonight operation ordered in my AP/756/13/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1252/14 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth.

Plymouth attacked by about 75 enemy aircraft between 1830 and 2130/13. Over fifty H.E. and many hundred incendiary bombs dropped on City.

No damage to dockyard or naval Establishments. Plymouth Gas Works and Electrical Generating Station badly damaged. Eighty two fires reported: all out except three which are under control.

Casualties: 11 killed, 50 seriously wounded. (C. in C. W.A. 0916/14.)

Air-Raid of PM/13 caused following damage. Estimated cost of Repair £390. (S.C.E. Devonport 1630/14 to C.E. in C.)

/GREYFRIARS.....

14. 1. 41.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

GREYFRIARS.
(Bombed 1050/11).

Eastern Area Salvage Officer reports ship re-floated at 1930 and proceeding in tow to Humber (F.O. Humber 2345/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Milford Haven.

Ships in Convoy Anchorage attacked by single A/C at 2212/13. 2 Bombs. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1310/14.)

Mining.

Z.M.E.15.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1900, to lay at 2045, and on completion to sail as by Adty. 1334/13. (ADVENTURE 0943/14 to Adty.) Your 0943. Approved. (C. in C. W.A. 1331/14 to ADVENTURE.) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2304/14 to Adty.)

Liverpool.

Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/14.)

Iceland.
-Faroes
Minefield.

C. in C. H.F. 1101/14 to Adty. see Operations Volume.

Proposals (R.A.M.L.1603/14.) Concur generally. Proposals.(A.C.N.S.H.1626/14.) My 1603. Position J as follows.(RAML. 1604/14.)

Dover
Area.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/14. In Q Z X 247 southwest gate to Sandhead buoy by 3 Oropesa trawlers one mine 352⁰ 2 cables from A buoy and two sweep A.V. obstructors found.(V.A.Dover1109/14.)

Harwich
Area.

My 1535/13. Intend to continue this operation tomorrow and on 16th.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1119/4 to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancel my 1119/4. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2342/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

/A/C Minelaying.....

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

458

Mining.

A/C. Mine-
laying.

A.P./758. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C.1250/14 to 16 Group, N. Coates.)

F.D.28 and
F.D.29.

Details. (V.A.S. 1302/14. and 1303/14 to Capt. S.2.)

B.S.50.

To be carried out 16/1 or soon after. Details. (A.C.N.S.T.1607/14.)

FITZROY.
(Fast.
Minesweeper.)

Damaged by near miss from acoustic mine, at 1220/14. At present in tow of GOSSAMER with ST. MELLONS proceeding to take over tow. 3 cot cases and six non cot so far reported. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1623/14. to C. in C. Nore.)

Arrived in tow of ST. MELLONS at 1932 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1954/14.)

TIJUCA.
(Mined 12/1.)

My 2150/12. Amended position TIJUCA (One) 051° 23' 22" North 003° 04' 10" West. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2107/14.)

Unknown
Vessel.

Enemy Intelligence.
In sight 3 miles. My position 50° N. 6° W. (TRIDENT 0648/14.) Details (TRIDENT 0805/14.) KENYA was close at 0548. Nothing seen. (C.S.10. 1001/14.)

Kiel
Canal.

(One) 34 communication vessels passed through Kiel canal yesterday 13th B.2.

(Two) Nearly 30 vessels from Trelleborg have been awaiting orders to proceed to German ports. C.2. (N.A.Stockholm 1603/14.)

Baltic.

(1) My 1007/12. (? Swedish) BERTA^H was sunk off Copenhagen between Saltholm Flats and Middle Grounds in Holland 30/12. Germany states she was proceeding in a dangerous area contrary to instructions. A one.

(2) My 1007/13 para. 3, informing M V BRECHSE was bound Danzig with Porcelain stone and had found packed ice of Sound too strong for her engines. She was carried northwards into shallow water southern end Kalewgrund where scrap of magnetic mine exploded and sank her. A. one.

/3. The recent.....

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Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic.

(3) The recent easterly wind is causing north going stream in Sound to carry away navigational marks for swept channels and it is already preventing efficient sweeping for magnetic mines. A. one (N.A. Stockholm 1659/14 to D.N.I.)

Technical.

W/T in Northern
Patrol A.M.C's.

Adty 1011/11. W/T complement to be arranged. (V.A.N.P. 1904/14.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

5. M.V.s.

Intend sailing at 1730/14 3 M/V's for Hartland Gap 1 M/V for Fowey, 1 M/V for Par. Request escort and following lights, Longships 0600 to 0610/15 and 0650 to 0700/15. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0128/14. to C. in C.W.A.)

4. M.V.s.

Intend sailing at 1830/14 2 M/VS for Poole. 1 M/V for Cowes and 1 M/V for Shoreham. Expected time of arrival needles and Poole 0800/15. Request escort also Anvil Point light for 5 minute periods every 30 minutes from 0400 to 0605/15. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0142/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

W.N.68.

Expected time of arrival May Island 0445. (C. in C. Rosyth 0416/14 to EGRET, WOLFHOUND.

W.N.68.

Arrived 0940/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1000/14.)

Air Escort.

Owing to weather escorting aircraft have been recalled, a further attempt to despatch Hudson A/C to both convoys will be made at daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0624/14 to MALLOW, WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, HELIOTROPE, SKATE, SCIMITAR, VISCOUNT, RHODODENDRON.

E.N.56.

Sailed to join, EDINA for Kirkwall. ORIOLE for Stromness. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 0754/14.)

Admiralty's 1157/19/11. Following ship in E N 56 requires routes:-
FLORIAN (Br.) to Oban for New York.
13 knots. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1041/14.)

/S.L.S.61. Not.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

- S.L.S.61. Not met, my position course and speed
038° ?' North -020 degrees 30' West
349 degrees 5 knots. Made good.
(SCARBOROUGH 0900/14. to Admty.)
- F.N.82. Arrived 0905/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil,
0914/14.)
- W.N.69. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 0946/14.)
- S.M.V.'s. Harwich 14/1 H.M. Drifter WHEATSTALK
at 0920 no R/T or W/T escorting 8
merchant ships including tug FAIRPLAY
1 towing 1 lighter expected time of
arrival Yarmouth approximately 1800 to-
day.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0949/14.)
- F.S.86. Humber Ships arrived. (N.C.S.O.Humber,
1014/14.)
- S.L.60. Arrived KING NEPTUNE Ex. Convoy S.L.60.
(N.C.S.O. Swansea 1035/14.)
- F.N.81. Arrived.
Non arrival S.P.E.S.(Nor.)
- F.N.82. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1051/14.)
- F.S.86. Arrives Southend 1330/14.
F.S.87. Due at Flamborough 0330/15.
F.N.83. Due at Sheringham 0700/15.
F.N.84. Due to sail from Southend 0830/15.
C.E.22. Due at North Goodwin 1015/15.
(C. in C. Nore. 1200/14. to F.O.'s.)
- F.N.85. My 1200/14. For F.N.84 read F.N.85.
C. in C. Nore, 1905/14.)

/F.N.83.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

- F.N.83. 0945/14 38 ships. (N.C.S.O.Thames, 1254/14.)
- F.N.83. 8 ships 1 M.L. 3 trawlers from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. All for North of Plyth except 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1701/14.)
- F.S.86. Convoy F S 86 reported in Knob Channel. 19 ships for London. (N.C.S.O.Thames 1253/14.)
- S.C.17. 36 hours late at rendezvous heavy weather and low visibility. 8 ships straggled, all now arrived. (D.T.D. 1406/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
- O.B.274. Sailed 1440/14. 14 ships 9 knots. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1457/14.)
- F.S.87. F.S.87. sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 15 07/14.)
- F.S.87. 4 ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1704/14.)

Sailed 1500/14 estimated number of ships 42. (F.O.I.C.Tyne, 1659/14.)
- E.N.57. Act as additional A/A escort to E N 57 sailing at 1830 /15. On meeting transfer to W N 70 due Cape Wrath 0300/17 and Duncansby Head 1330/17. Code word for E N 57 ~~WESTON~~, and W N 70 ~~WESTON~~ "Mistral". (C. in C. Rosyth, 1531/14 to WESTON.)
- W.N. 70.
- E.N.57. (A) 1830/15. (B) H.M.Ts. ULLSWATER, STELLA POLARIS, Additional escort, WESTON, (C) 24 ships. (13 overseas). (E) Code words: -
E.N.57. ~~WESTON~~ "Might".
E.N.L. portion. ~~WESTON~~ "Monitor".
E.N.O. portion. ~~WESTON~~ "Mixture".
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1751/14.)

/W.N.69.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

W.N.69.(O).

Sailed 1400/14. Escort H.M.T. SOUTHERN SPRAY (S.O.) H.M.T. SOUTHERN WAVE, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1540/14.)

O.G.M.50.

My 1230/14 O G M 50, now no ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1540/14.)

E. N. 55.

S.S. BUITENZORG Ex W.N.69 struck rock off Grey Island, Sound of Mull, and sank 16/12/14. Position not accurately known at present. Suggest divert Oban portion of EN 55 round South of Mull. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1946/14. to C. in C.W.A. HASTINGS.)

Troop Convoys.
S.S.BURDWAN.
W.S.6.

S.S. BURDWAN is expected to arrive Rosyth for loading boom defence equipment for Mediterranean on 18/1. She is to be sailed to arrive Clyde by (date) to be included in W.S.6. Every effort is to be made to load as much boom equipment as possible in the time available. (D.B.D.1413/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

W.S.5.B.

Retain A/S escort to limit of safe endurance. When any destroyers are detached they are to sweep astern of Convoy and proceed to Londonderry for fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1217/14 to F.O.C. 15. C.S.)

German U-Boat shadowing Convoy WS 5B may be transmitting V's for D/F purposes on 516 kcs. (D.D.I.C. 1136/14 to C.S.15.)

W.S.5.B.

There are indications that you have been reported by U/B at 0448/14 and 0734/14 G.M.T. Alter course to 180° immediately. Further signal will be made. (D.D.I.C. 1107/14 to C.S.15.)

/W.S.5.B.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Troop Convoys.Contd.
W.S.5.B.

Shipping Contd.

Alter course at 1400 so as to pass through position 51° 20' N. 22° 35' W. at 2100/14, thence to new R/V "X" 48° 10' N. 24° 00' W. at 1200/15. From thence main portion of Convoy should proceed to position E. All times are B.S.T.(D.O.D(H) 1244/14 to C.S.15.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Route. (D.T.D. 1910/14 to N.C.S.O. Greenock.)

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Swedish
Ship.

At 1415/13. AMBUSCADE passed following message to aircraft. Begins. Please tell F.O.I.C Greenock that Swedish ship is broken down and is returning to Clyde or anchorage off Islay Ends. (C. in C. W.A. 0521/14. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BARRHEAD.

My 1820/5. Efforts being made to salve, but success seems unlikely. Large amount of Stores and Equipment brought to Reykjavik. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1131/14.)

PACIFIC.

- Lloyd's gives tonnage as 3731 tons.
(Swedish, 4978 Tons.) Arrived, having left Convoy with Engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1300/14.)

BEACHY.

Arrived LADY MADELINE and ARAB with survivors from BEACHY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1455/14.)

BUITENZORG.

(Dutch, 7073 Tons). Sailed in W.N.69 at 1415/14. Struck rock at 1600 in 49° 1 cable from Grey Island, Sound of Mull, and sank at 1615 in about 148° 11 cables from Ardtornish Point. (All crew safe.) (N.C.S.O. Oban 2115/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

ULSTER
MCNARCH.

My 1112/12. D.G.coils can be temporarily repaired in 3 days, but coils would not be reliable. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1733/12.)

CHURCHILL.

Arrived. Has evaporator defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2334/14.)

WITHERINGTON.

Have bad condenser trouble. Am proceeding Londonderry. (WITHERINGTON 1630/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SAN FRANCISCO

My 1345/10 to N.A.Madrid. If SAN FRANCISCO which is routed to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon arrives at Gibraltar before French have agreed to her being used to take away French from CHANTILLY and other ships, ship should be delayed. Master of SAN FRANCISCO should be informed that we have asked permission of French Government to embark French nationals and that ship is accordingly being delayed pending their reply. If delay of ship is not considered practicable for any reason, this should be reported to Admiralty. (Hd. of M. 1340/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1345/10. SAN FRANCISCO sailed 1030/10 routed to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon. Ship should arrive at Gibraltar on 15th or 16th/1. Request you will inform French N.A. that ship is now due and ask for immediate reply to our request to embark French merchant seamen and other nationals. (Hd. of M., 1407/14 to N.A. Madrid.)

Your 1345/10., Vichy agree. (N.A.Madrid, 1735/14 to Admty.)

Tankers,
Casablanca

Reliable source states two tankers escorted by a destroyer left Casablanca for Curacoa January 11th. (Wagon (General Tangier) Telegram No 5261 T.H.I. 1358/14 to Admty.)

CANTAL,
escort by
MARON

Expected time of arrival at Gibraltar 1930/14 G.M.T. weather permitting escorting CANTAL (French, 3178 tons)
Request following 560 tons diesel oil:
310 tons domestic water after cleaning tanks, require pilots and necessary lights. Other repairs most essential. (MARON, 1400/14 to N.O.I.C., Gibraltar)

My 1400/14. Amend expected time of arrival to 1830/14 G.M.T., (MARON 1745/14)

Gibraltar arrival 14/1 2145 H.M.S MARON escorting CANTAL. (S.O.I., Gib., 2200/14)

/French.....

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French Tankers

Following received from Navy Department: from Casablanca two tankers sailed Curacoa 4/1 accompanied by destroyer. (N.A.Washington, 1500/14 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL

Your 1900/13. Repairs should be started forthwith. (D.O.D. (F) 0126/14 to S.O. Force H.)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL
SHEFFIELD

Admiralty 1616/13 RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and SHEFFIELD have been working together for some time with resulting increase of fighting efficiency, more especially in regard to fighter control R.D.F. As these ships represent standing part of Force H I feel sure you will give this full consideration. (S.O. Force H., 1003/14 to C. in C., Med.)

Submarines
OLYMPUS
OSIRIS

Position of submarines at 0800/14 and movements for following 24 hours
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OSIRIS 036° 20' N., 008° W., proceeding on surface through 036° 50' N., 011° W and (group omitted) 50' N., 010° 50' W., speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1126/14)

CIRCASSIA

Left patrol 150 miles north east of Madeira a.m./14 for Clyde routed through 050° north 025° W., speed 13½ knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1132/14)

Ammunition

A.M. 1140/10. Report quantity of 15 inch shell which will remain at Gibraltar and in Force H after shipments have been taken in MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE. (D.T.S.D., 1637/14 to F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H.)

/Air Report.....

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Air Report

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface reconnaissance east. 1 surface reconnaissance vicinity Casablanca Area covered 4° W., to 10° 15' W., (200 Group, 1700/14)

Gibraltar 14/1 1830, departure OSIRIS in accordance with F.O.C. North Atlantic 1556/13. (S.O.I.Gib., 1840/14)

South Atlantic

Destroyer Report

My 1959 Z/13. For one corrupt group read "G.M.T." Following from South Georgia (begins) Vessel was sighted making at high speed from E.S.E. later altered course as if making for West Cumberland Bay approximate speed 15 knots. (Ends) (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 0025Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Whaler

My 0025Z/14. Reporting Officer South Georgia reports he is satisfied vessel was whaler. (N.O.I.C., Falklands, 1244Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MILFORD

Attack on U-Boat (C. in C., S.A., 0905/14) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

EUMAEUS

Torpedoed (C. in C., S.A., 0905/14, etc.,) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)

*M01814/41
CW 1630 3/41*

My 0905/14 to Admty only. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN) In view of U-Boat activity (corrupt group) request ISIS and ENCOUNTER be recalled to escort FURIOUS 15/1 leaving "VEES" free to meet W.S. 5 B. S.L. convoys also leave Freetown 18/1 and 20/1. My 1901/13 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 0907N/14 to Admty.)

Your 0907/14 approved. (A.C.N.S(5) 1352/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Fuel.....

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.Fuel for
Convoy

Your 1944/11/1. Vesca date of arrival Durban of HAVKONG is 27/1 which will be too late to fuel convoy. Intend using BETH but her small cargo of furnace oil will scarcely be sufficient. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1353Z/14 to D. of S.T.)

BATORY

H.M. Troop Ship BATORY sailed 2318 B/13, 18 knots. Details for Lagos and Takoradi) No cargo space available, Freetown to U.K. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1521/14 to Admty.)

TYR
S.L. 62

S.L. 62. Norwegian TYR has returned to Freetown by order of PRETORIA CASTLE. Master reports unaware of reason. Presume inability to maintain speed, intend sailing with S.L.S. 63. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1522/14 to Admty.)

ENTERPRISE

Request future employment of ENTERPRISE as her gunnery officer is likely to be sick in hospital here for 14 days. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1529B/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

FURIOUS

FURIOUS has now only two Skuas in operation. (C. in C., S.A., 1553N/14 to Admty.)

NEPTUNE

Your 2315/13 (destination of NEPTUNE) The matter is under consideration. A further signal will be made. (D.O.D. (H) 1616/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

U-Boat

Attacked by Walrus after sinking of EUMAEUS (C. in C., S.A., 1729/14) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)

HERMES

Re operational flying endurance (C. in C., S.A., 1809N/14) See Operations Volume.

MILFORD

Your 1841/13. Visit of MILFORD to Cape Verde Islands is considered undesirable. The required thanks will be transmitted through Portuguese Government. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2350/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A/C Bombs
ARK ROYAL

Statements of prisoners that only a proportion of heavy bombs on Cagliari exploded. Request that ARK ROYAL be supplied with bombs similar to those used by R.A.F. in Germany and occupied France. (S.O. Force H., 1106/14 to Admty.)

URSULA

Proposal to operate against enemy trade, (S.O. Force H., to C. in C., Med., 1255/14) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Operation
7/1-13/1
Press Communique

Re issue of communique (D.P.D. 0303/14 1208/14, C. in C., Med. 1547/14)

Operations
Press Cables

Re Press cables received, 1 for U.S.A. (D.P.D., 1428/14, to C. in C., Med.)

Air Attacks.
Derna
Benina
Berka
Ships at
Benghazi

Ops. Summary. No 218 up to 1200 hrs 14/1.
1. Egypt night 11/12 January.
3 Blenheims dropped 2940 lbs of bombs on Derna Barracks. 7 Wellingtons dropped 9,000 lbs of H.E. bombs with approximately 10,000 lbs of assorted incendiaries on Benina and Berka aerodromes. All our aircraft returned safely.
Night 12/13 January.
1 Blenheim dropped 1,000 lbs of bombs on Derna Barracks.
Day 13/1, no bombing operations.
Blenheim reconnaissances reported one large, 4 small, and 4 unspecified ships in Benghazi harbour and about 200 M.T. dispersed West of Mechili. No change in military situation at Tobruk.
2. Greece, day 13/1. 6 Blenheims dropped 5150 lbs. of bombs on Berat.
Reconnaissance of Eastern Ionian sea by one Sunderland for enemy naval forces and merchant shipping reported one Yugo Slav ship west of Corfu. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1216/14)

/Malta.....

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta,
Air Report

3 M/V's

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 14/1. All times G.M.T. 1609 to 1935 Sunderland effected anti-convoy patrol between Malta and Tunis. Sighted 3 Italian M/V's 2,000 5,000 and 10,000 tons in French territorial waters west of Lampedusa, course 350° speed 10 knots. They fire ineffectively at Sunderland which was recalled owing to rising swell Malta.

1 M/V.

At 0930 1 M/V 4,000 tons unladen 4 miles south of Maritimo Island heading towards Trapani.

Palermo

0551 to 1150 Glenn Martin photo recco. Palermo Harbour and aerodrome and Catania aerodrome photos Palermo from 13,000 feet. Unable recco. Catania owing bad weather. Palermo harbour 2 destroyers 7 M/V's 6,000 tons 5 M/V's 2,000 tons. Palermo aerodrome (aircraft)

No enemy air activity over Malta today. H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1720/14)

Air
Squadrons

Your 0201/3. Organisation of Squadrons and formation of new units, including one trained in "Toras". (5th S.L. to C. in C., Med. 1732/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Enemy
Dive-Bombers
Sicily

Reply to Admty 1649/13, Proposals. (C. in C., Med., 1815/14 to Admty.) Request for U.S. "Brewsters" to be sent Takoradi for onward flight to Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 1817/14) See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy "Excess"
Piraeus

1106234/41.
1109796/41

Arrived p.m. today 14/1. Captain (D) 2 in ILEX, WRYNECK, VENDETTA and VAMPIRE. "Excess" convoy expected departure 18/1 p.m. (N.A.Athens, 1951/14 to Admty.)

Enemy
Decoy Schooners

Further to my 1939/14 not to S/M's on patrol. ROVER has definite evidence that Schooners are working as decoy in company with M.A.S. (S.O. S/M's, Malta Force, 2251/14 to Capt (S) 1 and S/M's on Patrol)

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SHROPSHIRE

Arrival Durban SHROPSHIRE (N.O.I.C.,
0300Z/14)

Keep steam at 4 hours notice and continue with boiler repairs one at a time as approved in my 0802/12. (C. in C., E.I., 0528Z/14 to SHROPSHIRE)

RANCHI

My 0742/12 and N.O.i/c Durban 1510/13, RANCHI is to leave Durban a.m./15 for patrol and is to be off Durban to meet SELANDIA when she leaves harbour, and is then to proceed in accordance with my 0742/12 (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/14 to RANCHI)

Your 0742/12 (positions between which RANCHI is to patrol) Owing to congestion at Durban request RANCHI may be sent to East London for Boiler cleaning on return from patrol about 24/1. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1030Z/14 ro C. in C., E.I.)

STAFFORDSHIRE
picking up part
of S.O.S. message

My 1706/13 has been passed to you separately. Can you throw any light on matter? (S.O.I. Capetown, 1106B/14 to N.O.I.C., Mauritius)

Your 1706/13 Consider this was a misread version of Mauritius W/T re broadcasting distress message from NALGORA, at 2237Z/2. (C. in C., E.I., 1122Z/14 to S.O.I., Capetown)

DURBAN

Left Rangoon for Andamans 13/1. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon, 1134/14 to Admty.)

Raider
Reports

Your 2332/13. Reference fake messages (1) although the distress messages were convincing enough at the time, I am now inclined to assess the fact of their ever having been made as follows, 1520/16/12 as A 4 and 2345/31/12 as B. 5.
(2) I base my present assessment on the fact that no other operator has reported hearing either message although shipping was plentiful in both areas.
(3) Considerable questioning of Masters has taken place as regards SHILLONG'S report and no information has been volunteered on the other. (C. in C., E.I., 1150Z/14 to Admty.)

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

ROYAL CROWN
QUEEN MARY

Departure Trincomalee 0540Z/14 ^{? see page 644} (ROYAL CROWN
QUEEN MARY Fremantle, 19th. (S.O.I.,
Colombo, 1152Z/14 to Admt.))

COCKCHAFFER
Iran attitude
to anchoring in
Shatt-el-Arab.

Iran Naval Authorities inform me that they have received no information from their Government with regard to anchoring of ship in Shatt-el-Arab which they state is in contravention of article two of their Reglement De Lejour, a copy of which has been placed in my possession. Despite my pointing out that ship is anchored on bank extending from Iraq side of river they have requested my departure within six hours unless they receive necessary information of movements meanwhile. They added that before foreign warships can anchor anywhere in river where one bank is Iran and the other Iraq territory permission should be obtained from Government of both countries. I await instructions before making any movement. My present position is 600 yards 340° from buoy off Hartah Point. (COCKCHAFFER, 0900Z/14 to N.O.I.C., Basra)

Your 0900/14. Move to position above Satans Gap where both banks of the river are Iraq territory. Inform Iranian Naval Authorities that you do not agree with their views but that since your presence is embarrassing to them you are moving until further orders received from superior authorities. (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 1150Z/14 to COCKCHAFFER)

COCKCHAFFER 0900/14 and my 1150, passed to you, I have given these instructions since I apprehend that value of presence of COCKCHAFFER in that position is small by comparison with our other interest. Do you wish me to pursue this matter with Teheran? (S.N.O., Persian Gulf, 1150Z/14 to COCKCHAFFER)

Air report.....

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TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Air Report

Ops. Summary No 218 up to 1200 hours 14/1. (No naval items) (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1217/14)

Ops. Summary. No 218 up to 1200 hours 14/1. iv. Kenya. 11/1 and 12/1. S.A.A.F. made one patrol Mombasa and reconnoitred the Moyale Mega and Goran areas. Small bombs were dropped by the recco. aircraft on Gorai and on Italian M.T. vehicles leaving Moyale and Mega. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1218/14)

CHAKDINA
LEANDER

Arrival 1040Z/14 CHAKDINA, departure 1230Z/LEANDER route 013°, 047°, (2014) 054°, 008° 073°, 007°. 077° expected time of arrival 0300Z/21. (N.O.I.C., 1251Z/14 to Admty., etc.)

Air Attack,
Assab.
Convoy Escort

Summary No 216 and Operation Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 14/1. 1445 to 1515. 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed reconnaissance of Assab area. No activities or changes seen at Beilul L/G Macaaca Aerodrome and bombing range, both satellites and Assab harbour. 1,000 bombs dropped in medium level attack on stores and warehouse Assab. 2 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escorts for convoy B.S.12³/₄ using advanced base Kamaran, 1 remaining overnight. (A.H.Q., Aden. 1901/14)

ChinaIndo-China
Trade

Your 0947/4 and Haiphong telegram No 12 of 12/1 resumption of trade with Indo-China. Following message from Foreign Office (Details the conditions under which trade may proceed) (D.T.D., 1946/14, 1947/14 to C. in C., China and Govr., Straits Settlements) See also 15/1, 16/1.

Japan and
Shipping

Your 0325 to Ambassador Tokyo No 731. EDITH MOLLER and HSIN TSE ANGTAH released 13/1 and arrived Shanghai. Bribes paid. Position re AMALIA and KONGSO. Interference continuing but settlements reached through payments (N.C.O., Shanghai to C. in C., China, 0823Z/14)

14. 1. 41.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PORT
TOWNSVILLE
ashore.

My 1850/12 vessel refloated 0835/14 proceeding Kingston. Cargo intact, please inform Lloyds. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1010/14.)

Canadian
Destroyers,
NEWMARKET
RICHMOND.

ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, COLUMBIA, ST. FRANCIS (Canadian destroyers) accompanied by NEWMARKET sail from Halifax 15/1 for St. John's Newfoundland and Greenock (route). RICHMOND joins my broad pendant at St. John's N.F. Expected time of arrival position "B" will be reported by N.O. i/c St. John's N.F. with departure signal. NEWMARKET RICHMOND will be detached to Belfast in position 055° 09' North 005° 45' 30" West. (S.O. Halifax Force, 1528/14. to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X. 100.

Is it certain that speeds of CRISTALES and CORRALES were below 13 knots? (D.T.D.1838/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Canadian
Corvettes.
and Sweepers

Your 0003/13. It does not seem probable that 50% R.C.N. requirements can be satisfied earlier than end June 1941, or Corvettes and possible later for Minesweepers (see note (1) page 4 of Appreciation) but every effort is being made to expedite difficulty of manning and training situation is also a factor as it is not desired to detach ships to Admiralty until worked up to reasonable efficiency. (C.N.S. Canada, 1643/14. to Admty.)

SOEMBA.

SOEMBA Holland sailed Halifax 1/1 survivors returned to Halifax 9/1 in RYDBOHOLM Sweden. From reports of survivors of SOEMBA which (? loaded) (? drawn steel) at Philadelphia apparently sank as a result of cargo shifting. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1741/14. to Admty.)

14. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raider
Intelligence.

Pacific raiders, precis report concerning speed, hull, respective engine conditions on 21/12/1940. NARVIK at sea for at least 9 months. Long weeds on bottom. (A2). Normal maximum speed 21 knots now 19 knots. (B.2) Hull possibly damaged by TURAKINA shell fire. (C.4.) MANYO MARU. Normal maximum about 21 knots now about 19 knots due to slight fouling bottom and knocking diesels. (B.2.) TOKYO MARU. Normal maximum about 16 knots now about 14 - 15, slight fouling, knocking diesels. (B.2.) All 3 ships abnormally smoky. (A.1.) German engineer states due to unsuitable oil. (B.3.) (A.C.N.B.1115Z/14.)

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FORTUNA

Arrival 13/1 Spanish ship MONTE NEGRO and FORTUNA (German) (Bilbao, 1933"14)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PIEMONTE

Stated by an Italian Officer Prisoner of war from Albania to have been sunk in Valona by air attack. (D.S. 498)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MENDOZA

My 1942Z313. At interview Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that as matter of form he would have to report to Panama the violation of 300 mile zone. He also raised question of whether point of interception was outside the line Cape Santa Maria- Cape San Antonio which is claimed as the limit of the estuary of the River Plate. H.M. Minister requests following information (one) Time and position of the interception (two) Time and position of boarding. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 0136Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

French ship MENDOZA anchored Montevideo Roads 0006/14 (S.O.I., Montevideo 0115Z/14)

Your 2003/13. Fully appreciate necessity of avoiding incidents and regret ASTURIAS boarded inside territorial waters. It was considered most desirable to intercept MENDOZA as she was a test case. In view of B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1835/9 and limitations imposed by Admiralty's 0108/22/12* there would have been very little chance of interception had ASTURIAS not kept close to Coast.

My hope had been that sighting ASTURIAS close in might cause MENDOZA to leave territorial waters and thus avoid possibility of incidents. (R.A.S.A.D., 0844/Z/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

* re interception MENDOZA. Most secret.

/French ship...

War Diary

14.1.1941
Tuesday

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

MENDOZA-Contd

French ship MENDOZA sailed from Monte Video Roads 1515 G.M.T. today Tuesday, steering to eastward apparently making out to sea. During Forenoon ship was visited by French officials from Monte Video. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1530Z/14, amended 1735Z/14)

Your 0136Z/14. 0422Z/13 position 082° 11.75 miles from Lobos Island light. As MENDOZA failed to comply with signals, ASTURIAS in order to prevent scuttling in this position and to avoid use of force attempted to head off MENDOZA. In so doing ASTURIAS crossed San Antonio- Santa Maria line.

Boats sent away at 0510Z/13 position 054° 11.2 miles from Lobos Island light. (ASTURIAS 1500Z/14 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

MENDOZA bearing 264° - 19 miles from Lobos Island at 2000Z/14 apparently keeping to Coastal route. (ASTURIAS 2000Z/14)

My 1530Z/14 French ship MENDOZA has now anchored in Punta Del Este Bay one and half miles N.W. of Gorriti Island. Port authorities have gone out to her. Constant watch will be kept. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 2159Z/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CAMPANA
KATIOLA
FORMOSE
AURIGNY

Present position French ships in Buenos Aires. CAMPANA no information ship's sailing but she is loading wheat and fuelling and could sail tomorrow. KATIOLA embargo just lifted not fuelled. FORMOSE rumoured treating for bunkers AURIGNY no sign of movement. Not yet painted pre-war (? group omitted) Close watch on all being kept. (N.A., Buenos Aires, 1105/14 to R.A.S.A.D.)

War Diary.14.1.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.EUMAEUS (sunk).*See Situation Report
for M Numbers.**Supplement*

British, 7472 tons. Torpedoed in position 8.55 N. 15.05 W. at 0658 G.M.T./14. (C. in C. S.A. 0905/14) (See S/M's attacked) (Freetown W/T 0658/14, Gibraltar W/T, 0801/14). S.O.S. EUMAEUS abandoning ship. (EUMAEUS 0804/14) Position about 112 miles W. of Freetown. (W. S. 497) Ship had 100 Service personnel for Far East on board (W.S.498).

Walrus sighted submarine 4 miles from EUMAEUS position at 0814 and attacked as submarine dived centre of (corrupt groups) as bombs landed leading edge of swirl left. Some oil and bubbles seen. Boats rafts and survivors located by aircraft. Trawler SPANIARD arrived about 1315 and picked up survivors possibly BENGALI as well now proceeding Freetown. Trawler PICTISIS, and ENCOUNTER arrive area between 2000 - 2300. Number of survivors not yet known but 160 were reported in 2 boats and 2 rafts. (C. in C. S.A. 1729N/14 to Admty).

My 1729N/14. Number of survivors picked up now reported as 305. (C. in C. S.A. 1943N/14).

CAVINA.
(attacked 9/1)

CAVINA's 0220/9/1/41 and 0255/9/1/41 C.A.F.O. 2972/39. CAVINA was hit in steel deckhouse on promenade deck by one shell from U-boat probably Italian. Ship is now berthed in No. 1 Princes Dock, Glasgow. (F.O.C.N.P. 1450/14 to Admty).

War Diary.14.1.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported.

0548)
0834) 54.20 N., 20° W. position indefinite
(D.S. 496) Indications that Convoy
W.S.5B. reported at these times.
(D.D.I.C., 1107/4 to C.S.25, etc).

0408)
0457) Bay of Biscay, very indefinite.
(D.S. 496).

German U-boat shadowing Convoy
W.S.5B may be transmitting V's for
D/F purposes on 516 kcs. (D.D.I.C.
1136 /4).

1657 D/F bearing from Baldock 265/1.
Probably U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1800/14)

2158. Italian U-boat possibly in position
40 to 50 miles west of Brest.
(V.A.S. 2158/14 to S/M's Area B).

1855 In Heligoland Bight, position
indefinite (D.S. 498).

2132 40 - 50 miles W of Brest (Italian)
Indefinite. (D.S. 498).

0520 47.15 N., 2.19 W. 256° St. Nazaire
5'. Probable U/B sighted by Hampden
A/C co S.E. (B.2) (D.S. 498).

Estimated U/B dispositionsGerman.

1 about 55° 20' N. 20° W. at 0834/14
1 about 51° N. 26° W.
1 about 48° N. 28° W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts
unknown but possibly.
(a) 57° - 58° N. 17° - 19° W.
(b) 58° - 60° N. 11° - 14° W.
(c) 55° N. 13° W.

1 in 8° 55' N. 15° 03' W. at 0800/14
1 in Bay of Biscay direction uncertain.

Italian.

1 in 6° 33' N. 12° 45' W. at 0100/14.
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.
3 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts
unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1442/14).

War Diary

14.1.1941.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

Mo 2606/41.

MILFORD attacked Submarine in position 6° 33' N., 12° 45' W., at 0030/14. Submarine was forced to surface but submerged immediately. MILFORD and BRIDGEWATER standing by. EUMAEUS was torpedoed in position 8° 55' N., 15° 03' W., at 0658 G.M.T. 14th. (C. in C., S.A. 0905/14 to Admty.)

Attack by Walrus on U-Boat at 0814 (C. in C S.A., 1729N/14) See Ships Attacked.

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Four 6000-7000 ton vessels of the Wilhelmsen Line are reported (c.3.) to have been taken over by the Germans and fitted as Armed Merchant Cruisers.

Operation
"Parcel"

Mo 2636/41

KING GEORGE V escorted by 4 Destroyers left Scapa at 1657 today to begin Operation "Parcel"; and the Corvette CLARKIA has been detailed to escort the SS AGNETE MAERSK from off Loop Head on the Shannon Estuary northabout to Dublin, with orders not to enter Irish Territorial waters.

British Air Activity

No aircraft were despatched last night by Bomber Command, owing to the weather. Two direct hits were obtained on a vessel off the coast of Norway, by aircraft of Coastal Command.

The weather caused offensive operations and patrols to be curtailed today.

An aircraft of Bomber Command bombed a steamer off the Dutch Coast.

C. in C., W.A., has requested that, as there is at present no confirmation of any damage to the ^{ASALIA} HIPPER ~~Class Cruiser~~ at Brest, she may now be attacked by Skua Dive Bombers if these are available.

Enemy Air Activity

Steam +Trawler STALKER was bombed and damaged off Grimsby today.

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Liverpool
Area

While proceeding to Liverpool as A/A Guard-Ship ADVENTURE was damaged by a mine in Liverpool Bay at 0909 this morning but arrived safely at Noon; the Dredger MANCUNIAN was mined and sunk at 1725 some 2 miles N.E. of the Bar Light Vessel; the SS KARRI was mined and set on fire 2 miles N. of the Bar Light Vessel and was towed into harbour; and 2 mines were exploded today by LL sweeps in the Crosby Channel. The anchorage in Moelfre Bay was prohibited this evening; and 2 LL Whalers have been ordered to sail forthwith from Belfast to work temporarily at Liverpool.

The Humber was closed at 2130 tonight and is expected to remain so for several days; but the Tyne is now considered to be clear of Acoustic Mines and Diesel engined ships may proceed in an out of harbour under their own power for the present.

SS MAYWOOD was damaged by a mine off Barry today and was beached.

South Atlantic

An aircraft from NEWCASTLE landed at Punta del Este (Uruguay) early this morning, owing to lack of fuel. The crew have been detained.

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med., reported today to A.C.N.B. that the Australian ships, ^{VOYAGER} VENDETTA, WATERHEN and VAMPIRE have been operating continuously from 12/12 to date on the Libyan Coast, in support of Army Operations. Their work has included coast bombardment, cover of inshore gunboat squadron, bringing up supplies, removal of prisoners and intercepting enemy coastal shipping. Their work has been carried out in face of opposition from the air and from shore batteries.

Benghazi harbour was attacked by Wellingtons last night.

Reconnaissance of the aerodrome at Catania today saw about 100 aircraft on the ground, of which 25 were German. Some 30 to 40 aircraft were seen to be burnt out or severely damaged.

East Indies

There were indications by D/F early this morning of an enemy unit to south-east wards of Durban. RANCHI and SHROPSHIRE were sent to search and ENTERPRISE is to operate east of Durban.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.I.G.68.

Has been amended to include R.A.3., F.O.I.C. Iceland, and A.M.C's based on Halifax. (D.S.D.1947/15.)

CONGRE
LUCIENNE
JEANNE.

To be turned over to the Royal Navy for refitting and further service. (D.O.D.H. 2003/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

Free French
Trawlers

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
SPRINGFIELD.

At 1130/15 (D.C.1156/15.) At 2330/15. (D.C. 2357/15.)

Movements.

JERSEY.

Sailed 1030 to R/V with REVENGE. (C. in C. W.A. 1127/15.)

REVENGE.

Your 0701/14 and 0100/14. Pass N at 0900/16. Route thence to Spithead. C. in C. Portsmouth 1227/15 to REVENGE.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1515/15.)

KASHMIR.
JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1452.(C.in C.W.A. 1535/15.)

Operations.

Op. "Specimen"
SPRINGFIELD.

Request date of next operation for PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1258/15 to C. in C.W.A.) PEGASUS will be required to sail 20/1. (C. in C. W.A. 2241/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

MINNIE
DE
LARRINAGA.

V.A. Dover's 1642/8. Subject to mining situation and other priority requirements intend to sail MINNIE DE LARRINAGA to arrive Southend 1600/19. Sail 20/1, and to reach East Shingles before dark. Arrangements. (C. in C. Nore 1534/15 to V.A. Dover.)

/AGNETE.....

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

AGNETE
MAERSK.

Negotiations to persuade Danish ship AGNETE MAERSK at present at Limerick to sail satisfactorily concluded. Cargo of phosphates to be discharged at Dublin. After discharge she will proceed to Clyde for seizure. A trawler as escort is required. Trawler should not enter Free State waters. (D.T.D.0108/15. to C. in C. W.A.) CLARKIA detached (MALLOW 2310/15.)

1. Detach 1 Corvette to meet S.S.AGNETE MAERSK in Position 270° Loop Head, 4 miles at 0001/17 and escort her northabout to Dublin. (2) Ship detailed is not to enter Eire territorial waters. Report name. (C. in C. W.A. 1651/15 to MALLOW.)

Operation "Parcel".
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

M02636/41

Sailed from Scapa KING GEORGE V., SOMALI, MATABELE, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, (A.C.O.S.1657/15) Route and details (C. in C. H.F.1700/15 to Adty.) See Operations Volume. Request relevant Convoy Movements and other Intelligence may be communicated direct to KING GEORGE V. during Operation. (C. in C. H.F. 1701/15 to Adty.)

Submarines.

British S/M.

Sighted correct British S/M Recognition Signal at 0932/15 in 120° 4 miles 42° 9' N. 20° 10' W. (MANISTEE 1111/15 to C. in C.W.A.) (A.C.W.A. 1525/15 to SCARBOROUGH.)

SUNFISH.

Re patrol in Skagerrak. (V.A.S.2232/15.) See Operations Volume.

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/16. (V.A.S.1742/15.)

/British.....

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

Ordered today ~~UNSR~~, ~~HORNBY~~, ~~IPOP~~ ^{"Stan", "Hornby", "Ipop"} Dusk.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0734/15.) Cancelled for
today ~~UNSR~~, ~~HORNBY~~, ~~IPOP~~. (C. in C.
Rosyth 1236/15.)

Brest.

Attack on
ADMIRAL
HIPPER

AP/761/15/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns. to attack
tonight HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock
at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1202/15 to 16 Group,
Thorney Island.) 217 Sqdn. to attack
tonight HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock
at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1204/15 to 15 Group,
St. Eval.)

As there is at present no confirmation
that Hipper Class Cruiser in Brest has
been damaged, request she may be attacked
by Skua Dive Bombers if these are avail-
able. (C. in C. W.A. 1829/15.)

Enemy Air Activity.COWRIE.

(British Tanker, 8198 Tons) On arrival
at Plymouth reports was machine-gunned
by A/C at 2050/12 when 7 miles West of
Bardsey Island. (C. in C. W.A. 1035/15.)

BEACHY.

(Rescue Ship, 1600 Tons.) Set on fire
by A/C. at 1050/11 in 53°35' N. 16° 10'W.
Detailed report by PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C.
Belfast 1256/15. to Adty.)

Fishing-
Trawler.
M.198.

Reports attacked by 3 Heinkels off Skelligs
Light on 13/1. No casualties. (F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven 1500/15.)

GREYFRIARS.
(Bombed 11/1.)

Refloated last night and has been safely
towed to Hull. (F.O.Humber 1928/15.)

/Mining.....

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ADVENTURE.

Mined in 53° 33' N. 3° 53' 30" W. Am entering. (ADVENTURE 0909/15 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool) Some damage and engine-room leaking. Advisable to dock as soon as possible. (ADVENTURE 0914/15 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool) ADVENTURE arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1201/15.)

Sweep of
Q.Z.X.247.

Sweeping carried out 0800/15. In Q.Z.X. 247 Folkestone Gate to Sandhead Buoy by 4 Oropesa Trawlers. Found one obstruction 050 degrees 2 miles from 'A' Buoy. (V.A.Dover 1104/15.)

Iceland-
Faroes
Minefield.

A.M.1626/14. Proposals in my 1603/14 preferred. Reasons. (R.A.M.L. 1152/15 to Adty.) See Operations Volume. Position L as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1153/15 to Adty) See Operations Volume.

A/C. Minelaying.

For tonight.(H.Q.C.C. 1210/15 to 16 Group, N. Coates.)

Harwich Area.
Sweep 14/1.
FITZROY
mined.

F.M /S. cut and destroyed one German X star mine in position 51° 54' 40"N.01° 41' 52' ' E. at 1113/14 at commencement of sweep. Shortly after this GOSSAMER'S sweep dipped and it was decided to restart the lap. On passage to northward with sweeps not streamed FITZROY was mined by acoustic mine and, visibility decreasing rapidly, operation was abandoned. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1252/15.)

See next page

Harwich
Area.

A large underwater Explosion observed 2 to 3 miles 290° from 288° Shipwash Buoy 1/2 mile at 0922. No A/C or Ship near. (M/S. 6. 1431/15 to C. in C. Nore.) (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1756/15 to Adty.)

/ MAYWOOD

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.MAYWOOD.

(British, 1823 Tons) Damaged by Mine in 51° 22' N. 3° 17' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1517/15 to Adty.) Now beached in Whitmore Bay, Barry (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1826/15 to Adty.)

Swansea.

Blue Mine exploded in 277° Breaksea Light Vessel 1¼ miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1640/15.)

Spontaneous Explosion reported by LL. Sweeper 1½ miles away in 174° Flatholm Light 1½ miles. No other vessel near. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1701/15.)

MANCUNIAN.

(~~Sludge Vessel~~) Mined and sunk 2 miles N.E. of Bar Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/15.)

KARRI.

(380 Tons) Mined and on fire 2 miles North of Bar Light Vessel (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/15) Fire extinguished. Has been towed into harbour. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2035/15.)

FITZROY.

(Fast Minesweeper) Flooded in all compartments and beached at high water (Salvage Officer, Harwich 0500/15.) My 0847. Not ready for towing to dock for at least one week. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1722/15 to C. in C. Nore.) Shifting operation details. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1730/16.) *See previous page.*

Tyne.

As this area may be considered to be clear of Acoustic Mines, propose that diesel engined ships should proceed in and out of harbour under their own power until next suspected Minelaying takes place. Request early reply may be given. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1737/15.)

/Liverpool.....

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Liverpool.

Two L.L. Whalers to be sailed forthwith to work temporarily at Liverpool. (D.M.S.1853/15 to F.O.I.C.Belfast.)

Mine report to 1800/15. 2 mines exploded by L.L. sweep between C 7 and C 8 buoys Crosby Channel. 3 mines detonated by vessels as in my 1725/15 and ADVENTURE. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2028/15 and 2104/15 to Adty.)

Anchorage in Moelfre Bay prohibited owing to Mines. Q.Z. has been requested. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2354/15.)

Ships for
Methil with
defective
D.G.

When it is necessary to sail ships with defective D.G. to Methil, the Masters should be informed that this involves no appreciable added danger as the deep water on this passage is unsuitable for magnetic mines. (D.T.D. 2048/15 to N.C.S.O. Oban, Aultbea.)

Humber.

Closed. Expect for several days. (F.O.Humber 2132/15.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Potential
Raiders.

For information. Reports graded C.3, received that the following Wilhelmssen Line vessels have been taken over by Germans and fitted out as A.M.C.'s:-

- (1) TARONGA, 7003 tons, speed 20 knots in special trim.
- (2) TEMPLAR, 6728 tons, speed 15½ - 16 knots in special trim.
- (3) TULANE, 7,200 tons, 16 knots in special trim.
- (4) TAIPING, renamed BOCKENHEIM, 6,728 tons, speed 15½ - 16 knots in special trim.

/This.....

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Wednesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

Potential
Raiders.

This information has already been passed to other Authorities concerned. Other Wilhelmsen ships, including sister ships of the above, are trading to British account and may be encountered. (D.D.I.C. 1609/15, 1935/15.)

S.S. ERGO.

Finnish S.S. ERGO stopped by German Trawler off Vardo 26/12, and after a day's detention Kirkenes taken to Tromso released 10/1 arrived here yesterday. She reports only a few German trawlers seen at places touched and no other warships. One German Merchant Vessel at Tromso said to be German Ship salvaged from Narvik Name of Ship not known. (Vice Consul, Petsamo 1844/15 to D.N.I.)

TORDENSKJOLD.

My 2249/14. Returned to Tonsberg and not expected to leave till 17/1. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 2002/15.)

15.
~~14.~~ 1. 41.
 Wednesday.

War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

- SOEMBA. Sank apparently as result of cargo shifting (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1741/14.) See America and West Indies. *Page 475.*
- ROCK-BREAKER. Arrived Colombo in tow of HIRAVATI. (S.O.I. Colombo, 1826Z/15.) See East Indies.
- LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY. Unknown Ship ashore Middle Haisborough Buoy. (Humber Radio 0244/15.) Tug NORMAN sailed 0745/15 to assist. (N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0750/15.) KROOMAN and NORMAN arrived 2215/15 towing LIEUTENANT ROBERT MORY (British, 3176 Tons) (N.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 2240/15.)
- DUSKY QUEEN. (Drifter) My 1823/9. Refloated yesterday and towed into Ramsgate Harbour. (V.A. Dover 0845/15.)
- HAARLEM. (British, 970 Tons) Not arrived in Convoy F.N.81. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1436/15 to N.C.S.O. Thames.)
- BUITENZORG. Wreck located. Position. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1532/15.)
- FRODE. (Norwegian, 697 Tons.) Arrived 1140 on fire. Beached in Lochnell Bay. All crew safe. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1630/15.)
- FAXFLEET. (British, 843 Tons) Ashore off Blakeney. Salvage in hand. (N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1748/15.)
- BRITISH COMMODORE. British Tanker, 6865 Tons, returned Clyde from O.B.C.274 with Engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2030/15.)
- HELMWOOD. (British, 2156 Tons) Anchored and in difficulties at B.7. Buoy. (C. in C. Nore. 2055/15.) Tug KENIA will proceed under orders of GUILLEMOT. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2209/15 to C. in C. Nore.) KENIA sailed 0820. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0824/15.)

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

O.B.C. 274

2355/14 sailed O.B.C. 274, 8½ knots (list)
(N.C.S.O., Clyde, 0015/15)

W.N. 69 (O)

List (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0905/15)

F.S. 87

40 ships. (F.O.I.C., 0932/15)

C.W. 23

457. Admiralty 2257/14. Request you will sail M.L. 1003 as escort with C.W. 23 due to sail 18/1. C. in C., Portsmouth requested to arrange onward passage to Swansea. (C. in C., Nore, 0940/15)

→ F.N. 85

Postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C., Nore, 0944/15)

F.N. 56

090° Wick 6 miles at 0900. (A.C.O.S., 0946/15)

→ W.N. 71

Code ~~MUSTER~~ ^{"Muster"} 1900/17. H.M. Trawlers ELLESMERE S.O. SALTARELO. 16 ships. W.N.O. Code ~~W.N.O.~~ to rendezvous with ^{"Muster"} ~~MUSTER~~ off Ardnamurchan Point at 2330/18 (Alternative Daylight R/V) (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1004/15)

O.G. 50
MARSDALE

MARSDALE leave Clyde p.m./16 in convoy O.G. 50. Leave convoy in latitude 48° N thence proceeding direct to areas R one and S one arriving approximately 25th. (F.O.C.N.P., 1006/15)

O.B. 274

Sailed O.B.O. 274. 0300/15/1/41. Escort DELPHINIUM. 9 Ships. (N.C.S.O., Oban, 1106/15)

→ W.N. 71

Sailed H.M.T. SALTARELO E.T.A. Campbeltown 1730 and for W.N. 71. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1140/15)

F.N. 83

Movements to 1200/16.
F.N. 83 at Outer Dowsing about 1200/15, proceeding position unknown owing to fog.
F.N. 85 leaves Southend 0900/16
F.S. 87 due Aldeburgh 0600/16
C.E. 22 due Southend p.m./15.
(C. in C., Nore., 1200/15)

→ F.N. 85

F.N. 87

C.E. 22

W.N. 70.

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

W.N. 70

1148/15. H.M. Trawlers GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE
6 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1236/15)

E.N. 55

All six ships arrived (N.C.S.O., Oban 1238/
15)

6. M/V's

Group six merchant vessels escorted by
CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE
Needles to Dartmouth by the in shore route.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1253/15 to REVENGE)

Intend to sail group of 6 M/V's escorted
by CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE
from Needles 1830 for Dartmouth E.T.A.
0815/16. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1303/15)

F.N. 83

F.N.83 estimated passing Flamborough 2000/15

F.S. 88

F.S.88 passing Berwick 2000/15.

F.S. 89

F.S.89 sails Methil 2300/15.

E.N. 57

E.N.57 sailed Methil 1830/15.

(C. in C., Rosyth, 1536/15)

O.B. 274

Sailed CAMELIA to catch up O.B. 274.
(F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1548/15)

F.S. 88

Sailed 1400/15 21 ships. (N.C.S.O., Methil
1549/15)

Two ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy
(N.C.S.O., Humber 1716/15)

F.S. 92

My 1329/10. Amend sailing time to read
2300/21. Amend escorts to read FLEETWOOD
and COTSWOLD+ (C. in C., Rosyth, 1935/15)

W.N. 71

As W.N. 69 (0) failed to rendezvous with
Clyde Section it is to be sailed in
W.N. 71. (C. in C., W.A., 1723/15 to
N.C.S.O. Oban)

C.E. 22

Following ships arrived today. (N.C.S.O.
Thames, 1813/15)

→ 4 Sailed

My 1303/15. Sailed 4 M/V's escorted by
CAPE COMORIN and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE.
(C. in C., Portsmouth 1927/15)

E.N. 57

1830/15. H.M.T's ULLSWATER, STELLA POLARIS.
Additional escort WESTON. 23 Ships.
1 for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1929/15)

See also next page.

/3 M.V's.....

War Diary15.1.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-Contd.Shipping

3 M/V's

Intend sailing group of 3 M/V's, including one loaded tanker escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN from Dartmouth at 1830/16. E.T.A., Needles 0800/17. N.O.I.C., Dartmouth 2226/15)

F.S. 88

E.N. 57 *see previous page*

FLEETWOOD and GARTH with F.S. 88. STELLA POLARIS, ULLSWATER and WESTON with E.N. 57. Latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth, includes KIRRIEMOOR for Oban for onward routeing, BAY FISHER for Scapa, BRITISH TOMMY for Aberdeen. WALLACE and VIVIEN with F.S. 89. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2305/15)

F.S. 89

F.S. 89

Sailed 2300/15. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O., Methil, 2331/15)

3 M/V's

Intend sailing unescorted at 1630/16 3 M/V's to Hartland Gap. (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 2348/15)

Ocean Convoys

O.G. 50

Every endeavour should be made to sail CISCAR from Barry to catch O.G. 50. CISCAR carried important military stores for Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 1208/15 to C. in C., W.A.,)

S.L.S. 60

Arrived LEITH, GEORGETOWN, escorting S.L.S. 60 also A/S trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1259/15)

H.G. 49

S.L.S. 60

Convoy H.G. 49 and S.L.S. 60 arrived (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1446/15)

H.X. 102

H.X. 103

S.C. 19

Re query by C.O.A.C., Halifax concerning 134/12, requesting confirmation if Admty., 1707/7 is understood and Commodores instructed in accordance with para (3) (D.T.D. 1550/15)

H.X. 100

Code words for convoy H.X. 100 are as follows: H.X., BROOM TWO; HXO, JUMBO TWO; HXB, CANTON TWO, HXBM, PIANO TWO; (D.T.D. 2352/15)

/ATHELKNIGHT..

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

Shipping-Contd.

ATHELKNIGHT

Regretted that this signal was not repeated to you (Begins) G.B.M.S., Area 1. From Admty, for ATHELKNIGHT only for Commodore. Alter course forthwith through position 360° 45 miles from Lark and then disperse 1638/14 (Ends) (D.T.D., 1107/15 to C. in C., W.A.)

OROPESA

Alter course forthwith to a position 046° 160' from position H, thence to a position 289° 150' from I. Thence to a position 000° 50 miles from I. ignoring I. (D.T.D. 1746/15 to G.B.M.S.1 for OROPESA only)

Troop Convoys

WARWICK CASTLE

Alternative route from North Channel given in A.M. 2231/3 should not be used nor given. (D.T.D. 1143/15 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

497

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CANTAL.

CANTAL from Martinique to Casablanca and Marseilles brought in under armed guard (cargo). Vessel detained pending instructions. (C.C.S.O., Gibraltar, 1025/15. to Admty.)

SAN FRANCISCO.
Repatriations.

Your 1340/14 is it known what accommodation is likely to be available in steamship SAN FRANCISCO for Vichy French who are being repatriated from Gibraltar? (F.O.C.N.A., 1240/15 to Admty.)

Dakar
Intelligence.

Following from Navy Department, from Dakar 13/1 departures French Ships SAVOIE, SINFRA and GRADIER for Conakry, with native troops said to be about to be demobilised. Arrivals AISNE and CARAIBE from South Libolli with African troops from North and East Togoland, 12 from Marseilles with coal. (N.A. Washington, 1249/15 to Admty.)

6 Vichy
Ships.

You may encounter 6 Vichy ships escorted by warships of destroyer type bound from Guinea Coast Northwards estimated position 1200/16 008° 31' N 016° W Speed 8.5 knots. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1310/15 to CANTON.)

North Atlantic

FEARLESS
FORESTER.

If unable to arrive with 2 hours of daylight in hand on 18/1 speed should be adjusted to arrive Northern Entrance at 0800 z minus 1, 19/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/15 to FEARLESS, FORESTER.)

Ammunition.

A.M.1140/10. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and/or CAPE TOWN CASTLE should also embark at Gibraltar all available 5.25 inch ammunition. A.M.1401/11. 5.25 reserves for Alexandria will be dispatched in W.S.6. 5.25 reserves for Gibraltar will leave U.K. next opportunity. (D.T.B.D. 1337/15 to F.O.C.N.A. A.S., Alexandria.)

/OLYMPUS.....

War Diary

15.1.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

OLYMPUS
OSIRIS

Position of submarines at 0800/16/1 and movements for the following 24 hours.
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada
(b) OSIRIS 058° 20' N., 011° W., course 002. speed 10 knots proceeding on the surface. (F.O.C.N.A., 1440/15)

URSULA
Operation L.A.

S.O. Force H. 1255/14. Leaves Gib. 1800/16 for operation L.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1820/15 to C. in C., Med.etc.)

Air
Report

X 2218. Flying curtailed owing to weather (200 Group 1720/15)

15. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A/C from
NEWCASTLE.

Naval aircraft from NEWCASTLE landed Punta Del Este at 0100 G.M.T. 15/1 due to lack of fuel. Crew three safe, no damage to plane. Port authorities have detained crew pending representations by H.M. Minister. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 0240Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 0240 z/15. In view of present circumstances H.M. Minister is doubtful if it will be possible to avoid interning aircraft and crew. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 1405Z/15, to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOUNT.
LYCABETTUS.

Air reconnaissance reported. Greek ship LYCABETTUS in 35 - 17 S 25 - 10 E at 0755/14, steering east. No previous information has been received regarding movements of this ship. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 0840/15. to C. in C. E.1.)

My 0840/15. Ship's name should read MOUNT LYCABETTUS. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1035/15.)

Survivors.
from
EUMAEUS.
(torpedoed 14/1.)

See 14/1 for H numbers
MD1814/41
CW 16303/41

Request information whether Naval survivors from EUMAEUS who arrived at Freetown in two trawlers 0200/15 shall be sent on to destination if medically fit or should return to U.K. Opportunity for return to U.K. occurs in FURIOUS and NEPTUNE sailing 16/1. Request immediate reply. (C. in C.S.A., 1047N/15 to Admty.) Had on board 100 Service personnel for Far East. (D.S.498,)

My 1047/15. Unlikely now that any personnel will be available to leave in FURIOUS and NEPTUNE sailing 0900/16. (C. in C. S.A. 1835N/15 to Admty.)

Your 1047/15. It is intended all those medically fit should proceed in W.S.5.B. (D.O.D.(F), 2231/13, to C. in C. S.A.)

/Request.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.1.1941
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.Survivors
from EUMAEUS
(Torpedoed 14/1)
Contd.

Request you will investigate and report reason for EUMAEUS being in this position 8° 55' N., 15° 03' W., when torpedoed. She was routed for Capetown through the following positions:- 15° N., 21° 30' W., 9° N., 21° 30' W., Equator 10° W. (D.T.D., 1304/15 to C. in C., S.A.)

Shipping

Southbound ships crossing 20° North for Cape. Approximate Noon position 16/1 and Routes. (D.T.D., 1106/15 to S.A., Station)

Italian
Air Liner

Italian air liner I-BAYR left Pernambuco for Rome via Natal 14/1 carrying double crew of 8 one service passenger and German diplomatic courier Alexander Safarowsky. Also 385 k.g. mail and 606 k.g. of parcels. (British Consul, Pernambuco 1405/15 to Admty.) (D.S. 498 states came down in the sea p.m./15 near St. Paul's Rocks about half way across Atlantic)

ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Arrived 1500/15 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1621/15 to Admty.)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
ISIS
ENCOUNTER

FURIOUS and NEPTUNE escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER are to leave Freetown, first ship past boom 0900/16 and proceed at speed of advance 16½ knots by following route:- FURIOUS is to detach ISIS and ENCOUNTER in position (c) to proceed to Gibraltar (route and time of arrival) (C. in C., S.A., 1815N/15)

Shipping Routes

Routeing of homeward independent ships between Freetown and Cape Verde Islands appears to be restricted to a narrow lane. Is there any reason why wider dispersal cannot be effected? (D.T.D., 1923/15 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 5 B
FEARLESS
FORESIGHT

Admiralty's 1624/6. Request information as early as possible whether FEARLESS, FORESIGHT and escorted ships will join W.S. 5 B before arrival Freetown and also anticipated time and date of joining. Important for A/S escort of convoy as a whole that they should join as early as possible. (C. in C., S.A., 2059N/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary

15.1.1941
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

URSULA

Your 1255/14 (Proposed URSULA sails to Malta via Gibraltar also to visit Genoa to obtain information regarding enemy patrol) Concur. The additional delay of 4 days can be accepted. (C. in C., Med. 0851/15 to S.O. Force H.)

M.E. 6.

1106199/41.

Convoy M.E. 6 arrived 14/1. (N.O.I.C., Port Said 1009/15 to Admty.)

PERTH

PERTH completes rebricking 1800/16. Rebricked boiler can be lit up by mid night but PERTH could leave by 2000 with steam for 24 knots. (V.A. Malta, 1045/15 to C. in C., Med.)

Your 1045/15. PERTH should leave for Suda Bay at dusk/17 with all boilers efficient, to join YORK for Aegean duty. (C. in C., Med., 1601/15 to V.A. Malta)

Air Attack
Benghazi

Operational Summary No 219 up to 1200/15. 1 Egypt. Night January 13/14. 5 Wellingtons dropped 11250 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi harbour hitting the Central Mole alongside ships moored there, the Mole D'Italia and the north east corner of the Cathedral Mole. 3 Wellingtons subsequently machine gunned from a low height a search light and also a coastal battery north east of Benghazi.

Day 14/1. No bombing operations. No change in military situation Tobruk.

2. Greece. Day 14/1. No bombing operations. One Sunderland reconnoitred Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1154/15)

PANDORA
2 Supply Ships
Attacked 9/1.

PANDORA reports (a) shipping off Pantellaria hug shore and leave North end of Island on course (786° or 7331°) suggesting a passage through Italian declared minefield.

/PANDORA.....

War Diary15.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanPANDORA
2 Supply Ships
Attacked² Contd.

PANDORA suggests British minefield laid close to North End of Island should be (?) effective. (b) Between 0800 and 0900 9/1 PANDORA fired four torpedoes at two unescorted supply ships each 5000 tons flying Italian flag steering 190° in position 039° 22' N., 009° 50' E., Both ships observed hit each by one torpedo and left sinking. One ship carried deck cargo of motor buses. Flying boat patrol forced PANDORA deep. 5 and 8 hours later distant depth charges heard. (F.O.C.N.A., 1234/15) One of the 2 ships claimed sunk on 9/1 was possibly PALMA, 2715 G.T. which sent out an S.O.S. on this date giving her longitude as 9.40 E., but latitude was not received. (D.S. 498)

Otranto
Minefields

Two reports have been received in the last few days stating that minefields are now being laid, or are about to be laid, in the Straits of Otranto. One report was from the Greek Minister in London and has probably been passed to you. The other (Graded B.O.) is from most secret sources. (D.D.I.D., 1409/15 to C. in C., Med.)

Tanker
For Malta

Re Admty. 2017/14/10 and my 0927/ (date omitted) Information is requested whether tankers of this type are being sent. Under present conditions which greatly increase difficulty of safely passing convoy into Malta the problem would be greatly eased by presence of a high speed tanker. (C. in C., Med., 1525/15 to Admty.)

Shipments from
Tunis to Italy

S.O.(I) Malta 2359/12 para: C. If information about despatch of Toluene from La Goulette can be obtained, most important to prevent arrival in Italy if practicable. (D.E.W.D., 1537/15 to C. in C., Med.)

/TRUANT.....

War Diary15.1.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.TRUANT
Enemy Transports

M09193/41.

TRUANT reports large enemy transports seen leaving Tripoli (Libya) from position A at northern end of main searched channel on steady course (?) 320° on 2 occasions but no ships were seen entering. It is possible ships entering from north westwards (corrupt group) coast (corrupt group) MARSA ZUAGA. Nothing was sighted in area S. (Capt. S.1. 1603/15 to S.O. S/M Malta Force)

REGENT

Leave position 032° 51' N; 015° 16' E at 1800/17. to arrive Alexandria sanctuary Proceed through 032° 14' 019; 48' thence along coast to spend daylight hours 20 miles off Apollonia thence through 032° 48' to Alexandria (Capt. S. 1., 1643/15 to REGENT)

Intelligence
Savona,
Genoa.

Following from Dutch master at Savona and Genoa between 19th Dec. and 8th Jan (B.2.)

- (a) Presence of contact minefields unlikely as direct route was taken from Savona to Genoa on to his departure course.
- (b) No warship at Genoa with exception of small craft, some employed minesweeping to Southern part of Eastern entrance of harbour.
- (c) No barrage balloons.
- (d) Strict blackout enforced both places
- (e) Local gossip indicates large percentage British bombs fail to explode.
- (f) General morale and war enthusiasm low.
- (g) Apprehension of air raids very great.

(S.O.I., Gib., 1708/15 to D.N.I.)
(As regards (e) see Admty 1801/15 and Force H. 2255/16)

Work of
Australian
Destroyers

During period 12/12 to date VOYAGER, VENDETTA, WATERHEN and VAMPIRE under Captain Waller R.A.N., have been operating continuously on Libyan Coast in support of Army Operations. Their work has included coast bombardment, cover inshore gunboat squadron, bringing up supplies, and removal of prisoners, and intercepting enemy coastal shipping. The work has been of great value and carried out in face of a good deal of opposition from air as well as from shore batteries. (C. in C., Med., 1739/15 to A.C.N.B., Melbourne.)

/Malta.....

504

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta,
Air Report

Combined services report up to 1700 15/1. All times G.M.T. 0837-1114. Glenn Martin recco' Taranto Harbour and Catania Aerodrome. Taranto abandoned due adverse weather. Catania aerodrome photographed (details)

Sunderland recco' Western Ionian Sea abandoned as impossible to take off in swell.

1005-1-12. One enemy aircraft reported as Heinkel 111 or Junkers 88 approached from North and circled over Grand Harbour at 21,000 feet. Engaged by A.A. no bombs dropped. Mission presumably recco'. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med., 1750/15)

ARK ROYAL
Bombs

Your 1106/14. Report immediately.

- (a) What type of bomb is referred to.
- (b) What fuzing components were used.
- (c) Height of release
- (d) If long delay pistols were used, how many and what delays.
- (e) Whether there have been any blinds on previous occasions with this same type of bomb.

The 250 pound G.P. bomb used by Swordfish is identical in all respects with those used by R.A.F. (5 S.L. 1801/15 to S.O. Force H) Reply. (S.O. Force H., 2255/16)

Italian
Intelligence

Reports of Italian troops disembarked at Durazzo and ships unloading in that port Bombing of port. Bombing of port proposed (N.A. Belgrade 1806/15)

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S.8.
CAPETOWN.
ANTENOR.
CANBERRA.

Convoy U.S. 8 leaves Colombo 0530Z/16.
Orders and routes to CAPETOWN, ANTENOR,
CANBERRA. (C. in C. E.I. 1038Z/15)
See Operations Vol.

Enemy
Unit.

Raise steam, There are D/F indications
of an enemy unit to South eastwards
of Durban.
(C. in C. E.I. 0236Z/15 to SHROPSHIRE).

RANCHI.
SHROPSHIRE.

My 0236/15. RANCHI proceed best
speed to position A. My 0742/12
refers. SHROPSHIRE join RANCHI as
soon as ready. Both ships patrol
in the vicinity of position A as
arranged by SHROPSHIRE.
(C. in C. E.I. 0600Z/15).

Durban departures in accordance with
C. in C. East Indies 0600Z/15. RANCHI
0928 G.M.T./15 SHROPSHIRE 1040 G.M.T/15.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1040Z/15).

RANCHI
to meet
SELANDIA.

My 0600/15 Subject to no enemy intelli-
gence being received RANCHI is to
be detached so as to meet SELANDIA
off Durban at 0600 Z/17 and escort
her to 022° 30' south RANCHI is then
to patrol in accordance with my
0742/12.
(C. in C. E.I. 1926Z/15 to SHROPSHIRE).

Distress
Message,
STAFFORDSHIRE.

Your 1106 B/14 (S.O.S. message -
whether any further information)
Regret no.
(A.C.N.B. 0421/15 to S.O.I. Capetown.).

Wheat in
store at
Bunder
Shapur.

Rumour that ^{Hansa}HANSA ship in Bunder
Shapur will be used as storage for
wheat.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0626Z/15).

/COCKCHAFFER.....

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

COCKCHAFFER
in Shatt-el-
Arab.

SNO. Persian Gulf's 1154/14.

(i) Concur with action taken by S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

(ii) My views would be Iran having no jurisdiction over Iraqi side of navigable channel cannot object to a belligerent warship anchoring there but there may be a special agreement of which I am not aware. Request guidance.

(iii) For information, Article 2 of Reglement de Sekour contains Iranian Government instructions regarding notice of visit by foreign warships to Iranian ports or passage of territorial waters, together with duration visit, in peace-time.

(C. in C. E.I. 0640/15 to Admt).

Your 1150/14. The Iranian regulations appear to contravene treaty with Iraq and to have been issued without knowledge of Iraq Authorities. Request to COCKCHAFFER was made with courtesy and movement of vessel was made clear by C.O. to be an act of courtesy. Propose to raise question of the legality of the regulations published by Iranians through port director to Iraq Authorities. Consider it is not advisable to pursue matter with Teheran.

(N.O.I.C. Basra 0950Z/15 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf and C. in C. E.I.).

ENTERPRISE.

Your 1529B/14 (re future employment of ENTERPRISE). Intend Force T. which includes ENTERPRISE shall operate in the area to the east of Durban in the first place, subject to raider intelligence at the time.

(C. in C. E.I. 0720Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/Air Report.....

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Air Report
Assab
attacked
convoy escorts.

Summary No. 217 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 15/1. Following 8 Squadron night sorties attacked stores and warehouses Assab. 1 Blenheim dropped 1000 lbs. bombs in 2 medium level sticks bursts observed well in target area. 0120. 1 Blenheim dropped 1000 lbs. bombs in low dive attack all bombs in area starting 1 large fire visible 35 miles. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts 3 for convoy BS 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 3 for convoy SW4B 1 operating from advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1617/15).

Troop
Transport
B.S.13.

M05336/41
M05655/41

"Emily". The 26 officers and 340 British other ranks for Port Sudan shut out of TALMA should be embarked at Suez in VARSOVA on 17/1. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is requested to sail VARSOVA and TALMA for Suez on completion of disembarkation to embark prisoners of war for Bombay for sailing next B.S. Convoy.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1743/15 to G.H.Q. Middle East).

ROCKBREAKER.

Colombo arrival 0900z/15 H.M.I.S. HIRAVATI towing ROCKBREAKER.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1826z/15).

Convoy
Telegrams.

For N.C.S.O's. Convoy sailing telegrams should in future be sent in two parts.
(D.T.D. 1847/15 to C. in C. E.I and Med)

COLOMBO
defects

COLOMBO now on Kismayu Patrol is proceeding to Mombasa with engine defects. Date on which patrol will be reestablished will be signalled later. Air H.Q. East Africa and M.E. please pass to Force Nairobi and G.H.Q. Cairo.
(C. in C. E.I. 2032Z/15 to A.H.Q. East Africa CERES, etc.).

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Germans
in Japan.

According to Fess records 29 German Pilots and Air Technicians, 18 members of Tanker Crews, at least nine ex GRAF SPEE and various enemy agents have reached Japan from America in Japanese Ships since August 1940. It is reasonable to assume these have either returned to Germany or are working against us in Japan. As American "Aid to Britain" bill suggest much wider coOperation than at present, propose American Authorities be invited to assist in enforcing ASAMA MARU agreement.
(C. in C. China 0406Z/15 to Admty).

BANCKERT.

Sunda Strait departure 0800/15 Dutch Destroyer BANCKERT passing through 010° 00'S. 101° 00'E. and 006° 00'N. 088° 30'E. thence Sabang speed 14 knots. Seaplanes are coOperating with her.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0428Z/15 to C. in C. E.I).

DURBAN.

Rangoon departure 13/1 DURBAN for Andamans.
(S.O.I. Singapore 0951Z/15).

Raider.

(f) No raider activity report but D/F fix places one at Kerguelan Island 2117 12th January.
(C.O.S. Singapore 1401/Z/15).

Indo-China
Trade.

Following from Foreign Office. My 1946/14 Part I first sentence. You may accept proposed agreement regarding mutual abstention from propaganda in form suggested in your 0904/28/13. Part I sub para B.
(D.N.I. 1912/15 to C. in C. China).

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Ship sighted
by SS TYDOLGAS
thought to be
raider.

N.A. Washington 1001/8 cannot trace ship in Vesca report. Have you been able to identify. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1146/15).

NERISSA.

Anticipate NERISSA will sail Halifax (date) 178 Air Force personnel embarking. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1543/15 to Admty).

Canadian
Destroyers
and NEWMARKET
for U.K.

Halifax departure 15/1 ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE, COLUMBIA, ST. FRANCIS and NEWMARKET U.K. via St. Johns N.F. (S.O.I. Halifax 1630/15).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.
H.X. 105.

H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN ocean escort H.X. 105. (S.O.I. Halifax 1631/15 to Admty etc).

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¹⁵
14.1.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ROBERT LEY.

27288 tons. Reported passed Gothenburg 23/12 on passage from Norway and wearing Red Cross. If true, this disposes of Rotterdam report of 23/4/40 that she had been sunk by torpedo or mine in Skagerrak on night of 12-13/4 with a loss of 850 troops (D.S. 498).

MARS.

Tonnage unknown. Reported at 1650/14 aground at Schellenkuhlen and required assistance. (D.S. 498).

BORKUM.

Pilot steamer, reported 2220/14 stranded on Schildgruend and abandoning ship. Drifter standing by and all crew present (D.S.498).

EMILE MAERSK.

Danish, reported at 1910/14 aground near Borkum with rudder broken and immediate assistance necessary to save ship and cargo (D.S. 498).

FORTUNA.

C.A.F.O. 422/40 No. 208 (FORTUNA) expected to leave Bilbao last night at 9 knots for Biscay port. (V.A.S. 1129/15 to S/M on Patrol Area B).

ORINOCO.

Following from Navy Department. Stated by American Consul Tampico that German ship ORINOCO is planning departure though there are no specific details of any preparations to this end. (N.A. Washington 1255/15 to Admty).

ATLAS.
LIVORNO.

January 14th arrival German Steamships ATLAS, LIVORNO.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2015/15)
(First reported movement of LIVORNO since September 1939).

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

STELLA.
XXIV MAGGIO XXIV.
AEQUITAS.

Italian ships at Pernambuco.
STELLA now transferring 4000 tons of
her cargo to Brazilian MERITY.
MAGGIO XXIV discharging 2000 tons
to local flour mills. At Rio de
Janeiro AEQUITAS discharged cargo.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2321Z/15 to S.A.D).

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.
attitude
of Uruguay.

Mo 6211/41

My 0836Z/14. Minister for Foreign Affairs has received report presented by Captain of MENDOZA. He has indicated to H.M. Minister that he will be compelled to present strong note of protest unless we can produce counter evidence. H.M. Minister has therefore presented further note on lines of your 1808Z/13 but omitting to mention that boarding boat went inside three mile limit. H.M. Minister has informed Foreign Office that unless he receives further facts or considerations he feels it would be best to present a prompt apology for technical breach and he has asked F.O. for guidance. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0105Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MENDOZA still anchored at Maldonada Bay at 1215 G.M.T./15. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1232Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

Position of
ASTURIAS.

Mo 6211/41

Your 1808Z/13 and your 0844Z/14. I understand reasons why ASTURIAS was close in to shore for interception but am not clear why sighting of ASTURIAS should encourage MENDOZA to leave sharply. It is important to make a clean job of it if possible in these cases as you have appreciated but always a difficult problem. I do not consider your 1521Z/10 suggests restrictions were cancelled. Your 1522Z/10 has been repeated to Admiralty as requested. (C. in C. S.A. 1235N/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

Suggested
Regrets.

Following is the substance of telegram to Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador Buenos Aires (who is at present in Montevideo) and who has seen signals relating to MENDOZA (Begins) Am convinced earliest expression of regret as proposed by H.M. Minister Montevideo is desirable and would also much relieve Argentine Government. (Ends) (S.O.I. Montevideo 1537/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MENDOZA
poSition.

At 1615Z/15 MENDOZA 337° 2.5 miles from Lobos (Corrupt groups) light proceeding northward in territorial waters. (ASTURIAS, 1615Z/15 to R.A.S.A.D.).

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War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (contd).

MENDOZA weighed at 1520 G.M.T. and
now proceeding to Northward close
in to land.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1636Z/15 to
R.A.S.A.D.)

War Diary.

15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

EUMAEUS.

Baffellini

(Torpedoed 14/1) Disposal of survivors and question as to route. (See South Atlantic).

NEMEA.

German

Greek, 5101 tons. Torpedoed 2100/15. (See Diary 18/1).

BRITISH PREMIER.
(torpedoed 24/12).

My 2109/9 (re British Tanker PREMIER torpedoed and sank, submarine did not surface, but survivors state that periscope was seen 1/2 mile from ship). From further investigations S/M did surface when it was too dark to identify. U 25 class appears most likely. (C. in C. S.A. 1720/15 to Admty).

S/M's Reported.

0950.

42.07 N. 20.09 W. 265° C. Finisterre 492'. Reported by H.M.S. MANISTEE (D.S. 499) MANISTEE 1111/15, no British submarines were in the vicinity (C. in C. W.A. 1619/15 to MANISTEE, SCARBOROUGH).

0845.

My 0845 possibly S/M on surface. Investigated but cannot contact. (FANDANGO 1000/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, Belfast etc).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.

1 was between 52°N. and 53°N. 20°W. and 21°W. noon 14th.
2 may be between 47°N. and 51°N. 25°W.
1 about 56° 30'N. to 57° 30'N. near 20°W.
1 about 55°N. 20°W.
Possibly 1 within 200 miles to westward of Bloody Foreland.
1 may be between Faroes and Hebrides outward bound.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 outward bound may be about 46°N. to 47°N. 10°W. to 12°W.
1 near 9°N. 15°W.

Italian.

1 in 6°53'N. 12°45'W. 0100/14.
2 in or to westward of Bay of Biscay.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1540/15).

Torelli

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15.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

101578/41.

Have attacked doubtful U-Boat in position 050°N. 022°30'W. Presence not confirmed.
(BEAGLE 1038/15 to Admty).

Am searching with BRILLIANT.
Have not regained contact.
(BEAGLE 1410/15).

BEAGLE reports doubtful contact in position 050°N. 022°30'W. at 1038/15.
(C. in C. W.A. 1521/15 to W.A. Command).

Search abandoned due to lack of fuel.
(BEAGLE 1900/15).