

War Diary

16.1.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boats
off Southwold

3 E-Boats were sighted off Southwold at 2040 this evening by WOOLSTON escorting a Convoy, but were driven off by WOOLSTON before they could develop an attack.

Western Channel
Patrol

Very's Lights and Flashes were reported to the southward of the Eddystone at 2045 tonight and KASHMIR, JUPITER (on Western Channel Patrol) and 6 motor launches were ordered to investigate; but nothing was seen.

Raider
Reports

The Wilhelmsen Ship TAI PING is reported today (C.3) to be ready to sail from Oslo as a raider.

An unknown ship reported being gunned this evening by an armed merchant raider, about 600 miles west of the Fastnet. The message was cancelled shortly afterwards; the origin and form of cancellation are suspicious, and the incident is obscure.

British Air Activity

A Heavy Air Attack was made last night upon Wilhelmshaven, fires being started which could be seen more than 100 miles away; and Borkum, Bremerhaven, Flushing, Emden, and Rotterdam were also attacked.

The weather today necessitated the cancellation or recall of all air patrols in the Rosyth area and the abandonment of air escorts for convoys in the N.W. Approaches. Only a few special patrols were flown.

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ThursdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

In view of the attacks being made on shipping by enemy aircraft, C. in C., W.A. asks that N.C.S.O's at home and overseas may be directed to again impress on Commodores and Masters the necessity for flying kites by day when in the danger zone.

The Convoy F.S. 87 was attacked by one A/C at 0927 this morning off Harwich without result.

Eight H.E. Bombs were dropped on Ramsgate soon after midnight this morning causing serious damage to houses but only one civilian casualty; and at Dover bombs were dropped at 0156 and at 0322; no casualties or Naval damage are reported.

Convoy O.B. 274
Attacked
SS ONOBA
SS MENANDROS
Hit

Convoy O.B. 274 was attacked at 1215 in the N.W. Approaches, Dutch tanker ONOBA was abandoned and sank during the night. MENANDROS (Greek) was abandoned but was taken in tow by ARBUTUS. Tugs were sent.

Mining

Minelaying in
Thames Estuary

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night probably off the north east coast and in the Thames Estuary.

In the Thames Estuary one mine was detonated and the LL trawler DESIREE was sunk. The problem of protecting the Estuary from Minelaying aircraft is being examined by C. in C., Nore in conjunction with the Fighter Command.

/The Tyne....

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

The Tyne was opened to Diesel driven vessels under their own power at 0052 and the Humber was re-opened to navigation this afternoon, and Milford Haven, where the Examination vessel ROMSEY was disabled by a mine this afternoon and the only available S.A.Gear has been reported defective, was closed at 2320 tonight.

Cardiff was opened at 1447 but was closed again at 2335. Mines were detonated by LL sweepers off the Manacles and Falmouth. Another mine was detonated this evening near the Bar Light Vessel at Liverpool, where 2 LL Whalers from Belfast are due to arrive early tomorrow morning.

U-Boat Campaign

OROPESA, 14,118 tons, independently routed Capetown for Liverpool, was torpedoed early this morning 150' N.W. of Bloody Foreland and subsequently sank.

ZEALANDIC, 10578 tons, independently routed Liverpool for Brisbane was torpedoed at 2248 further to the north-west.

Vichy French

The 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast is cancelled. French meat ships may be intercepted anywhere outside territorial waters except west of the line Cape Santa Maria- San Antonio.

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SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

URSULA (Submarine) left Gibraltar at 1815 for Operation L.A. (enemy trade, Barcelona and Genoa)

South Atlantic

Raider

There are indications of a German surface unit within 100 miles of 25° W., PRETORIA CASTLE and Convoy S.L.S. 62 have been informed.

FURIOUS and NEPTUNE, escorted by ISIS and ENCOUNTER, left Freetown today for U.K. Destroyers will be detached to Gibraltar.

Force "Shrapnel"

Force "Shrapnel", which proceeded to West Africa at the time of the projected operations at Dakar, is to return to U.K as soon as possible.

Sunderlands for Freetown

3 Sunderland flying boats are to operate under C. in C., S.A., for anti-submarine work, with Freetown as their main base and Bathurst as an advanced fuelling base.

Mediterranean

Catania aerodrome was heavily attacked by R.A.F. Wellingtons last night.

M012725/41

Simultaneously about 12 enemy aircraft from Catania raided Malta. In a later raid on Malta by some 70 aircraft, damage was done in the dockyard, ESSEX (M.T.Ship) was badly damaged, ILLUSTRIOUS hit and slightly damaged, and PERTH damaged by near misses. PERTH left for Alexandria at 2200.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MOOLTAN.

To be taken in hand at London for conversion to troop carrier. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail her there and to make such arrangements with C. in C. Nore as are considered necessary.
(D.O.D.H. 1233/16).

Admiralty's 1233/16/1. As MOOLTAN retains A/A armament consider that she should be sailed in F.S. Fast convoy. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail her accordingly reporting convoy in which she will sail.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1801/16 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Western Patrol.
Areas Y1, Y2, Y3.

In future Western Patrol Trawler Patrol areas will be referred to as Y 1 Y 2 and Y 3 instead of T 1 T2 and T 3 in order to avoid confusion with dangerous zones patrolled by A.M.C's and O.B.V's. F.O.C.N.P. inform Western Patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1239/16).

"Deluge"

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/16 (D.C. 1156/16) At 2330/16
(D.C. 2344/16).

R.N. Air
Stations.

Request you report following details of Local Defences. (D. of L.D. 1328/16 to R.N.A. Stations).

Campbeltown.

Your 1328/16. Details as follows.
(R.N.A.S. Campbeltown 2215/16 to Adty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REVENGE.

Arrival REVENGE escorted by KELLY
KIPLING JERSEY.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1017/16).

INTREPID.
SEALION.
IMPULSIVE.

1. INTREPID and SEALION are to R.V.
for special exercises (position, date),
position to be selected by C. in C.
Rosyth.
2. On completion INTREPID is to return
to Immingham.
3. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE are to convert
for minelaying and embark full
outfits on 22/1 and 23/1 and are to
be sailed for Scapa on (date).
(A.C.N.S.H. 1032/16).

Admiralty 1032/16. Request you will
select position for special exercises
and report accordingly.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1639/16 to S.6).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines occupied. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1532/16).

NAIAD.

To proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1630/16 to C.S.15).

Operations.

Western
Channel
Patrol.

1. After landing experimental party
KASHMIR and JUPITER are to patrol
tonight between longitudes of Start
Point and Lizard returning Plymouth
at 1030/17.

2. Object is to cover shipping in
channel.
(C. in C. W.A. 1313/16 to KASHMIR,
JUPITER).

Coastguard Falmouth reports small
Coaster apparently on fire bearing E.S.E
20 - 25 miles. Heavy explosion also
heard about the same time. Investigate
but do not enter Q Z Y 174. Three
M A/S B are also investing.
(C. in C. W.A. 1717/16 to KASHMIR,
JUPITER).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

SAUTERNE reports red, white, yellow star lights sighted southward of Eddystone at 2045.
(C. in C. W.A. 2131/16 to KASHMIR).

Reference 2045 from H.M. A/P vessel SAUTERNE and your 2103. Merchant ship (corrupt group) 20 miles south of Eddystone has seen nothing. Am proceeding to Eastern end of patrol station.

One flash observed in that direction at 2045. Possibly lightning.
(KASHMIR 2235/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

M.L's to investigate Lights and flashes.

Very light and flashes have been reported to seaward from Beer Head to Prawle Point at about 2045. 6 Motor Launches are to proceed to investigate.
(C. in C. W.A. 2103/16 and 2345/16 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

My 2103 and my 2345 motor launches return to Dartmouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 0147/17 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

P.V.1.

Operation P.V. one will be carried out tonight Thursday between 2200 and 2359.
(C. in C. Nore 1439/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

My 1439/16. P.V. one will be carried out in 3 relays from 2200/16 until 0700/17, the third patrol from 0400 to 0700 being carried out by a single aircraft.
(C. in C. Nore 1937/16 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

/E-Boats.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (contd).

E- Boats.

Three Enemy War Motor Boats bearing 050 degrees distance one mile Course unknown in 52° 16'N. 1°58'E.
(WOOLSTON 2040/16).

My 2040 enemy retired to Eastwards.
(WOOLSTON 2049/16).

My 2040. Enemy was driven off before they could develop attack on convoy.
(WOOLSTON 2301/16 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Raider Report.

RRRR Armed Merchant Raider 50 R 58 North 27 R 22 West Unknown Vessel gunned 2000.
(Lyness W/T 2050/16).

Unknown ship gunned position 050° 58'N. 027° 22'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 2205/16 to SEVERN).

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2132 G.M.T. from unknown station. RRRR Message cancelled. Origin and form of cancellation suspicious. No call sign used. 2134.

First transmission of unknown vessel's RRRR T.O.O. 2000/16 not received by Lands End Radio.
(C. in C. W.A. 2329/16 to Adty).

Submarines.

L.23.

Intend sail from Scapa at 1500/17 for Dundee, escorted by BUTTERMERE.
(A.C.O.S. 1342/16).

URGE.

Exercising tomorrow in Scapa Flow
(A.C.O.S. 1511/16).

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1527/16)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/17 (FOS 1723/16)

UNBEATEN.

Intend sailing at 1800/17 to R/V with A/S Trawler at 0845/18 in 180° St. Catherines 5 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1800/16 to S.5).

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Wilhelmshaven.
Borkum.
Bremerhaven.
Flushing.
Emden.
Rotterdam.

Night 15/16 January. 20 Blenheims, 26 Wellingtons, 16 Whitleys and 14 Hampdens attacked Naval centre at Wilhelmshaven, incendiaries and bombs dropped by the earlier arrivals caused large fires and later arrivals report that they were unable to see the results of their bombs owing to the glare from the raging fires; the area from Bauhafen to about one mile west and then one mile south appeared to be a blazing inferno. Many other large fires to the North and East of Bauhafen. Explosions and fires were also observed on the coaling wharf in the HIPPER Hafen. The fires were seen more than 100 miles away.

One Wellington of 1 group attacked Borkum, and the oil storage Bremerhafen causing fires.

One Blenheim attacked Leer (15 miles South East of Emden) Docks and shipping at Flushing and Jever Aerodrome.

Nine Wellingtons and one Whitley attacked the petrol and oil stores at Emden and Rotterdam, and Schiphol Aerodrome. Some fires and explosions seen.
(Bomber Command Int. Summary No. 649).

Patrols.

Patrol U N S T will not be flown today. All other patrols postponed owing to weather. Further signal will be made if they are able to take off later.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0910/16).

Brest.

A.P./763 16/1. Operations for tonight 16th/17th January, for 53 and 59 Squadrons as detailed in my message AP/761. 15/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1203/16 to 16 Group Thorney Island).

/Lorient.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Lorient.

AP/764 16/1. Available aircraft No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight 16th/17th January, submarines in Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1204/16 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Thames Estuary.
Defence against
Minelaying A/C.

Reference C. in C. Nore's 1124/14. Request you examine with C. in C. Nore problem of protecting Thames Estuary from sea mining by aircraft and advise of any new measures recommended for meeting this threat. (Air Ministry 1305/16 to Fighter Command).

Escorts.

No fighter escort tonight. Kites to be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1654/16 to ULLSWATER, etc).

V.L. A.
Balloons.

9. A.L. 024478/40 of 11.1.40 and para 2 of A.L. M.019781/40. Experience has not yet been gained with V.L.A. Balloons but it is considered unlikely that they would stand up to Winter weather in the Eastern Approaches to Portsmouth and servicing would be difficult.

Question is being examined whether yachts carrying out Loop Patrol and A/S Trawlers patrolling Approach Channels could be fitted to fly V.L.A. Balloons. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2127/16 to AdTY).

804 Squadron.

Your 1648/10.804 squadron can be released from duty with Fighter Command at any time suitable to Admiralty. (Air Ministry 2210/16 to AdTY).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on
Ramsgate.

At midnight unidentified aircraft dropped bombs on Ramsgate. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0030/16 to V.A. Dover).

Details of civil damage (only)
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1107/16 to Adty).

Convoy
F.S. 87.

Enemy bombing odd numbered F.S. Convoy in 51° 55' N. 1° 39' E. (VIMIERA 0927/16).

My 0927. One Dornier. No hits. (VIMIERA 0933/16).

Convoy O.B. 274
attacked.
S.S. ONOBA
S.S. MEANDROS
hit.

Enemy aircraft. Bombing in 55° 41' N. 12° W. (N.G.C.S. Block One 1225/16 to Whitehall W/T)
(C. in C. W.A. 1403/16 to VETERAN).

Result of air attack on O B 274 at 1215/16. Dutch Tanker ONOBA abandoned sinking. Crew on board ERICA returning to land injured.

Greek ship MEANDROS abandoned by crew. Still afloat. Four hands transferred to ARBUTUS. Endeavouring to salve.

Rejoing Convoy till 1200/17 when necessary to return owing to faulty evaporators. (BEVERLEY 1530/16 to C. in C. W.A).

Sailed ENGLISHMAN and RESTIVE to 56° 20' N. 11° 45' W. to assist. MEANDROS (Greek, 4581 Tons) ONOBA (Dutch Tanker, 6256 Tons). (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2104/16).

Dover Attacked.

At 0156 today aircraft dropped one H.E. bomb to the south west of Dover Castle and at 0322 three H.E. bombs were dropped in the harbour and three seaward. Numerous incendiary bombs were dropped in Granville Dock area. All fires but one extinguished by 0340. No casualties or damage to naval property reported. (V.A. Dover 1306/16 to Adty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tyne Area.

Cancel my 1106/2/12. Diesel driven vessels may now enter ports in the Tyne area under their own power. Diesel driven vessels are still to be notified as such in sailing telegrams.
(D.T.D. 0052/16).

A/C Minelaying.

AP/765 16/1. For tonight.
(H.Q.C.C. 1205/16 to 16 Group N.Coates).

Ice.

Field ice in position 066° 52'N. 024° 22'W. sound 150 fathoms extending 055° and 230°
(SCOTT 1359/16 to R.A.M.L).

Thames Estuary.

One red mine detonated at 1020/16 in 100° E. Nore Sand Buoy 4 cables near inside.
(Capt M/S. Sheerness 1430/16).

DESIREE
sunk.

(L.L. Trawler) Sunk by ground mine at 1830 in 016° N.W. Shingles Buoy 5 cables. No casualties.
(C. in C. Nore 2245/16) (Capt M/S. Sheerness 0105/17).

Bristol
Channel.

Ships including those with I.C. Engines may now enter and leave all ports in this area and normal traffic may be resumed.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1447/16).

Minelaying suspected no ships are to leave Bristol Channel Ports until further orders. Westbound ships may leave Swansea. Incoming traffic should anchor to Westward of Breaksea.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2335/16).

Humber open to navigation.
(F.O. Humber 1506/16).

/ROMSEY.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

ROMSEY.
mined.
Milford
Haven
closed.

(Examination Vessel) Mined in
51 - 41' 00"N. 05 - 09 20'W.
Disabled and beached in Dale Road.
Port Closed until further sweeping
carried out.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540/16).

Expert reports S A gear in only
minesweeping trawler so fitted is
defective. No ship with I C engines
should enter or leave Milford Haven
for the present.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1854/16).

Port closed owing to laying of mines
by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2320/16).

B.S. 50.

Intend to sail from Spurn Point
at 1445/18 and take departure from
20C Buoy at 1030/19. Returning to
20C Buoy. Laying will begin at
1230/19.
(S.O. M/L. Immingham 1644/16).

Falmouth.

Red mine detonated at end of short
tail by L.L. sweep at 0953 today in
50° 8' 2"N. 5° 1' 30"W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1715/16).

L.L. Whalers
for Liverpool.

Sailed L.L. Whalers STEFNA and SULLA
in accordance with Admiralty's 1853/15.
~~STEVEN~~. E.T.A. 0900/17.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1835/16).

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/16. One mine
detonated by LL sweep 100° Bar Light
Vessel 1½ miles.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2101/16).

Moray.
Firth
Area
Sweep.

Commencing at dusk on 21/1 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 AZ 787 and
of centre line of Q.Z.S. 160.
(2) Duncansby Head to Kinnairds Head
Westward of centre line of Q.Z.S. 160
and of dividing line of A.Z. 787.
Sweeps are to be completed off Kinnairds
Head by dark/22 when ships are to return
to Aberdeen. (C in C Rosyth 2237/16).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Fast Craft.

There is an indication of a fast craft, air or surface, 16 miles south of Swanage travelling west at high speed at 0105.
(C. in C. W.A. 0121/16 to REVENGE).

Bayonne.

TALISMAN reports Bayonne Approaches were visited but no shipping and very few fishing vessels encountered.
(V.A.S. 1014/16).

Raider reported ready at Oslo.

Report graded C 3 states another Wilhelmsen Ship TAI PING now ready to leave Oslo as raider. Speed possibly 16 knots.

My 2251 7th Dec. Speed of TEMPLAR possibly 16 knots in raider trim.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1209/16 to Northern Patrol).

Brest.)
Lorient.)
Keroman.)

Warships and Shipping seen at 1130/16
(PIU St. Eval 1720/16).

Flushing.)
Zeebrugge.)
Ostend.)
Blankenberg.)
Nieuport.)
Dunkirk.)

R/C at 1300/16.
(PRU. Benson 1905/16).

Unknown Ship.

TRIDENT's 0805/14 (Unknown Ship in 50° N. 6° W. at 0648/14).
TRIDENT now reports vessel was not LA MOQUEUSE but resembled KOENIGIN LOUISE class, and disappeared on southerly course. KOENIGIN LOUISE is known to be a minelayer.
(D.D.I.C. 1940/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoys.

<p>Tyne.</p> <p>F.S. 88.</p> <p>H.X. 102. H.X. 103 S.C. 19.</p> <p>H.X. 98 B.M. } H.X. 100. }</p> <p>F.S.88.</p> <p>W.N. 69.</p> <p>O.G. 50.</p> <p>W.N. 72.</p> <p>O.B.M. 275.</p> <p>S.C. 18.</p>	<p>Positions (D.T.D. 1151/16 to C in C.H.F)</p> <p>Your 1737/15. (Ships to move under own power) Approved. (D.T.D. 0051/16 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).</p> <p>Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0217/16).</p> <p>Your 1550/15. Commodores instructed. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0928/16).</p> <p>Estimate H X 98 B.M. will be about 18 miles astern of H.X. 100 B.M. at rendezvous. Convoys are to be joined up. (C. in C. W.A. 0951/16 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN).</p> <p>25 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0956/16).</p> <p>My 0302. Any ships for Humber which are still with F.S. Convoy 88 should be detached to proceed to Tyne independently. (C. in C. Rosyth 1009/16 to FLEETWOOD, GARTH).</p> <p>000 Degs Dunnet Head 3 at 1145. (A.C.O.S. 1054/16).</p> <p>Sailed DEPTFORD escorting O.G. 50. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1110/16).</p> <p>Sailed H.M.T. Trawlers INDIAN STAR and SOUTHERN GEM E.T.A. Campbeltown 1630/16 INDIAN STAR for W.N. 72. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1120/16).</p> <p>1740/17 H.M.T's DERBY COUNTY, YORK CITY 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1130/16).</p> <p>To avoid U Boat in 56° 30'. 12° 00'W. S.C. 18 alter course forthwith to pass through 55° 50'N. 09° 00'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1143/16 to WELLINGTON WESTCOTT, CANDYTUFT, HONEYSUCKLE, CRISPIN).</p>
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/Movements.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Movements to 1200/17.

F.N. 85 due Sheringham Buoy 0800.

F.N. 86 Sails Southend 0930/17

F.S. 87 Due Southend 1600/16

F.S. 88 Due Sheringham Buoy 2200/16.

F.S. 89 Due Flamboro Hd 0330/17

(C. in C. Nore 1200/16).

- W.N. 69. Scapa departure 0915 FOWEY and 1100 CURACOA for escort of convoy W.N. 69. (A.C.O.S. 1214/16).
- F.S. 87. Convoy F.S. 87 reported in Oaze Deep. 29 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1310/16).
- F.N. 85. Sailed 1140/16 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1412/16).
- E.N. 57. Passed Buchan Ness at 1415 speed being made good 5 1/2 knots. (STELLA POLARIS 1415/16)†
- F.S. 89. Sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1508/16).
- W.N. 69. Following message repeated to Admiralty C. in C. W.A. Air Min. (for information) E.T.A. of W.N. 69 at Kinnaird Head 1900 speed of advance 6 1/2 knots. (FOXTROT, 1525/16).
- W.N. 69.
E.N. 57.
F.S. 89.
F.N. 83. Movements to-night 16/17. 19th M.S Group sweeping ahead of W.N. 69 to Cruden Scuars. expected time of arrival 2000 then returning Peterhead. CURACOA leaves W.N. 69 at dark and return to Scapa. Convoys. W.N. 69 estimated off Kinnaird Head 2300. E.N. 57 Kinnaird Head 1730. F.S. 89 Whitby 2100. F.N. 83 May Island 2200. (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/16).
- W.N. 69. My 1530 convoy W.N. 69 amend time off Kinnaird Head to 1900. (C. in C. Rosyth 1714/16).

/O.G.O 50.....

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Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

- O.G.O. 50. 0730/17/1. Escort H.M.T. ST. ZENO
3 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/16).

- O.G. 50. OG 50 sailed 1522/16 5 ships 7½
knots.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1616/16).

- F.N. 85. 7 ships and 8 trawlers from Humber
joining at Outer Dowsing all for
North of Blyth except two ships.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1716/16).

- W.N. 69.(0). All ships except EBRO and GIRONDE
W.N. 70. rendezvoused and proceeded with
WN 70. EBRO and GIRONDE returned
OBan.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1745/16)

- F.N. 83. Tyne ships arrived. Non arrival
FAXFLEET.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1747/16).

- H.X. 102. H.X. 102 meet (C. in C. W.A.
to Capt (D) Liverpool for Ships of
7th Escort Group concerned 1809/16).

- S.L. 61. S.L. 61 meet.
(C. in C. W.A. 1821/16 to VETERAN,
BEVERLEY, WOLVERINE, ERICA, CAMELLIA,
ARBUTUS, DELPHINIUM).

- F.S. 87. All ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1828/16).

- S.L. 61 LINCOLN, LEAMINGTON, WATCHMAN will
be required to sail immediately
after refuelling to meet SL 61.
(C. in C. W.A. 1945/16).

- E.N. 58. (A) 2230/17. (B) H.M.T. SPURS,
PAYNTER, STELLA PEGASI. Additional
escort HASTINGS. (C) 23 ships (18
overseas). (E) Code Words:-
E.N. 58 ~~M I S S I O N~~. "mission".
E.N.L. Portion ~~M O N I T O R~~. "monitor".
E.N.O. Portion ~~M I X T U R E~~. "mixture".
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2015/16).

- F.N. 83. Arrived 2125/16.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2205/16).

/W.N. 69.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

W.N. 69.

Scapa arrival 2345/16 CURACOA
from escorting convoy W.N. 69.
(A.C.O.S. 2355/16).

Sailings
from Iceland.

Routes given to all Merchant ships
sailed independently from Iceland
should be reported to Admiralty in
ample time before sailing.
(D.T.D. 1359/16).

O.B. 274.
Kite-Flying.

Report how many ships in O.B. 274
were supplied kites.
(C. in C. W.A. 2019/16 to N.C.S.O's
Liverpool, Belfast, Clyde, Milford
Haven, Oban.).

Pass to Commodore and escorts.
The attention of Commodore is called
to importance of all Merchant Ships
so fitted flying their kites during
daylight hours when in danger zone.
(C. in C. W.A. 2025/16 to BEVERLEY,
DEPTFORD, WELLINGTON, AMBUSCADE,
LA MALOUINE).

In view of the attacks being made
on shipping by enemy aircraft request
that N.C.S.O's at home and overseas
may be directed to again impress
on Commodores and Masters the
necessity for flying kites by day
when in the danger zone. It is also
recommended that during daylight
hours the distance apart may be
reduced to 5 cables.
(C. in C. W.A. 2043/16 to Admty).

In future the number of ships fitted
with kites is to be reported in each
convoy sailing telegram.
(C. in C. W.A. 2051/16 to N.C.S.O's).

AGNETE MAERSK
(Danish).

My 0108/15. AGNETE MAERSK is to be
brought into Belfast and the ship
seized.
(D.T.D. 1928/16 to C. in C. W.A).

AGNETE MAERSK is to be brought into
Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A. 2231/16 to CLARKIA).

/Routes.....

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War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Routes.
Westbound
Shipping.

Cancel my 1345/12/11 and amendment 1300/28/12 and substitute to take effect from 1st February. Westbound shipping is to be routed outside a prohibited area enclosed by lines joining the following positions:-

A. 42.50 N. 62.20 W.

B. 44.30 N. 62.00 W.

Y. 43.00 N. 50.00 W.

Z. 40.00 N. 50.00 W.

NCSI. 68 should be amended accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1933/16).

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War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NEMEA.

(Greek, 5101 Tons) Sinking rapidly in about 52° 33'N. 24° 13'W. (Lands End Radio 0952/16) Investigate if fuel permits.
(C. in C. W.A. 1105/16 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER).

BRITISH YEOMAN.
D/G Range.

S.S. BRITISH YEOMAN has been in collision with Solent Buoy. Buoy has disappeared presumed sunk. Deep D/G range out of action pending replacement of buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1712/16)

TADORNA.

TADORNA (Boom Carrier) badly damaged alongside Princess Pier by Norwegian ~~TANKER~~ SKARASS.
(P.S.T.O. Clyde 1730/16).

EL ALECTO
RAMSAY
BRITISH DOMINION.
PORT TOWNSVILLE.

See A. & W.I.

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General-Enemy Raiders

North Atlantic

My 2205/9. No fresh information.

South Atlantic

D/F indications on 16/1. Raider was between St. Helena and Equator.

Indian Ocean

D/F indications that one unit, possibly a supply ship or prize was South East of Durban on 15/1. This vessel may have made false message during December to distract attention while Raider was resting at Kerguelen, where a D/F was obtained on 12/1. Raider probably about to resume operations.

Pacific

No fresh information.

(D.D.I.C., 1756/16 to C. in C's etc.)

Operations Against Vichy French

SAN FRANCISCO
Repatriations

1735/14 from N.A., Madrid. All French Seamen Service personnel and civilians of military age ex French Ships at Gibraltar should be asked individually whether they wish to join de Gaulle. All who refuse should be embarked in SAN FRANCISCO (2) Any Danes unwilling to serve should also be embarked. (3) Your 1240/15 Ship should have accommodation for at least 1000 repeat 1000 persons, for short voyage. (Head of M., 1206/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SALLY MAERSK
OCTANE
SUROIT
CHANTILLY

Your 1149/13. (1) SALLY MAERSK. Twenty out of twenty two of crew including sixteen Danes two (Lapps?) and two Norwegians Volunteers. Claims approx. £3,652. Crew will then be complete. (2) OCTANE and SUROIT. No volunteers. Crew required as follows:- (List) (3) CHANTILLY. No indication of volunteers can be made until strongly pro-Vichy elements are removed in SAN FRANCISCO when further signal will be made. (F.O.C.N.A. 1250/16 to Admty.)

/Brazilian....

War Diary16.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy French-Contd.Brazilian Coast
50 mile Limit

Your 0108/22/12 ASTURIAS requests confirmation that interception is not to take place within 50 miles of Brazilian Coast. I have confirmed this but feel difficulty may be whether 50 miles is to be taken literally in all directions or at right angles to coastline. I presume in this case in all directions is correct and has no relation to extension of territorial waters. (C. in C., S.A., 0041/16 to Admty.)

Brazilian Coast
50 mile Limit
Cancelled

Your 0041/16 January. Admiralty 0108/22/12 Not to ASTURIAS, cancel 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast. French meat ships may be intercepted anywhere outside territorial waters except west of the line Cape Santa Maria-San Antonio. (A.C.N.S., (F) 2302/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

North AtlanticOTUS
Azores Patrol

OTUS leaves Gibraltar 1830/17 for Azores Patrol, proceeding on surface (route) Date of leaving patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204/16 to Admty.)

OLYMPUS
OTUS

Position of submarines at 0800/17 and movements for the following 24 hours:-
(a) OLYMPUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) See F.O.C.N.A., 1204/16.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1208/16 to N.A. Station)

CARMEN
ESTELLA

Spanish, re Navicerts. (Conband, Gibraltar 1445/16 to Admty.)

Ponta Delgada
Activity,
TRIDENT

TRIDENT reports considerable unexpected Merchant Ship arrivals at Ponta Delgada TRIDENT's 0805/14, ship was not LA MOQUEUSE Silhouette resembled KOENIGIN LOUISE Class and disappeared on a southerly course. (V.A.S. 1559/16 to Admty.)

/Whaler Bombed.

War Diary16.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.Whaler
Bombed

Unknown warship British reported armed Whaler in position 041° 05' N., 012° W., at 1225. (Capt. (S) 8 S.F. 1604/16 to OSIRIS)

Air
Report

Daily summary operations. One routine A/S patrol. One surface recco. East. Area covered Spartel to 4° W., Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group, 1730/16)

URSULA
Operation L.A.

Gibraltar 16/1 1815 URSULA in accordance with F.O.C.N.A., 1820/15 (S.O.I., Gib., 1820/16 to Admty., etc.)

FORESIGHT

Intend sailing FORESIGHT for Gibraltar via south of Ireland at 1600/17 speed 20 knots. Request routing instructions from C. in C., W.A., (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 2129/16 to Admty., etc.)

ST. HELOISE
German S/M
Escort

? ST. LOUISE
(see p. 608)

Reported ST HELOISE flying no flag believed former ship TANIAERK with cargo of vegetable fabric and cork left for Bordeaux this morning. Two German S/M's will meet ship off South of Spain and escort. Reliability of report unassessed. (F.O.C.N.A., 2209/16 to S. and A, North Atlantic.)

ARK ROYAL
Bombs

Reply to Admty. 1801/15. (S.O. Force H., 2255/16)

South AtlanticCable
Repairs

Consul-General Brazzaville telegram dated 10/1 referring to repairs and alterations to cables in A.E.F's repeated to you in my 0835/16. These proposals are the same as those detailed in my telegram 2113/7/12. Cable ship referred to is presumably Mobile mooring lighter DAYSPRING. Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER now at Bathurst might be made available. (C. in C., S.A., 0825N/16 to Admty.)

/Following.....

War Diary16.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth AtlanticCable
Repairs-Contd.

191. Following is repetition of Consul General Brazzaville's 10/1:- Re Governor's L.8 of 3/1 to Consul-General Brazzaville High Commissioner is most anxious to improve cable communications along coast and understands a British Cable Ship is now at Libreville undertaking refloating of BOUGAINVILLE. He asks if advantage could be taken of this ship to repair old cable between Pointe Noire and Port Gentil and between Port Gentil and Libreville. Cable between Libreville and Cotonou which is also broken could be used to connect Libreville and Lagos and cable from Duala to Cotonou which is sealed at Duala could be used to connect Duala and Lagos. High Commissioner understands that Admiral Cunningham made recommendation to above effect in report dated 10/12 (Ends) (C. in C., S.A., 0835N/16 to Admty.)

German Unit

D/F bearings indicate presence of a German surface unit within 100 miles of position 025° N., 030° W., probability 70% (C. in C., S.A., 1026/16 to PRETORIA CASTLE and S.L.S. 62)

D/F bearings from Simonstown and Ascension on 5600 kc/s at 0130/16 indicate a vessel under German control within 150 miles of 55° S., 35° E., Reliability 60%. (C. in C., S.A., 1651N/16 to Admty.)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Departures 0900/16 FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, ISIS, and ENCOUNTER in accordance with C. in C., S.A. 1815N/15 (S.O.I. Freetown 1045N/16)

Italian
Air Liner
(See 15/1)

Air France Manager has informed me Italian Aeroplane which left here yesterday for Europe sent out S.O.S. at 1220 G.M.T. yesterday Wednesday, no communication after this. (Vice Consul, Natal, Norte. 1050/15 ? 16 to Admty.)

/Southbound.....

War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Southbound ship crossing 20° N., for Plate. AINDERBY 8½ knots Approximate Noon position 17/1 19° N., 26° W., (Route) (D.T.D., 1123/16 to S.A. Station)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

Your 1154/11. Request details of Naval Draft for Freetown in EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA may be signalled. (C. in C., S.A., 1230N/16 to Admty.)

MOUNT LYCABETTUS

Your 0840/15. Admty. information is that MOUNT LYCABETTUS should be at Norfolk, Virginia. (D.D.I.C., 1614/16 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

Your 0840/15. No vessel named LYCABETTUS in Lloyds Register. MOUNT LYCABETTUS 4292 gross tons Greek Flag under charter to Swiss Government sailed from Norfolk (Virginia) for Madeira and Savona 6/11, but put back 9/11. Owners state vessel still at Norfolk. (D.T.D., 1648/16 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

ENTERPRISE
Missing Signal

My 1841/11. (Most secret signal 1759/10 not passed to ENTERPRISE) After investigation Cables & Wireless Ltd., have expressed regret that message was mislaid between Freetown and Ascension due to an operating error. (C. in C., S.A. 1620/16 to Admty.)

FEARLESS
FORESIGHT, etc.

Your 2059/15. It will not be possible for these ships to rejoin W.S. 5 B before arrival Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A., 1732/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

Routeing of
Shipping past
Cape Verde Is.

Your 1923/15. Period not mentioned. When shipping was routed east of Verde Islands, channel at south end of dividing line was narrow and shipping so concentrated by the restricted routes past the Verde Islands that there was little scope for diversion. The general policy when submarines have been in area has been to route as far north and near land as possible for first period of passage and this has been successful. Since traffic has been diverted to west of Verde Islands, outward shipping has been kept to the northward clear of inward traffic. Outward ships are about 2 to 3

/a week.....

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War Diary

16.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Routeing of
Shipping past
Cape Verde Is-
Contd.

a week and a small proportion of total traffic. They could be more widely dispersed earlier with advantage and this will be done. Intend to continue to route to north and close to land as circumstances require during submarine activity though not so much value in this now. (C. in C., S.A., 1919/16 to Admty.)

W.S. 6

Admty. 1642/6. It is intended that CATHAY should provide escort for W.S. 6 (date) For W.S. 8 and subsequent slow convoys, you are requested to detail the A.M.C. escort, which should leave U.K. with the convoy or meet them when the A/S escort leaves, as convenient. (D.O.D. (F) 1852/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 8

EUMAEUS

C. in C., S.A., 1905/16. See U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy
W.S. 5 A

My 1954/30/12. Please advise bunkers lifted and total quantity on board at sailing Freetown. (D. of S.T., 2112/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

"Shrapnel"

Chiefs of Staff have decided that Force "Shrapnel" should return to U.K. as soon -as possible. Further signal will be made regarding escort arrangements and disposal of stores in SS SHETLAND, (1st S.L. 2201/16 to C. in C., S.A., G.O.C. W. Africa)

Aircraft at
Freetown

S.N.O. Simonstown's 1108/12 (re extended air reconnaissance in view of possible movement of raiders from Atlantic to Indian Ocean) is being passed to Admty. I agree with the requirements. Aircraft with greater radius of action are also required at Freetown as has been pointed out. (C. in C., S.A., 2219/16)

/Sunderlands...

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16.1.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Sunderlands
for A/S Patrol

(A) 3 Sunderlands are leaving U.K. for Freetown via Gibraltar and Bathurst shortly. They will operate under the direction of C. in C., South Atlantic and are to be used for A/S work only. You are to report if Sunderlands are not fully occupied in A/S work in which case one or more will be returned to Western Approaches, where they are urgently required.

(b) Bathurst should be used when required as an advance fuelling base, with Freetown as main base, where it is requested you will arrange for a small combined headquarters to be established.

(A.C.N.S(F) 2303/16 to C. in C., S.A.)

Mediterranean

Catania
Bombed

Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. As results of reconnaissance 15/1 9 Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome night 15/1 and 16/1. Total weight of bombs dropped 30750 lbs G.P. and 3600 lbs incendiaries. (Details of damage) Exchange of compliments occurred in that about 12 enemy aircraft operated against Malta from Catania during period of our first attack. All Wellingtons returned undamaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0745/16)

Operation
"Monsoon"

M03422/41

22 Convoy 1 Blenheim 6 "Monsoon" Hurricanes arrived 15/1. Please inform Admty. FURIOUS. (H.Q., R.A.F, M.E., 1019/16 to Air Ministry)

BULLFINCH

A.M. 1356/8/12/40. Departure of Cable Ship BULLFINCH has been delayed. She is unlikely to arrive in the Mediterranean before end of March. (D.A/S.W., 1110/16 to C. in C., Med.)

/Air Report....

War Diary16.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Air Report

Operational Summary No 220 up to 1200 hours 16/1.

Derna.

1. Egypt. Day 14/1. Hurricanes machine gunned Derna aerodrome and are reported to have destroyed 5 and damaged further Italian aircraft there confirmation of this result is awaited.

Benghazi

Night 14/15. 5 Wellingtons dropped 1400 lbs. of bombs on Benghazi. On return journey

Benina

1 Wellington machine gunned Benina aerodrome from 250 feet destroying 2 aircraft on ground and damaging others, all aircraft returned safely. A 6th Wellington crashed at Fuka on outward journey and was destroyed by fire but the crew were uninjured.

Tobruk

Day 15/1, no bombing operations. Blenheim reconnaissance reported 4 ships of 6000 tons and 10 smaller ships in Benghazi harbour but no shipping at sea between Ageila and Tobruk.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1221/16)

BARHAMEAGLE

BARHAM, EAGLE+ and attendant destroyers left Suda Bay 1100 today via searched Kithera Channel passing through 035° 00' 022° 30' then 135° for 50 miles thence direct to Alexandria. (Capt. S. I. 1423/16 to TETRARCH)

Malta,
Air Report

I. 37 16/1. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 16/1 all times G.M.T. reccos Catania to examine damage by Wellingtons Operations reported in my I 36 16/1. Unaccomplished owing to engine trouble. 0550 to 0950 phot recco Taranto. Raids night 15th/16th Jan, 2 raids between 1830 to 2230. Bombs dropped in sea and some on land without damage or casualties.

/1255.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air
Report.
(contd).

1255 to 1415 several formations which concentrated in to 2 waves of dive bombing attacks carried out by approx. 70 aircraft attacked Grand Harbour dive bombing to very low height attack very determined and intense. First wave consisted of 88's escorted by C.R. 42's second wave J.U. 87's. Target evidently ILLUSTRIOUS 1 hit and ESSEX 1 hit PERTH near miss. 5 Fulmars and 4 Hurricanes up. Present reports indicate 5 certain 5 damaged by fighters and 5 certain and 1 possible by A.A. This does not include claims which may be made by Bofors at dockyard reports not yet available will be reported later. No damage to R.A.F. property or personnel. No military damage or casualties. Naval casualties. Heavy civilian damage. 1505 to 1530 small formation of enemy aircraft passed over Island. 5 Hurricanes and 5 Fulmars up bomb reported dropped near R.D.F. station rendering it temporarily unserviceable. Damage already repaired. (H.Q. Malta 1800/16).

Movements.
Summary.

Movements Summary No. 185. Eastern Mediterranean. Submarines TETRARCH and PARTHIAN left Piraeus p.m. 15. and 16/1 respectively due Alexandria 19 and 20/1 passing through anti Kithera Channel and position 035° 00'N. 025° 00'E. RORQUAL left Alexandria 1400/14 due Malta dawn 19/1 passing through position 032° 50' N. 026 43'E. 033 27'N. 022 10' E. 035° 18'N. 015° 19'E. UNIQUE left Malta 16/1 for Tripoli or Cape Misurata Patrol. REGENT to leave Eastern limits Cape Misurata Patrol 1800/17 and arrive Alexandria .

/Cruisers.....

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War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements.
Summary.
(Contd).

Cruisers, Destroyers. YORK with 4 destroyers covering A.N. 12 in Kaso Straits. CALCUTTA with 5 Greek Destroyers escorting A.N. 12 in position $034^{\circ} 10' N$. $028^{\circ} 15' E$. at 1800/16 speed 7 knots A.S. 11 and 2 Corvettes in position $033^{\circ} 16' N$. $027^{\circ} 58' E$. at 1800 16th speed 7 knots for Port Said passing through position $032^{\circ} 20' N$. $030^{\circ} 55' E$. Force X due Alexandria 2359/17 from Suda Bay. ORION, BONAVENTURE, VENDETTA, arrived Alexandria 1100/15. 2 Corvettes with 2 Merchant Ships leave Port Said p.m./16 for Alexandria. PERTH to leave Malta dusk 17th for Suda Bay. GREYHOUND and 2 Destroyers to leave Alexandria a.m./17 for Piraeus.
T.O.O. 1757/16.
(C. in C. Med 1812/16 to Med Fleet).

Air Raids
Malta.

Very heavy raids on Dockyard. ESSEX badly damaged. ILLUSTRIOUS hit aft damage not serious. Fires now out. PERTH near missed. Consider it essential to sail PERTH as soon as possible 24 knots.
(V.A. Malta 1821/16 to C. in C. Med).

BSK.

Indicate position course and speed UNIQUE left Malta 1715 A/16 through $033^{\circ} 35' 013^{\circ} 50'$ to South Westwards.
(S.O. Subs Malta Force 1939/16 to USK).

RORQUAL.
UPRIGHT.

Capt S. (I)'s 0919/14 Proceed through $035^{\circ} 18' 014^{\circ} 15'$ and $035^{\circ} 32' 014^{\circ} 14'$ to arrive off Grand Harbour 0645 A/19 UPRIGHT routed from $033^{\circ} 35' 013^{\circ} 50'$ direct to $035^{\circ} 38' 014^{\circ} 07'$ to arrive 0700 A same day.
(S.O. Subs, Malta 1955/16 to RORQUAL).

/PERTH.....

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War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

PERTH.

Am sailing PERTH 2200 Z-1 direct to Alexandria and not Suda Bay as Y turret is out of action, starboard inner propeller shaft may be distorted and some oil fuel tanks leaking. All defects due to very near miss in air raid.
(V.A. Malta, 2053/16 to C. in C. Med).

Following is a repetition of my 2215/16. PERTH sailed from Malta at 2200/16 - One for Alexandria routed through position $034^{\circ} 30' 015^{\circ} 00'$ and $034^{\circ} 35' 023^{\circ} 00'$.
(V.A. Malta 2223/16 to RORQUAL).

East Indies.

Convoy
B.S. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Arrival 15/1 1800Z SYDNEY with EMPRESS OF CANADA, 2000Z CALEDON, HINDUSTAN, FLAMINGO, with Aden portion of B.S. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$. 16/1 0200Z KIMBERLEY.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0300/16 to Admty etc).

S.W.4B.

Departure 16/1 0500Z SYDNEY and KIMBERLEY with EMPRESS OF CANADA to rejoin S.W.4B.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0501Z/16).

HECTOR.

HECTOR is to proceed now to patrol between 005° N. 080° E. and 007° N. 085° E. and is to leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0300Z/19.
(C. in C. E.I. 0514Z/16 to HECTOR).

TAUBATE.

Overdue shipping. Brazilian Ship TAUBATE Due Aden 12/1 not arrived. Admty. 1042/11/12 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0620Z/16). *Cancelled (P. 58)*

COCKCHAFFER.

Your 0950/15. Take no official action until further orders.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0700Z/16 to N.O.I.C Basra).

/INTREPIDO.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941
Thursday. 547

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

INTREPIDO.
fuel.

Durban Agent states s.s. INTREPIDO put into Mombasa for fuel. Master asks for Customs to be authorised to supply. As practically whole of cargo is consignment to Anglo Iranian there appears to be no objection from contraband point of view.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0855B/16 to C. in C. E.I.).

Japanese
Ships carrying
mails. Action
to be taken.

(i) Suspicion exists that Japanese ships proceeding to Iranian ports carry mail which might give evidence of contraband activity. Khor Kuwai patrol (a) to intercept and board next ship. (b) make it clear to Master that interception is a measure of contraband control. (c) Make a limited search for contraband to give colour to above assertion (d) Obtain copy of manifest if possible and send to M.E.W. by quickest route. (e) Explain to Master that as mails cannot be properly examined at sea (f) Remove all mails and allow ship to proceed (g) Send mails to Karachi by next (?favourable) opportunity.
(C. in C. E.I. 1110/16 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 220 up to 1200 hours 16/1.

4. Kenya. 14/1 and 15/1 S.A.A.F. made 1 patrol Mombasa. R.C. etc.

Search for U.B.

5. Palestine 15/11 Lysander searched unsuccessfully for a submarine reported off coast south of Jaffa. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1225/16).

Convoy
B.N. 12½.

Arrived Suez p.m. /15 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1237/16).

Troop movements
U.S.9, escort.

C. in C. E.I. 1452Z/16. See Operations Volume.

RANCHI.

Orders (C. in C. E.I. 1456Z/16).

/Aircraft.....

16.1.1941⁵⁴⁸
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Aircraft
Range.

Re range of aircraft operated by Japanese and probable scale of attack, Calcutta, etc. (AirMinistry to A.H.Q, India 2500/16).

Force T.

Re. 0229/31/12 and Adty 1749/12.
(i) Request Force T may be sailed as soon as possible after completion of refitting work to patrol as arranged by Senior Officer in area bounded by positions A 025° S. 040° E. B. 030° S. 035° E. C. 030° S. 045° E.
(ii) Intend Force T. shall refuel Durban the day after W.S. 5A. has sailed. Request (?date of sailing from) Simonstown may be adjusted so as to arrive at Durban with not less than 25% fuel remaining and that I may be informed.
(C. in C. E.I. 1450Z/16 to C. in C. S.A.).

Air Operations.

0435 to 0635. 900 lbs bombs dropped in low level attack on lorry near Berbera and gun emplacement Zeilah scoring near misses on former and direct hit on latter.
(Air H.Q. Aden 2002/16).

China.

Indo-China
Trade.

Pass to F.O. Jouan confirms decision of Armistice Commission as reported in Haiphong's Telegram 16 to F.O. British Ships may be used until these Norwegian ships are available and that 3 Norwegian ships may carry on an unlimited number of voyages. Norwegian ships were selected by name by Armistice commission. Decision is not unexpected and in view of commercial and political advantages of arriving at Agreement intend to negotiate on this basis. It is possible some further concession may be obtainable but full reciprocity seems out of the question. Governor Straits Settlements concurs.
(C. in C. China 0917Z/16 to Admtty).

/My.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

My 0917/16. Following are approximate latitudes and longitudes of places mentioned.
(C. in C. China 1030Z/16).

Following from Foreign Office. My 1946/14 Part I para. 2c last three words. For "to those territories" substitute "to British or Allied Territories".
(D.T.D.1228/16 to C. in C. China, Govr. Straits settlements.).

Aerodromes.

Air Ministry 1040/10 (C.O.S. No. 39 Comments on Far East Defence conference Proposals for aerodromes) Paragraph 6 last sentence. Detailed arrangements as in Adty 1150/7.
(D.N.A.D. 1801/16 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

Use of
W/T by
Shipping.

Your 0908/24. Norwegian Shipping Mission have re-emphasised instructions to their New York Office that even in coastwise trade charterers should not give Norwegian vessels instructions by W/T and that ships must not reply. Any further such instances should be reported.
(D.T.D. 0050/16 to S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica.).

EL-ALETO.
RAMSAY.
BRITISH DOMINION.

British El-ALETO returned from B.H.X. 101 for engine repairs. British RAMSAY and British Ship BRITISH DOMINION returned from B.H.X. 102 both with heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0934/16 to Admty).

PORT TOWNSVILLE.

My 1010/14. No apparent damage, ship refloated by own power. Sailed Clyde due 29/1. In view of importance and urgency of cargo no formal inquiry held at Marine Board.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1100/16 to Admty).

/Rumour.....

16.1.1941. ⁵⁵⁰
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd)

Rumour
of German
attack on
Tunisia.

From Navy Department. Germany and Italy are intending to terminate armistice with France and attack Tunisia and France. Plan includes as a first stage operations by German Air Forces from Sicily in conjunction with Italian Fleet to attack Bizerta and other ports in Tunisia with object of forming bridge heads for follow-on troops. Operations to commence between 20/1 and 23/1, (N.A. Washington 1105/16).

N.I.D. Comment.

There have been several reports of German troops and mechanised units in Sicily.

2. At present the number of German aircraft does not indicate that an attack on Tunisia is imminent.

3. Unlikely Germans will entrust the protection of their troops to the Italian Air Force.

4. The indications are therefore against an attack as early as 20-23rd January but the advantages to the Axis of the occupation of Tunisia may well invite such action before long.

5. This question will be considered by the J.I.C.

DUCHESS OF YORK.
ORONTES.

My 1242/15, request early reply as considerable doubt expressed by Ministry of Shipping Representatives regarding accommodation DUCHESS OF YORK and ORONTES. Could a fourth ship be made available? (N.S.H.Q. 1201/16 to Admty).

ASSINIBOINE.
RESTIGOUCHE.
COLUMBIA.
ST. FRANCIS.
NEWMARKET.

Sailed Halifax 15/1 via St. John's Nfld. where RICHMOND will join company for U.K. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1702/16).

COMORIN.
VOLTAIRE.

F.O.C.N.P. 1250/15 and Admty 1012/11. Would it be possible to release COMORIN or VOLTAIRE to C. in C.S.A. before arrival of A.M.C's from Northern Patrol as CATHAY whom C in C.S.A. was expecting at Freetown (date) is now required to escort a troop convoy from U.K. to Capetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1855/16 to F.O.C. 3 B.S).

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S. 9.

Your 1242/8 U.S. 9 will sail as suggested in para. (ii) and (iii) Australian and New Zealand requirements for U.S. 10. (A.C.N.B. 1137Z/16 to D. of S.T).

NARVIK.
(raider).

My 2000Z/29/12. Further amendments and additional description of NARVIK. (A.C.N.B. 1200Z/16 1230/16).

ACHILLES.
Honolulu.

Your 0259Z/10. U.S.N. Authorities have no objection to visit of ACHILLES to Honolulu but they draw attention to U.S. Neutrality regulations under which belligerent warships may not stay more than 24 hours in U.S. waters except in case of stress of weather or delay in receiving supplies or repairs. (Hd. of M. 1714/16 to N.Z.N.B).

Visit
Abandoned.

Your 1714/16. In view of uncertainty in obtaining U.S.A. Government permission ACHILLES parted company with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at 1700/14 and is returning to Suva. (N.Z.N.B. 2345Z/16 to Admty).

SAGAMI MARU
believed raider
supplies.

Following received from Naval and Army Intelligence Honolulu (Begins) SAGAMI MARU through Honolulu about 21/12/40 carried shipment of 6-inch shells antiaircraft ammunition, machine gun ammunition, detonators and primers all consigned Bolivia believed for transfer to Raider between Hawaii and U.S.A. or U.S.A. and South America (Ends). British Consul Honolulu reported this ship as sailing for Los Angeles. (S.O.I. Wellington 2128Z/16 to Admty etc)

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Attitude of Uruguay Government and decision to notify violation of 300 mile zone under Article 2 of Panama Agreement. (Millington-Drake, Montevideo, 1042/16 and 1126/16 to Foreign Office).
See Also Vichy French.

Apology to Uruguay.

Acting under instructions from S. of S. for Foreign Affairs, H.M. Minster at Montevideo has expressed to Uruguayan Government unreserved apologies of H.M. Govt. for MENDOZA incident.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1247Z/16 to Admty).

Cancellation of 50 mile restriction off the Brazilian Coast for interceptions. (See operations Against Vichy French).

MENDOZA.

At. 1250Z/16 MENDOZA passed Rio Grande Do Sul breakwater two miles keeping close inshore speed of advance 13.5 knots. My 2010Z/15 should read to R.A.S.A.D. repeated C. in C.S.A. (ASTURIAS, 1320Z/16 to R.A.S.A.D).

Rio Grande Do Sul reports vessel believed to be MENDOZA proceeding northward at 0955 local time followed by another vessel.
N.C.S.O. (I) Freetown informed.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1438/16 to Admty).

FORT DE FRANCE.

My 1512/14 FORT DE FRANCE sailed St. Thomas same day, Casablanca 25/1.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1211/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

My 1211/16 S.O.(I) Gibraltar informed.
(S.O.I. Kingston 1612/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

Following from Navy Department from Martinique. FORT DE FRANCE sailed for Marseilles 14/1 via Virgin Islands carrying Bananas.
(N.A. Washington, 1519/16 to Admty).

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KERSTEN MILES.

4971 tons, which arrived Teneriffe 31/12/40 from neighbouring island of Palma, where she had been since 28/10/39 is reported from Teneriffe to be negotiating for provisions more than her own needs. Probable any excess provisions are for Germany or occupied France. (U.S. 499).

HAVELLAND.

At Yokohama. Mitsubishi, Tokyo, reported to be negotiating for purchase of this ship. (D.S. 499).

FORTUNA.

Left Gijonⁿ 12/1 reported destination Bordeaux. Name painted out. (A.N.A. Madrid T.H.I, 1450/16).
(Via Consul, Gijon, T.H.I, 1320/15)

BARENFELS.

7569 S.T. Reported to be in Akers Dock, Oslo, having bomb damage repaired. (Ship was originally believed to have been sunk in Bergen Harbour during an air raid previous to 12/6/1940) (D.S. 500).

ITHAKA.
ARKADIA.

Arrived from Turkey ITHAKA with 3000 tons of iron ore and ARKADIA in ballast in order to coal. (VARNA 1600/16).

TINOS.

TINOS is repainting probably hull grey and funnel black. Impression is that these ships masquerade as Spanish Castillo Class ships and they carry (? some) Spanish crew. (Capt (S) 8 1616/16 to URSULA).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TORRE.

400 tons C. 3 report says left Bar, Yugoslavia on 31/12 and was sunk by gunfire by a S/M. (U.S. 500).

SAN PAOLO.

On 1/1 2 Italian steamers, one of which was SAN PAOLO, stated to be 800 tons, left Bar and both were sunk. (D.S. 500) Comment in D.S.- These may have been the ships recently reported attacked by Greek S/M's.

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

OROPESA.

British 14118 tons (Capetown for Liverpool independently routed on Government charter) (D.S. 499). (D.O.R. 16/1). Following has been read from OROPESA. 56° 30' North 12° West slowly sinking, OROPESA torpedoed. (Portishead Radio, 0230/16).

Submarine Report, 56° 30' North 12° West, Still floating OROPESA torpedoed. (Port Patrick, 0308/16).

Following has been read: 56° 30' N. 11° 46' W. OROPESA torpedoed. (Portishead Radio, 0315/16).

Detach one ship to assistance of OROPESA torpedoed in position 056° 30' N. 012° 00' W. at 0315. (C. in C. W.A. 0341/16 to VETERAN).

Sailed TENACITY, SUPERMAN, and SCHELDE to assistance of S.S. OROPESA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0530/16).

My 0530/16 for SCHELDE read THAMES. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0816/16).

OROPESA not met, search continued. Position 056° 33' N. 011° 42' W by stars. Cloud base 5 thousand feet. (WOLVERINE, 1331/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

My 1529/13/1 (OROPESA search by 5th M.S.F) Search completed. Nothing found. (C. in C. Rosyth 1503/16 to Admt).)

Have searched the area about 056° 30' N. 012° 00' W. particularly to leeward without result. Am now standing to Eastward in hope that OROPESA still proceeding. 72% fuel remaining. 55° 51' N. 11° 45' W. (weather). (WOLVERINE, 2206/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

/NEMEA.....

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.
(contd).

NEMEA.
(unconfirmed
report)

Greek, 5101 tons, torpedoed at 0952/16 approx 520 miles W. of River Shannon. Bound from Barry for Greece via Cape in Convoy O.B. 272 (D.S. 499) No evidence that NEMEA was attacked by a submarine. (D.S. 500) (Sunk by s/m in 52°35'N, 24°13'W. 15/1/41) B.R. 1327.

Unknown Ship.
EMPIRE SCOUT

Gunned probably by U/B 50.58 N., 27.22 W. 267° Fastnet 680' (B.2). (D.S. 500, 504).

ZEALANDIC.

British 10578 tons 58.28 N. 20.43 W. ZEALANDIC torpedoed. (VALENTIA RADIO 2248/16).

SSSS 58.28 N. 20.43 W. ZEALANDIC torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 2249/16).

Following had been made to ZEALANDIC previous to torpedoing:- To G.B.M.S. Area 1. From Admiralty. For ZEALANDIC only. Alter course as soon as possible after position C. to new D 360° 60 miles from old D. (D.T.D. 1347/16).

EUMAEUS.

Your 1304/15/1 EUMAEUS was coming into Freetown to coal. This was not known at Freetown. Ship had 2230 tons on leaving and 1033 tons on 12/1 with 13 days steaming to reach Capetown. Consumption 87 tons per day. Following ships routed to Cape during January have put into Freetown for bunkers. (C. in C. S.A. 1905/16).

S/M's Reported.

0145.

59°-60°N., About 25°W. Very indefinite. (D.S. 499).

0236.

48°-49°N., 27°-29°W. say 900'W. of Ushant, indefinite (D.S. 499).

1208.

56°-57°N. West of 20°W. indefinite position (D.S. 500).

War Diary.

16.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.
(contd).

2044.

53°N. 22°-23°W., say 440'W. of Slyne Head, indefinite position. 9D.S. 500).

1208.

D/F of U/Boat 473 - 3 - 56° 30'N. 24° 00'W. (D.D.I.C. 1208/16).

0952.

Admiralty Message AF position 52° 33'N. 24° 13'W. at 0852/16/1/41 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1304/16).

1730.

Following has been read Addressed Plymouth. Immediate. Suspected submarine sighted 056° 30'N. 032° 45'W. 1630 G.M.T./16. (CLAN MACPHERSON 1722/16).

1730.

Unknown ship reports suspected submarine sighted 056° 30'N. 032° 45'W. at 1630 G.M.T./16. (C. in C. W.A. 2203/16 to SEVERN).

2044.

From Admiralty. Immediate. 442 - 3 - S/M Italian 53.00 N., 22.30 W. 5025. 2044/16. (D.D.I.C. 2135/16)

Estimated U-boat dispositions.

In N.W. Approaches at least one U/B is operating between Rockall and Ireland and Western Isles, others are far out.

German.

1 in 56° 30' N. 12°W. at 0516/16.
1 in 52° 33' N. 24°13'W. at 0952/16.
1 about 48° N. 28°W. at 0236/16.
1 about 48° N. 18°W. bound for Lorient.
1 about 56° 30' N. 24°W. at 1208/16.
1 between 57° N. and 59°N. near 20°W.
1 near 60°N. 25°W.
1 about 49°N. 12°W. outward bound.
1 to southward of Cape Verde Islands.
1 to southwestward of Rosemary Bank.

Italian.

1 in Freetown Area.
4 in or on passage to or from N.W. Approaches. (D.D.I.C. 1416/16).

War Diary17.1.1941.
FridaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsConvoy
H.X. 103

ROYAL SOVEREIGN is escorting homeward bound convoy H.X. 103.

Western Channel
Patrol

KASHMIR and JUPITER last night patrolled in the Western Channel, to cover shipping.

Operation
P.V. One

This operation was ordered for last night.

U-Boat Attacks

SS ALMEDA STAR (14935 tons) was torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches. She carried 177 F.A.A. personnel for Trinidad.

British Air Activity

Wilhelmshaven was heavily attacked last night. Attacks were also made on Emden Rotterdam, Boulogne, Calais and the seaplane base at de Mok.

Coastal Command aircraft bombed a convoy off Ijmuiden this afternoon and hit two ships. A convoy was attacked off Hook of Holland; one ship was hit, an explosion on board resulting. A little later, a minelayer was bombed off the Hook and was seen to be sinking.

ADMIRALThe HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) at Brest was attacked again this evening, but it is not reported that she was hit.

Owing to the weather, patrols over the North Sea were curtailed today, and no patrols were flown in the Channel.

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War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Weymouth and Portland were attacked last night and some damage was done to the shore establishment H.M.S. ATTACK.

ARIGUANI
NORMAN STAR
OPAWA
Damaged

Ocean boarding vessel ARIGUANI, SS NORMAN STAR and SS OPAWA were damaged during an attack on Avonmouth last night.

SS NORTH BROOK, a straggler from S.C. 18 was attacked three times today about 100 miles W.N.W. of Blacksod Bay; no damage is reported. Rescue tug NORMAN was machine gunned and slightly damaged near Cross Sand Light Float. M.L. 110 engaged the plane.

Shipwash Light Vessel was bombed and machine gunned today, but only very minor damage was caused.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected off the coast of Cornwall, Milford Haven and Pembroke,

Mining of
Liverpool

13 mines were detonated in the Liverpool area in the 24 hours ending 1800 today. VISCOUNT detonated two in the entrance to Queen's Channel but no damage has been reported. Corvette RHODODENDRON was mined off Liverpool this morning and was towed into port. M/S Trawler SATA was damaged by a near mine explosion in Liverpool Bay but returned to harbour under her own power.

RHODODENDRON

SATA
Damaged

ATHELDUKE
Mined

The tanker ATHELDUKE (8966 tons) was damaged by a mine in the Bristol Channel this morning and was beached, Normal traffic was resumed in the Bristol Channel ports this morning.

Milford Haven was opened this afternoon until dark. Two mines were detonated.

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War Diary

17.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Cooperation
of Navy with
13th Corps.

During the period 7 to 17 Jan, the Navy carried out the following work in support of the operations of the 13th Corps in the Western Desert. 35,000 prisoners (bringing the total to 54,000) and many tanks were ferried to Alexandria. 500 tons of stores were landed daily at Sollum and the supply of petrol for Hurricanes was maintained. R.E. stores and ammunition were unloaded at Bardia, the harbour has been cleared, A/T baffle laid, and moorings established.

The forces working along the coast, patrolling and covering operations have consisted of TERROR and gunboats, 19th Divn. Australian destroyers, PROTECTOR (netlaying), T.S.M.S. ships and M.A/S B's

The enemy have taken no naval action nor made T.B. attacks, but bombing has been constant, especially at night. Our A.A. fire which was at first ineffective is improving. Damage caused so far has been slight, but speed of unloading has been affected. Shortage of tugs and lighters, at one time serious, is now being remedied by shipping them from Palestine.

Air Attack on
Tobruk

R.A.F. bombed Tobruk last night, causing violent explosions near military H.Q., petrol dumps and underground ammunition stores.

Ships Torpedoed
by PARTHIAN

PARTHIAN reports torpedoing a 7000 ton laden supply ship 7 miles south of Cape Spartivento. It is believed the ship sank. The date of attack is not yet known.

(See on 9/1/41 in Capt. S. 1's 1541/4/3/1941)

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17.1.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider
Situation

C. in C., E.I., today sent suggestions for dealing with the raider situation, including drastic steps to be taken to stop leakage of information, to continue policy of dispersal but routeing shipping so that any focal areas are brought as near as possible to our bases, the use of false messages, and technical suggestions connected with W/T installations.

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SPIREA
NIGELLA.

When ready for sea SPIREA and NIGELLA should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, on completion of which they should joint Western Approaches Escort Force. (D.O.D.H. 1206/17.)

A/C.
attacks
on
S/M's
Proposals.

It has been represented to me that the chances of an aircraft making a successful attack on an enemy submarine would be increased if pilots were allowed to attack irrespective of any recognition signals displayed by the submarine.

2. Consider such action is justifiable in areas where it is known that no Allied submarine is operating.

3. Propose that F.O.S. should promulgate daily to H.Q.C.C. R.A.N.A.S. and A.C.O.S. large areas in which it is known that no British submarine is operating. In these areas, which remain in force for 24 hours, any submarine may be attacked at sight without regard to recognition signals.

4. If approved F.O.S. will inform the Authorities concerned. (F.O.S. 1744/17 to Adty.)

Use of Capital.
Ships against
Invasion.
Meeting to
discuss.

Consequent on recent meeting of Commanders-in-Chief with the Prime Minister, a meeting will be held at Admiralty on 24/1, which will be the first of a series to discuss the employment of capital ships in the North Sea in case of an invasion.

2. It is requested that a Representative of each of the addressees may attend. (1st. S.L. 1745/17.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

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R.N.A.S. Stations
Ground Defences.

Adty. 1328/16. (Crail 1117/17.) (Lee 1140/17.) (Arbroath 1214/17.) (Twatt 1358/17.) (Donibristle 1437/17.) St. Merryn 1529/17.) (Yeovilton 1627/17.) (Worthy Down 1705/17.)

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/17. (D.C.1202/17.)

Carrera Sound)
Boom Defences)

Your 1231/14. Following modifications approved. (A.C.N.S. H. 2128/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

JUPITER.

Sailed from Plymouth 1030/16. (C. in C. W.A. 0149/17.)

KASHMIR.

Arrived Plymouth 1615/16. Sailed 1738/16. (C. in C. W.A. 0149/17.)

CLARKIA
AGNETE MAERSK.

Your 1651/15 and 2231/16. Not met. Patrolled about position from 2315/16. (CLARKIA 0215/17 to C. in C. W.A.) Continue Patrol (C. in C. W.A. 0439/17 to CLARKIA) Your 0909/17. Not met. E.T.A. Londonderry 1400/18 (CLARKIA 1220/17 to C. in C. W.A.) My 0108/15 and 2231/16. AGNETE MAERSK is reported as having sailed. May have gone southabout. If met, she should be directed to Belfast. (D.T.D. 2035/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

ULSTER MONARCH.

Sailed for Inverary, (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1008/17.) Arrived. (V.A.C.T.C.1410/17 to Adty.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1554/17.)

MOOLTAN.

Admiralty 1233/16. Considered MOOLTAN should make the passage between B 3 and No.4 sea reach buoys near high water, and speed in Barrow Deep should not exceed 12 knots. She should arrive Shipwash light vessel at daylight. Propose WHITSHED now working up at Scapa should form escort. Favourable tides occur on 24/1 and following 5 days. (C. in C. Nore 1758/17 to C. in C. Rosyth)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

CIRCASSIA.

My 1022/13. In view of U Boat in about 60° N. 025° W. proceed through 61° N. 27° W. (F.O.C.N.P. 1918/17 to CIRCASSIA.)

Operations.

Enemy Unit
off Lands
End.

U-Boat or Surface Ship was 50 miles West of Lands End by unreliable D/F fix at 2138/16. Investigate. (C. in C. W.A. 0131/17 to KASHMIR.) If nothing sighted by 0900 return to harbour. (C. in C. W.A. 0145/17 to KASHMIR.) Hudson A/C will probably be co-operating with you at daylight. (C. in C.W.A.0727/27 to KASHMIR.)

A/S Sweep by
D. 6.

On parting company carry out A/S search along longitude 025° West, On reaching latitude 058° North proceed Eastwards to pass North of Rockall and then return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 0910/17 to Capt. D.6.)

P.V.1.

Will be carried out from 2000 to 2359 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1105/17.)

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Your 1805/15. Concur. (C. in C. Nore 1109/17 to F.O.I.C. London.)

KELLY.
KIPLING.
JERSEY.

Request you sail today in time to sweep as far as vicinity Scilly Isles. Ships to arrive Plymouth 1030/18. (C. in C. W.A. 1219/17 and 1803/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Ships sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1825/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

/A/S sweep.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

A/S sweep
North of
Rockall.

Request you will sail BEAGLE and BRILLIANT for Scapa when ready.

(ii) BEAGLE and BRILLIANT are to carry out an A/S sweep on passage passing through position $058^{\circ} 16'$ North $013^{\circ} 40'$ West where ALMEDA STAR was torpedoed at 0649/17. (A.C.W.A. 1949/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Gunfire off
Dodman Point.

Reported at 2101. Two M.G.B's sailed from Fowey to investigate. (C. in C. W.A. 2151/17 to KELLY.) M.G.B's ordered to return to Fowey. Nothing to report (C. in C. W.A. 2307/17 to KELLY.)

Submarines.

FORESIGHT.

Your 2129/16. Route to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 0017/17 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Submarines.

S/M Recognition
Signal sighted.

Your 1111/15. State what type of Recognition Signal was seen. (D.S.D. 1225/17 to MANISTEE.)

Greenock
Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1352/17.)

SEALION.

Admty. Letter M/OD 2008/41 of 16/1. Until operation has taken place, and in order not to advertise its advent, intend SEALION be directed not to attack coastal traffic but that enemy submarines, enemy cruisers and (?S/M. depot ships), and large escorted merchant ships may be attacked. On completion of operation I intend SEALION should spend remainder of her patrol off ██████████. (Stalwart 26.) (F.O.S. 1656/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/18. (F.O.S. 1732/17.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Convoy
attacked
off Helder.

At 0810/17 A/C attacked a Convoy of 6 M/V's and 2 Escort Vessels steering South at 10 knots. Near miss on one M/V. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1058/17.)

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Fair"}~~FAIR~~ cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1112/17.)

Fair Island.

N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports Fighters from Sumburgh have shot down a Heinkel 111 or a Dornier 215 on Fair Island. (A.C.O.S. 1150/17.)

Brest.

AP/767/17/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns., attack tonight Cruiser in Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1307/17.)

Lorient.

AP/766/17/1. 217 Sqn. attacks tonight S/M's in Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1305/17.)

Liverpool.
A/A. Defences.

A.L. M024478/40. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2302/16 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portland.

Weymouth and Portland attacked by several A/C. between 2315/16 and 0130/17. 5 H.E. Bombs at Weymouth, 4 on land and 2 in sea at Portland. Extensive structural damage at ATTACK. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0829/17.) (O.C.W. Portland 1630/17 to C.E. in C.)

NORTH BROOK.

(British, 2323 Tons) Bombed and machine-gunned in 54° 50' N. 12° 43' W. (Valentia Radio 0926/17.) A/C seems to have gone away (NORTHBROOK 0926/17 to Adty.) Bombed (Port Patrick Radio 1025/17.) Bombed in 54° 52' N. 12° 26' W. (Portishead Radio 1225/17.)

/Shipwash.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

566

Enemy Air Activity.

Shipwash
Light
Vessel.

Attacked by twin-engined unidentified A/C without nationality marks but with Letter B. Approached from N.W. at 1118 dropped 6 bombs 30 yards off quarter and machine-gunned crew. No casualties. Only damage windows broken. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1343/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

Tug SEAMAN.
attacked
1130/10.
A/C destroyed.

Mo 801/41 Report from SEAMAN with full details. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1500/17 to Adty.)

Avonmouth.

Details of damage by Air Raid last night. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)

ARIGUANI.

(Ocean Boarding Vessel) Damaged at Avonmouth 16/1 by splinters and blast during Air-Raid. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)

OPAWA.

(British, 10,354 Tons) Telemotor and D.G. gear damaged in Air Raid of 16/1 at Avonmouth. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)

NORMAN STAR.

(British, 6817 Tons.) Damaged by splinters and blast in Air Raid at Avonmouth 16/1. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/17.)

ONoba. }
MEANDROS. }

Fear ONOBA sank during night. Have MEANDROS in tow, steering 85° at 3 knots (ARBUTUS 1800/17 to C. in C. W.A.) ERICA arrived with survivors from Dutch Tanker ONOBA. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2018/17.)

NORMAN
M.L.110.

(Rescue Tug) Reports being machine gunned by enemy A/C at 1150 in vicinity Cross Sand Light Float. Slight damage. One man cut by glass. M/L 110 reports engaging this plane, Dornier 215 at same time and place. No results observed. M/L 110 no hit. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1815/17.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

567

Mining.

Liverpool.

Arrived L.L. Whalers STERNA and SULLA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1011/17.) At 0900/17 a Mine detonated 122° 10 cables from Bar Light Vessel by M/S Trawler. Strong probability that a second Mine also exploded at same time. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1716/17.) Mine Report to 1800/17. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2241/17.)

Dover.

Routine Sweeping carried out to 0800/17. (V.A. Dover 1115/17.)

Ice.

My 1359/16. Reached ice-field in 66° 52' N. 24° 22' W. (SCOTT 1149/17 to R.A.M.L.)

S.N.71.

Your 1211/15. R.A.M.L.'s 1603/14 concurred in. In view of Ice reported in RAML. 0948/17, laying of S.N.71 should be deferred and laying proceed in order proposed in R.A.M.L. 1603/14. (C. in C. H.F. 1739/17.)

Bristol Channel.

Mine exploded by ATHELDUKE in 51° 21' N. 3° 20' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1159/17.) Normal traffic may be resumed in Bristol Channel Ports. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1847/17.)

ATHELDUKE.

(British Tanker, 8966 Tons) Damaged by Mine in Bristol Channel. Being beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1159/17.)

A/C. Minelaying.

For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1309/17.)

Milford Haven.

Port open, but will be closed at dark till sweeping completed tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1453/17.) 2 Red Mines detonated by L.L. in 66° 2.4 miles and 83° 6½ cables St. Ann's Head respectively. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1726/17.)

RHODODENDRON.

(Corvette) Mined at 1030/17 near Q.1. Buoy. Engines and steering-gear out of action but making no water. Entering harbour in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

568

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

SATA.

(M/S. Trawler) Damaged by near Mine about 8 cables 120° from Bar Light Vessel. Returned to harbour under own power. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

VISCOUNT.

(Destroyer) Detonated 2 Mines in entrance to Queens Channel. One very near, but no damage so far as is known. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1935/17.)

Enemy Ship.

Enemy Intelligence.

A ship resembling minelayer German escort vessel KÖNIGIN LUISE sighted in 050° N. 06' W at 0648/14. Sweepers have searched this vicinity but have found nothing so far. (C. in C. W.A. 1915/17 to Capt. D.5.)

Gun-flashes off Dartmouth.

Gun flashes reported 120 degrees distant about 12 miles from Dartmouth at 1940. (C. in C. W.A. 2015/17 to Capt. D.5.)

Red Rockets off Berry Head.

Dartmouth reports several red rockets bearing 150 Berry Head 2030. (C. in C. W.A. 2043/17 to KELLY.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

569

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

VANJA.

WINDERMERE escorting Oiler VANJA sailed 1130 G.M.T. for Scapa (route) (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1035Z/17.)

Re ships in convoy supplied with kites.

Your 2019/16. None repetition none. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1120/17.)

K. HAWKSFIELD SKIPJACK.

Southend 17/1 departure for Dover H.M. Trawler FYLDEA escorting S.S. KATHLEEN HAWKSFIELD and SKIPJACK.(N.C.S.O. Thames 1224/17.)

EMPIRE CONFIDENCE.

Departure 17/1 for Curacao EMPIRE CONFIDENCE.(Route)(N.C.S.O.Reykjavik 1224/17.)

A/A guns & Zigzagging.

For N.C.S.O's. 1942/16/11, has now been sufficiently promulgated and is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1639/17)

Kites to be flown in N.W. Approaches.

In view of the attacks being made on shipping by enemy aircraft in the N.W. Approaches, the necessity for flying Kites by day when in the danger zone is to be impressed on Commodores and Masters. (D.T.D. 1651/17.)

Kites.

Your 2019/16 (Re ships in convoy supplied with kites.none.(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1120/17.)

EAGLESCLIFFE HALL.

S.S. EAGLESCLIFFE HALL unable to keep up with Convoy W N 69 put into Stornoway owing to stress of weather.(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1719/17.)

Coastal Convoys. E.N.56.

All 17 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0916/17.)

/F.S.89.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

- F.S.89. 35 ships. (F.O.i/c. Tyne 0946/17.)
- F.N.86. One destroyer of 16th D.F. is to reinforce
Escort. escort of F N 86 as far as Outer Dowsing.
(C. in C. Nore 1024/17 to Capt. D.16.)
- C. in C. Nore 1024 QUORN detailed sailing
1330/17.(Capt. (D) 16. 1120/17.)
- F N 85. S.S.MELROSE ABBEY returned to harbour.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich 1119/17.)
- F N 86. Sail 1330 to rendezvous with F N 86 due
QUORN. Aldeburgh 1700 today Friday and comply
with C. in C. Nore 1024/17.(Capt.D.(16)
1121/17 to QUORN.)
- W N 69. Arrived 1145/17th.(N.C.S.O. Methil
1200/17.)
- F.S F.N. F.S.88 arrives Southend 1530/17.
C.W. F.S.89 due Sheringham 1630/17.
F.N.85 due Flamborough Head 1900/17.
F.N.86 due Aldeburgh 1530/17.
F.S.90 due Flamborough Head 1200/18.
F.N.87 sails Southend 0830/18.
C.W.23 sails Southend 1000/18.
(C. in C. Nore 1200/17.)
- W.N.70. Scapa departure 1133 CURACOA to escort
CURACOA W N 70.(A.C.O.S. 1220/17.) *See next page*
- F.N.86. Additional escort F N 86 and F S 90
F.S.90. QUORN, SHEARWATER. One A/S group cancelled.
- QUORN (F.O.Harwich Force 1242/17 to C. in C.
SHEARWATER. Nore.)
- 4 M.V's Intend to sail Group of four M/Vs escorted
PEARL. by PEARL and CORNELIAN from Needles at
1745 today for Dartmouth E.T.A. 0815/18
CORNELIAN. request lights as follows:(C. in C.
Portsmouth 1337/17.) *See p 572*

/F.N.86.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

<p>→ F.N.86.</p> <p>→ F.S.90.</p> <p>W.N.70. E.N.58. → F.S.90. F.N.85.</p> <p>W.N.70 <u>CURACOA.</u></p> <p>O.B.C. 275.</p> <p>→ F.N.85.</p> <p>O.B.274.</p> <p>→ F.N.85.</p> <p>→ F.S.90.</p> <p>→ F.N.86.</p>	<p>0946/17. 37 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1413/17.)</p> <p>Sailed 1400/17. 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1529/17.)</p> <p>Convoys. W.N.70 estimated passing through Pentland Firth 1800 E N 52 sails Methil 2230. F.S.90. Berwick 2000 F.N.85 Whitby 2100. (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/17.)</p> <p>My 1201. CURACOA is not now joining W.N.70. (CURACOA 1533/17 to PIROUETTE, WESTON.)</p> <p>2315/18 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1547/17.)</p> <p>E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 0700/18. (WOOLSTON 1600/17.)</p> <p>To avoid possible U-boats continue on present course until longitude of dispersal point is reached. (C. in C. W.A. 1605/17.)</p> <p>Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1628/17.)</p> <p>Details. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1708/17.)</p> <p>(Details (N.C.S.O. Thames 1753/17.)</p>
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/O.B.M. 275.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.B.M.
275. 1801/17, H.M.T.'s DERBY COUNTY, YORK CITY five. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1820/17.)

2. M.V.'s. Sailed 2 M/Vs. escorted by PEARL and CORNELIAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1827/17.)
See p 570.

F. S. 88.
CORMORANT. Arrived. Non arrival CORMORANT reported F.S.89. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1832/17.)

W.N.71. Sailed 1847/17. H.M. T.ELLESMERE (S.O.) and SALTARELLA 14 ships.(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1915/17.)

W.N.69.
F.S.90.
E.N.58. Rosyth 17/1. Arrivals. FOWEY, FOXTROT, and RUMBA, with W.N.69. Departures. EGRET, VERDUN, with F.S.90. SPURS, PAYNTER, STELLA PEGASI, and HASTINGS - two latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth, with E.N. 58. (C. in C. Rosyth 2325/17.)

E.N.58. 2230/17, H.M.Ts SPURS, PAYNTER, STELLA PEGASI. Additional escort H.M.S.HASTINGS 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2341/17.)

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.C.50. 2359/16 Sailed O.G.C.50. Details. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0055/17.)

S.L.61.
VETERAN. Passing through following positions to join S.L. 61. (VETERAN 1107/17.)

O.G.O.50. Sailed 0730/17. 3 ships. Escort H.M.T. S.T. ZENO.(N.C.S.O. Oban 1116/17.)

/H.X.104....

17. 1. 41.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys. Contd.

- H.X.104. Advance Sailing Telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax, N.S. 1131/27.)
- H.X.101. Destinations.(D.T.D. 1233/17.).
- H.X.100. Arrived VISCOUNT and GENTIAN escorting
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/17.) (H.X.100.)
- H.X.104.
B.HX.104. Your 1137/16. Report how many ships in
H X 104, and B H X 104 are of 12 knots
speed and over.(D.T.D. 1317/17 to
C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Bermuda.
- H.G.50.
S.L.S.61.
(Combined.) Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram
as amended by Admiralty.(D.T.D. (1338/17.)
- O.G.50. Londonderry departures LA MALOUINE,
SHIKARI, ST. ZENO, LADY ELSA, WELLARD
for O.G.50.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1447/17.)
- O.B.278. My 1507 Ventilation arrangements in
ALSEY not satisfactory, can be improved
if sailing delayed till Tuesday night.
As vessel is crossing equator consider
delay justified and propose to sail her
p.m./Tuesday to join O.B.278. (N.O.IC.
Cardiff, 1835/17, to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X.103. Sailing Telegram gives 13 ships, request
full list. (D.T.D. 1941/17. to C.O.A.C.
Halifax N.S/
- S.C.18.B.M.
DERBY
COUNTY. My 1635/17. S.C.18 B M eight hours late.
Make R.V. to the Northward in daylight.
C. in C. W.A. 2047/17. to DERBY COUNTY.)
- Formation
of ocean
ocean
convoys. Ref. A.M. 2311/9/11/40. During daylight
hours the distance apart of columns
is to be three cables.(D.T.D.1659/17.)

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

574

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAPE PORTLAND.

(A/S Trawler) Reports herself aground on submerged obstruction in 52° 51' N. 1° 46' E. Requests Tug. (WESTMINSTER 0345/17 to C. in C. Nore.) Tug NORMAN being sent. (C. in C. Nore 0449/17.) NORMAN sailed (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0546/17).

SAN ANDRES. *Nonwegian.*

My 1932/31/12. Ship refloated and anchored in Simons Bay. (S.O.I. Monte Video 1905/17.)

MALCOLM.

A/S Detector broken down. E.T.A. Londonderry 0900 (MALCOLM 0456/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

SIRRA.

(M/S Trawler) Rammed and holed above water by s.s. SKARAAS while lying alongside Princes Pier On 16/1. Will probably require docking. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1142/17.)

TADORNA.

(British, 1947 Tons.) Rammed by s.s. SKARAAS on 16/1 while lying at Princes Pier. Badly holed and has been beached off Craigendiran Pier. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1142/17.)

STELLA
POLARIS

(A/S Trawler) Collision with submerged wreck in 58° 5' N 6° 3' W. Damage. (STELLA POLARIS 1157/17.)

NEMEA.

(Greek, 5101 Tons) Can be steamed in if bulkhead is strengthened. (HIGHLANDER 1410/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

WELWYN.

(H.M. Drifter) Arrived in tow with Main Engine defect. Will endeavour to repair locally. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1500/17.)

/BEN GLAS.....

17. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

575

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

BEN GLAS.

(M/S Trawler) My 1245/16. Sailing delayed by fractured main condenser door. Hope complete PM/20.(F.O.I.C. London 1733/17.)

STOKE CITY

(A/S Trawler) Has defective Dynamo. Probable delay 48 hours. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/17.)

MALLARD.

(Sunk 11.7.40)

(British, 352 Tons) Sailed from Newlyn 10/7. Presumed sunk or captured in Channel and crew taken prisoner. One in hospital at Cherbourg on 13/8/40. (D.S.500.)

TOTTENHAM.

Returned from B.H.X.102 with heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1409/17.)

CHARLTON
HALL
LLANOVER

British CHARLTON HALL and British LLANOVER returned from B H X 102 with deck cargoes shifted and heavy weather damage respectively. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1256/16.)

S.S. SUDANI.

Egyptian ship SUDANI reported ashore abandoned 30 miles west of Mersa Matruh. Vessel in ballast.(S.S.T.O. Port Said. 1914/17.)

17.1.41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

576

Operations Against Vichy French.

Policy,
Interception of
Vichy Ships.

Your 1407/10. Following instructions have been issued to South Atlantic Station Begins.

(1) 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 after protest unless the British Force present is overwhelming superior in which case force may be used to compel them to desist from intervention but British Warships are not to fire the first shot. In no case is the French Escorting Warship to be ordered or forcibly brought into port.

(2) If French Warships appear and dispute possession this is to be reported to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty but if no other instructions are received within a reasonable period action is to be taken as in (1) above. (Ends.)

(C.in C. S.A. 1343N/17 to Admty.)

My No.125/(?62) dated 15/11/40 as amended by S.A. Station message No.133G dated 30/12/40. Repetition of instructions to S.A. Station as in 1343N/17.

(C.in C. S.A. 1903N/17 to S.A. Station).

North Atlantic.

PHOEBE
Ammunition

Cancel my 0225/19 (Landing of ammunition from PHOEBE). 20% 5.25 ammunition is to be landed. (D.T.S.D. 0336/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ST. HELIOSE

STE. LOUISE
(see P. 608)

Report ST. HELIOSE believed former ship TANIAERK left Casablanca for Bordeaux yesterday morning. May be escorted by two German U-Boats.

(V.A. (S) 0721/17 to S/Ms Area B.)

Information
of ships
calling at
P. Delgada.

Information regarding merchant ships likely to call at Ponta Delgada is difficult to obtain.

In future in addition to (a) ships known to be calling at Ponta Delgada you will also be informed of (b) ships known to be on passage near Azores who may therefore call at Ponta Delgada.

(Capt. S.(8) 1426/17 to OLYMPUS, OTUS).

DENBIGHSHIRE.

Capetown 5/1 Liverpool. Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1506/17).

H.G.51.
FOLKESTONE

Gibraltar 1500/17. Departure FOLKESTONE escorting H.G.51. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1516/17).

/ Merchant ships likely

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Merchant ships
likely to call
at Ponta Delgada.

(A/S Yacht)
My 1426/17. (A) SURPRISE, due 19/1
(B) Portuguese LUSO left Lisbon 15/1 for
Gloucester New Jersey.
(Capt. (S) 8 1554/17 to OLYMPUS, OTUS).

Estimated position
of submarines.

At 0800/18 and movements following 24
hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/17).

FEARLESS

Gibraltar 2200/17 departure DUNCAN and
FURY for R.V. with FEARLESS.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 2210/17).

Convoy H.G.51
FIREDRAKE

Gibraltar 2315/17 departure FIREDRAKE
for R.V. with H.G.51 during daylight 18/1
parting company dark 20/1.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 2310/17).

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE's
aircraft.

If not interned, aircraft would probably
be able take off A.M./18 and would
endeavour to contact an H.M. Ship if I am
advised that one is in vicinity.
Otherwise I will arrange for British Ship
LYNTON GRANGE close Punta Del Este to take
off crew and, if possible, embark plane.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0104Z/17.)

Your 0104Z/17. No warship likely to be
near. Endeavour to embark aircraft in
LYNTON GRANGE as proposed. If unable to
embark will authorities consent to
aircraft remaining until suitable
opportunity occurs to join warship or
embark in other ship.
(C.in C. S.A. 1417/17 to S.O.(I)
Montevideo).

SELANDIA
RANCHI

SELANDIA sailed and met RANCHI in
accordance with C.in C. E.I. 1926Z/15.
E.T.A. of SELANDIA Mombasa.
(N.O.i/c Durban 0544Z/17).

Arrival of A.M.C's
at Halifax etc.

F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/13 is being passed to
you for information. (Adty. 0556/17 to
C.in C. S.A.)

Convoys
W.S.5B.
S.L.S.63. S.L.63
A/S escorts.

C.in C. S.A. 1201N/17 see Operations
Volume.

/ Troop Transports ...

17.1.1941.
Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Troop Transports.

My 2223/13/1/41 General Smuts is pressing for very early information as to availability of transports as result of further communication from Mr. Churchill. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1216/17).

Southbound Ships crossing 20° N.

Route. (D.T.D. 1132/17).

CORFU

Your 1132/15 (No trace in W.R.) CORFU sails Freetown 17/1 (anticipated date of arrival Calcutta) but this is necessarily a rough estimate as date will depend on weather conditions and how temporary repairs stand up to voyage. (C.in C. S.A. 1133N/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force T.

Propose Force T sails from Simonstown a.m./20 and commences patrol from position B at dawn/23. C.in C. E.I. 1450/16.

2. Force T could then operate for six days in patrol area before reaching 25% fuel remaining.

3. Proposed time of arrival Durban 1000/29. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1303B/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

Raider bearings.

My 1651/16 is cancelled. Request bearings from U.K. on Norddeich frequencies may be forwarded when obtained and as early as possible when those reported from South Atlantic cut in apparently false positions. (C.in C. S.A. 1347/17).

ANJA
KURIKKA

16/1 Finnish ship ANJA sailed for Saint Lucia e.t.a. 27/1. KURIKKA sailed for Petsamo without communicating next Port of Call, suspicious conduct. (N.C.S.O. Bahia 1352/17).

Suspicious light reported by SAGAING.

SAGAING reports when in 32° 45' N. 21° 9' W. at 0333/6/41 sighted white light and for a short time two lights as if from same vessel. Bearing of light remained approximately constant for about half hour in spite of alteration of course. Commodore Elliott suggest this was submarine maintaining touch by sound on R.D.F. and endeavouring to make ship shew navigational lights to facilitate attack. He suggests all ships should be warned not to shew lights and alter away in such circumstances. Consider unlikely that submarine would act with intention as suggested but agree that importance repeat importance of ships not showing navigation lights and altering away when strange lights are sighted should be emphasized. (C.in C. S.A. 1709N/17).

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ROWALLAN CASTLE.

Your 0901B/14. Is ROWALLAN CASTLE instructed to cross circumference of a circle with a radius of 150 miles from Malin Head, at 0600 B.S.T./3/2 vide my 1236/7. Report positions on Ocean route between "I" repetition "I" and 7° West. (D.T.D. 1742/17 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

→ FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Route. Destination. Further employment of FURIOUS (D.O.D.H. 1729/17)
See Operations Volume.

DORSETSHIRE.

Orders. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1749/17)
See Operations Volume.

Transports
KENYA
SOBIESKI

Orders. Escort DUNEDIN. Re DELHI, DRAGON. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1750/17)
See Operations Volume.

Convoy W.S.5B.

Re diversion (A.C.N.S.(F) 1811/17)
See Operations Volume.

S.S. ANDRES

My 1933/31/12. Ship now refloated and anchored in Simons Bay (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1905/17).

Raider bearings.

Following bearings were obtained at 1919/17. (D.D.I.C. 2041/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

→ FURIOUS
route.

Adty. 1729/17 and my 1815/15 amend position (e) to read. Speed to be adjusted to arrive at this position (date). (C.in C. S.A. 2145N/17 to FURIOUS, NEPTUNE).

SHROPSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON

My 1855/12 to DEVONSHIRE only. On relief by SHROPSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown for fuel. DEVONSHIRE is to sail in company with DRAGON A.M./23 covering Western edge of Cape Freetown Trade Route at speed of advance 18 knots for St. Helena. On arrival at St. Helena DEVONSHIRE proceed direct to Freetown at speed of advance 20 knots and DRAGON complete with fuel from LAURELWOOD. Orders for further movements of DRAGON will be issued later. (C.in C. S.A. 2235N/17).

W.S.5B.

Your 1154/11/1. Water requirements can be met provided 6000 tons are not exceeded. Time required approximately 3 days. (C.in C. S.A. 2248/17 to Admty.)

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

PERTH.
movements.

PERTH left Malta 2300/16 for Alexandria (route). (Capt. S.(I) 0231/17).

6 Swordfish
for
Heraklinn

Six Swordfish leaving Malta 0800 G.M.T./17 for Heraklinn weather permitting. T.O.O. 0441/17. (C.O.S. Alexandria 0453/17).

USK, orders.

If submerged surface ?immediately. A/S trawlers will escort you from and of searched channel. (V.A. Malta 0839/17 to USK).

Air Attack on
Malta. 16/1.

Details of damage (V.A. Malta 1021/17) See Mediterranean Volume.

Employment of
Aircraft at
Malta.

Policy. (C.in C. Med. 1325/17 Adty. 1736/17) See Mediterranean Volume.

Re fitting of
H.A. gun in
destroyers.

Your 1535/18/10. In view of increased enemy air potential and offensive in Mediterranean do you now wish destroyers proceeding to join your Command to be fitted with 1 - 4" H.A. gun instead of after tubes. These guns have proved very valuable in Home waters. (D.T.S.D. 1417/17 to C.in C. Med.)

PARTHIAN.
supply ship sunk.

PARTHIAN reports sinking a 7000 ton laden supply ship 7 miles South of Spartevento Cape, Italy, with torpedo. Ship believed sunk. Date of attack not yet (?known). (Capt. S. 1¹/₂ 1501/4/3/41 sunk date as 9/1/41.) (C.in C. Med. 1507/17).

Red Sea Shipping.

Adty. 1406/10. Para. 2 (2) is not clear. If proposal is that ocean going ships should tranship cargo at Suez to feeder service for Alexandria Port Said and Haifa this is quite impracticable. All ports in Egypt are at present fully taxed to berth and clear existing convoys. (C.in C. Med. 1615/17 to Adty.)

Malta Air Report.

X.2970 "I" 39 17/1 Combined services report Malta up to 1700/17. All times G.M.T. Reference my "I" 37 16/1 German aircraft casualties dive bombing attack established as follows. Civilian casualties. 200 houses demolished, 500 damaged. At 1315 hours unidentified enemy aircraft attempted recco over Malta about 15,000 feet in very bad weather and probably saw little. Bad weather prevented any reconnaissance from Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1710/17).

17.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ Convoy
B.N.13. Mos 336/41.

Departures 0015Z CALEDON, SHOREHAM, FLAMINGO, INDUS, PARAMATTA, KIMBERLEY, CRICKET, and Tug PROTECTOR with B N 13. (N.O.i/c Aden 0020/17).

Sailing of
Force T.

My 1457/16 for "as soon as possible" read "as soon as practicable". (C.in C. E.I. 0354Z/17).

S.S. TAUBATE
TALLIMATE. ←

(TAUBATE)
(1) Brazilian ship TALLIMATE left Lourenco Marques December 28th for Aden due January (?10th) but not arrived. Details. (C.in C. E.I. 0640Z/17).

S.S. INTREPIDO
re cargo.

N.O.i/c Durban's 0855/16. Adty.1840/12 refers. (C.in C. E.I. 0650Z/17).

FORMIDABLE.

Re escort. (C.in C. E.I. 0746 Z/17)
See Operations Volume.

→ B.N.13.

Convoy Sailing Telegram B.N.13 0130Z/17 KATIE MOLLER 0430Z, BRATTDAL 0700Z, to overtake convoy. Escorts, CALEDON, KIMBERLEY, INDUS, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, PARAMATTA, CRICKET. (List and cargoes). (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0910Z/17).

Contraband.

S.O.(I) Bombay's 0626/15 passed to you. Place to which goods from Bandar Shahpur are being transferred is in doubt but is being checked. Pass to Arfar. (C.in C. E.I. 1150/17 to Adty.)

TAUBATE ←

Cancel my 0640/16 (re Brazilian Ship TALLBATE). Ship has arrived Aden.

Anti-U-boat
campaign (additional
security to convoys).

A.M. 1641/11 para. 5 B request new night dispositions and tactics be communicated. (C.in C. E.I. 1424Z/17).

Convoy sailing
telegrams.

Cancel My 1847/15 and substitute convoy sailing telegrams should in future be sent as two separate signals. (D.T.D. 1507/17 to C.in C.E.I., C.in C. Med.).

→ B.N.13.

B.N.13 passed Perim 1730Z/17 speed of advance 7.5 knots. Two ships have joined SITOEBONDO, BRATTDAL. ADA or (LCBK) lagging astern. (PARAMATTA 1735Z/17).

/ Air Operations.

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Operations.

A.539 17/1. Daily Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 17/1. Single Blenheim attacks Assab and Diredawa. (Air H.Q. Aden 1742/17).

Reply to request for criticisms of raider situation report.

Your 1951/4 (1) Concur generally with statement.

3. Some of the lessons learnt from actual attack on routes not thick in traffic (?in) a leisurely manner (about eight knots) relying on accurate information from agents, aircraft and being able to D/F re-radiated W/T receivers (b) enemy however is gradually becoming bolder owing to his capture of OLE JACOB and attack on Nauru. (c) having disposed of 1 ship raider has usually remained in same area to catch more (d) armed merchant cruisers are of little value for hunting down and destroying a modern raider due to low speed short gun range and poor equipment. Their best chance is a lucky meeting at night.

4. My suggestions are (a) for limiting raiders bag (i) stop leakage of information by drastic steps (ii) replace or modify all re-radiated merchant ships receivers (iii) enforce Admiralty Instruction number 163 more vigorously and insist on a written certificate from a Senior Convoying Officer to effect that he has tested receivers (iv) to continue policy of dispersion but routing shipping so that any focal areas are brought as near as possible to our bases (b) to attract raider towards an H.M. Ship by the means of ruse (i) by naval authority transmitting false merchant navy code message in a compromised recoding table (ii) for H.M. Ships to use re-radiating transmission receivers on 500 kcs. per second. (iii) by means of false distress messages made by warships and dates cancelled.

5. Consider "ruse" policy should be co-ordinated by Admiralty. Final. (C.in C. E.I. 1748Z/17 to Adty.).

/ Re showing dimmed lights

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies. (Contd.)

Re showing
dimmed lights.

Your 1522Z/9 my 1627/29/4/1940 subject to restrictions imposed by local C.in C. British merchant vessels proceeding independently should normally show dimmed navigation lights throughout the whole of G.B.M.S. Area 6 B.

Request you will state whether these regulations have been carried, in order that the necessary instructions may be promulgated generally.

(D.T.D. 1854/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

S.S. SUDANI.

See Casualties and Defects.

Mogadiscio.

Air reconnaissance 17/1 showed a large cargo ship at Mogadiscio. Have asked R.A.F. to bomb. No cruiser immediately available. (C.in C. E.I. 2030/17).

China.

Proposed mining
of E. Coast of
Johore.

C.in C. China 0801 Z/17 see Operations Volume, p. 16.

Adty. 1707/24/10 and 1931/10 C.in C. N.E.I. requests general * permission for Dutch Warships to use Harbours and Roadsteads in British Australian and New Zealand territory or Mandated Islands for fuelling from Dutch Tankers. He also desires to station a tanker at Port Moresby. Request your concurrence. (C.in C. China 0803Z/17 to A.C.N.B.)

* As received ? British.

Air Developments
Sembawang.

Your 1854/29/11 and your 1150/7. After further discussion with C.in C. Far East A.O.C. and local Government satisfactory arrangements have been made to avoid Fleet Air Arm developments holding up R.A.F. expansion scheme. Site selected for repair yard is to eastward of Sembawang aerodrome on the opposite side of the main road to Naval Base. (C.in C. China, 0841Z/17, to Admty.)

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Ships in H.X.104
and B.H.X.104 of
12 Knots speed.

Your 1317/17. One. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda
1020/17 to Adty.)

Your 1317/17 H.X.104 Two.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1125/17 to Adty.)

B.H.104.

Your 1137/16. If your proposals are
approved intend that Commodore Butler
now at Bermuda should act as Commodore
of BH.104.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1032/17 to C.O.A.C.)

CARADOC
orders.

Leave Trinidad A.M./18 and proceed to
patrol independently shipping route
between Caribbean Sea and Cape Orange
vide my 1002/2. Leave patrol so as to
arrive Trinidad 23/1.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1152/17).

DESPATCH.

My 2212/11. Leave patrol so as to arrive
at Jamaica 22/1.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/17 to S.O. West
Indies Force).

S.S. TOTTENHAM
(B.H.X.102).

Returned with heavy weather damage
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/17).

EMPRESS OF ASIA
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA

Re loading cargo etc.
(D. of S.T. 1946/17).

DEMPO
J. OLDENBARNEVELT
use with T.C.9.

My 1201/16 and your 1802/14. Anticipate
DEMPO and JOHANVAN OLDENBARNEVELT will be
completed at Halifax before 5/2.
Understand total accommodation in these
two ships is 1310. Can they be used for
troops and sailed with T.C.9.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1713/17 to Adty.)

MALOJA
ALAUNIA

Your 1738/17. MALOJA repairs will be
completed p.m./22. Intend ALAUNIA to
escort B.H.X.104. (C.in C. A.W.I.
1912/17 to Admty.)

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Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

585

ORINOCO

Ref. N.A. Washington 1255/15 Tampico reports efforts to cast cylinder head for ORINOCO in Mexico not successful. New one en route from Germany via Siberia Japan expected shortly. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0901/17).

OSORNO

From Callao. Concepcion reports oats and wool being loaded German ship OSORNO. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1104/17).

TINOS

Reported on 16/1 to be repainting. Thought to be masquerading as Spanish "Castillo" class ship. Is short of some officers and seamen. (D.S. 501).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

STELLA
XXIV MAGGIO

N.C.S.O. Pernambuco Reports. STELLA transferred about 4,000 tons cargo to Brazilian ship MERITY, XXIV MAGGIO discharged 2,000 tons to locate flour mill 15/1. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2112/17).

MAURO CROCE

Expected at Barcelona 18/1 or 19/1. (D.S. 501).

ATLANTA

At Las Palmas. Buenos Aires firm pressing for unloading some of the cargo, property of Argentine buyers. Italian authorities are forbidding the unloading. (D.S. 501).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAMPANA

It appears probable CAMPANA will sail tomorrow Saturday. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1020/17).

GUADELOUPE

Intercepted Letter dated 31/12 states GUADELOUPE called at Casablanca and should take cargo on the same conditions as S.S. FORT ROYAL. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1303/17 to Adty.)

MENDOZA

At 2200Z/17 MENDOZA (? anchored) in Porto Bello Bay. (ASTURIAS 2200Z/17).

War Diary.

17.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

586

Ships Attacked.

→ OROPESA
ZEALANDIC ←
→ ALMEDA STAR
torpedoed
MEANDROS
ONABA
bombed

OROPESA assumed sunk. TENACITY proceed to assistance of ZEALANDIC in position 58° 28' N. 20° 43' W. SUPERMAN proceed to position 55° 55' N. 12° 14' W. where MEANDROS and ONABA were afloat at 1815/16. THAMES proceed to assist ALMEDA STAR in position 58° 16' N. 13° 40' W. at 0600/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1029/17 to TENACITY, SUPERMAN, THAMES).

→ ALMEDA STAR
ZEALANDIC ←

Your 0910. Am proceeding in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0713/17. Difficult to do C. in C. W.A. 0003 due to shortage of water. (ST. ALBANS 0956/17).

OROPESA
ZEALANDIC ←

Endeavour to contact TENACITY and take off survivors from OROPESA estimated position at 2000 056° 55' N. 013° 13' W. steering for ZEALANDIC in position 058° 28' N. 020° 43' W. at 11 knots and then endeavour to contact SUPERMAN in position 056° 49' N. 011° 57' W. and take off survivors. (C.in C. W.A. 1809/17 to WOLVERINE).

S.S. ZEALANDIC ←

Can you detach one Destroyer from SALOPIAN escort to assist ZEALANDIC torpedoed in position 058° 28' N. 020° 43' W. at 2348. (C.in C. W.A. 0003/17 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

LEGION and DOUGLAS proceeding to comply with C.in C. W.A. 0003/17. R.A.(D) H.F. 0125/17.

OROPESA

20 survivors on board discontinued search at 1500 proceeding ZEALANDIC. (TENACITY 1500/17).

Report whether DOUGLAS has gone to ZEALANDIC. (C.in C. W.A. 1737/17 to LEGION).

Your 1737 No. Insufficient oil. Am proceeding ZEALANDIC expect to arrive in position given in your 0003/17 at dawn/18. (LEGION 1825/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

→ ALMEDA STAR.

S S S S 58 16 N. 13 40 W. ALMEDA STAR torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 0649/17).

ALMEDA STAR bearing from Malin Head radio 302°. (Scapa W/T TOR 0706/17).

One Destroyer is to proceed to S.S. ALMEDA STAR torpedoed in position 058° 16' N. 013° 40' W. at 0653. (C.in C. W.A. 0713/17 to LEGION, DOUGLAS).

/ Sailed SALVONIA

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Friday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

ALMEDA STAR cont:

Sailed SALVONIA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0822/17).

C.in C. Western Approaches 0713/17.
LEGION will proceed (corrupt group)
ST. ALBANS complying with R.A.D. H.F.
0125/17. (LEGION 0910/17).

No report of ALMEDA STAR or of any of the survivors has been received (D.S. 502, 19/1).

Following had been made to ALMEDA STAR on 16/1 :-

From Admiralty. For ALMEDA STAR only. As soon as possible after position A steer for new B 040° 94 miles from old B then direct to new D 010° 354 miles from old D thence by route ordered ignoring C. (D.T.D. 1445/16).

OROPESA
(torpedoed 16/1).

OROPESA's boats found. 22 survivors picked up. Second Officer reports several other boats got away from ships, one boat sighted at 1600/16. Intend continuing search until dark then proceeding Londonderry fuelling and rejoining S.C.18. (WESTCOTT 1235/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

TENACITY reported at 0940/17 rescued 20 survivors from OROPESA in position 055° 42' N. 011° 17' W. and searching further. (C.in C. W.A. 1309/17 to WOLVERINE).

OROPESA received 2nd torpedo and sank 0230/16 056° 30' N. 011° 40' W. (TENACITY 1400/17).

Picked up boat with 35 men from OROPESA. Now searching for other boat believed to be in vicinity. (SUPERMAN 1420/17).

Two more boats from OROPESA found accounting for a further 55 survivors. Confirmed that six boats left ship. Have just sufficient fuel to reach Liverpool which is home port of most survivors some of whom are suffering from severe exposure. Intend to proceed to Liverpool after dark. (WESTCOTT 1620/17).

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

588

Submarines Reported.

1534.

By D/F at 1534/17 position of Italian U-Boat was 56° - 57° N. 13° - 15° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1640/17).

Your 1651N/16. Bearings from U.K. show that this unit was in approximate position 49° N. 27° W. and was probably a U-Boat. See my 1353/14. (D.D.I.C. 0030/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

1740.

Suspected U-boat reported in position 054° 08' N. 017° 55' W. at 1740/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1937/17). (See Attacks, DELPHINIUM)

2125.

55° N., 23° W., 510' W. of Bloody Foreland. (Italian) Position indefinite (D.S. 501).

2257.

55° N., 20° W., 410' W. of Bloody Foreland. Position indefinite (D.S. 501).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

It is thought that more than the average number of U/Bs will be at sea for at least the next 10 days.

German.

One to Southward of Cape Verde Islands. At least three within 175 miles of Rockall East of 15° W. of which 1 was in 58° 16' N. 13° 40' W. at 0649/17 - and one about 120 miles to S. or S.E. of Rockall at 1216/17.

At least six between 50° N. and 60° N. and West of 20° W.

1 was in 58° 30' N. 20° 43' W. at 2348/16.

1 about 56° 30' N. 24° W. at 1208/16 and probably 1 in 51° N. 27° 30' W. at 2000/16.

1 about 50° N. 16° W. outward bound

1 about 47° 30' N. 13° W. inward bound.

Italian.

One in Freetown area.

One in about 53° N. 22° W. at 2044/16.

Three more in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1411/17.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

589

Submarines Attacked.

1740/17.

Attacked suspected U.Boat in position.
54° 08' N. 17° 55' W. sighted at long
range but unable to ? touch with A/S
contact. (DELPHINIUM 1740/17).

a.m./17.

By CHARLESTOWN, 58.41 N., 06.06 W.,
attacked contact, no result observed
(A.3.) (D.S. 501) (D.O.R. 18/1).

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy
C.W. 23
Shelled

The German batteries fired four salvos of 2 rounds each whilst Convoy C.W. 23 was passing between Dover and Dungeness late this evening. No damage is reported.

Shortage
of Aircraft
at Sullom Voe

The strength of 700 Squadron at Sullom Voe has been so reduced that C. in C., H.F., reports its operations of little value. It has been necessary to cancel certain patrols and escort duties near Orkneys and Shetlands at a time when the likelihood of submarines returning to Germany by this route increases with the intensity of our presence in the Biscay ports and as the submarines work further North in search of our convoys.

Sweep to
Scilly Is.

Capt. D. 5. in KELLY with KIPLING and JERSEY last night carried out a sweep to the Scilly Is. There were no incidents.

A/S Sweep

BEAGLE and BRILLIANT sailed from Londonderry at 0035, to carry out an A/S sweep north of Rockall and to search for SS ALMEDA STAR which was torpedoed yesterday. Aircraft are also assisting in the search for ALMEDA STAR and ZEALANDIC. No trace of these ships has yet been reported.

Military Convoys

The sailing of military convoys has been regularised. These convoys are to be organised and sailed as far as possible in the same way as Trade Convoys.

Routeing of
E.N. Convoys

In view of the absence of aircraft attacks off Rattray Head during recent weeks, the fast E.N. Convoys are to revert to the direct route to the Pentland Firth instead of being diverted into Moray Firth.

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18.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

591

British Air Activity

The weather caused patrols and escorts today to be considerably curtailed. Convoy O.G. 50 was escorted by 3 aircraft throughout daylight today in the N.W. Approaches.

Minor attacks were made on Brest and Cherbourg last night.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 98 was attacked in the Thames Estuary this morning, but no ships were damaged.

Damage was caused in the dock area at Swansea in an attack last night.

Ramsgate was attacked at 0141, No naval damage occurred.

Some naval casualties resulted from a raid on Skegness Town at 1600 today.

Mining

Comparatively uneventful day. Swansea and Avonmouth were opened in the course of the afternoon and evening respectively.

M/S Trawler LUDA ^LORD detonated a mine off Plymouth, 40 yards off her port beam. No damage is reported.

C. in C., Home Fleet has made certain proposals for operations in enemy waters.

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

592

D/F bearings indicate enemy units near 31° N., 26° W., at 0800 today.

South Atlantic

BRITISH UNION
Sunk by Raider
(Raider G. KORMORAN)
B.R. 1337

BRITISH UNION (Tanker 6987 tons) reported tonight that she was being shelled by an enemy raider about 700 miles south of the Azores. ARAWA saw gunfire and searchlight about 12 miles away, but on reaching the position nothing was to be seen except one boat's crew from the BRITISH UNION. The men believe that their ship was sunk by a U-Boat which accompanied the raider. The latter is described as a large merchant ship.

MENDOZA

M06211/41

ASTURIAS this morning boarded MENDOZA 16½ miles from Punta das Cabecudas Light and placed an armed guard on board. Between Montevideo and the point of interception MENDOZA four times reported en clair the position of British warship, in contravention of neutrality.

Mediterranean

Air Attack
on Malta
Aerodromes

Hal Far and Luqa aerodromes were heavily attacked this afternoon by about 80 German aircraft covered by fighters. At Hal Far 5 aircraft were destroyed or damaged beyond repair and others received minor damage. Luqa aerodrome was rendered unserviceable, one aircraft was destroyed, one badly damaged and all others slightly damaged. Our fighters shot down 6 of the enemy and it is thought A.A. fire brought down three. The British losses were 2 fighters, the pilot of one being saved.

/This is.....

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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

This is the third large scale attack by the German Air forces in Sicily, the first having been against the Fleet and the next two against Malta. In each attack at least 60 aircraft took part and it is believed that the whole force in Sicily has been engaged. The German losses in these attacks have been 20 to 30 aircraft, with more damaged.

Air Attack on
Suez Canal

Two enemy aircraft last night attacked the Suez Canal causing temporary obstruction to the road and Sweet Water Canal near Kantara.

Kantara was attacked again today, and El Arish (on coast 100 miles East of Port Said,) was also bombed, but no damage was caused in either case.

Tobruk
Bombed

13 R.A.F. machines bombed Tobruk last night. It is reported that a German aircraft force landed west of Tobruk today and the crew was captured.

Acoustic
Mining

The Admiralty today warned C. in C., Med. of the possibility of acoustic mining by enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean, and the precautions to be observed.

East Indies

C. in C., E.I., intends about 1st Feb. to introduce a new Red Sea Convoy Programme in order to increase the flow and speed up the turn round of shipping.

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 2330/17 (D.C. 0004/18) At 1130/18
(D.C. 1155/18, 1554/18)

Eastleigh
R.A.N.A.S.
Station

Defence of (Eastleigh 1420/18)

Scapa
Blockships

Re INVERLANE, LYCIA, TABARKA (A.C.O.S.
1440/18)

CRISPIN
Liverpool
A.A. Defence

For A.A. duties off Liverpool to sail with
O.G. 51 26/1 (C. in C., W.A., 1907/18)

Iceland

Re depot ship and S/M cable from Grotta
etc., (F.O.i/c Iceland 2157/18) Re W/T
(F.O.Iceland 1709/18)

Movements

TORBAY
Escort

My 1814/14 and 1724/16. Owing to delay in
TORBAY's programme GUILLEMOT will be unable
to escort her. (C. in C., Nore, 1016/18)

INTREPID and
SEALION to R.V.
for special
exercises.

Admty. 1032/16. Propose INTREPID leaves
Humber a.m./20 arriving Blyth p.m. same
day. (D. 20. 1114/18)

Your 1114/18 approved. (C. in C., Nore,
2227/18)

Town Class
re working up
at Londonderry

Working up facilities at Scapa are inade-
quate to meet demands of TOWN's as well
as new construction destroyers. Request
your remarks on possibilities of berthing
up to 6 extra TOWN destroyers at
Londonderry for working up and of providing
target towing tug. This extra commitment
must not be at the expense of basing the
maximum possible number of Escort Forces
at Londonderry or of its use as a fuelling
base. (D.A./S.W. 1120/18 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Admty. 1120/18.....

War Diary

18.1.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Town Class
re working up
at Londonderry-
Contd.

Admty. 1120/18. Request your remarks. In the meantime Town Class destroyers are being held at Plymouth for working up practices from Dartmouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1917/18 to N.O.I.C., Londonderry)

SIKH

Scapa departure 1210 SIKH for Tyne escorted by PUNJABI until 2000. (A.C.O.S. 1231/18)

WHITSHED
MOOLTAN

C. in C., Nore's 1758/17. R.A.D. is requested to sail WHITSHED so as to arrive Tyne by a.m./23. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail MOOLTAN escorted by WHITSHED so as to comply with C. in C., Nore's proposals. (C. in C., Rosyth 1239/18)

SKEENA
HESPERUS
BROADWAY

Immediate. Proceed Londonderry with despatch and complete with fuel. (C. in C., W.A., 1307/18)

M.L. 169

My 0841/18. M.L. 169 return to Tyne.

Patrols
Sheltering

My 1103/18. All patrols are sheltering till weather moderates. (N.O.i/c Brightlingsea 1517/18)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Admty 1729/17 and C. in C., S.A. 2145N/17 Route from position (E) Ships are to proceed in company at best speed from position (C) (C. in C., W.A., 1559/18)

Northern Patrol

Tonight. Trawler lines, 5 trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1544/18)

J 3968

Re surface and air escort (C. in C., H.F. 1732/18)

CRISPIN

My 1553. CRISPIN is for A/A duties off Liverpool. Ship will be required to sail with O.G. 51 on 26/1. (C. in C., W.A. 1907/18) Leave Clyde 1200/19 to arrive Liverpool a.m/20 Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 2000/18)

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18.1.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

A/S Sweep
north of
Rockall

Your 1949/17. BEAGLE, BRILLIANT, sailed at 0035/18. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0040/18)

AGNETE MAERSK

SS AGNETE MAERSK sailed Limerick night 16/17 for Irish Sea possibly southabout. If met she is to be escorted to Belfast. (C. in C., W.A., 0101/18)

Western Channel
Patrol

Plymouth 17/1. Arrivals 1430 KASHMIR and JUPITER (C. in C., W.A., 0029/18)

Operation
P.V. 1.

Weather report indicates probability strong southerly wind this evening. If weather is unsuitable order Motor Launches to proceed into Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1121/18)

Convoy C.W. 23
Shelled

C.W. 23 passing Dover at 2130 and Dungeness at 2330. Four Salvoes of two rounds each fell to the westward between 2203 and 2210. (V.A. Dover 2338/18)

Submarines

CACHALOT
LA CAPRICIEUSE

Intend to sail CACHALOT escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Rothesay at 0440/21 for vicinity of Cape Wrath. E.T.A. 0900/22 thence CACHALOT escorted by Trawler in accordance with A,C,O,S, 1044/16 to position 61° N., 2° 30' W., and thence unescorted to North Eastward, LA CAPRICIEUSE to Barrow-in-Furness. (S. 2. 1019/18)

H. 32

Intend to sail H.M. Submarine H. 32 escorted by VIRGINIA for Holyhead at 1300/20. F.O.i/c Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection during daylight hours (Capt. S. 7. 1205/18)

My 1205/18. Amend to read 24 hours later (Capt. S. 7. 1858/18)

Positions

At 0800/19 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O. s. 1641/18, 1936/18)

/TUNA.....

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Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

TUNA
OTUS

(A) TUNA is to be sailed on 29/1 for Azores patrol.

(B) Route.

(D) OTUS leaves patrol after dark 5/2 (Route) (F.O. S. 1642/18)

British Air Activity

AMBUSCADE
AUBRETIA
FELIXTOWE
HOLLYHOCK

My 0710/18. Expect Sunderland about 1100 (C. in C., Rosyth 1016/18)

Cancel my 1016/18. Expect Sunderland 1330. will escort you for about one hour. (C. in C., Rosyth 1206/18)

Patrol

Air Patrol ^{"Fair"}~~FAIR~~ cancelled for today. (C. in C., Rosyth 1236/18)

FURIOUS
801 Squadron

On arrival disembark 801 Squadron aircraft and personnel and "Skua" stores to Donibristle (D.N.A.D. 1659/18 to FURIOUS)

Daily Summary
Operations

(200 Group A 381 Recd. 2110/18)

Orkneys and
Shetlands
A/S Air Watch

The effect of your 1504/3 (Reduction in allocation of Aircraft to certain ships) and the need to retain one Walrus on board each cruiser reduces the strength of 700 Squadron at Sullom Voe so much that its operation is of little value. It has been necessary to cancel two useful patrols and certain escort duties in the vicinity of the Orkneys and Shetlands.

2. The likelihood of the submarines returning to Germany by this route increases with the intensity of our pressure on the Biscay Ports, and as the Submarines work further North in search of convoys.

War Diary

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Saturday 598

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Orkneys and
Shetlands.
A/S Air Watch,
Contd.

3. Request that Coastal Command undertake a close watch for submarines and surface craft in these waters which are important for the security of approaches to the Fleet base and of its exercise areas, as well as a likely passage for submarines. (C. in C., H.F., 2229/18)

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on
Ramsgate

(Civil damage in attack at 0141/18.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0335/18)

Convoy
F.S. 89

Enemy bombing Convoy ~~BOOBY~~ ^{"Becky"} position 51° 49'N
1° 32' E., (VIVIEN 1100/18)

My 1058 6 bombs no hits. (VIVIEN 1103/18)

Attack on
Skegness

In Air Raid on Skegness Town at 1600/18 following probable casualties amongst Liberty men. (ROYAL ARTHUR 1929/18)

Mining

Laying of
Beacons

R.A.M.L. 0948/18 to SCOTT

Avonmouth
Swansea

No ships can dock at Avonmouth or Swansea at present. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 0958/18)

My 0958/18 Ships can now enter or leave Swansea docks. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1448/18)

My 0958/18 Ships can now enter Avonmouth (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1811/18)

Operation
S.N. 7.

My 1208/15/12 and 1603/14. Proposed order of laying is as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1004/18 1604/18)

Operations in
Enemy Waters

Proposals by C. in C., H.F., (C. in C., H.F., 1632/18) See Operations Volume.

Plymouth
LUDA LORD

Mine detonated 0900 by LUDA LORD S.A. 'A' 203 degrees break water light 2.3 miles. Port beam 40 yards. (C. in C., W.A., 1754/18)

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

599

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious
Ship.

Reported by KINGSTON ONYX. Later identified as friendly (KINGSTON ONYX 1255/18, 1340/18, 1416/18, D.D.I.C. 1546/18).

Mines off
Gripholen.

It is reported that Germans have laid mines near ~~of~~ Gripholen (65° 14'N. 7° 45'E) C.2.
(D.D.I.C. 1258/18).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

600

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Minches
Route.

127 Admiralty Message 1340/29/10 amended my Admiralty's 1236/7/1. In the case of outward bound independent ships routed through Minches substitute latitude 058° 15'N. for circumference of circle with radius of 150 miles from Malin Head. 1015/18.

Request you will give instructions to authority abroad so that inward bound independent ships routed through Minches will conform with my 1015 by crossing 058° 15'N. at 0600.
(C. in C. W.A., 1023/18).

QZ
Messages.

My 1441/25/11. Request you will consider if the addition of the serial number of the latest QZ information in the possession of each ship included in daily signal would assist local arrangements at principal ports.
(D.T.D. 1243/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

Routes
Clyde.

In future, all ships destined for O.G.M. and O.B.M. Convoys are to be given alternative onward route to the Clyde. Should the mining situation prevent these ships proceeding to Milford Haven, they are to proceed independently to Clyde for inclusion in outward-bound Convoys.
(C. in C. W.A. 1737/18).

Sailing
Orders.
Halifax.

Pass to N.C.S.O.s. Sailing orders for all ships to Sydney (C.B.) should be amended to Halifax for orders.
(D.T.D. 1739/18 to A.I.G. 47).

6. M.V.'s.

Intend sailing 1800/19 3 merchant ships for Needles Channel, 3 merchant ships for Poole, escorted by anti Submarine trawlers VICTRIX and CORNELIAN e.t.a. Needles 0800/20 and Poole 0800/20.
(N.O.I.C. ~~Liverpool~~ 2156/18).
Dartmouth

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

601

→ F.S. 90.	Sailed 0500/18 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0501/18).
F.N. 86.	S.S. LIGHTFOOT and No. 69 BORINGTON COURT BONNINGTON COURT from F.N. Convoy 86 were met, lost in moderate visibility about four miles N.E. of Number 5 Buoy at 0100, and were instructed to stay with F.S. Convoy 89 until F.N. Convoy 87 is met today, Saturday. (WALLACE, 0829/18 to C. in C. Nore). <i>See P. 629.</i>
→ F.N. 85.	M/L 169 sailed to join F.N. 85 for Methil. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0841/18).
O.B.C. 276.	(A) 0130/21. (B) ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, ORCHIS, ARAB, LADY MADELEINE. (C) 16. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0919/18).
→ F.S. 90.	13 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/18 to Admty).
→ F.N. 85.	Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0959/18).
F.N. 88.	518. Request you will sail GUILLEMOT for Southend as convenient p.m. today, Saturday to obtain routing instructions to Sunderland. She is then to form additional escort for F.N. 88 as far as Sunderland. (C. in C. Nore 1018/18 to Cdre, Sheerness). <i>See also next page</i>
O.B.M. 276.	1740/19 ROSEMARY, Ten. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1115/18).
C.W. 23.	C.W. 23, 1000/18 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1129/18).
F.S. 89.	Convoy FS 89 reported in Barrow Deep. 31 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1211/18).
E.N. 59. W.N. 72. <u>FOWEY.</u>	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 59 sailing at 1830/19. On meeting transfer to W.N. 72 due Cape Wrath 0500/21 and Duncansby 1350/21. Code word for E.N. 59 "USAGE" USAGE , and W.N. 72, SHIPPY "Chitty" . (C. in C. Rosyth 1227/18).

/F.N. 87.....

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

602

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

- F.N. 87. 1100/18 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1306/18).
- C.W. 23. Portsmouth night movements signal.
Convoy C.W. 23 Southend to Spithead.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1403/18).
- O.B. 275. Sailed ~~ABERDEEN~~, FLEUR DE LYS, MONTGOMERY,
WILD SWAN and WITCH escorting O.B. 275.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1423/18).
- F.N. 85. May Island 2000.
F.N. 86. 20 C. Buoy 2000.
F.S. 91. Sails 2300.
E.N. 58. Off Lossiemouth 2000.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1514/18).
- F.N. 85. My 1514. Delete SIKH and PUNJABI,
returned to Scapa.
- F.N. 85 should reach May Island 1800 18/1.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1658/18).
- E.N. 57. All 10 ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1531/18).
- W.N. 70. Arrived 1545/18 January.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1548/18).
- O.B.O. 275. 0545/19/1.
Escort H.M.S. GARDENIA. 12 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1557/18).
- W.N. 71 (O) Sailed W.N. 71 (O) 1500/18. 17 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1703/18).
- O.B. 275. Sailed 1655/18 9 knots 10 ships. 3 ships
with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1720/18) list and
destinations (1721/18).
- F.N. 88. Intend to sail F.N. 88 (fast) escorts
WALLACE and VIVIEN about 0930 tomorrow
Sunday. F.N.87 (slow) escorts FLEETWOOD
and COTSWOLD now anchored to Eastward of
East Cant Buoy is to weigh and proceed
immediately in rear of F.N. 88 probably
about 1145.
(C. in C. Nore, 1740/18)
- O.B. 275. My 1423/18/1. MONTGOMERY. WILD SWAN.
and WITCH sailed to Londonderry to refuel
then join O.B. 275. Sailed PERIWINKLE
at 1759 to overtake O.B. 275.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

603

Coastal Convoys.
(contd)

F.N. 87.

Convoy message. My 1329/10. F.N. 87 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1801/18).

F.S. 91.

Sailed 2300/18. 24 ships, 11 ships known to be fitted for Kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2331/18).

F.N. 85.

Arrived during dark hours. Number of ships unknown.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2332/18).

W.N. 70.

F.N. 85.

E.N. 58.

F.S. 91.

Rosyth 18/1. Arrivals. WESTON, GAVOTTE and PIROUETTE with W.N. 70 includes BRITISH TOMMY from Aberdeen. WOOLSTON and WESTMINSTER with F.N. 85. Departures. Add to my 2325/17 PETUNIA to Tobermory with E.N. 58. VALOHOUS and VORTIGERN with F.S. 91.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2337/18 to Admty etc).

Ocean Convoys.

O.G. 50.

Sailed MALCOLM at 0830 for O.G. 50 MALCOLM will take over Senior Officer.
(Capt D. Londonderry 0905/18 to C. in C.W.A).

H.X. 103.

Your 1941/17. My advance sailing telegram of 1601/11 list of 35 ships. For following unforeseen reasons 30 Ships were unable to sail. Three slow convoy three loading delayed by weather. One crew not completed Nine repairs not completed. Four frozen windlasses. Ten did not arrive due to weather. Two others not in the advance were able to sail.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1001/18 to Admty).

S.C. 20.

Should if necessary be filled up to the limit 40 ships by a requisite number of HX ships of the slower type.
(D.T.D. 1629/18 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Advance sailing telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax 1131/18 to Admty).

/s.c. 19.....

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.(contd).

604

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

S.C.19.

S.C. 19 meet.
(C. in C. W.A. 1525/18 to Capt. D. Greenock, for ships of 4th Escort Group concerned).

H.X. 102.

Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1825/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

B.H.X. 102.

Your 2027/17 and my 1758/17. It is not considered desirable to alter route given in my 1945/17 unless the existing U/B dispositions have changed. Naval Commodore will embark at Bermuda for BHX 104 and ALAUNIA has been detailed as ocean escort. This convoy will include a large number of tankers with valuable cargoes. Future escort arrangements.
(D.T.D. 2027/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys.

Organisation.

Military convoys are to be organised and sailed as far as possible in the same way as Trade Convoys.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2028/18 to C. in C.W.A.).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

605

BURKE
(bombed ~~8/10~~)
7/10/40.

Dover 18/1 Departure BURKE in tow of
LADY BRASSEY at 0406 for Southend.
(V.A. Dover 0414/18).

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1512/18).

Hail heard
by CRISPIN.

CRISPIN reported hearing hail as from
Boat 2000/17 position 055° 40'N. 009° 24'W.
He stopped for short time but saw and
heard nothing.
(WELLINGTON 0902/18).

DIMITROS
CHANDRIS

Returned from S.C.19 with heavy weather
damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0905/18).

CHITRAL

Re improvement of engine room ventilation
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/18).

WILD SWAN.

2 Ratings lost overboard in heavy weather.
(WILD SWAN 1850/18).

SS STANLEIGH.

STANLEIGH 5 miles south of South Rock
Light Ship not under command drifting
towards Dundrum Bay.
(STANLEIGH 2230/18 G.M.T.).

Following has been read. S.O.S. STANLEIGH
anchored North of Dundrum Bay no immediate
danger 2345/18.
(Plymouth W/T 2348/18).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

606

Operations Against Vichy French.

- Convoy. Gibraltar 18/1 0950 French armed Trawler ASPIRANT-BRUN escorting merchant ships MONTAGEL, OUED-TIFLET, ROUBAISIIEN West bound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1001/18, to Admty.)
- ALSACE. My 1529/31/12. N.A. Washington's 1430/14/1. Following reported at Dakar Jan. 7th - 10th. Further confirmation is that ship proceeds to sea at intervals presumably for cable repair subsequently returning. (C.in C. S.A., 1215N/18 to Admty.)
- Dakar Intelligence. Following from Navy Department: from Dakar: 14/1 arrivals DALNY and GABON from Morocco. 15/1 sailed RAS EL and MAURICE DELMAS for Morocco former with 2,000 tons corn destined for France. 17/1 sailed MEDSERUSI, CARAIBE, latter for Morocco. Arrivals VILLE DE ROUEN from South and MEDIE II from Morocco. (N.A. Washington, 1255/18, to Admty.)
- ATALANTE. French Submarine ATALANTE escorted by a sloop and expected to pass through Straits between 1000 and 1200/19 presumably for Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A., 1616/18 to S. and A., North Atlantic).
- SAN FRANCISCO (repatriees). Gibraltar departure 18/1, 2145, French steamship SAN FRANCISCO bound (?Marseilles) (S.O.I., Gib., 2230/18).
- FIROUZ SINAIA. Reliable report received that tanker FIROUZ left Casablanca yesterday morning 8,000 tons gas oil consigned BAER ?Marseilles.
(2) S.S. SINAIA left Casablanca for Dakar with native troops and field guns.
(3) There is movement of troops from Dakar southwards.
(Consul-General, Tangier, 2245/18, to Admty.)

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

607

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

Mean of bearings obtained on 5595 Kcs.
at 0458/18 G.M.T. was:-
Lands End 225/1
Text RR RR DDK XDW ORT ING OYJ
EER Z.
(D.D.I.C. 0758/18, to C.in C's and
F.O.C.N.A.)

My 0758/18. Add Halifax 102/2. Bearings
indicate a German unit near 31° N. 26° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1801/18).

D/F Bearings indicate German Units near
031° N. 026° W. at 0800/18.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2058/18 to S. and A.
N. Atlantic).

CAMITO.

CAMITO escorted by DUNCAN until 1900/19
sails 1800 (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/18).

Cancel my 1628/18. (F.O.C.N.A. 2000/18).

Gibraltar 18/1 1800 departure CAMITO for
P 3 and Q 3. (S.O.I., Gib., 1804/18).

OTUS
Azores

OTUS left Gibraltar for Azores Patrol
1830/17 and has been ordered not to
approach within 25 miles of Ponta Delgada
until after 0001/22.
Make brief situation report to Captain(S)8
repeated F.O.(S) when 100 miles clear of
patrol area on passage to U.K.
(Capt. S.8, 0906/18, to OLYMPUS).

MIRROR
Cable
Operation.

Gibraltar departure 18/1 1300 cable vessel
MIRROR escorted by ARCTIC RANGER for cable
operation near Tangier and Cadiz.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1302/18).

ARK ROYAL.

Your 1106/14 not to ARK ROYAL and 2255/16.
Is there any confirmation in ARK ROYAL of
250 lb. G.P. bomb failures in attacks
referred to in above signals?
(5 S.L. 1420/18 to S.O. Force H).

PHOEBE.

Intend to sail PHOEBE for Scapa at 0800Z-
one 19/1 (route). (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/18)

Admty. 1337/15 and 1802/18. Submit for
consideration that 20% of PHOEBE's 5.25
ammunition be landed before ship sails,
for retention at base.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2146/18 to Admty.)

Report of ship
from Casablanca
to Bordeaux.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

608

Report of
ship from
Casablanca
to Bordeaux.

? STE. LOUISE

Your 1455/18. (Sent by War Registry at request of D.E.W.D. request for former name of ST. HELOISE referred to in F.O.C.N.A.'s 2209/16). Further enquiry from Tangier gives name as ex-German TANNERKAWA. No trace of such vessel but this may refer to French SAINT LOVASE, ex German TRIFELS last heard of at Casablanca.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1822/18 to Admty.) ? LOUISE

South Atlantic.

EUMAEUS
Personnel.

Admiralty request that arrangements be made for naval personnel ex EUMAEUS landed at Freetown to be accommodated in vessels of W.S.5B bound for Singapore i.e. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN. Request report.
(D.S.T. 0127/18, to S.N.O. Freetown).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Admty's 1729/17. FURIOUS insufficient fuel. Intend to proceed Gibraltar with NEPTUNE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER via route ordered for ISIS in RAMILLIES 1815N/15 (E.T.A.). After fuelling FURIOUS and NEPTUNE can proceed Clyde at (speed). My 1500/18/12 (re oil fuel consumption). (FURIOUS, 0930/18).

Following is repetition of my 1017/18. Your ϕ 1750/17. No anti-submarine escort will be available until 24/1 unless ISIS and ENCOUNTER return to Freetown leaving FURIOUS to-day 18/1. (C.in C. S.A., 1425/18, to Admty.)
 ϕ Most Secret.

Your 1425/18 and 1721/18. ISIS and ENCOUNTER must continue as arranged. Delay in sailing of ships mentioned in my 1750/17 must be accepted. (D.O.D.(F) 2211/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

VIDETTE
W.S.5B.

Departure 0630/18 VIDETTE to R.V. with convoy W.S.5B (date). (S.O.I. Freetown, 0941N/18 to Admiralty, repeated AUSTRALIA, EMERALD.).

"Shrapnel"
Force.

Your 2201/16. Request I may be informed if return of "~~shrapnel~~" is to include whole of personnel and equipment brought out including landing craft, tentage and transports?
(C.in C. S.A. 1005/18 to Admty.)

/ Your 1005/18 ...

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

609

Your 1005/18 and Adty. 1750/17.
Transports should return with landing craft and equipment and stores shown as being on board in the maintenance project for the force.
(D.O.D.(F) 2000/18 to C.in C. S.A.)

BLACKHEATH
DALFONN.

Overdue shipping. BLACKHEATH, DALFONN due Capetown 14/1 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1015/18).

Shipping
20° N.

Southbound Ships crossing 20° N. MOUNTPARK for Plate, CITY OF BATH for Cape. (Speed; Approximate Noon Position 19/1). (Routes).
(D.T.D. 1149/18 to S.A. Station).

ROWALLAN CASTLE

Your 1742/17. ROWALLAN CASTLE replies yes. Position "I" is position on circumference 150 miles Malin Head circle. Ship ordered to proceed direct to North Channel at 055° 37' N. 007° 00' W. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1307/18, to Admty.)

Disposition
of all ships
in S.A.
Command.

At 1200/18. (C.in C. S.A. 1431/18).

Troop
Transport.

My 2223/13 and 1216/17. Requirement for personnel has now risen. (Details and asking for an interim reply). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1656/18 to Admty.) Reply (D. of S.T. 2246/18) See Operations Volume.

Flying boat base
at Freetown.

Recommending that work on Fura Bay be discontinued and work begun on Bunce River site (W/C Martin Freetown 1719/18) Discontinue work on Fura Bay. Bunce River site approved (Air Min. 1702/19).

Lights.

Your 1709N/17 (Reports of lights that might have been enemy submarine). It is suggested that A.M.S.I. 20 and 224 cover the situation described. Do you concur? (D.T.D. 1737/18 to C.in C. S.A.).

Freetown,
bunkers.

Following 8 ships routed to Capetown have put into Freetown for bunkers during January.

EUMAEUS, similarly routed, was torpedoed while approaching Freetown.

It is essential that C.in C. S.A. should be aware of forthcoming arrivals at Freetown.

When routeing ships to the Cape N.C.S.O's are to ensure that Masters are satisfied they have sufficient bunkers to reach their destination. (D.T.D. 1747/18 to N.C.S.O's.).

/ Enemy Unit.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit.

Intercept. D/F bearings indicate German ship within 100 miles of 031° N. 025° W. at 0428Z/18. Reliability 60%. Considered more likely to be surface vessel than U boat. (C.in C. S.A. 1921/18 to FURIOUS, NEPTUNE)

Raider Report.
BRITISH UNION

RRRR 26.34 N., 30.58 W. BRITISH UNION shelled. (BRITISH UNION, No T.O.O./18 recd. 2245/18).

*This was ARAWA's position
 (accepted)*

BRITISH UNION was attacked at 2022/18 in 27.01 N., 29.54 W., gun flash and searchlight being seen from ARAWA. (See ARAWA, 0315Z/19 etc.) (D.S., 502).

My 1609/15 (Potential raiders, see Home Commands, Enemy Intelligence) is being passed to you for information. (H.W.R. 2025/18 to R.A.S.A.D.)

W.S.6.

Your 1917/24/12. Water requirements for W.S.6, re supply and date. (D. of S.T. 2012/18 to C.in C. S.A.).

CUMBERLAND
NEWCASTLE

CUMBERLAND will be in position 029° S. 042° W. at 0800Z/20 steering 240° 10 knots. R/V with me during daylight/20. (R.A.S.A.D., 2315Z/18, to NEWCASTLE).

FORMIDABLE.

Your 0746Z/17. FORMIDABLE now carrying out operations in South Atlantic. Dates. Simonstown and Aden. (C.in C. S.A., 2325N/17 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Intelligence,
possible
invasion of
Tunisia and
France.

Following from N.A. Washington from Navy Department; U.S. Naval Attache Rome reports following information obtained from source in Rome. Navy Department states intelligence from this anonymous source has proved reliable in the past: Germany and Italy are intending to terminate armistice with France and attack Tunisia and France. 50,000 German and Italian troops including motorised units now in Sicily will invade Tunisia with ultimate intention of supporting Graziani. Plan includes as a first stage operations by German Air Forces from Sicily in conjunction with Italian Fleet to attack Bizerta and other ports in Tunisia with object of forming bridge heads for follow-on-troops.

18.1.1941.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

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Enemy Intelligence, possible invasion of Tunisia and France. (Contd.)

Date given for commencement of these operations is between 20/1 and 23/1. (Ends). This information is being considered here. Have you any confirmatory evidence? (D.N.I. 0041/18 to S.O.I. Malta, C.O.I.C. Alexandria).

Your 0041/18 to S.O.(I) Malta. I have no confirmatory evidence.

(2) German Air Squadron in Sicily have so far been employed in 3 large scale attacks the first against Fleet and next 2 against Malta. In each attack at least 60 aircraft have taken part, so that whole force believed to be in Sicily has probably been engaged. In these attacks they have lost between 20 and 30 aircraft with more damaged. To produce decisive results at Malta attack must be continued on present scale with commensurate loss, which would militate against air attack on Tunis. (3) Palermo and Messina were last reconnoitred 14/1 and 10/1 respectively. There were then normal numbers of merchant vessels present. The expedition might start from Naples where there are many suitable vessels laid up and embarkation would be unnoticed by air reconnaissance.

(4) If presence of large German forces in Sicily or Southern Italy is confirmed consider the possibility of an invasion of Malta instead of Tunis cannot be ruled out. (V.A. Malta, 2021/18).

German W/T.

Middle East informs us German Air W/T Stations detected in Libya. Position uncertain. Details. No indication at present that this concerns your present operation. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0926/18, to V.A.L.F.)

Recognition signals.

Following will be in force for use between British and Greek Naval forces. (C.in C. Med. 1059/18).

2200/17 to 0030/18 Raid on Suez Canal.

Two enemy planes flew along axis of Canal dropping bombs at Ismailia Ferry, Kantara, and Khassab 24 and 16. Army lorries and ferry machine gunned. Road and Sweet Water Canal temporarily obstructed near Kantara. One U X B in canal bank at Kantara. One U X B West of railway at Khassab 16. No other damage nor casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1246/18).

German merchant vessels in Adriatic.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

612

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

German merchant vessels in Adriatic.

(a) Certain important changes in the distribution of German Merchant Vessels in the Adriatic and particularly at Trieste have taken place.
(b) Number on 4/4/40 was between 25 and 29.
(c) On Dec. 5th source B two since independently confirmed stated that there were twenty German Merchant Vessels in Trieste, of which S.S. ANKARA, REICHENFELS and one name unknown had been loaded with stores for Albania. Remaining vessels had been equipped as transports and made ready for sea.
(d) On Dec. 15th source two reported 9 German Merchant Vessels left Trieste for unknown destination. Later sailings have been reported, and number of vessels in Trieste on 1/1 is given by two sources of proved reliability as five.
(N.A. Belgrade 1245/18. NOTE. Passed to C.in C. Mediterranean.).

Lorries for Greece.

Your 1903/9 to Admiralty etc. War Office 96174 Cypher (M.I.L.) 9/1 to British Military Mission explains present position regarding supply of lorries. Up to 300 Italian lorries are being sent from Middle East, and negotiations are in progress with a view to obtaining 1000 lorries by barter from Syria. Further plans. Your suggestion of shipping lorries on coal ships from U.K. is impracticable.
(I.D.C. 1328/18 to N.A. Athens).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Re damage etc. V.A. Malta 1251/18, 1257/18. See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report, Derna bombed, Tobruk bombed, Rhodes bombed.

Operational Summary No. 222 up to 1200 hours 18/1/41.
Para. 1 Egypt. Day 16/1. 7 Blenheims bombed Derna Barracks, results unobserved. Night 16/17, 2 Wellingtons bombed military buildings at Tobruk. 1 Wellington bombed Maritz Aerodrome, Rhodes, bad weather prevented the others locating the objective.

Tel Aviv Raid.

Para 4. Palestine. Night 17/18 Jan. 1 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs near Aqir aerodrome, and a 5th 5 miles east Tel Aviv no damage reported. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1252/18).

22nd A/S Group arrived: most welcome. Request consideration be given to increasing complement of each ship and send a small pool of spare ratings. (C.in C. Med. 1509/18 to C.in C. S.A., N.O.1/c Simonstown).

/ Oerlikons, supply.

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Oerlikons,
Supply.

Your 0913/16. We only have about 100 Oerlikons all of which in service in vessels operating in narrow waters under constant threat of air attack. A supply will be sent out to you when guns start to be obtained from new manufacture. Meanwhile more .303 inch weapons, Holman projectors and P.A.C.'s are being sent.
(D.T.S.D. 1701/18, to C.in C. Med.)

Seaward
Defence
of Tobruk.

Consider early decision is required on extent to which Tobruk is to be established as a defended port with coast complement of guns and eventual extended defence fortress.
(C.in C. Med. 1705/18 to C.in C. M.E.)

Sicilian
Aerodromes.

Suggestions re attack. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta Defence.

Re use of 20 barrel U.P. wire barrage against dive bombers.
(D.T.S.D. 1756/18 to C.in C. Med.)

Accoustic
Mines.

Possible use by enemy aircraft. Precautions and sweeping arrangements.
(D.M.S., 1818/18 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Attack
on Malta.

1315 to 1550, by about 80 JU.87's and 88's covered by fighters. Details of damage. (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., to Air Ministry, 1825/18). See Mediterranean Volume.

FORMIDABLE.

C.in C. Med. 1109/18. See Mediterranean Volume.

W.S.5B.

CAPETOWN CASTLE and ARUNDEL CASTLE both in W.S.5B have on board 2 and 1 M.L.C. respectively. These can be handled by ships' own derricks.
(D. of S.T. 2007/18 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Convoy A.N.

Arrived Piraeus 2000/18.
(N.C.S.O. Athens 2300/18.)

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

614

East Indies.

Force T.

Your 1303/17 (further movements of Force T) Concur. (C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

U.S.S.

M03692/41
M04467/41

Expected dates at Aden and Suez (C.in C. E.I., 0800/18).

Convoys,
Red Sea,
protection.

Admty. 1406/10. Considered small risk to unescorted ships north of about 19° N. risk expected to become considerable. Suggestions re B.N. and B.N.F. convoys, B.S. and B.S.F. convoys and W.S. and U.S. convoys. (C.in C. E.I., 1316Z/18 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

B.N.13,
CORLOCK

My 0910/17 (Convoy sailing telegram) delete CORLOCK. Ship returned to Aden with engine defect. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0835Z/18).

FORMIDABLE.

Re escort. (C.in C. Med. 1109/18 to C.in C. E.I.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Attacks,
Arras,
Hargeisa.

Daily operation summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 18/1. Armed photographic reccos. I.E.A. 2 Blenheims. 1000 pounds bombs each Assab and Hargeisa Convoy escorts 3 Blenheims. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1709/18).

HELLAS

Your 0950/16, pass to Greek Consul. (Begins). HELLAS requisitioned, instruct Captain proceed Basra load barley for Greece. Sinopoulos, Greek Minister, Chairman Greek Shipping Committee. (Ends). (D.T.D. 1744/18 to N.C.S.O. Colombo).

Ship at
Mogadiscio
moved to
Merka.

My 2030/17. (Large cargo ship sighted at Mogadiscio). Air reconnaissance 18/1 showed ship had moved to Merka. Anticipate S.A.A.F. will bomb her 19/1. (C.in C. E.I. 1924Z/18 to Admty.) See page 679.

Communications.

Your 1212/24/12/40. Cable and Wireless anxious to provide information required but loath to increase traffic on already congested cable routes if it can be avoided. Instructions to managers at Aden and Colombo. (Head of M. 2004/18 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ HIGHLAND
PRINCESS

.....

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

615

HIGHLAND
PRINCESS
HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN
(W.S.5B).

To assist meat situation in U.K. very desirable that HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN in convoy W.S.5B should turn round at Durban and proceed forthwith to South America. P.S.T.O. India and P.S.T.O. Egypt are requested to report whether shipping can be provided for onward conveyance from Durban. (D.S.T., 2247/18, to P.S.T.O's)

China.

My 0917Z/16. Agreement concluded with CIERUAN which includes permission for one named British ship to be used in Indo China trade without restriction on number of voyages. Governor of Hong Kong is requested to consider whether nomination of a ship trading from Hong Kong is desired and if so suggest name. (C.in C. China, 0756Z/18, to Admty).

Trade
agreement
with Indo
China.

Text (C.in C. China 0946Z/18) Note. Full telegram inserted in Operations Volume only.

Thailand
Indo China.

Decoux's reply to Adty. 1207/11 (C.in C. China 0814Z/18).

French troops
from Dibouti
for Indo
China.

My 0756/18 and 0804/18. French ask British Government to reconsider previous decision and permit five battalions of Senegalese troops to be transported from Djibouti to Indo China. Approval is now recommended. C.in C. Far East concurs. (C.in C. China 0842/18).

French imports,
gunny bags.

Ref. Clause XI of agreement French desire permission to import in addition sufficient gunny bags to provide for ?import of rice to unoccupied France up to an estimated total of 200,000 tons per annum. They were informed that this must be referred to London. They state assurance would be given that rice would be consumed exclusively in unoccupied France. (C.in C. China, 0957Z/18 to Adty.)

Indo-China
Trade.

My 1946/14. Following from F.O. (Examination of Point 8 in Haiphong telegram No.12 of 12/1.) (D.T.D. 2005/18 to C.in C. China and Govr., Straits Settlements).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

616

America and West Indies.

DIMITRIOS
CHANDRIS.

Returned from S.C.19 heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0905/18).

U.S. Bases.

My 1201/10. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1231/18
to Admty.)

PORT TOWNSVILLE
grounding.

Your 1747/16. ^{N.T.A.W.D.} PORT TOWNSVILLE. Check
and repeat to Admiralty position "E"
Admiralty message 1234/25/11. Confirm
SPEEDS "A" and "B".
(D.T.D. 1348/18 to N.C.S.O. Kingston).

Reply Page 651.

New Zealand.

THORSHAV
BENALBANACH

Have you news of THORSHAV and BENALBANACH
due Wellington and Picton respectively?
(D.T.D. 1240/18 to N.Z.N.B.).

War Diary.

18.1.1941.617
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARKADIA.

Departure ARKADIA for Russian Port in Ballast.
(VARNA 1128/18).

TANNER KAWA (?) }
TRIFELS. }

See North Atlantic 1822/18.

SULLBERG.

1663 tons at Cartagena since Sept., 1939 expected soon at Genoa with cargo of iron pyrites (D.S. 502).

GALILEA.

1927 tons left Valencia p.m./18 for Marseilles (D.S. 502).

ATLAS.

Valencia reports sailing tonight from Gandia to Marseilles.
(F.O.C.N.A, to URSULA, 1958/18).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO. CROCE.

CROCE.
Italian MAURO[^] expected time of arrival Barcelona Jan. 18th or 19th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0410/18 to URSULA).

War Diary.

18.1.1941 ⁶¹⁸
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

110624/41

Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff informs me interception of MENDOZA was observed by Brazilian Naval aircraft which reports incident took place five miles East of Itapocaroya.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1435/18 to Admty).

MENDOZA boarded 0855Z/18 in position 024 degrees 16.5 miles from Punta Das Cabecudas light. Captain refused to navigate ship. Reinforcing steaming party outside 50 miles limit. ASTURIAS in company pending further order. My 1530Z/18 position 26° 41' south 47° 08' West. Routed thence through following positions to Freetown. ASTURIAS now unable to supply a steaming party for another ship. (ASTURIAS, 1530Z/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

MENDOZA.
Armed guard
ASTURIAS
DORSETSHIRE.

110624/41

C. in C. Sth. Atlantic 1749/17 ASTURIAS 1530/18 ASTURIAS cannot spare large armed guard necessary to take MENDOZA to Freetown as there is little chance of their return for a long time. Suggest DORSETSHIRE should rendezvous with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA and replace ASTURIAS armed guard subsequently covering MENDOZA on passage to Freetown. If you approve, request you issue necessary instructions. Intend to leave (corrupt group) P.M./19 Return to Plate with (? Cruiser accompanying?) ASTURIAS proceeding to Rio De Janeiro Area for trade protection and interception of other French Ships proceeding north from Plate.
(Cdre, S.A.D. 2159/18 to C. in C. S.A).

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18.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.
OROPESA
(torpedoed 16/1)

My 1809/17. Cancel position TENACITY and substitute 056° 30'N. 014° 06'W. at 0001/18.
(C. in C. W.A. 0025/18 to WOLVERINE).

Boat with survivors OROPESA may be in approximate position 055° 40'N., 009° 24'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1007/18 to ships north of 53°N.).

What is my position?
(WESTCOTT, 1420/18 to Admty).

Cancel my 1420/18.
(WESTCOTT, 1620/18).

Arrived WESTCOTT with survivors from OROPESA.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1831/18 to Admty).

NEMEA.
(torpedoed 15/1)

Greek, 5101 tons. Proceed forthwith to assistance of NEMEA in position 052° 57'N. 023° 58'W. at 1410/17. Ship torpedoed at 2100/15 in No. 2 hold and is believed to be salvable.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0210/18 to RESTIVE);

If not in contact proceed to stand by NEMEA torpedoed and abandoned. Position at 1100/17 052° 57'N. 023° 58'W. Tug RESTIVE has been sent to tow and should arrive after dark/19.
(C. in C. W.A. 1253/18 to DELPHINIUM).

ALMEDA STAR
(torpedoed 17/1)

ST ALBANS has had to abandon search for ALMEDA STAR to refuel and LEGION was deflected to another vessel. You are to continue search for ALMEDA STAR or survivors until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1653/18 to BEAGLE, BRILLIANT).

/ALMEDA.....

620

18.1.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.
(contd).

ALMEDA STAR was independently routed, with 177 Fleet Air Arm personnel for Trinidad (D.O.R. 18/1).

Am escorting JAMAICA PLANTER clear of danger zone. Have detached BRILLIANT to comply with your 1653. My position course and speed are 058° 23'N. 012° 34'W. 085° 10.
(BEAGLE, 1845/18 to C. in C. W.A.).

S/M's Reported.

1517.

Estimated one German U-boat about 047° North 007° West bound for Lorient.
(Submarines on patrol Area B. 1517/18).

19.1.1941. 621
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Losses of
Independently-
routed Ships

The losses of independently routed ships from enemy air attack have increased to a serious extent since the speed of ships thus routed was reduced from 15 to 13 knots on 15/11. C. in C., W.A., proposes that 15 knots be reintroduced as the minimum speed of independently routed ships. He also considers the system of routing to be at fault; the policy of spreading out the routes makes it difficult to avoid the possibility of meeting U-Boats, and the fact that they are routed away from the normal convoy tracks makes it very difficult to find ships after being hit and rules out any chance of successful counter attack. But the most serious aspects are the effect on the morale of the Merchant Navy due to delays and frequent failures in rendering effective assistance and the lack of counter action. The latter also enhances the morale of the enemy. C. in C., W.A., considers the routes should be near convoy tracks.

Operation
P Y A

This operation was carried out tonight.

Tyne Blocked

The Tyne was blocked from 0640 to 1437 today by the bow wires of the blockship MALDA parting in a gale and allowing the ship to swing across the river.

Marine
Casualties

Several ships are in trouble from the weather.

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Penalty Areas

The Admiralty have approved of the proposal that submarines in certain areas may be bombed irrespective of any recognition signals they may make. These areas will be known as penalty areas.

Air Operations
Curtailed by
Weather.

On account of bad weather Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today. The number of routine and special patrols flown by Coastal Command today was limited for the same reason.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
Shipping

SS BONNINGTON COURT was bombed and sunk near the Sunk Light Vessel this afternoon, whilst proceeding to join Convoy F.N. 88 Earlier in the day SS ZERO in this convoy was slightly damaged and proceeded independently to the Tyne. SS CORDUFF was attacked this morning off Hearty Knoll Buoy. Other attacks, about which no details are reported were on SS KAPETAN STRATIS in the S.W. Approaches and WILLIAM H. DANIELS off the Sunk Light Vessel. EGRET and Convoy F.S. 90 were attacked this morning East of Lowestoft, but no damage was caused.

Mining

Operation
B.S. 50

TEVIOT BANK and IMPULSIVE laid mines today in the East Coast Barrier.

The small Dutch ship DIANA was mined and sunk in the Bristol Channel this afternoon and certain small ports were closed.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Sheerness and Milford Haven.

The Humber is closed.

War Diary

19.1.1941 623
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA

DORSETSHIRE has been ordered to R.V. with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA and relieve the armed guard, and presumably the steaming party which ASTURIAS placed on board outside the 50 mile limit from Brazil, MENDOZA having refused to proceed to Freetown. The Complement of ASTURIAS suffices to provide only one steaming party at a time. MENDOZA is to call at Ascension for orders before proceeding to Freetown.

South Atlantic

Raiders

ARAWA has been ordered by C. in C., S.A. to search the area to W.S.W. and South of the position, 700 miles south of the Azores, where BRITISH UNION was sunk yesterday by a raider.

Attack on
Whale Factory
Ships & Transport.

The whale catcher THORIS^D reports on arrival at Falkland Islands, that it is believed the whale factory ship OLE WEGGER and transport SOGLIMT have been sunk by a raider in 59° S., 3° or 4° W approx. Further details became known later. The date of sinking or capture is given as 14/1, and it is thought that 4 catchers which were alongside OLE WEGGER were also captured. D/F bearings today indicate a surface unit in approx. 57° S., 11° W., near the area of operations of the whale factory ships. QUEEN OF BERMUDA has been ordered to investigate. The raider is reported to be a motor vessel over 10,000 tons, apparently the latest type of passenger ship.

/DAIFONN.....

War Diary

19.1.1941.
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

DALFONN
Engages U-Boat
with Decoy

The Norwegian tanker DALFONN, which had lost touch with her convoy in bad weather reports that on 18/12 she engaged with her gun a U-Boat for which a large armed tanker flying Dutch colours was apparently ~~acting~~ *acting* ~~escorting~~ as a decoy. The DALFONN escaped unscathed. An unknown British freighter 10 miles away also saw and engaged the U-Boat. *See P. 645.*

Convoy
S.L. 63

Owing to the length of route of convoy S.L. 63 CANTON will be unable to return to Freetown without proceeding to the U.K.

Mediterranean

Air Raids on
Malta

There were two more heavy air raids on Malta in daylight today, by a very large number of dive bombers. ILLUSTRIOUS was hit again and DECOY and BERYL were damaged. Damage was caused in the Dockyard and in the City. Heavy toll was taken of the raiders, and H.Q., R.A.F., Malta reports that the raids can be withstood and that the enemy's morale is visibly affected by their losses.

Operations
In Libya

C. in C., Med. anticipates rather greater difficulty in clearing and occupying Tobruk harbour than was the case at Bardia owing to mines and sabotage and obstruction reported now in progress. No mines were found off Bardia. Army supplies to be ferried will be on a still larger scale and water may be unobtainable ashore. The Bardia water system is efficient to supply Sollum and Bardia; these two places must be maintained as supply bases until Tobruk is firmly established. Further operations against Tobruk are held up by the weather.

S.S. CLAN
CUMMING
torpedoed.

C.in C. Med. reports that S.S. CLAN CUMMING, which left Piraeus in Convoy "Excess", was "submarined" off San Georgio and is reported to have returned to Piraeus.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

625

Policy.

Unrestricted
Bombing of
S/M's in
certain Areas.

Your 1744/17. Approved. (D.O.D.(H)
1257/19.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~SECRET~~

At 1130/19. (D.C. 1131/19 and 1735/19.)
At 2330/19. (D.C. 2350/19.)

Scapa
A/A Defences.

Adty. 1131/14/12. The 16 Bofors pro-
mised for delivery 8 in December and
8 in January have not yet arrived nor
has Commander Orkneys and Shetlands
defences received any information of
their despatch. Their provision is a
matter of extreme urgency. Request
steps be taken to expedite delivery
and that I may be informed when they
will be sent. (A.C.O.S. 1637/19 to
A.A. Command.)

HESPERUS.

Movements.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1001/19.)

J3968.

Intend sailing J3968 for Rosyth
escorted by AURORA and four destroyers
at 1600/21 speed of advance 15 knots
approximately. F.C. gun trials will be
carried out between Islay and Barra
Head AM/22, and between Kinnaird Head
and May Island a.m. and p.m./23.
E.T.A. Inchkeith 1700/23. (N.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1148/19.)

My 1732/18, para. 2. In view of weather,
Destroyers are to proceed independently
not later than 1030/20. (C. in C. H.F.
1633/19 to R.A.D. AURORA.)

FURIOUS)
NEPTUNE)

My 1559/18. Position K should read 55°
19' N. 6°W. (C. in C. W.A. 1213/19 to
FURIOUS.)

/JACKAL.....

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

626

Movements. Contd.

JACKAL
HESPERUS

R/V. with me in 53° 40'N. 16°30'W. at 0945/21. (JACKAL 0859/19 to HESPERUS.) Your 1208 and my 0859. My route to R/V. Join me as convenient. (JACKAL 1521/19 to HESPERUS.) My 1623/19. Proceed Londonderry, complete with fuel, and join JACKAL. (C. in C. W.A. 2123/19 to HESPERUS)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1546/19.)

INTREPID.

Cancel my 1114/18. Intend INTREPID leave Humber PM/20 to R/V as by Adty. 1032/16. (Capt. D.20. 1700/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Sailed Tilbury 1040 for Southend in tow of Tugs LADY BRASSEY, ARCADIA, WATERCOCK. My 1805/15 refers. (F.O.I.C. London 1045/19 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation "Specimen".
SPECIMEN.

Request consideration may be given to providing H.M.S. PEGASUS with a duplicate A/S vessel aerial system to provide an A/S vessel look out on after bearings. (C. in C. W.A. 1203/19 to Adty.)

Operation PYA.

With M/L's 106 and 110. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1701/19 to SNAPDRAGON.)

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Submarines.

SEALION)
INTREPID)

Intend sail at 0900/21 for A/S Exercise at 1000. Route of SEALION on completion for Patrol Fro Havet to Stadlandet. (S.6. 1333/19.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/20. (F.O.S. 1722/19.)

OLYMPUS.

Orders for leaving Azores Patrol 21/1 for Portsmouth. Route, etc. (F.O.S. 1751/19.)

SEVERN.

You may sight KING GEORGE V. westbound on about 21/1. (A.C.N.S.H. 1902/19 to SEVERN.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Disposition.

One Italian in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde. Between 6° and 8° West. (F.O.S. 1517/19 to S/M's Area B.)

British Air Activity.

FURIOUS.

My 1729/17. Only A/C now in FURIOUS fit for operation are 2 Skuas which are inadequate to provide either Air A/S or Fighter protection. (D.N.A.D. 0941/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrols.

Patrol ~~will~~^{is} cancelled today. No additional Patrols ordered. (C. in C. Rosyth 0950/19.) Following will be flown tomorrow, weather permitting. ~~SEALION, INTREPID, SEVERN, OLYMPUS, SEVERN, OLYMPUS~~
"Trest" ~~SEVERN, OLYMPUS~~: (C. in C. Rosyth 1420/19.)

/804 Squadron.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

804 Squadron.

Your 2210/16. Request Squadron may cease operating as from Midnight 31/1, and then transfer to R.N. Air Station, Yeovilton. (5th S.L. 1232/19 to Air Ministry.)

Lorient.

Ap. 773/19/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight U-Boats in Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1237/19 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Brest.

A.P. 772/19/1. 53 and 59 Sqdns. to attack tonight Cruiser in dry-dock at Brest. Alternative Target, U-Boats at Brest which are located as follows. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Orkneys &
Shetlands
A/S Air
Watch.

C. in C. H.F. 2229/18.
I do not wish to curtail our watch on the Norwegian Coast or our anti-invasion patrols. I will however keep a careful watch on the areas referred to in para. 3 of the above signal when aircraft are available. Patrol FAIR is at present carried out daily. (A.O.C. in C. H.Q.C.C. 1700/19 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

BURKE.

(M/S. Trawler. Bombed 8/10/40). Arrived Tilbury 1830 in tow of LADY BRASSEY. (F.O.I.C. London 0800/19 to V.A. Dover.)

Swansea.

Details of Damage in Air-Raid 17/18. No Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1000/19.)

Convoy
F.S.90.

A/C. bombing. (EGRET 1022/19) One A/C. My position 52° 30' N. 2° E. (EGRET 1025/19.) 4 Bombs. No. damage. (EGRET 1048/19.) One Junkers 98 circling Convoy in 52° 22' N. 2° 1' E. (EGRET 1249/19 and 1251/19.)

/KAPETAN STRATIS.....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

KAPETAN
STRATIS.

Machine-gunned in 50° 28' N. 17° W.
(~~KAPETAN~~ STRATIS 1035/19.)

WILLIAM H.
DANIELS.

(British, 1764 Tons.) Bombed off Sunk
Light Vessel (N. Foreland 1057/19.)

CORDUFF.

(British, 2345 Tons.) Attacked by A/C
off Hearty Knoll Buoy. (Burnham Radio
1137/19.)

Convoy
F.N.88.

My 1233. (?1133) M.E.110. No Bombs, no
hits. (WALLACE 1147/19.) Fighters have
left to assist. (C. in C. Nore 1157/19.)
A/C bombing in 51° 32' N. 1° 3' E. (WALLACE
1233/19.) One A/C bombing in 51° 50' N.
1° 35' E. (WALLACE 1510/19.) ~~BONNINGTON~~
COURT bombed and sunk in 275° 9½ cables
from Sunk Light Vessel. (WALLACE 1531/19
to C. in C. Nore.) 35 survivors taken to
Harwich by SHEARWATER. 2 Engineers believ-
ed missing. Fore part of ship above water
and on fire. Fighters believed to have
been near at time, but much low cloud.
(C. in C. Nore 1801/19 to Adty.)

BONNINGTON *this is correct*
COURT. *20*
Sunk.

Mining.

Milford
Haven.

Port open except to I.C.E. Ships and
subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven 0743/19.) 2 Ground Mines
self-detonated in 75° 12½ cables and 135°
1 mile from St. Ann's Head respectively.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1851/19 to Adty.)

A/C Minelaying
Sheerness Area.

For tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1239/19.)
Red Mine detonated by LL.Tugs at 1040 in
250° West Shoebury Buoy 5 cables.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1446/19.)

Humber.

Closed. Expect re-open 1200/20. (F.O.
Humber 1614/19.)

/Bristol.....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Bristol
Channel.

Ships are not to be sailed to or from Watchet or ports in the River Parratt until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1647/19.)

DIANA sunk.

DIANA (Dutch, 312 Tons.) Mined and sunk in 51° 18' N. 3° 10' W. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1657/19 to Adty.)

Liverpool.

Mine Report to 1800/19. One Mine detonated by LL. sweep 288° 2 miles Bar Light Vessel; and 2 by Vessels in 275° 4 cables and 270° 2 cables from Bar Light Vessel, respectively. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1846/19.)

S.S. ROY.
(Marine Casualty
11/1.)

Was damaged by 3 external explosions believed to have been caused by mine 11/1 off Humber. Engines were disabled and she was towed into Hull next day. (D.S.502.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Air R/C at 1200/19. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1525/19.)

Norwegian
Coast
and Ports.

Information from Sources. (N.A. Stockholm 1635/18. to D.N.I.)

Cherbourg.

Shipping and Shore Activity seen at 1525/19. (P.R.U. Benson 2205/19.)

Reported
plan of
invasion.

M.I.C.E. 0835/19.)

Miscellaneous.

Tyne Entrance
blocked.

By s.s. MALDA.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Reporting
of
Aircraft.

The attention of Masters of ships sailing in Convoy should be drawn to the signification of the signal "six" in "Consigns", and they should be informed of the desirability of making this signal by every available visual means when enemy aircraft are sighted. (D.T.D. 0045/19, to A.I.G. 47.)

Routes.

A.M. 1340/29/10 and 1236/7/1 inward bound ships proceeding south through the Minches are to cross parallel of 58° 15' N in the Minches at 0600 B.S.T. Instructions as to crossing the arc of a circle with radius of 150 miles from Malin Head do not apply, to such ships. (D.T.D. 1725/19 to C. in C. A. & W.I. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Losses of
independently
routed ships
from U-boat
attack.

Losses of independently routed ships from U-boat attack, have increased to a serious extent since the speed of ships routed independently was reduced from fifteen knots to thirteen knots on the 15/11.

The losses are as follows:-

October - nil.

November- 1.

December- 5. (included 1 A.M.C.)

January - 5. Up to 18th.

2. The increase in losses is attributed to:- (A) The reduction in minimum speed and the consequent increase in number of independently routed ships.

(B) The system of routing.

3. The policy of spreading out the routes makes it difficult to avoid the possibility of meeting U-boats, and the fact that they are routed away from the normal convoy tracks makes it very difficult to find them after being hit and rules out any chance of a successful counter attack. Considerable escort time is lost in ships having to be sent to their assistance from 200 to 400 miles away.

/4. The.....

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Sunday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Losses of
independently
routed ships
from U-boat
attack.

4. The most serious aspects are effect on morale of Merchant Navy due to the inevitable delays and frequent failures in rendering effective assistance; the lack of counter action, also affects the morale of the Merchant Navy and enhances that of the enemy.

5. I propose that the following steps be taken: (A) Revert to fifteen knots as the minimum speed of independently routed ships.

(B) Such ships routes to be near convoy tracks.

(C) Fast outward convoy for ships of twelve to 14.9 knots to be introduced whenever possible. Fast escort groups should be available for these on occasions which can be forecasted now that the sailing of the military convoys has been regularised.

(D) Fast groups to be sailed from Halifax, Bermuda, and Sierra Leone to meet the normal H.X. and S.L. convoys at their R.V. with the local escorts.

Coastal Convoys.

Arrived 0835/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0840/19.)

F.N.86.

E.N.59.

Propose postponing E N 59 for 24 hours on account of bad weather. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0933/19.)

E.N.59.
W.N.72.

E.N.59 postponed 24 hours. In consequence W.N. 72 postponed 25 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1007/19, N.C.S.O. Clyde 1024/19.)

/O.B. 275.....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

O.B.275. Commodore O.B. No. 275 with 3 ships in company will be 4 hours late at Altacarry rendezvous. (**FLEUR DE LYS**. 1030/19 to ABERDEEN.)

W.N.71.(O) List of ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1126/19.)

W.N.72.(O) No ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1132/19.)

F.N.88. Movements to 1200/20.
F.N.87. Convoys:- F.N. 88 due Aldeburgh 1630/19.
F.N.90. F.N. 87 left Southend 1200/19.
F.S.90. F.N. 90 due mid Barrow
F.S.91. L.V. 1600/19.

→ VERDUN, SHEARWATER, and 3 M.V's from F.S.90 due sunk L.V. 1600/19 approx. F.S.91. due Flamborough 0330/20. (C. in C. Nore, 1200/19.)

O.B.O.275. Sailed O.B.O.275. 0545/19. Escort GARDENIA. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1203/19.) *See also next page*

→ F.N.88. F.N.88, 0935/19. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1206/19.)

→ F.S.90. D.G. gear out of action unable to find fault. S.S. CORDUFF proceeding to join VERDUN remaining 4 ships not sighted. Am proceeding south will be in position 051° 59'N 001° 42'E at 1815. (EGRET 1445/19.)

O.B.
Convoys. Recently more ships have been available than immediate O.B. convoys can accommodate. Submitted that M. of S. should indicate priority of sailing on such occasions. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1442/19.)

/F.S.90.....

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Coastal Convoys Contd.

- F.S.90. Inform EGRET time you expect to pass Sunk and Shipwash. (C. in C. Nore 1425/19 to FLEETWOOD, WALLACE.)
- F.N.88. Southend. Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1451/19.)
- F.S.91. Ships and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1506/19.)
- F.S.89. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1516/19.)
- 6.M.V's. Portsmouth night movements, escorted by 2 A/S Trawlers Dartmouth to Poole and Needles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517/19.)
- W.N.71. Passed 058° N. at 1515/19. speed made good 6½ knots. (ELLESMERE 1520/19.)
- O.B.275. Am proceeding to Oban portion of O.B. No. 275 towards. Altacarry rendezvous. (GARDENIA 1535/19.) *See previous page*
- W.N.71. Movements tonight estimated positions at 2000. W.N.71 latitude Cape Wrath
E.N. 58 059° 25' N. 005° 55' W.
(A.C.O.S. 1543/19.)
- E.N.58.
- C.W.23. Your 2020/14 arrived less three M.V.'s and three M.L's. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/19.)
- W.N.71. W.N.71 latitude 58° N. at 1515 speed 6½ knots. (A.C.O.S.1633/19.)
- F.S.91. No ships sailing from Humber. (N.C.S. O. Humber 1645/19.)
- F.N.87. No ships sailing from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1647/19.)

/E.N.58.....

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

E.N.58.
W.N.71.

Act as additional A/A escort to EN 58 sailing at 2230/17. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail HASTINGS to join WN.71 due Duncansby Head "Mission" 1330/20. Code word for EN 58 "MISSION" and WN 71 "~~MUSTER~~". (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/16.) *To alarm?*

→ F.N.88.
→ F.N.90.
→ F.S.90.

Escort F.N.88. GUILLEMOT, VERDUN 3 motor ships from F.N. 90 due Sule Skerry approx. 1600/19 probably anchor at night near B.8.buoy. EGRET probably remaining vicinity number 5 buoy till nightfall to collect remainder F.S.90. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1701/19.)

→ F.S.90.
→ F.N.90.

Report position in which you finally anchor(ed) and number of ships in company. Dangerous wreck in position 9.5 cables 275° from Sule Skerry Light Vessel. (C. in C. Nore 1709/19 to EGRET, VERDUN.)

Ships and destinations.

O.B.M.276.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1715/19.)

O.B.M.276.

1710/19. ROSEMARY. Five. None with kites. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1717/19.)

→ F.N.88.

No ships from Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1942/19.)

→ F.S.90.

Your 1709. Am anchored by B.8. buoy steamship CORDUFF in company. Commodore in FULHAM, and 3 ships still unaccounted for. D/G Gear now correct. (EGRET 2026/19.)

/F.N.89.....

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Ships and destinations

F.N.89.
F.S.90.

VESPER and PYTCHLEY are to leave Sheerness at 0940/20, escort F.N.89, until VERDUN and EGRET are met in Barrow Deep. VESPER and PYTCHLEY are then to take over escort of F.S.90. to Nore L.V. and EGRET and VERDUN are to ^{escort} F.N.89.

EGRET and VERDUN are to weigh with ships in company at first daylight/20, and proceed towards Southend. Ships of F. S. 90 are not to enter Thames Gate until F.N.89 is clear. Code words F.N.89 ~~XXXX~~. F. S.90. ~~XXXX~~. F.N.89. 48 ships commodore in VALLDEMOSA. SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN additional escort from Harwich. EGRET and VESPER acknowledge.(C. in C. Nore 2106/19 to VESPER, PYTCHLEY, EGRET, VERDUN.

F.N.87.

No ships from Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 2135/19.)

Fast E.N.
Convoys.

C. in C. Rosyth's 2357/13/11 in view of the absence of A/C attacks off Rattray Head during recent weeks and of the slow speed at which ships must proceed when diverted into the Moray Firth it is suggested that fast E.N. Convoys should revert to the direct route to Pentland Firth, being sailed from Methil at such time as will enable them to catch the daylight tide. It is reported that ocean going ships are difficult to manage at the slow speed required by the inshore route and valuable time is also lost. Request your remarks.(D.T.D. 2254/19 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S.

/Reference.....

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Ships and destinations Contd.

Reference D.M.S. Part II Article 123
Collective W/T. Call Signs for use
in E.N. Convoys are allocated as
follows:-

	<u>CONVOY CODE WORD:-</u>	<u>USAGE.</u>	<u>PADDLE.</u>	<u>MIGHT.</u>	<u>MISSION.</u>
E.N.Code.	(1) Commodore.	E N D 1.	E N S 1	E N D 5	E N S 5.
Words.	(2) Oban Section.	E N D 2.	E N S 2	E N D 6	E N S 6.
	(3) Clyde Section.	E N D 3.	E N S 3	E N D 7	E N S 7.
	(4) Whole Convoy (at any time)	E N D 4.	E N S 4	E N D 8	E N S 8.

The Call Signs given in this signal
will come into force commencing with
E.N.63. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1100/19.)

F.S. Call
Signs.

Cancel my postagram 1058/31/8/40
Reference D.M.S. Part II Article 123
the following W/T collective Call
Signs are allocated for use in F.S.
Convoys.

EVEN NUMBERED F.S. CONVOYS.

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
(1) Commodore.	F S E S 5	F S E D 1.
(2) Ships bound into Tyne, Tees and Humber, area ports.	F S E S 6	F S E D 2.
(3) Ships bound into Thames.	F S E S 7	F S E D 3.
(4) Whole Convoy (At any time.)	F S E S 8	F S E D 4.

A and B to be used alternately
commencing with F.S.2.

ODD NUMBERED F.S. CONVOYS.

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
(1) Commodore.	F S O D 5	F S O S 1.
(2) Ships bound into Tyne, Tees and Humber, area ports.	F S O D 6	F S O S 2.
(3) Ships bound into Thames.	F S O D 7	F S O S 3.
(4) Whole Convoy.(At any time.)	F S O D 8	F S O S 4.

A and B to be used alternately com-
mencing with F.S.1.

If a convoy is cancelled the sequence
continues as if the convoy had run.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1700/18.)

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean
Convoys.
H.G.50.

H.G.50 meet. (C. in C. W.A. 0057/19 to MALCOLM, LA MALOUINE, SHIKARI, SKATE, ARABIS.

H.X.98,
and
H.X.100.

On time at R.V. heavy weather 5/1, during which SOEMBA foundered. Remaining ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1407/19.)

Ocean Convoys.

Positions. (D.T.D. 1435/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

→ H.X.101.

Have left convoy, proceeding ahead to fuel. HEARTSEASE Senior Officer. My position 058° 31' 005° 59'. (AMBUSCADE 1650/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.20.

Your 1131/18. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1733/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.)

B.H.X.104.

Your 1931/17. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1736/19 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda.)

S.C.18.

Arrived. BENEDICT, LORETO, MANCHESTER, SPINNER. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1830/19.)

→ H.X.101.

W.N.72.

Weather conditions permitting Oban section of H X 101 are to be detached to anchor in Bloody Bay Sound Mull for onward routeing in W N 72. (C. in C.W.A. 1941/19 to HEARTSEASE, AUBRETIA, HOLLYHOCK.)

→ H.X.101.

H.X.101 not present NAIRNBANK MANAQUAI and 7 others. (C. in C. W.A. 2025/19.)

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Sunday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SOEMBA.

Foundered 5/1 during heavy weather.
M.H.X. Convoy. (D.T.D. 1407/19.)

SWITZERLAND
SHUNA
WALLONIA

See North Atlantic.

SPES.

(Norwegian, 1142 Tons) In 109° Oronsay
Light 11 miles. Ship cannot make Clyde
or Londonderry. Must have smooth water
to clear pumps. Am directing her to
Port Charlotte (ULLSWATER 0103/19.)
Ship hove to off Cape Campbell. Water in
hold not increasing. Am standing by till
daylight. (ULLSWATER 0625/19 to C. in
C. W.A.)

EUREKA.

(Panamanian, 2243 Tons). Your 1400/30/10
refers. Due Mombasa 15/1. Not arrived.
C. in C. E. Indies 0452.Z/19. to Adty.)

BIRTLEY.

(British, 2873 Tons.) Driven ashore
at George Point, Cullercoats at 0517.
Lifeboats ordered out. Tug being sent
from Sunderland at daylight. (Portishead
Radio 0517/19, and F.O.I.C. Tyne
0741/19 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

MALDA.

(Blockship) Has swung across Tyne owing
to Bow Wires parting in strong gale.
Port of Tyne closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne
0640/19.) MALDA now clear. Port open.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1437/19.)

HOPERIDGE.

(British, 5222 Tons.) Ashore 5 miles
W.S.W. of St. John's Point, Dundrum Bay.
Left Liverpool 0200/19 with Convoy
OB.275. Master shot himself about
0500/19. H.M.T. SOUTHERN GEM has been
sent to stand by. Newcastle Lifeboat has
been sent (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0641 and
1320/19.) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 2110/19 to SCHELDE.) Still
ashore. Apparently undamaged. (N.O.I.C.
Belfast 1928/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/PASS.....

War Diary.

19. 1. 41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

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PASS OF
BALLATER.

(British Tanker, 796 Tons) My 1148/18.
Aground. Unable to join E.N.58. Hope to
refloat today. (N.C.S.O. Lyness
1025/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

EDINBORO³
~~EDINBORO~~
CASTLE.

(Grimsby ^{241 tons.} Trawler) Stranded at Kettleness
at about 0530/19. Crew of 10 rescued by
Kettleness L.S.A. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool
1054 and 1258/19.)

SAFOOY.

Your 1657/17. ANEMONE accepts
responsibility. Damage occurred while
trying to obey orders to come alongside.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1113/19 to F.O.I.C.
Iceland.)

CAPE RODNEY.

(British 4512 Tons) Tug PRIZEMAN left
Immingham 1410 to assist. (F.O.Humber
1432/19.) Tug returned Immingham 1730.
Assistance not accepted. (F.O.Humber
1800/19.)

GAASTERKERK.

(Dutch, 8679 Tons.) Cancel my 1334/18.
Ship delayed probably 48 hours by
machinery defects. (N.C.S.O. Greenock
1515/19 to Adty.)

EGRET.

D.G. gear out of action. (EGRET 1445/19
to C. in C. Nore.)

HONEYSUCKLE.

(Corvette) 1 Boiler temporarily out of
action after detonating Mine. (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1837/19 to Adty.)

MEANDROS.

Do not sink ship if in any ^{way} possible for
ENGLISHMAN to take her in tow. ENGLISHMAN
has been given your position. (C. in C.
W.A. 2323/19 to ARBUTUS.)

BROADWAY.

Returning to Greenock with defects. E.T.A.
1600/20. Speed reduced to 10 knots.
(BROADWAY 2330/19 to Adty.)

CANBERRA.

Collided with Guide Pier, Colombo, while
berthing on 14/1. Ship seaworthy but
permanent repairs to stern will
necessitate docking. (C. in C. East
Indies 1158/19.)

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War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.O. Force H. 2119/19. See Operations Volume.

North Atlantic.

PHOEBE.
landing
of ammunition.

Following is a repetition of my 2146/18:-
Adty. 1357/15 and 1802/18. Submit that
20% of PHOEBE'S 5.25 ammunition be landed
before ship sails, for retention at
Gibraltar.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0010/19 to Admty).

Following messages addressed F.O.C.N.A.,
repeated C. in C. H.F. from Adty passed
to you for information. Begins. Your
2146/18 Regret this cannot be approved
0225/19. Ends.

(D.S.O. 0412/19 to C.S;15 C. in C. Med.
PHOEBE).

ARK ROYAL'S
bombs.

S.O. Force H. 0924/19.
See Operations Volume.

ARK ROYAL
F.A.A.
Sqdns.

Your 1415/13. Intend allocating 807
Squadron to relieve 800 Squadron in
ARK ROYAL.
(D.N.A.D. 1231/19 to S.O. Force H.).

Submarines

Estimated position at 0800/20.

(a) OLYMPUS on Patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(b) OTUS 036° 10'N. 017° 20'W. proceeding
on surface to relieve OLYMPUS speed 10
knots.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1404/19).

SWITZERLAND.
SHUNA.
WALLONIA.

The following 3 ships left U.K. in O.G.48
for Lisbon not reported as having arrived
there British ships SWITZERLAND SHUNA
Swedish WALLONIA.

(S.O.(I) Gib. 1619/19).

PANDORA.

Add to my 1404 (C) PANDORA leaves Gibraltar
1830/20 proceeding on surface through
036° 50'N. 011° W. and 045° 50'N. 010° 50'W.
speed 10 knots.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1744/19 1748/19).

/FEARLESS.....

War Diary.

19.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (contd);

FEARLESS.

C. in C. S.A. is requested to signal FEARLESS onward routing instructions from position (c).
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1806/19).

Sailings 19/1.

PHOEBE sailed 1700/19 to U.K. routed through 036° 50'N. 013° 00'W. 041° 00' 018° 40' speed 20 knots.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA, CAPETOWN CASTLE escorted by FEARLESS, FORESTER, FAULKNOR, FURY, DUNCAN, sailed 1800/19 for Freetown routed through 035° 50'N. 006° 50'W. 034° 00' 012° 15' 028° 40' 020° 10' speed 16 knots.

FAULKNOR, FURY, DUNCAN, part company dark/20. and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1816/19).

South Atlantic.

BRITISH UNION,
attacked by
raider, reports
from ARAWA.

At 2022/18 in position 027° 01'N. 029° 54'W. sighted gun flash and searchlight bearing 240° altered course close. Searchlight glow and intermittent gunfire visible until 2359. Searchlight then gave final sweep and switched off estimated range about 12 miles. On reaching position ? indicated nothing was sighted. Intend remaining in vicinity this position 026° 34'N. 030° 58'W. until daylight.
(ARAWA 0315Z/19 to Admty and C. in C. S.A).

My 0315Z/19. Have picked up one boat crew from BRITISH UNION. Two more boats believed near. Survivors believe raider was big single funnel merchant ship with counter stern. They think she was accompanied by U-boat who fired two torpedoes at them. Am continuing search for other Boats.
(ARAWA, 0458Z/19).

Pass ARAWA's 0315/19 and 0458/19 to F.O.C.N.P. (C. in C. S.A. 0834/19 to Admty)

Unless you receive other instructions from F.O.C.N.A. or Admty search the area for raider to W.S.W. and South of raider's original position until 1800/21 then proceed Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 1139N/19 to ARAWA).

(Serial 27/1)

/Dispositions..

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (contd).

Dispositions
of ships in
S.A. Command.

Addition to his 1431/18 (C. in C.S.A. 1005/19).

BLACKHEATH.
DALFONN.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1015/18. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1035B/19).

OLE WEGGER.
SOLGLIMT (PELAGOS ^{was}
Sunk by ^{also sunk}
raiders. ^{944.})

Following from Reporting Officer South Georgia begins. Whale catcher THORIS arrived here from ice and reports Whale Factory OLE WEGGER and Transport SOLGLIMT sunk by enemy ship in 059° S. 003° or 004° W. approx. Factory THORSHAMMER should arrive here 20/1 Ends. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1237Z/19).

D/F bearing indicates German surface unit in approximate position 057 S. 011 W. reliability 65% (A Bearing from Freetown 321 has been discarded). This is near area of operation of Whale Factory ships PELAGOS, OLE WEGGER, THORSHAMMER, SVENDFOYN, and SOUTHERN EMPRESS. Request information whether Admiralty have any confirmation of this indication. QUEEN OF BERMUDA now at Falkland Is. and due to proceed to Deception Island can visit this area instead. (C. in C.S.A. 1321/19 to Adty).

Further to my 1237Z/19. Following received from reporting Office Sh. Georgia. Begins. My telegram for "Sunk by" read "believed to be sunk by". Hope to be in position to give fuller information tomorrow, Monday, when one of the OLE WEGGER'S catchers arrives. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1517Z/19).

/Your.....

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South Atlantic. (contd).

Your 1337Z/19 (1237/19 intended) ascertain and report date of sinking of OLEWEGGER and SOLGLIMT.
(C. in C.S.A. 1727N/19 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is.).

My 1321N/19 proceed when ready to operate in area of whaling operation callings Georgia on way and ascertain there if fuel is available and any further information about whaling and Raider activities.
(C. in C. S.A. 1921/19 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Your 1237/19. Pass to Reporting Officer South Georgia. Instruct all Whale Factories and Whale Catchers to maintain strict W/T and R/T silence, except for enemy reports until further orders.
(D.T.D. 1931/19 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is).

(Raider PINGVIN)

My 1237Z/19 following from S. Georgia begins raider reported to be Motor Vessel over 10000 tons seem to be latest type Passenger Ship 2 masts I Squat funnels appears to be fairly light 2145/19 ENDS.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 2358/19).

Southbound
Ships crossing
20° N.

For Plate.
(D.T.D. 1256/19).

S.L. 63.
CANTON.

Owing to length of route of S.L. 63 CANTON is unable to return to Freetown without proceeding to U.K. Request arrangements be made for CANTON to boiler clean on arrival Greenock. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CANTON for Freetown as soon as completed.
(C. in C. S.A. 1303/19).

Defence of
Takoradi.

Your 0057/10. As 6" guns were not available two 4.5" guns for coast and A.A. defence and one additional 12 pounder have been despatched.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1408/19 to C.

BRITISH
ZEAL.

C. in C. S.A. 1439/19. See U-Boat Campaign.

/DALFONN.....

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South Atlantic (contd).

DALFONN
attacked
by U-Boat.

Master Norwegian tanker DALFONN reports after losing touch with his convoy due to bad weather he sighted 1615 G.M.T/18/12 a large tanker of 8000 flying Netherland flag in 058° 50'N. 016° 11'W. who made hoist "Keep to my starboard side". DALFONN altered course and tanker then made by morse lamps "Require to have assistance, please stand by all my lifeboats carried away". DALFONN asked "What ship". Reply being "Number 23 of convoy" which on the convoy list was PENDRECHT. When closing to pass to Starboard DALFONN sighted at 1635 U-Boat previously hidden by tanker whose name painted over on stern was read as MORDRECHT or MODREEHT and had letters O V of funnel. 1 (one) life boat was seen in davits, and many of remaining lifeboats were over ship's side, weather at time flat calm.

DALFONN opened fire at 6000 yards and turned away increasing range to 10,000 yards having fired 7 rounds altogether. Strange tanker made no effort to engage U-Boat but kept her gun trained on DALFONN. Unknown British Freighter 10 miles to starboard also saw U-Boat and engaged. Due to failing light strange tanker and U-Boat were lost sight of and not seen again.

Master of DALFONN of opinion tanker was acting as decoy and store ship.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1456/19).

S.L.S. 63 9,
10, 2 and 12.

Sailing telegrams.

ARTEMISIA	W.A. Produce	Oban
TRAFALGAR	Iron, Tea	Oban
NEWBURY	Cereals	Oban
TYR (Norwegian)	Iron Ore	Oban
ESKDENE	Cereals	Oban
STONEPOOL	Iron Ore	Oban
FAIRWATER	Iron Ore	Oban
NAILSEA LASS	Iron Ore	Oban
KINGSWOOD	Cotton	Liverpool
MARSA	Iron Ore	Clyde
MOUNT PERA (Greek)	Cereals	Clyde
RABOUL	Cereals	Liverpool
PRINS FREDERIK	Cocoa	Barry Roads
HENDRIK (Dutch).		
CLEARPOOL	Cereals	Liverpool
BARON GRAHAM	Maize	Barry Roads
DALCROY	Wheat	Barry Roads
KELVINBANK.	Cereals	Clyde.

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South Atlantic.(contd).

S.L.S. 639.
10, 2 and 12.
(contd).

2. Standard route for all ships in event of separation.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1541/19).

ROWALLAN
CASTLE.

Your 1307/18. Check and repeat position "I" repetition "I" received as 56° 12'N. 12° 20'W.
(D.T.D. 1757/19 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

VELOX.
VIDETTE.

Departure 1800 VELOX and VIDETTE for r/v as in C. in C.S.A. 1301N/19. Cancel my 0941N/18.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1825N/19)

Re ALBATROSS.

Request ALBATROSS may be regarded as a catapult ship. Consider that the larger allowance of depth charges is essential for its A/S work on which her Walrus aircraft are employed.
(C. in C. S.A. 2221/19).

Mediterranean.

UNIQUE.

Orders for patrol.
(Comdr (S) to UNIQUE 0255/19).

LOMBARDIA. }
LIGURIA. }

Press report that Italian prisoners from Albania state these transports torpedoed and sunk on passage from Brindisi to Albania (D.S. 502).

SARDEGNA.
PROTEUS (Greek)

Broadcast at 0700/19 stated that SARDEGNA 11452 tons, serving as a troopship had been torpedoed and sunk by a Greek submarine. Italians however, claim to have rammed and sunk the Greek s/m PROTEUS IN THE Adriatic (D.S. 502).

Re reports of
German & Italian
plans and troop
movements.

Your 0041/18. Only confirmation here is numerous reports of arrivals of German Troops and A/C in Italy which have been more detailed and definite lately vide following reports; Only units confirmed in Italy and Sicily are contained in R.A.F. M.E's daily special intelligence summaries 7, 12, 14 and 17/41 addressed Air Ministry H.Q. Malta etc.
(Capt O.S. Alexandria 1012/19 to Adty).

/Docking.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

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Docking facilities at Alexandria.

P.S.T.O. Egypt 2046/17 and my ?151) 5/8/1940
Docking facilities at Alexandria are fully taxed in maintaining Mediterranean Fleet. I see no prospect of being able to dock merchant ships or oilers at Alexandria even in the distant future. (C. in C. Med 1151/19).

Operation.

C. in C. Med 1135/19. See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta. Air Raid. ILLUSTRIOUS damage.

11012725/41

Heavy air raid on dockyard area a.m./19 by very large number of dive bombers. ILLUSTRIOUS sustained underwater damage from near misses and has one boiler room out of action. ILLUSTRIOUS has no further casualties. Bombs in dockyard area caused much damage. Suggest communique should admit that further damage has been caused to ILLUSTRIOUS in order to give enemy the impression that she is not likely to leave for some time. It is understood that after German Communique saying ship had again been seriously hit, our broadcast denied this which will only increase their efforts to demolish her. (V.A. Malta 1239/19 to C. in C. Med).

Second Air Raid. DECOY, BERYL damaged. H.M.S. BRETONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULEY.

V.A. Malta 1509/19, 2301/19, C. in C. Med. 1639/19, 1849/19, 1943/19. See Mediterranean Volume.

Reference V.A. Malta's 1259/19 Re
> communique about damage to ILLUSTRIOUS due to air raid at Malta Para. 2 what are your views please?. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1615/19 to C. in C. Med).

See also p 649

PERTH damage.

PERTH, damage by near miss bomb while at Malta. Ship can steam at 25 knots. (C. in C. Med 1617/19).

/R.A.F.....

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Mediterranean. (contd).

R.A.F. report
of attacks
on Malta.

X. 3660. "I" 42-19/1. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. Ref. my "I" 40 18/1. German aircraft casualties in dive bombing raid on Luqa and Hal Far now established as follows.

2 Fulmars lost, one pilot and crew saved.

0830 to 0912 about 40 aircraft JU. 87's and JU 88's dive bombed Grand Harbour. C.R. 42's accompanied them.

0924 to 0945 enemy flying boat with red cross marking accompanied by C.R. 42 circled N.E. of Island.

1110 to 1125 Cant Z. 506B circled Island, evidently searching for missing aircraft.

1140 to 1220 aprox 40 JU 88's dive bombed Grand Harbour and Dockyards average of 6 Hurricanes one Fulmar and one Gladiator up during aforesaid raids. Total aircraft brought down as hitherto ascertained confirmed are as follows.
One Hurricane missing. P(I) damage to four Hurricanes K (2) Nil. Dive bombing appreciably less determined today.

A good bad day with a fair score no damage to Govt. property but considerable damage to civilian property no casualties. We can take it and enemy morale visibly affected. Nil report by Sunderland from normal Ionian sea patrol. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1800/19).

X 3634 1.43 19/1 my 1.42 19/1.
Naval items 19/1 (?) corrected (?) to read "bombs in dockyard caused much damage to Government property. Details will follow.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1845/19).

/Dockyard.....

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Mediterranean. (contd).

Dockyard subjected to severe dive bombing attacks. Remain in submarine sanctuary and proceed submerged up searched channel so as to surface in position 070° St. Elmo 3.5 miles at 1700 A/20 then proceed to Hamilton Wharf to embark mines (? and sail) on completion.
(S.O. S/M's Malta Force 1805/19 to RORQUAL).

Naval cooperation with 13th Corps.

My 1839/7. Following is report of work carried out in support of army in Western Desert during period 7th - 17th January. (See Situation reports 17/1, 19/1). (C. in C. Med 1847/19).

ILLUSTRIOUS

Reference Adty 1615/19 re communique about damage to ILLUSTRIOUS. Concur with V.A. Malta. (C. in C. Med 1853/19). *See p. 647.*

Air Operations. Tobruk bombed. Suez Canal bombed.

X.3527. A. 842 19/1. H.Q. R.A.F. Operational Summary No. 225 up to 1200/19/.

Part 1. Egypt. Night January 17/18. 8 Wellingtons and 5 Blenheims dropped approximately 30,000 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk starting a very large fire near petrol dumps. 2 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped bombs along Suez Canal near Ismailia and Kantara and machine gunned and M.T. convoy Kantara. No damage or casualties.

Day 18/1 Hurricanes and Australian Gladiators maintained offensive patrols over Tobruk area.

Army report German aircraft believed Heinkel III forced landed west of Tobruk through petrol shortage. Crew of 4 German N.C.O's captured and interrogated here. Libyan deserters state Italian aircraft at Giarabub damaged beyond repair by our troops on 15/1. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1204/19).

/Naval.....

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Naval
Situation.

C. in C. Med 1945/19 See Mediterranean
Volume.

AJAX
movements.

AJAX leaves Alexandria at 2350 today for
Antikithera Channel passing South of
Crete.
(Capt. (S). 2019/19 to PARTHIAN).

U-Boat
Reports.

Capt. O.S. Alexandria 2210/19, 2311/19.
See U.Boat Campaign.

Destroyer.

One destroyer may be approaching
Alexandria from Eastward at about Dawn
tomorrow.
(Capt. (S) 2325/19 to PARTHIAN).

East Indies.

S.S. EUREKA.

Panamanian, due Mombasa 15/1 not
arrived. Your 1400/30/10 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0452Z/19 to Adty).

HORTENSIA
BERTIN.

Adty 1857/17. (1) No objection to
transfer of HORTENSIA BERTIN to Panamanian
flag. Arrangements.

VOLANDE
BERTIN.

Re charter.

(C. in C. E.I. 0630Z/19).

CANBERRA.

Damage when berthing at Colombo. Seaworthy
but permanent repairs will require docking.
(C. in C. E.I. 1158/19).

Kismayu.
Massawa.

Proposed operations (your 1924Z/18)
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C.E.Indies 1320/19).
See Operations Vol.

Convoy
S.W.4B.

Itineraries of ships.
(D. of S.T. 1728/19).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

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INVERSUIR.

Your 1220/18. Re route.
(D.T.D. 1739/19 to N.C.S.O. Aruba).

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1123/18. Please confirm that guard sailed in BAYANO 23/12 vide your 1545 (?Dec) 9th.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0942/19 to N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica).

U.S. Bases.

Cancel my 1231/18 (C. in C. A.W.I. 1001/19).

VOLTAIRE.
MORETON BAY.

Your 1855/16. VOLTAIRE will be refitting vide my 1613/12. MORETON BAY will be sailed for Freetown on or about 25/1. dependent on completion of necessary urgent repairs.

PORT TOWNSVILLE
grounding

Your 1348/18 PORT TOWNSVILLE position East 057° 10' 010° 00' Average speed of advance (a) 16 knots (b) 16 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Kingston Jamaica 1505/19 to Adty).

Convoy S.C.20.

RANPURA sailing as ocean escort returning to Halifax on completion.
(B.C. 3 1731/19).

CARADOC.

My 1152/17. Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad a.m./22.
(C. in C.AWI. 1702/19 to CARADOC).

SEVERN.

E.T.A. Request bombing restrictions.
(SEVERN 2247Z/19).

Australia.

Dutch tanker
at Port
Moresby.

Your 0803Z/17. Permission is granted to station Dutch tanker at Port Moresby. Permission has already been granted for ~~at Port~~ *Rabaul* vide A.C.N.B. 0654Z/4. Question of general permission is under consideration.
(A.C.N.B. 0731/19 to C. in C. China).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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ATLAS.

Sailing of German Steamship ATLAS
delayed.
(Capt. S.8 0802/19 to URSULA).

ARKADIA.

Istanbul 18/1 arrival ARKADIA.
(Galata 1034/19).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LOMBARDIA. }
LIGURIA. }
SARDEGNA. }

Reported sunk, see Mediterranean.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

R.A.S.A.D's 2159Z/18 and ASTURIAS
1530/18 not received. Presume MENDOZA
has been intercepted. DORSETSHIRE to
rendezvous with ASTURIAS and MENDOZA in
position 023° 30'S. 032° 30'W. at
1500Z/21 relieve ASTURIAS armed guard
and remain as cover until necessary to
leave so as to fuel at St. Helena and
arrive Freetown p.m./29. MENDOZA to
proceed to Ascension report there and ask
if any orders then proceed to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 2233N/19 to R.A.S.A.D,
DORSETSHIRE, ASTURIAS.).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

OROPESA.
(torpedoed 16/1)

Tug SUPERMAN has arrived Campbeltown with survivors from OROPESA. They consist of Lieut Cdr. Struben R.N. 12 ratings T.124 ex QUEEN OF BERMUDA and 21 members of OROPESA'S crew. Including R.N.R. Gunner. They report that TENACITY has 20 on board and a destroyer presumably WOLVERINE had 42 total 96 known survivors out of 235 (194 crew and 41 passengers). Ship was hit by three torpedoes at long intervals.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0010/19 to Admty).

Following received from N.O.I.C. Campbeltown begins. Lt. Com. Struben R.N. Survivor from OROPESA reports that at least one boat was last seen under sail course S.S.E. from position of sinking. Suggest aircraft searches 1200/19 Ends.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/19 to C. in C. W.A).

BRITISH ZEAL.
(torpedoed 31/12)

My 1719N./4 BRITISH ZEAL now at Freetown. Ship was hit by two torpedoes, extensive damage to starboard side from bridge forward. Estimated time temporary repairs not less than 5 months.

(C. in C.S.A. 1439N/19).

CLAN CUMMING.

"Submarined" off San Georgio but I hope has now reached Piraeus (C. in C. Med 1943/19) See Mediterranean Volume.

ALMEDA STAR.
(torpedoed 17/1)

Ref. my 0949/17 and 1653/18. Request D.6 may assist in search for ALMEDA STAR. (C. in C. W.A. 1057/19 to R.A.D.H.F.).

S/M's Reported.

0208.

58.20 N., 16.30W. 298° Rockall 95' approximate position. (D.S. 502).

0914.

Estimate an Italian U.Boat returning to Gironde may have been as far East as 006° W. at 0914.

(F.O.(S) 0949/19 to S/M's Area B).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.
(contd).

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1417.

By D/F. 442 - 3 - SM - 54° 40'N. 16° 0'W.
16975. (D.D.I.C. 1417/19).

1818.

Aircraft sighted U-boat in position
055° 21'N. 005° 59'W. at 1818.
(A.C. W.A. 2157/19 to YORK CITY, AYRESHIRE,
PICOTEE, HESPERUS, FLEUR DE LYS).

1732.
G.M.T.

From D/F bearing Italian U-Boat call sign
66 W. in position 20 miles (N.W. of)
Malta at 1732 G.M.T./19.
(Capt O.S. Alexandria 2210/19).

1932B.

D/F Bearing from Capt. on Staff Alexandria
puts U-Boat 20 miles N.W. Malta at 1932B/19.
No British units are operating off Malta
tonight.
(S.O. (S) Malta 2311/19 to RORQUAL).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

German.

One probably East of Cape Verde Is.
Six between 50° N. and 60° N. and W. of
20° W.
One near 58° 20'N. 16° 30'W. at 0208/19.
One probably to N.E. and one to S.E.
of Rockall within 125 miles.

Italian.

One in Freetown area.
One in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde
6 degrees W. to 8 degrees W.
One near position 75 miles South of Rockall.
Probably five to S.W. Rockall as far West
as 23° W. and North of 53° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/19).

S/M's Attacked.

1155.
By FLEUR DE LYS

Suspect U-Boat in position 055° 15'N.
005° 54'W. hunt started 1155. Firm contact.
Have carried out 1 preliminary and 2
deliberate attacks. Remaining in position
with YORK CITY whose A/S set defective.
(FLEUR DE LYS, 1225/19 to C. in C. W.A.).

/My.....

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.
(contd).

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My 1225. Contact lost after third deliberate attack. FLEUR DE LYS rejoining. OB No. 275 leaving YORK CITY whose A/S set is now working in vicinity until 1200/20 or as otherwise ordered. (FLEUR DE LYS 1450/19).

Proceed with all despatch position 055° 15'N. 005° 54'W. where FLEUR DE LYS is in firm contact and has carried out 3 attacks (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1540/19 to ARROW, PICOTEE, AYRESHIRE).

Lerwick aircraft is being sent to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1637/19 to FLEUR DE LYS HESPERUS).

Proceed with despatch to assist FLEUR DE LYS attacking firm contact in position 055° 15'N. 005° 54'W. at 1155/19. (C. in C. W.A. 1623/19 to HESPERUS).

Your 1625. No sign of GCPL (BRITISH INDUSTRY) as received, presumably GCPL (FLEUR DE LYS) intended in position indicated. Am proceeding. (HESPERUS 1810/19).

Cancel my 2125 Hunt submarine reported in my 2157. (C. in C. W.A. 2215/19 to HESPERUS).

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| HOME COMMANDS
(Classification
by subjects) | - Policy
- Defence of United Kingdom
- Movements
- Operations
- Allied Air Activity
- Enemy Air Activity
- Mining
- Enemy Intelligence
- U-Boats
- Navigational
- Technical
- Casualties and Defects
- Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS
(Classification
by stations) | - North Atlantic
- South Atlantic
- 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.

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20.1.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel
Patrol

KASHMIR and JUPITER last night carried out this patrol

Sweep for
Raider

There were indications shortly after midnight 19/20, that a raider might pass the Iceland-Faroes passage westbound during the night 20/21. C.S. 2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA left Scapa early this morning to patrol west of a line 300° from position 60° 30' N., 10° W., on which line air R.C. was arranged for tomorrow. Orders were given for CHITRAL and LETITIA on Northern Patrol, to reverse direction to patrol to N.E. during 21/1.

SS FLORIAN

Wreckage and a damaged lifeboat marked FLORIAN were found this afternoon about 250 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis. FLORIAN should have been near this position early this morning.

U-Boat
Campaign

SS THELMA, straggler from Convoy H.G. 50 ~~was torpedoed~~ early this afternoon in the S.W. Approaches. It is reports that SS NICOLAOS FILINIS was damaged by torpedo and gunfire on 15/1 about 550 miles West of Ireland.

British Air Activity

There is at the moment no Air Striking Force at Hatston.

All operations last night and today by Bomber Command were cancelled on account of bad weather. One Hudson bombed the aerodrome at Lister today.

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War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dutch SS HEEMSKERK in Convoy S.L. 61 was bombed and set on fire this morning west of Ireland and sank later.

Convoys H.X. 101 and F.S. 90 were attacked in the N.W. Approaches and Thames Estuary respectively, but no damage is reported.

BOREAS was prevented from sailing as the result of enemy bombing of London last night

Mining

Mining in
Thames Estuary

Minelaying by enemy aircraft estimated to number 35 last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary and off the East Coast. Twelve objects were heard to fall last night in the Southend area, one mine exploded on Maplin Sands and one can be seen at low water near Shoeburyness.

Bristol Channel

C. in C., W.A., reports that the losses and damage to ships from enemy minelaying in the Bristol Channel are assuming serious proportions. Means of countering the menace are being investigated.

Liverpool

M/S Trawler RELONZO was sunk today in Crosby Channel.

Operations Against Vichy French

MENDOZA

There is a report that French naval forces may attempt to retake MENDOZA at sea if she proceeds to Freetown.

War Diary

20.1.1941
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Italian
Submarine at
Las Palmas

An Italian submarine arrived at Las Palmas this morning and moored alongside the breakwater. The vessel is damaged above the waterline, this is reported as the result of gunfire. Repairs are being carried out.

Mediterranean

British Air
Operations

7 Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome this evening, dropping 24,220 lbs. H.E. and 1920 incendiary bombs. 14,230 lbs of bombs were dropped on Tobruk last night. Targets at Valona were bombed last night and today. Brindisi Railway Station was also attacked last night, but all bombs missed and fell in the Town.

Enemy Air
Operations

The Italians appear to be employing aircraft with Red Cross markings in the Western Desert, for military purposes.

Piraeus was bombed today and the SS VASCO was damaged. Slight damage was also caused today in an attack on Heraklion aerodrome in Crete.

Yugoslav Ships
Transporting
War Materials
for Italy

N.A. Belgrade reports that the Italians have organised the transport of war material from Bar in Yugoslavia to Albania. An increasing number of Yugoslav ships are taking part in this traffic, which is attaining dangerous proportions.

China

A Naval engagement is reported to have taken place last night between Thai and Indo-China forces, in which two Thai destroyers were sunk and Thai coast defences damaged. The French state that they sustained no damage or casualties.

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Lights at
Inchmarnock.
Water.

Large number of night exercises now taking place in Inchmarnock water, request that more lights may be lit at low brilliancy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1641/20 to Adty.)

Penalty
Areas.

A. Starting from 23/1. F.O.S. will promulgate daily to H.Q.C.C., R.A.N.A.S., and A.C.O.S., large areas in which it is known that no friendly submarine is operating.

B. These areas will remain in force for 24 hours from 0800 daily and will be signalled the previous afternoon. They will be referred to as Penalty Areas.

C. In these areas any submarine may be attacked by aircraft at sight without regard to any recognition signals the submarine may make. (F.O.S. 2227/20 to Adty.)

Six TOWN-Class
Destroyers to
work up at
Londonderry.

Your 1120/18. These can be accepted, but with the following provisos. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2340/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUCE.

At 1130/20. (D.C. 1154/20.) At 2330/20. (D.C. 2336/20.)

Scapa
A/A Defences.

Your 1637/19. to A.A. command. Understand from movements Scottish command that eight Bofors guns should arrive OSDEF. this week. (Remaining eight) are being taken to expedite. (Dacoast Four 1832/20 to A.C.O.S.)

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LYCIA.)
TABARKA.)
(Blockships)

Your 1440/18. LYCIA expected ready about 27/1 and TABARKA about 5 weeks later. LYCIA's engines unreliable. (D. of L.D. 1241/20 to A.C.O.S.)

INTREPID
SEALION.

Your 1032/16. Sailing of INTREPID cancelled by F.O.I.C. Humber owing to port being closed. (C. in C. Nore 1513/20 to Adty.) My 1333/19. All times postponed 24 hours. (S.6. 1707/20. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

PHOEBE.

F.O.C.N.A. 1802/18. Route to Scapa. (C. in C. W.A. 1517/20.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1555/20.)

MOOLTAN.

Request Thames Pilot be sent to Newcastle at once for voyage to London. Ship due to sail 23/1. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1727/20 to Adty.)

CIRCASSIA.

Position at 1600/21. (CIRCASSIA 1817/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

J. 3968.)
AURORA)

My 1148/19. Programme cancelled. Ship cannot now be sailed till AM/25. Request AURORA and Destroyers not arrive at Bar before 1000/25. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/20 to Adty.)

PICOTEE)
PEGASUS.)

Proceed Belfast and sail with PEGASUS tomorrow, or make 321 R/V 00° Altacarry 8 miles at 1530/21. (C. in C. W.A. 2341/20 to PICOTEE.)

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Raider.

A Raider may pass the Iceland-Faroes passage Westbound during night 20/21.

2. Air R/C on a line 300° for about 150 miles from 60° 39' N. 10° 00' W. has been requested during daylight/21.

3. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA is to proceed at 0600 to-day to Patrol to the westward of the above line.

4. If no information is received by nightfall /21 ships are to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 0053/20 to C.S.2.)

Raider may pass Iceland-Faeroes passage westbound during night 20/21. Ships are to reverse direction to patrol to N.E. during day. Our cruisers are operating west of line 300° from position 60° 30' N. 010° W. Air R/C on this line. (F.O.C.N.P. 1115/20 to CHITRAL, LETITIA.)

Western
Channel
Patrol.

KASHMIR, JUPITER sailed from Plymouth 1842/19. (C. in C. W.A. 0735/20.)

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0940/20 to V.A. Dover.)

My 0940/20. Impossible for tugs to hold MINNIE DE LARRINAGA in Southend Roads in existing weather. Ship has been ordered to return to Gravesend. If weather suitable she will be sailed for Southend to arrive p.m. tomorrow and a further attempt made to tow to Dover on 22nd. If this fails, operation must be abandoned until next favourable periods of moon and tide. (C. in C. Nore 1410/20 to V.A. Dover.)

Your 1410/20. MINNIE DE LARRINAGA arrived Gravesend 1500 moored to Buoy. Ready to sail 1100/21. (F.O.I.C. London 1515/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

WILK.

You may sight WILK off Bell Rock, waiting to enter Tay. (C. in C. Rosyth 0734/20 to GALATEA.)

Request you detail Rescue Tug at Peterhead to proceed to assist WILK in 240° 5 miles from Bell Rock. (C. in C. Rosyth 1758/20 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

WILK reported broken down in 240° 5 miles from Bell Rock. Request you send BULGER to assist. Tug from Peterhead is also proceeding. (C. in C. Rosyth 1806/20 to N.O.I.C. Leith.)

TORBAY.

My 1210/19. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0942/20.)

H.50.

Departure delayed by bad weather. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1255/20.)

CACHALOT.

My 1019/18. Delayed 24 hours. (S.2. 1417/20.)

Information
to S/M's.)

Adty. General Message 61.A.Z. of 20/1. Para. 2. Responsibilities of Captains S. for passing Information to S/M's are as follows. (A.C.N.S.H. 1433/20.)

PANDORA.

Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S. 1708/20 to PANDORA.)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/21.(F.O.S. 1713/20.)

/Signals.....

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Monday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines Contd.

(A.C.N.S.H. 1748/20 to V.A.S.)

Signals
by S/M's
returning
from North
Sea Patrols.

OSIRIS.

R/V for 0900/21. (S.5. 1845/20.)

British Air Activity.

Anti-Raider
Patrol.

Request Air Patrol on a line 300° from 60° 30' N. 10° W. during daylight/21. Object to report enemy who may pass Iceland Faroes Channel from eastward during night 20/21.

2. A Cross over patrol similar to "Fugle" carried out twice over by two aircraft would appear satisfactory. (C. in C. H.F. 0055/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 0055/20. Air patrol will be flown by one Sunderland making two circuits on cross-over patrol commencing daylight from position 60° 30' N. 10° W. to a depth of 150 miles on bearing 300° from this position. Visibility distance ten miles. (C. in C. Rosyth 1036/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Cancel my 1036/20. One Sunderland A/C will carry out two circuits of a Cross-over Patrol through the following points; and another Sunderland will carry out a similar Patrol through the following points. Both A/C taking off at 0630/21 and returning to Base by dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1750/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Hatston.

Your 1931/9/12. Request I may be informed when 816 and 825 Squadrons will arrive at Hatston where no Striking Force is now available since departure of Skuas of 801 Squadron to St. Merryn. (A.C.O.S. 1304/20 to Adty.)

/Lorient.....

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.Contd.

Lorient
Brest.

AP. 774/20/1. Operations for tonight as ordered for Night 19/20, subject to weather and aerodrome conditions. (H.Q.C.C. 1405/20 to 16 Group St. Eval, North Coates, Thorney.)

Amending X.380 21/12. (Air Min. 1601/20.)

Enemy Air Activity.

(Dutch, 6516 Tons.) Bombed, stopped, and on fire in 53° 43' N. 16° 7' W. (Valentia Radio 1133/20.)

Proceed through position in my 2255/19 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/20 to ENGLISHMAN.) S.L.61 attacked in 53° 42' N. 15° 37' W. HEEMSKERK on fire. DELPHINIUM standing by. Convoy course 057°, speed 4 knots. (VETERAN 1240/20, to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1241/20 to ARABIS.) My 1241. Machine twin-engine Bomber. Black. Observed by Officer. (WOLFHOUD 1249/20.) Cancel my 1241. Rejoin MALCOLM (C. in C. W.A. 1521/20 to ARABIS.)

My 1240/20: HEEMSKERK fire out. Engine disabled but likely to remain afloat (? some time). (?Three) men on board, remainder in DELPHINIUM. Request Rescue Tug in 53° 44' N. 15° 30' W. DELPHINIUM standing by but cannot tow and has not received A.G.M. 691.A. CAMELIA only in company. (VETERAN 1551/20 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1210/20. Ship reported in 53° 44' N. 15° 30' W. at 1551.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2218/20 to ENGLISHMAN.)

/ZELO.....

HEEMSKERK.
(In Convoy
S.L.61.)

Straggler. (See BR. 133Y Page 142.)

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Monday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

ZELO.
(In Convoy
F.N.88.)

(British, 2294 Tons) Slightly damaged and making water after near miss by Bomb yesterday. Proceeding independently to make Tyne before dark. (WALLACE 1135/20. to C.in C. Rosyth.)

Convoy
H.X.101.

Enemy A/C attacking Convoy. (HOLLYHOCK. Recd. 1210/20.) Attacking in 56° 19' N. 7° 18' W. (Plymouth W/T. Recd. 1212/20.)

BOREAS.

(Destroyer) My 1150/18. Sailing deferred about 3 days owing to result of Enemy Bombing last night. (F.O.I.C. London 1212/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

? Convoy
F.S.90.

One A/C bombing. (EGRET 1230/20.) Seven Bombs. No damage. (EGRET 1242/20) (Nore W/T 1253/20.)

Convoy
W.N.71.

One A/C shadowing in 58° 28' N. 2° 37' W. (CURACOA 1427/20.)

BONNINGTON
COURT.

Am standing by (ST. MELLONS 1442/20) Consider salvage impracticable. Position 1 mile West of Sunk Light Vessel. Aground aft. and bows in the air. Fuel Oil still smouldering. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1700/20 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Disposal
of S/M's.

C. in C. H.F. 51 /H.F. 01201A 13 of 14/1/41. In considering most profitable area in which to dispose S/M's on patrol in North Sea to meet a threat of invasion it would be great assistance to know whether or not mines exist in area between 056° 40' N. to 057° 10' N and 004° E to 006° E. It would be appreciated if destroyers could carry out an exploratory sweep in this area. (F.O.S. 1307/21 to C. in C. H.F.)

20. 1. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

Summary of Air Activity for Night
19/20. (S.O. T.L.D.F.1309/20 to
C. in C. Nore.)

RELONZO.

(M/S. Trawler) Mined and sunk in
Crosby Channel off C.10. Red Buoy at
1015/20. 2 survivors. (N.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1414/20.)

Operations
in Enemy
Waters.

Your 1632/18. Similar proposals have
been considered, and it is hoped to
implement them to the maximum extent
that resources will permit. (A.C.N.S.
H. 1745/20 to C. in C.H.F.)

Surveying.

R.A.M.L's 0948/18. Beacon A, Dornoch
Firth in following position by taut
wire. (SCOTT 2111/20 to R.A.M.L.)

Sweep by)
5th M/S)
Flotilla.)

My 2237/16. Operation postponed. Now
to begin at dusk/25 and complete by
dark/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 2215/20
to M/S. 5.)

Bristol
Channel.

The losses and damage to ships due to
enemy minelaying in the Bristol Channel,
particularly in the vicinity of
Flatholm and Steepholm, are assuming
serious proportions. Balloon Barrage
Trawlers are unsuitable for operating
in this area as they are all fitted
with Internal Combustion Engines.
2. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is taking up the
question of mounting A.A. Batteries
on Flatholm and Steepholm with the
appropriate Military authorities, and
the practicability of flying balloons
from these islands is being investi-
gated by the Balloon Barrage Commander.
(C. in C. W.A. 1112/20 to Adty.)

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Monday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence

E-Boat.

Suspected near South Shipwash. (C. in C. Nore 0031/20 and 0113/20.)

Brest.

One HIPPER-class Cruiser in dry-dock on 19/1. (D.D.I.C. 1738/20.)

Miscellaneous.

Blyth.

Closed to incoming traffic, due to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0944/20.)

Humber.

My 1614/19. Weather makes it impossible for Humber to open until 1200/21. (F.O. Humber 1244/20.)

Orkneys
Cable.

One of the 2 submarine cables between Orkney and Scotland has broken down. Total number of Channels now remaining is 19. Cable ship to repair urgently required. (A.C.O.S. 1906/20 to Adty.)

Sabotage
at Worthy
Down.

Your 1619/13. No sabotage discovered at this station. (R.N.A.S. Worthy Down 1502/20.)

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Routeing of
convoys for
Pentland
Firth.

Your 2254/19. Concur subject to concurrence of C.in C. Rosyth. (C.in C. W.A. 1043/20 to Adty.)

Your 2254/19 concur so far as Orkneys and Shetlands command is concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1103/20).

Adty. 2254/19 C.in C. W.A. 1043/20 A.C.O.S. 1103/20 direct route for E.N. Convoys fast and slow will be reverted to commencing with E.N.61. As it was arranged to advance the time of sailing to allow for the diversion, shipping was not actually delayed, though an extra night was spent at sea instead of in Methil Roads. Should attacks recommence diversion will be reinstated. (C.in C. Rosyth 1745/20).

Navigation
near
Iceland.

The attention of masters of ships proceeding to Iceland is to be drawn to Arctic Pilot Vol.2 pages 58 and 59 in view of the groundings that have occurred on this coast. Small ships should be warned to keep outside 100 fathom line until daylight. Special care is necessary in regard to the deviation of degaussed vessels. (D.T.D. 1051/20).

Ships
firing
at
aircraft.

C.in C. W.A. 1801/17 Appreciate the necessity for escorting aircraft being able to approach convoys to identify themselves without being fired but in order to achieve this consider it neither desirable nor necessary for unrecognised aircraft to be free to approach to within 3,000 yards of H.M. Ships without being fired at under all conditions and therefore propose that the 3,000 yard artillery zone should apply only when the following conditions are fulfilled.

- (A) Ships are to the west of 7° W.
- (B) Ships have been warned to expect the approach of friendly aircraft.
- (C) The aircraft are below 3,000 feet and in level flight.

Unless all the above conditions are satisfied it is considered that the zones proposed in Adty. 1201/12 should apply. Otherwise opportunity to frustrate attacks before they have fully developed will in many cases be lost.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1213/20).

Route,
Iceland to
Scottish ports.

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

W.N. 72

1230/20. H.M.T. INDIAN STAR, CAPE MARIATO, One ship (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1440/20)

→ 9 M.V's

Portsmouth night movements. Convoys 9 M/V's and 2 A/S trawlers Needles to Dartmouth. FERNIE and VANSITTART acting as close escort, leaving convoy in time to reach Needles 0900/21. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1457/20)

F.N. 90

Postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth 1605/20)

Escort
→ O.B. 276

PICOTREE from Liverpool, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY HEATHER, LADY MADELINE from Clyde, and AYRSHIRE from Oban. ANTELOPE Senior Officer. (Capt. (D) Greenock 1605/20)

W.N. 71
F.N. 88
F.N. 87

Movements tonight 20/21. CURACOA leaves W.N. 71 about 1900 and returns to Scapa. W.N. 71 Kinnaird 2100 E.T.A. F.N. 88 20 C Buoy 1830 F.N. 87 estimated passing Flamborough 0400. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1610/20)

F.S. 90

F.S. 90 arrived except S.S. GLENDINNING from Tyne. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1621/20)
See Page 672.

O.B.O. 276

0900/21/1. Escort AYRSHIRE 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1631/20)

→ O.B. 276

Sailed 1519/20. 7½ knots 7 ships No Kites. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1636/20)

→ Convoy
Escorted by
FERNIE and
VANSITTART

My 1457/20 para (3) Sailing postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1653/20)

F.N. 88

? / S.S. DUNMOIR.
F.N. 88 consisting of SS DUNMOISE bound for Methil with WALLACE and VIVIEN E.T.A. 0530 (WALLACE 1944/20)

E.N. 60

2230/21. H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, FOXTROT, RUMBA additional escort FOWEY 28 ships (18 Overseas) Buchan Ness 1200/22 Duncansby Head 0745/23. Code words E.N. 60 "Paddle" E.N.L. Portion "Monitor" E.N.O. Portion "Mixture" (N.C.S.O. Methil 1955/20) *See also next page*

/W.N. 71....

War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

W.N. 71 W.N. 71 Passing Rattray Head at 2200/20
(ELLESMERE 2210/20)

E.N. 60 My 1955/30 for FOWEY read JASON. (N.C.S.O.
Methil 2211/20)

F.S. 88, 89,90. My 1015/20. LYSAKER IV in Tyne. (N.C.S.O.
Humber, 2305/20)

Ocean Convoys

H.G. 50 Londonderry Departures 19/1. ARABIS for
H.G. 50. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0921/20)

S.L.S. 61 S.L.S. 61., 10 hours late. 9 ships in
company. Convoy scattered during gale
17/1. (S.L.S. 61 0948/20)

S.L.S. 61 Commodore reports convoy scattered in
gale 9 ships in company 10 hours late.
(C. in C., W.A., 1443/20)

O.G. 50 Remain with O.G. 50. Orders follow for
S.L.S. 61 R.V. with S.L.S. 61. (C. in C., W.A.,
MALCOLM 1559/20 to MALCOLM)

H.G. 50 H.G. 50 not met. My estimated position
053° 58' N., 019° 25' W., searching with
SHIKARI for convoy. Strong North East
gale bumping heavily over six knots into it.
SS ATLAND of S.L.S. 61 keeping in touch
with me. (MALCOLM 1733/20)

H.X. 101 Instructions for approaching and entering
Liverpool. (N.O.i/c Liverpool 2200/20 to
HEARTSEASE)

S.L. 61 Your 1655 DELPHINIUM standing by HEEMSKIRK
ARBUTUS Endeavour to join VETERAN and escort of
S.L. 61 VETERAN's position at 1240/20. If
not met proceed Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A.
2221/20 to ARBUTUS)

War Diary20.1.1941.
MondayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSWILK(Submarine) Reported broken down in 240°
5 miles from Bell Rock (See Submarines)ARY(Panamanian, 642 tons) Your 1347/13. Not
yet arrived.M/S BANDANGER
BergenRaft with this name washed up near Dunbeath
harbour (C. in C., Rosyth 1715/21 passing
F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1305/20, 1915/20)D.L. HARPER(British Tanker, 12,223 tons) Unable to
steer. Am standing by in 226° Skerryvore
Lighthouse 8 miles. Master requests Tug
(ANGLE 1240/20 to C. in C., W.A.,) Proceed
to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1621/20 to
ASSURANCE) Sailed ASSURANCE from Campbel-
town to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1725/20)ELENIS.O.S. Approx. 52° 2' N., 55° 0' W.,
true course 199 speed 3 knots 1037/20
(SS ELENI via Land's End Radio. R.O.R.
1143/20)FLORETTEAux: Ketch 1320/20. Ashore Newry Beach,
Holyhead Harbour. Abandoned at 1410/20
(B.M.S.M. 204/ 23/1/41)FLORIAN(British, 3174 tons) Met considerable
Wreckage and damaged lifeboat marked
FLORIAN in 61° 14' N., 12° 5' W., (NORTHERN
FOAM 1355/20)
FLORIAN's estimated position at 0600/20
was 61° 14' N., 12° 5' W., (D.D.I.C. 1819/
20)
FLORIAN outward bound should have passed
within 12 miles of this position at 0200/20
(C. in C., H.F., 1851/20 to F.O.C. 2nd C.S
NIGERIA)TIERCEL(H.M. Yacht) In collision with VICEROY
Damaged davit, sea boat and accommodation
ladder. Ready to sail 21st. (WESTERN
ISLES 1622/20 to Admty.)HOPERIDGESailed SCHELDE at 2340/19 from Campbeltown
to assist as by my 2110/19 (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 0715/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

/MEANDROS....

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War Diary

20.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

MEKANDROS

Lost touch during night. Have searched. Consider sunk. Request further attempt by D/F bearings. (ARBUTUS 1655/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

LEAMINGTON

Returning to Base owing to shortage of boiler water and defective steering gear. (LEAMINGTON 2000/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

GLENDINNING

(British, 1927 tons) Report of ship has been seen. Last reported anchoring at Sheringham Light Buoy with windlass broken down. (C. in C., Nore, 2131/20)

AMSTERDAM
(Tug)

Returned owing to bad weather (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1100/20)

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War Diary.20.1.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French.S.O. Force H. 1407/20, 1815/20.
See Operations Volume.INDOCHINOIS.

Prize proceedings against INDOCHINOIS instituted at Freetown in accordance with Sec. of State for Colonies. tel. 793. Ship will be immobilised until legal proceedings are completed, which cannot be earlier than 20/2. Understood that if prize proceedings were remitted to U.K. ship could be allowed to sail. As ship is now fully manned with British crew and could sail as soon as loaded request consideration be given to this course.
(C. in C.S.A. 2225N/20 to Adty).

North Atlantic.Italian S/M
at Canary Is.

One Italian Submarine arrived Puerto de la Luz Las Palmas 0600/20 moored alongside breakwater.
(B.C. Las Palmas 0940/20 F.O.C.N.A. 1711/20).

Convoy Escort
of FURIOUS.

FAULKNER, DUNCAN, FURY part company from convoy as requisite to join FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, during daylight 21/1 and provide extra escort to Gibraltar. FURIOUS (route). Estimated position course and speed 0800Z-1/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/20 to Capt D.8).

S/M's

Positions at 0800/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1202/20).

A/A guns
for Malta.

F.O.C.N.A. 1501/20.
See Operations Volume.

SURPRISE.

SURPRISE arrived (Corrupt Group) 1830 G.M.T./20.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1745/20).

MIRROR
ARTIC RANGER.
Cable operation.

My 1302/18 Vessels returned 1815 20th.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1816/20).

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War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE'S
aircraft.

My 0104Z/17 Min. of For. Aff. unable to communicate any decision for time being.
(N.C.S.O.(I) Montevideo 0212/20).

Reply (V.C.N.S. 2227/20) See Operations Volume.

For Minister - please obtain permission for NEWCASTLE to visit Montevideo for a 24 hour no-fuelling visit on 24/1. If visit approved hope she can embark aircraft.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1421Z/20 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

Force T.

Simonstown departure 0800/20 Force T. in accordance with my 1503/17.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 0807B/20).

ROWALLAN
CASTLE etc.

Positions (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0953B/20, 1414/20).

EUMAEUS.

Cin C. S.A. 1155N/20 See U-boat Campaign.

Avoiding
action by M.V's.

Your 1757/18 Suggestions.
(C. in C.S.A. 0923N/20 1157N/20 to Adty).

Raider.

My 2251N/19. Further D.F. Bearing indicates this enemy surface vessel was within 150 miles of position 025° S. 010° W. at 2017Z/19. Reliability 80 per cent.
(C. in C.S.A.k 1100/20 to S.O. Force K. DEVONSHIRE, HAWKINS).

^c
SUEGIA
CLAN MACNAUGHTON.

Overdue shipping Swedish ship SUEGIA CLAN MACNAUGHTON Capetown Jan 15. and Jan 16. respectively from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1155B/20).

Southbound
ship crossing
20°N. for Cape.

(D.T.D. 1156/20)

/Sinking.....

War Diary.20.1.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.).Sinking of
OLE WEGGER
and SOLGLIMT.Departure A.M./20 QUEEN OF BERMUDA in
accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1921N/19.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1251Z/20).Your 1727N/19, following from South
Georgia begins date of capture of
vessels referred to was 14/1 early morning.
Four catchers which were alongside
OLE WEGGER are thought to be captured as
well 1750/20. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 2306Z/20 to
C.in C. S.A.).FEARLESS.S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1806/19. Pass
through following positions. Thence to
Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1435/20 to
FEARLESS).Convoy S.L.63.List of ships, cargoes, destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1437N/20).Departure 1200/20 CANTON escorting convoy
SL 63 with MILFORD, CLEMATIS and CYCLAMEN
as local escort until dusk/24. C.in C.
S.A. 1312/19 (? 1303/19 intended) refers.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1603/20).PENDRECHT.My 1456/19. Convoy List showed
PENDRECHT (23) Bound for Soe-Soe via
Cape of Good Hope. No Vesca received
here of this ship's movements. Request
information. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1606/20
to Adty.).Fitting of
Catapult in
ALCANTARA.My 1931/27/11 and Adty. 1840/17/12.
Request information whether these
improvements have been fitted in
ALCANTARA during present refit.
(C.in C. S.A. 1917/20 to Adty.).Operation.Code word ^{'Pagan'}~~PAGAN~~. (D.O.D.(H). 1608/20).
See Operations Volume.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

SOUTHERN
EMPRESS.
SVEND FOYN.

D.O.D.(F) 1626/20 to C. in C. S.A.
See Operations Volume. *Page 20.*

Convoy W.S.5B.

Proposed Bunkering programme .
(D. of S.T. 2218/20).

Troop Transports.

The disembarkation and embarkation of troops from NEURALIA whilst W.S. 5A was at Freetown was considerably hampered by the fact that she was coaling during the whole of her stay. Selection of an oil burning ship would greatly facilitate such operations and it would be appreciated if this could be arranged in any similar case in future.
(C. in C.S.A. 2215N/20).

Mediterranean.

Prisoners
captured by
Greeks.

Offer to transfer some overseas.
(W.O.0500/20).

Operation.

C. in C.Med. 1037/20, 1401/20. See
Mediterranean Volume.

Fitting of
destroyers.

Your 1417/17. Should prefer H.A. gun to
be fitted.
(C. in C. Med. 1405/20 to Adty).

Convoy A.S.11.

Sailing telegram. 0050/14. 7½ knots.
List of Ships.
(Athens 1410).

S.S. ESSEX.
damage.

Damage sustained by transport ESSEX due
to enemy action 1681 as follows.
(S.T.O. Malta 1430/20).

German Air
Activities in
Mediterranean.

Summary of activities affecting R.N.
(C on S. Alexandria 1456/20, 1504/20).

/Air.....

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Operations.

1.44 20/1. Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/20. Total bag for 19/1 19 confirmed 3 unconfirmed and 4 damaged. Today R.C. but no raids though weather fine. 0530 to 1540 Sunderland recco. Ionian Sea. No shipping seen. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1735/20).

Enemy Transports.

air transport

A considerable and growing number of troop transports (of the type also used for parachutists) have been detected in Sicily. (Capt O.S. Alexandria 1504/20).

BONAVENTURE'S
spare gun barrels.
Re-ammunition.

Adty 1357/15 (? 1337/15 intended) Request early shipment of 5.25 inch (corrupt group) barrels and gun mounting spares for BONAVENTURE. In view of (?wear) request barrel may come in W.S. six if possible.

Two. Request F.O.C.N.A. will confirm quantity of 5.25 ammunition embarked in MONARCH OF BERMUDA and/or CAPETOWN CASTLE. (C. in C. Med 2313/20). *Reply P. 709.*

Convoy A.N. 13.

Mo 4329/4.

Convoy A.N. 13 sailed 1800/20. due Piraeus 1900B/22. Convoy comprises (ships). (N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1801/20).

My 115/9.

Transport of
war materials
by Yugoslav
ships for Italy.

(a) Italians have organized transport of war materials and other stores to Albania via Bar, small Port in Yugoslavia, South Kotor.

(b) From Bar cargoes are transported by one of following 3 routes to Scutari.

(c) An increasing number of Yugoslav ships, particularly small coastal vessels, participating in this traffic. As total of traffic is attaining dangerous proportions I submit action along following lines should be taken. (N.A. Belgrade 1946/20).

/Italian.....

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War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Italian
Red Cross
Aircraft

X.3929. A.450. Italian aircraft with Red Cross markings have recently appeared Western Desert. 1 of these aircraft forced to land by our Fighters was destroyed by crew who were captured. Aircraft was apparently carrying mail and an assorted cargo which included some ammunition. In November last all units this Command were notified that aircraft with Red Cross markings could be attacked if encountered over or on vicinity of British or Allied territory or ground or sea forces. This intention was communicated to the Italians. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1833/20).

A.385 20/1. Daily Summary Operations. 1 Routine A.S. Patrol. 1 Surface Recco East. Area covered Spartel to 4^{OW}. Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group 1745/20).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

N.O.I.C. Malta 1927/20, C. in C. Med. 2349/20. See Mediterranean Volume.

SOMERTSHIRE

(Military Hospital Ship) Sailed 2147/19. (D. of S.T. 2112/20).

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War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EUREKA.

Cancel my 0452/19. EUREKA arrived.
(C. in C. E.I. 0456z/20).

Operation.

C. in C. E.I. 0548Z/20. See Operations
Volume.

Troop
Movement.

S.S.T.O. India 0835Z/20. See Operations
Volume.

COLOMBO.

My 2032/15 COLOMBO returned to Mombasa 17/1
Anticipation for examination of defective
turbine gearing four days. Further report
will be made.
(C. in C.E.I. 0532Z/20).

Cargo ship
sighted at
Mogadiscio.
ADRIA.

My 1924/18 (i) N.O.I.C. Kilindini
considers this ship to be Italian ADRIA
which was believed to have been one
of ships refuging in Kismayu. This
movement supports a report received 7/1
from most secret source dated 21/12
that "Stores and foodstuffs from ships
in Kismayu may shortly be transported to
Mogadishu by sea". As fact that one ship
has sailed from Kismayu was first observed
by air photograph taken 7/1 16 ships having
previously been reported on 2/1. There
was no ship at Mogadishu on 5/1 and 10/1.

(ii) Awaiting reports from A.O.C. Nairobi
whether ship reported off Merka was at
anchor or under way. As ship was estimated
three miles off shore Portuguese East
Africa under way and returning to Kismayu.
S.A.A.F. unable to bomb on 19/1 further
air R.C. expected 20/1. Meanwhile I am
holding SYDNEY in readiness for bombard-
ment if ship is found elsewhere than at
Kismayu.

(C. in C. E.I. 0648Z/20).

FORMIDABLE.
Aircraft &
A.A. Guns.

Reference Adty. 1320/19 request type
and number of aircraft carried by
FORMIDABLE. Also A/A armament.
(C. in C. E.I. 0730Z/20).

Troop
Movement.

Your 2246/18 in view of U.S. 9 requirements
and Indian commitments cannot spare any
personnel of M.T. ships for this move.
(S.S.T.O. India 0835Z/20 to D. of S.T.).

/Your.....

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.).

Your 0750/20. 12 Fulmars and 21 Albacores though a number of these may be unserviceable and it is believed that 2 Fulmars have been lost in current operations, 16 -4.5" and six Mark M. pompoms.
(D.N.A.D. 1909/20 to C. in C. E.I.).

Air Operations.

A. 845 20/1. S.A.A.F. on R.C. bombed EL (SIC) (YQBO) and photographed Mogadiscio and Merka.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1257/20).

A. 845 20/1. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 224 up to 1200 hrs. 20/1.

5. Sudan. Night 15/16 Jan. 1. unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 1 bomb on Port Sudan no damage or casualties. Night 18/19 Jan. 2 Wellesleys and 4 Blenheims attacked searchlights and suspected petrol dump near submarine base (Result).
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1246/20).

Meat Ships.

S.S.T.O. Bombay 1517Z/20 (Reply to Adty. 2247/18).
See Operations Volume.

A.546 20/1. Bombing 1 Blenheim Assab. Convoy escorts 3 Blenheims.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1742/20).

R.C. of Mogadishu.

As there has recently been movement of shipping on the east coast of Italian Somaliland, SYDNEY is reconnoitring Mogadishu evening/21 with orders to sink any ship seen but keeping outside range of coast defence guns estimated to be 15,000 yards.
(C. in C. E.I. 1730Z/20).

Troop Movement.

S.S.T.O. Egypt 1845/20 (reply to Adty. 2246/18 and 2247/18).
See Operations Volume.

Convoys, Night escort dispositions.

A.M. 1641/11 paragraph 5(b) and your 1424/17 not to all addresses. Following night escort dispositions in force pending further experience with surface R.D./F.
(D.A/S.W. 2023/20 to C. in C. E.I.).

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

H.Q. of C. in C.
F.E.

To ensure closest co-operation, ^{and arranging} to establish
H.Q. of C. in C. Far East at Naval Base.
(C. in C. China 0501Z/20).

Thai-Indo
China relations.

C. in C. China 1149Z/20, 1157Z/20.

Defence policy
appreciation.

See. to 1st S.L. 1541/20 to C. in C.
China, C. in C. E.I. See Operations Volume.

Thai-French
naval action.

Thai losses were two destroyers sunk
with their crew and damage to coast defence
last night. French state they sustained
no damage or casualties.
(C. in C. China 1159Z/20).

America & West Indies.

Convoy
H.X. 104.

Intend to sail RAJPUTANA, SPIKENARD,
ARROWHEAD, EYEBRIGHT, as ocean escort
to H.X. 104. RAJPUTANA subsequently return-
ing to Halifax. Corvettes instructed
to proceed to Clyde with that portion of
convoy in absence of other instructions.
(F.O. 3B.S. 1144/20).

S.S. JAVANESE
PRINCE.

Re sailing, special passengers, possibility
of loading aeroplanes.
(N.C.S.O. New York 1752/20).

U.S.A. Bases.

A.C.N.S.(H) 1804/20.

DIOMEDE.

My 1701/19. Owing to engine defects
DIOMEDE will take place of DESPATCH.

DIOMEDE is to leave Bermuda 24/1 for
Kingston Jamaica.
(C. in C.A.W.I. 1631/20).

/Communications.....

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Communications
between France
and possessions.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1809/20)

Japanese ships
discharging crews.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1711/20 in reply to
S.O.(I) Wellington 2128/16.

Explosions
near PATELLA.

Trinidad states Master British Oiler
PATELLA reports 0808/17 Sombrero Light
bearing 091° 10 miles ship violently
shaken as if by depth charges exploding
close to vessel. No ship in sight
at the time.
(S;O.(I) Kingston 2256/20).

Use of D/F.

A.M. 1745/31/12/40 in view of raider
activity it is for consideration whether
this use of D/F should be discontinued.
Request your comments on proposals that
the transmission should be discontinued
(a) entirely or (b) after the joining up
of the Halifax and Bermuda sections.
(D.T.D. 2321/20 to R.A. 3. C.O.A.C.
Halifax).

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S. 9.
CANBERRA
to escort.

Your 1452Z/16 CANBERRA will escort U.S.9
to Colombo.
(N.O. Melbourne 0547Z/20 to C. in C.E.I).

Undertakings
not to serve
during remainder
of the war.

A leading Seaman R.N.V.R. 4 (N.Z.).
serving as gunlayer in RANGITANE was
released from enemy Raider after
signing following statement.

Request Adty Policy.
(N.Z.N.B. 0558/20).

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GALILE.

18/1 departure for Marseilles.
(Valencia 2040/20).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ADRIA.

C. in C.E.I. 0648Z/20 see East Indies.

CORTELAZZO.

Departed Dairen 19/1.
(C.O.S. Singapore 1022Z/20).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

D'ARTAGAN.
KHAI-DINH.

Departure 20/1. both for Manila.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon 0813Z/20).

MAURIENNE.

Departure Motor Ship MAURIENNE Bermuda
25/1.
(Nassau 1658/20).

MENDOZA.

ASTURIAS⁺1530/18 now received amend r.v.
in my +2233/19 to read 25° 40'S. 034° 30'W.
(C. in C.S.A. 1315N/20 to DORSETSHIRE,
ASTURIAS).

Between Montevideo and point of interception
master of MENDOZA abandoned his neutral
status by 4 time reporting enclair position
of one of H.M. ships.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1715/20).

My 1535/16 reported French naval forces
will attempt to retake MENDOZA at sea if
she is proceeding to Freetown area A one.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1735/20).

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War Diary.20.1.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.EUMAEUS.
(Torpedoed
01/1)

My 1729/14 and 2321/15. On sighting submarine on surface at dawn about 0540 EUMAEUS turned away at full speed. Gun duel lasting about an hour followed. Range 1500 to 3000 yards. Submarine used both her two guns about 4 inch and machine gun and EUMAEUS was hit and badly damaged including hits below the water line. Chinese fireman left boilers at first shot and steam began to go back. Party from naval draft organised to keep steam but bunkers were subsequently damaged and prevented stoking of forward furnaces. Speed gradually reduced from 12 to 5 knots. At 0730 after all 4.7 inch ammunition expended master of EUMAEUS signalled to enemy he intended to abandon ship but submarine continued to fire and casualties were incurred by naval draft preparing boats. Ship stopped at 0800 and submarine closed on surface and torpedoed ship which sank about 0830. From preliminary investigation it appears that behaviour of naval draft was excellent. Submarine considered to be probably Italian. No hits were obtained on the submarine.
(C. in C.S.A. 1155N/20).

ZEALANDIC.
OROPESA.
ALMEDA STAR.
EMPIRE SCOUT.

Torpedo
ZEALANDIC torpedoed 58° 28'N. 20° 45'W. at 2249/16.
v96 OROPESA torpedoed 56° 30'N. 11° 46'W. at 0317/16.
ALMEDA STAR torpedoed 58° 16'N. 13° 40'W. at 0553/17.
EMPIRE SCOUT 50° 58'N. 27° 22'W. gunned 2003/16. First three SSSS calls forth RRRR call.
Above taken from W/T log book of HIGHLAND BRIGADE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/20).

OROPESA.
MEANDROS.
ONGBA

Reports as follows begins:- Reached spot OROPESA (corrupt groups) found no survivors. (corrupt group) arrived on spot Saturday daylight searched vicinity all day assisted by a seaplane without result. Proceeded to assist MEANDROS and ONGBA searching all day Sunday, nothing found. Steamed over thousand miles encountered severe weather conditions just anchored Loch Indail, Islay, steering gear damaged by accident temporarily unfit for Duty North Atlantic, but can return to harbour tomorrow without assistance.
(THAMES 1800/20).

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

ALMEDA STAR.
(torpedoed 7/1)

Your 0902/20 and my 1247/19. Continue search for as long as you consider desirable.
(C. in C. H.F. 1246/20 to D.6).

S.S.THELMA.

S.S.THELMA attacked by submarine ^{50°}40° N. 18° 45'W.
(Valentia Radio 1137/20).

■ THELMA fighting with submarine 50° N. 18° 45'W. Help.

Proceed to THELMA ^{7 attacked} (torpedoed in position 050° 00'N. 018° 45'W. at 1230.
(C. in C.W.A. 1303/20 to LA MALOUINE).

NICOLAOS FILINIS.
Greek.

I D. Form S.A.
3. 2100/15/1. 53° N. 24° W. Approx.
6. Submerged. 7. Damaged. 9. Appear to be of the ERICO TAZZOLI Class.
10. Torpedoed then gun fired. Ships boat capsized when abandoning ship.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1730/20).

Submarines Reported.

1818/19.

U-Boat reported in position 055° 21'N. 005° 59'W. at 1818.
(C. in C. W.A. 0013/20).

My 2157. Airman reports he is quite certain it was a submarine.
(C. in C. W.A. to HESPERUS, ARROW, PICOTREE, FLEUR DE LYS, BURNBANKS, YORK CITY).

2237/19. G.M.T.

Following bearings of an Italian U-boat were obtained at 2237/19 G.M.T.

/0600.....

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War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

0600

B.C. Las Palmas 0940/20 see North Atlantic.

1355

53° N. 18° W. at 1355/20 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1607/20).

1806.

By D/F at 1806/20 G.M.T. position of probable German U-Boat was approximately 230 miles Westward of Cape Finisterre.
(D.D.I.C. 1950/20).

2001.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a large formation in approx. 52° 53° N. 20° 22° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2001/20).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

German.

One near Cape Verde Islands.

Five between 50° N. and 60° N. and West of 20° W, one of which was about 60° N, & 25° W. at 1158/20.

One probably in 58 54' N. 18 08' W. at 0645/20.

One near 55° N, 16° W. at 1417/19.

One probably to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall within 125 miles.

One may be in area North of Bloody Foreland.

Italian.

One near Canary Is. probably returning to Gironde.

One off Portuguese coast outward bound. Fove of six to south and S.W. of Rockall as far West as 23° W. and North of 53° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/20).

Submarines attacked.

1155/19.
by FLEUR
DE LYS.

Your 2105/19 which has been passed to C. in C. W.A. Hunt is to continue until broken off by C. in C. W.A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/20 to ARROW).

Your 0015/20 continue to hunt until further orders. N.O.i/c Liverpool is being informed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0250/20 to PICOTEE).

/By.....

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War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked. (contd).

By LEGION
0645.

M01763/41.

Search for ZEALANDIC abandoned 2000/19
Have attacked firm submarine contact
estimated position 058° ($054'$)N.
(018° or 032°). $08''$ W. Percentage oil
fuel remaining 32. Intend searching for
four hours before proceeding Scapa.
(LEGION 0645Z/20 to R.A.(D) H.F).

LEGION reports in contact with submarine
in position 058° $54'$ N. 018° $08'$ W. at 0645.
(C. in C.W.A. 1003/20).

By Capt D.6.
(SOMALI)
0700

Submarine sighted 0700 G.M.T. in estimated
position 059° $40'$ N. 017° $52'$ W. First
attack unsuccessful, search is being
continued. 6572.
(Capt D.6. 0902/20).

My 0902 37% fuel remaining intend
abandoning search and returning to Scapa.
(Capt D.6. 1330/20).

21.1.1941.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Merchant Shipping.

The tonnage of damaged merchant ships under repair or awaiting repair amounts to over 1,000,000 tons. Bad weather today caused some dislocation of convoys.

U-boat Campaign.

It is reported today that the Norwegian S.S. BRASK and Greek S.S. NEMEA were torpedoed on 15/1 west of Ireland, not far from the position where S.S. NICOLAOS FILINIS was torpedoed on the same day.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused most of the routine patrols to be cancelled today. Patrols were flown, however, from Stavanger to Stadlandet and a R.C. from Trondheim to Narvik. Two new patrols were flown to S.W. of the Faroes.

Enemy Air Activity.

In the N.W. Approaches S.S. TEMPLE MEAD was bombed and damaged today and rescue tug ENGLISHMAN was attacked but no damage is reported. (Consequent on this attack C.in C. W.A. on 23/1 ordered kites to be fitted in rescue tugs, and flown when West of 7° W.) S.S. TREGARTHEN arrived at Oban today damaged by bombs as the result of an attack yesterday. LL trawlers were unsuccessfully attacked by cannon gun off Harwich today and drove off the attacker, a large four engine aircraft.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.

Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary, off Harwich and Milford Haven. Watchet (Bristol Channel) was reopened this afternoon.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.O. Force K is sending the Vichy French ship JEAN L.D. into Capetown under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

Raider report.

D.F. bearings at 2117Z/19 indicated a probable German surface unit or possibly U-boat within 100 miles of a line joining Monrovia to the Equator at 11° W. A further bearing 24 hours later indicated the probability that this unit had moved to within 150 miles of 2° S. 80° W. DELHI left Freetown at 1000 today to investigate.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on
Tobruk.

The attack on Tobruk commenced today. TERROR and gunboats last night carried out bombardment preliminary to the attack. Bad weather prevented earlier bombardment. Destroyers and REGENT patrolled to westward of Tobruk, to prevent enemy communications. Wellingtons last night dropped 28,750 lbs of bombs on the Tobruk defended area as preliminary to assault. 54,000 lbs. of bombs were dropped today. SAN GIORGIO (Coast defence vessel) is reported to have been hit.

Malta
bombed.

Early this morning several enemy aircraft passed over Malta individually and dropped bombs indiscriminately in the sea and 7 places on the island. The target appeared to be Luga, but was not located. No damage to Govt. property was caused.

ILLUSTRIOUS

The movements of the various units required for the operation of escorting and covering the damaged ILLUSTRIOUS from Malta to Alexandria commenced today. (See 23/1).

Australia.

There is a report today of ammunition and stores being unloaded in the Japanese mandated islands, and that German raiders are believed to be in the Western Carolines.

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Repair of M/V's.
Proposed.

At a recent Admiralty conference it was suggested that it might soon be necessary to take men off work on H.M. Ships in order to expedite the repair of damaged merchant ships which now amount to over 1,000,000 tons. I recommend that men should for preference be taken off the construction of new merchant ships, for the following reason.

It would seem desirable therefore to proceed with all new ships that are more than half completed while holding up, where necessary, those that are less than half ready.

(C. in C. Nore 1020/21 to Adty).

French
Chasseurs.

Owing to the congestion of work in dock-yards it has been decided that French Chasseurs shall not be taken in hand for major alterations but shall be employed in their present state for whatever purpose C. in C's consider them suitable.
(Vice Controller 1219/21).

A/P Trawlers)
for Shetlands)

^{"Soap"}
~~Soap~~. Leith's 1120/21 to C. in C. Rosyth. Regret no more A/P Trawlers from Rosyth Command are at present available to send to Shetlands.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1922/21).

Invasion.
Employment of
Capital Ships.

Questionnaire in Home Fleet Letter 51/H.F. 01201 A/15 of 14/1 is to be considered at a meeting to be held at Admiralty on 24/1 to discuss employment of Capital ships in the North Sea in case of invasion. Request you will send representative.
(Head of M. 1925/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth.).

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

At 1130/21 (D.C. 1201/21).
At 2330/21 (D.C. 2355/21).

Invasion Exercise
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "Victor".

Adty 2335/15, para. 2. All Signals from Naval Authorities to begin and end with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "Victor" in plain language. (D.O.D.H. 1736/21).

Possible second Blockship at Folkestone.

Consideration is being given to the value of placing second blockship at Folkestone. Information is requested as to the likelihood of a suitable ship about 400 feet long being available for this purpose. (V.A. Dover 1834/21 to Adty).

Iceland communications.

G.O.C. Iceland Force 1851/21, W.O. 1515/21.

Movements.

AURORA, ESCAPADE,
ECHO, ELECTRA,
ECLIPSE.

Arrived Scapa 0845.
(A.C.O.S. 0903/21).

IMPULSIVE. }
INTREPID. }
SEALION. }

A.M. 1044/21. Proceed to Humber P.M. today to comply with para. 1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1237/21 to IMPULSIVE). My 1245/20. Humber still closed. Sailing of INTREPID cancelled (F.O.Humber 1440/21 to D.20). F.O. Humber 1440/21. Propose para 3. of ALM/O.D. 2008/41 be amended as follows: A. and B. to read 24/1. C. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE convert and load on 22/1 and 23/1, and sail PM/23 to carry out Intercommunication Exercise on 24/1, proceeding to Scapa on completion. (D.20. 1530/21 to Adty) Cancel my 1707/20. My 1333/19 (re. INTREPID and SEALION) Sailings postponed until further notice. (S.6. 1957/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/MOOLTAN.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.(contd).

MOOLTAN.

My 1758/17. Request MOOLTAN escorted by WHITSHED may arrive Shipwash L.V. at 0800/24. Speed should then be reduced to 10 knots. HARRIER and GOSSAMER have been ordered to be at Sunk L.V. at daylight to commence sweep of Northern side of Q.Z.S. 202, 195 and Yantlet dredged channel as far as No. 4 Sea Reach buoy.

Speed of sweep is 8 knots.

F.O.i/c London is requested to arrange for any tugs considered necessary to meet MOOLTAN at Nore L.V. at 1200/24. Fighter protection will be asked for from daylight /24.

(C. in C. Nore 1516/21 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Your 1727/20. Thames Pilot will leave tonight (D.S.T. 2042/21 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

VICEROY.

(A/A Destroyer) Your 1622/20. VICEROY should proceed as in my 1751/4. (D.O.D.H. 1755/21 to WESTERN ISLES).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1931/21).

EREBUS.

Intend to sail EREBUS to Harwich at 1030/24. Ship is required to carry out certain trials from Harwich as soon as suitable weather conditions occur. Programme of trials is to be arranged between F.O.i/c Harwich and C.O. of EREBUS. On completion of trials EREBUS will return to Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 2220/21 to EREBUS).

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War Diary.

21.1.1941,
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Western Channel
Patrol.

KASHMIR, JUPITER arrived Plymouth 1000/20.
(C. in C.W.A. 0035/21).

Operation "Specimen"
SPECIMEN.

Sailed PEGASUS as by your 1103/20.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0937/21 to C. in C.W.A).

See also p.704

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

My 1410/20. Operation postponed owing to unsuitable weather. (C. in C. Nore 1026/21 to V.A. Dover) Next suitable date are 3rd to 7th February inclusive. (V.A. Dover 1553/21 to C. in C. Nore).

P.W.2.

Is to be carried out as soon as weather is suitable.
(C. in C. Nore 1057/21 to BEEHIVE and 1100/21 to Adty).

P.W.3.

My 1440/8 to Admiralty. On further consideration P.W. 3 is not considered practicable at any rate in the winter for following reasons:-
(a) The distance involved.
(b) Navigational difficulties in locating position due to length of D.R. Run. Also experience shows necessity for very calm weather for these operations. As material used in P.W. one was possibly defective, propose to repeat this operation on a line southeast from No. 2 E. buoy and also, if you consider it desirable, on a line W.N.W. from No. 1 E. Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1100/21 to Adty).

Operation "Rubble"
RUBBLE. M02917/41

(D.N.I. 1844/21 to N.A. Stockholm).
(N.A. Stockholm 2233/21 to Adty).
See Operations Volume.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

UNDAUNTED. }
MINERVE. }

Sailed, escorted by WHITE BEAR, as
by S.3's 1119/9.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0844/21).

TRIBUNE.

Sailed, escorted by LA MOQUEUSE, as by
S.2's 1008/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0900/21).

TORBAY.

Sailed 1010 from Sheerness, escorted by
GARTH (C. in C. Nore 1136/21 to F.O.I.C.
Harwich).

TUNA.

To leave Patrol after dark/20/2 as routed
by S.2. (F.O.S. 1156/21).

Azores
Patrol.

S.8 is requested to indicate his intentions
to all Authorities concerned for maintaining
the Azores patrol from 21/2. It is con-
sidered PANDORA should be first submarine
to leave U.K.

F.O.S. will route submarine from U.K.
to Azores passing to Eastward of San
Miguel.
(F.O.S. 1156/21 to S.2. S.8.).

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/22 (F.O.S.
1606/21 and 1836/21).

MAIDSTONE. }
TITANIA. }

Following redistribution of S/M Depot
Ships has been approved by Adty.
(F.O.S. 1752/21);

O.23.

Passes Bell Rock 1730. Route to Patrol
within 20 miles of 61° N. 3° 50'E.
(S.9. 1717/21 to S/M's Area A.).

H.32.

My 1205/18 and 1858/18. Sailing delayed
till arrival of VIRGINIA.
(S.7. 0919/21).

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Narvik-Trondheim R/C Patrol took off at 0241/21.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0248/21 to C. in C.H.F.).

"Unst" ~~UNST~~ cancelled for today. "Stab" ~~STAB~~ in operation now.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0908/21 to C. in C. H.F. and to Adty. Recd. 1009/21).

"Bart" ~~BART~~ now in operation (C. in C. Rosyth 1142/21 to C, in C. H.F.).

In view of Adty 1119/21, "Hornli" ~~HORNLI~~ being flown P.M. today.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1220/21 to C. in C. H.F).

My 1220. "Hornli" ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled owing to weather; but a Second Sortie of ~~STAB~~ is being flown to be over Norwegian Coast about dusk.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1438/21 to C. in C. H.F).

My 1142. Patrol ~~POP~~ cancelled. "Pop" (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/21 to C. in C.H.F).

My 1438. ~~STAB~~ cancelled. A/C forced to return by icing conditions. "Stand" (C. in C. Rosyth 1546/21 to C. in C.H.F).

Loch Ewe.

I underatand Loch Ewe is shortly to be made a gun defended area and I suggest it is desirable to restrict aircraft, except fighters in pursuit or the enemy, from flying over the area now in accordance with S.D. 158 (1) Para 9. (A.C.O.S. 1156/21 to Adty).

Lorient.

A.P. 777/21/1. 217 Sqdn to attack tonight U-Boats and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/21 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Suspected)
Sabotage)

Your 1619/13. Report of circumstances to be forwarded. Signal if any persons have moved as follows. (R.A.N.A.S. 1349/21 to St. Merryn).

Striking Force
at Hatston.

Your 1304/20. See my 2059/6. Six aircraft of 825 Squadron are under orders to embark in a carrier shortly. 42 (Beaufort) Squadron is available at Wick as a striking force. It is assumed that this can be placed at your disposal by 18 Group at short notice. (5th S.L. 1851/21 to A.C.O.S.).

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War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

HEEMSKERK.
(bombed 20/1)

Vessel 10,000 Tons apparently abandoned in position given HEEMSKERK. Floating well. Standing by till daylight. ARBUTUS 0128/21 to C. in C. W.A).

Proceed to assist ENGLISHMAN with HEEMSKERK; DELPHINIUM standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0312/21 to ASSURANCE).

My 0128. Ship believed HEEMSKERK sank suddenly at 0515. Has crew been picked up?
ARBUTUS 0537/21 to C. in C. W.A).

HEEMSKERK bulkhead given way and Ship sunk. Tugs no longer required.
(DELPHINIUM 1200/21 to ENGLISHMAN, ASSURANCE)

TEMPLE MEAD.

(British 4427 Tons) Bombed (Port Patrick Radio 0944/21). Bombed in 54° 14'N. 14° 30'W. Hit in Engine-Room. Preparing to abandon ship at 1000/21. (Valentia Radio 1105/21).

Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1115/21 to ARBUTUS) (C. in C. W.A. 1457/21 to DELPHINIUM). *Cancelled - See p. 703.*

Have 9 survivors of TEMPLE MEAD. Have made thorough search of area. Am proceeding Greenock. (CAMELIA 1920/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

ENGLISHMAN.

(Rescue Tug) Attacked by A/C. 40 miles. West of Tory Island.
(Port Patrick Radio 1028/21).

Harwich.
M/S Trawlers
Attacked.

At 1034/21 in vicinity Rough buoy "LL" trawlers were attacked by large four engined enemy aircraft with cannon gun. Trawlers replied with 6 rounds each of 12 pdr. and plane made off to Eastward. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1410/21 to Adty).

TREGARTHEN.

(British, 5201 Tons) Arrived Oban damaged by Bombs. Seaworthy. One casualty landed. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1428/21 to C. in C.W.A)

/ANDONI.....

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ANDONI.

(British 678 Tons) Damaged in Air-Raid at Swansea on 13/1. (D.S. 505).

NORVIK.

(Panamanian Tanker, 9555 Tons) Damaged 17/1 in Air-Raid at Swansea. (D.S. 505).

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

2 Red Mines detonated. One at 0410/21 in 247° 1.5 miles from B.2 Buoy and one at 0425/21 in 208° 1 cable from East Spile Buoy (Capt M/S Sheerness 0947/21).

IMPULSIVE.
TEVIOTBANK.
Operation
B.S. 50.

1. IMPULSIVE is required to arrive Humber not later than A.M./22 to convert for minelaying.

2. In view of probable further delay in carrying out operation B.S. 50 request you will consider provision of local escort for TEVIOTBANK, sailing her for Humber in convoy after completion of BS. 50 Delay in latter operation can be accepted. (D.O.D. H. 1044/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

A.M. 1044/21. Intend to employ WITHERINGTON now on passage Londonderry - Humber and expected Rosyth 0845/22 as escort for TEVIOTBANK both vessels proceeding Humber on completion of the operation. This will take place at first suitable opportunity. (C. in C. Rosyth 1251/21 and 1457/21 to Adty).

Harwich.

Red Mine detonated at 1105 in 51° 55' 37" N. 1° 21' 8"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1451/21).

Bristol Channel.

My 1647/19. Ships may now enter and leave Watchet Precautions. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1451/21).

Milford Haven.

4 Mines detonated at 1350/21, 1406/21, 1443/21 and 1521/21 respectively in following positions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1829/21 to Adty).

Approaches to
Skagerrack

C in C.H.F. 51/HF.01201 A.13 of 14/1/41. It would be appreciated if a Destroyer would carry out an Exploratory Sweep in Area 56° 40' N. 57° 10' N. 4° E., 6° E. (F.O.S. 1307/21 to C. in C.H.F.).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

2 Cruisers in
Skagerrack on
29/12.

Report (B.2) and N.I.D. Comment.
(N.A. Stockholm 1047/21 and 1101/21 to Adty).

Enemy in
Heligoland
Bight.

From W.T.I. there is a possibility that German units, type unknown, may be moving northwards between Heligoland and Bergen area this morning.
(D.D.I.C. 1119/21).

My 1119/21. From W.T.I. movements in Bergen Area continue. (D.D.I.C. 1946/21).

Unidentified
Ships.

Following have not been identified.
One small slow vessel bearing 250° 6 miles course 155° at 1912/20. One small slow vessel bearing 218° 8½ miles course 180° at 1942/20. One small slow vessel bearing 155° 8 miles course 075° at 2040/20. One small slow vessel bearing 146° 9 miles course 115° at 2100/20. All from Sumburgh.
(A.C.O.S. 1155/21 to Adty).

Raiders
Fitting out.

My 1559/13/12.

1. TARONGA now due completion at Akers Yard for raiding. 1/2.

2. It now appears that previous reference second sentence Wilhelmssen vessels being armed may well have referred to TARONGA. Present evidence infers that only one vessel is being fitted out. B. two.
(N.A. Stockholm. 1703/21).

Miscellaneous.

Replacement
of Shipwash
and Sunk
Light Vessels.

It is understood that Trinity House intend to remove the Shipwash and Sunk Light Vessels. Request the former may be replaced by a light float with light visibility 4 miles and the latter by light and bell buoy with light visibility 2=1/2 miles.

It is considered undesirable to have a light float whose light cannot be controlled in the swept channel itself in this area.
(C. in C. Nore 1750/21 to Adty).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Loading
at Oban.

Your 1442/19. Priority should be in following order (1) Cargo liners, (2) Tankers, (3) Ships which will load grain or steel overseas.
(D.T.D. 1548/21 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

Coastal Convoys.

→ O.B.C. 276.

Ships Following did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0337/21).

0300/21. ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, ORCHIS, ARAB, LADY MADELINE 9.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0340/21).

F.N. 89.
F.S. 92.
F.S. 93.

SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN are to form additional escort for F.N. 89 21/1. On reaching the Outer Dowsing. SHELDRAKE join F.S. 92 and PUFFIN enter the Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail PUFFIN 23/1 to form additional escort for F.S. 93 from the Outer Dowsing to South Shipwash Buoy thence returning to Harwich.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0814/21). *See also p 702*

E.N. 60.
W.N. 73.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 60 sailing at 2200/21. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W.N. 73 due Duncansby Head 1030/24. Code word for E.N. 60 ~~rusty~~ and W.N. 73 ~~rusty~~ "rusty".
(C. in C. Rosyth 0909/21).

F.N. 88.

Arrived 0730/21. (One ship).
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0925/21).

→ O.B.C. 276.

My 0340/21. Add "2 with kites".
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0947/21).

→ F.S. 92.

Owing to weather F.S. 92 will be sailed not from Methil but from Tyne at 1230/22 as a 7 knot Convoy E.T.A. Outer Dowsing 0930/23 and Southend 1400/24.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1115/21).

→ AYRSHIRE
→ O.B.276.

My 1023 proceed to join O.B. 276.
(C. in C. W.A. 1125/21 to AYRSHIRE).

C.E. 23.

My 1500/20. C.E. 23 postponed 24 hours and will now leave St. Helens 1700/23.
(C. in C. Nore 1138/21).

→ O.B. 276.

Sailed 0900/21. 14 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1138/21).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
contd.

F.S. 91.	F.S. 91 arrives Barrow Deep PM/21 Anchors for night proceeding Southend daylight/22.
F.S. 92.	F.S. 92 due Outer Dowsing 1800/21.
F.N. 89.	F.N. 89 due Aldeburgh L.F. 1930/21. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21).
W.N. 72 (0).	W.N. 72 (0) No ships sailed. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1301/21).
O.B. 276.	My 1637/20 should have been headed 'O.B. 276'. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1305/21).
F.N. 89.	1010/21 49 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1424/21).
F.N. 86.	Tyne ships arrived except BIRTLEY reported ashore. Tyne ships arrived also all Blyth ships in Tyne except ARA (Nor). Sunderland, Seaham, Tyne and Blyth ships all arrived Tyne. Non-arrival BONNINGTON COURT reported sunk. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1532/21).
F.N. 87.	
F.N. 88.	
F.N. 89.	Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1548/21).
W.N. 72.	Only trawler escort for W.N. 72 is INDIAN STAR. PIROUETTE will be retained to pair with INDIAN STAR for E.N. 62. (C. in C. Rosyth 1559/21).
E.N. 62.	
Escorts.	
E.N. 60.	My 1955/20. Amended sailing time 1700/21. Cancel PIROUETTE. If convoy arrives too early at Duncansby Head it will proceed by Fair Isle Channel. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1601/21).
12 M.V's.	Intend sailing 1630/22 twelve merchant ships for Hartland Gap and Bristol Channel Ports escort SAINT CATHAN and PEARL maximum speed of group 7 knots in channel. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1621/21).
W.N. 71.	Arrived 1615/21. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1622/21).

/F.S. 92.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

- F.S. 92. My 1200/21 delete reference to F.S. 92.
(C. in C. Nore 1725/21).
- E.N. 60. Sailing cancelled owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1748/21).
- O.B.M. 277. 1807/21. LEEDS UNITED. Two One with kite.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1810/21).
- E.N. 60. Postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1820/21).
- F.S. 92. My 0814/21. F.S. 92 delayed, SHELDRAKE
proceed into Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber is
requested to sail SHELDRAKE so as to
join F.S. 92 off the Outer Dowsing.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1822/21) *See p. 700*
- O.B. 276. Sailed HEATHER to overtake Convoy O.B.
276.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1910/21).
- E.N. 60. My 1537/21. Cancel sailing IMPULSIVE
F.S. 93. E.N. 60 and F.S. 93.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1936/21).
- ? O.B. 276. Oban portion located position 065° I T H
24 am steering 294° 6 knots during the
night.
(ANTHONY 2217/21).
- W.N. 72. 058° N. 8 knots.
(INDIAN STAR 2230/21).

Ocean Convoys.

- O.G. 50. Convoy sailing telegram O.G. 50 (9) and
(12).
(C. in C. W.A. 0109/21).

/B.H.X. 104.....

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(Contd).

B.H.X. 104.

Convoy BHX 104 consisting of 38 ships including 28 tankers sails from Bermuda. (date, speed, route). to R.V. with A/S escort in (position date). Ocean escort ALAUNIA.

2. C. in C. A. W.I. should inform KING GEORGE V of time of sailing of convoy.

3. After refuelling, KING GEORGE V is to proceed to afford this convoy additional escort, joining the convoy during daylight hours on (date) and breaking off in (position).
(V.C.N.S. 1024/21),

S.L. 61.

Unless directed otherwise intend altering course of S.L. 61 to 070° at 1700.
(VETERAN 1318/21 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1457/21. CAMELLIA despatched 1345 and probably now in contact. Consider DELPHINUM should rejoin S.L. 61. VETERAN probably able to remain with convoy till noon 22nd, altering course to 070° at 1700.
(VETERAN 1607/21).

H.X. 101.

Following ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1723/21).

S.L. 61.

Cancel my 1457 rejoin convoy S.L. 61.
(C. in C. W.A. 1925/21 to DELPHINIUM).

See p. 697

? S.L. S. 61.
or H.G. 50.

Not met. Suppose track convoy base on 2000/21 situation reported was crossed at 1300/21. Visibility extreme. 53° 16' 18" 28'.
(SHIKARI 2001/21).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 6.

34 Ships. Ready to sail from U.K. (date). Speed of slowest ship 11½ knots. Ocean Escort. Ships should be grouped as in Adty. 1642/6. para F. (A.C.N.S. H. 2318/21).

My 2318/21. Ocean Escort, A/A Escort, A/S Escort. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail Ships for Freetown and arrange R/V in accordance with Route to be promulgated by Adty. ? (A.C.N.S. H. 2335/21).

War Diary.

21.1.1941.

Monday. 704

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Route,
Iceland
to Scottish
ports.

Cancel Adty. 0222/31/8.
2. Ships bound between Iceland and Scottish ports are to be routed clear of the area enclosed within the following positions:
3. Ships trading between Finnish, Arctic and American ports and ships bound for the Faroes are only to approach this area by (route). (D.T.D. 1931/20).

Coastal Convoys.

<p>→ F.N.89 F.S.90.</p>	<p>My 2106/19. F.N.89 postponed 24 hours by weather. F.S.90 is to proceed to Southend. (C.in C. Nore 0944/20 to VESPER, PYTCHLEY, EGRET, VERDUN.)</p>
<p>O.B.M.277.</p>	<p>1750/21. LEEDS UNITED. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1010/20).</p>
<p>F.S.88, 89, 90.</p>	<p>Arrived except LYSAKER IV. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1015/20).</p>
<p>O.B.276. <u>PEGASUS</u></p>	<p>My 2241/15. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail PEGASUS for O.B. 276. (2) orders are similar to those for SPECIMEN TWO except that a Trawler or Corvette is to be detailed to attend on PEGASUS during flying operations. (C.in C. W.A. 1103/20). See p. 694</p>
<p>W.N.72 (0)</p>	<p>Cancel my 1132/19 request by SOUTHERN STAR 9 ships anchored Bloody Bay to rendezvous with SHIPPY in position 057° 00' 05" W. at 1330/21. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1125/20 to C.in C. W.A.)</p>
<p>→ F.N.89. F.S.92. F.N.91.</p>	<p>My 1329/10 and 1917/17. FN 89 and FS 92 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. FN 91 postponed 24 hours in consequence. (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/20).</p>
<p>E.N.59.</p>	<p>EN 59 cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1147/20).</p>
<p>F.N. and F.S.</p>	<p>F.N.87 due Flamboro' Head 1900/20. F.H.89 postponed until 0930/21. ES.91 due Aldeburgh Lt. Float 0600/21. F.S.92 Flamboro' Head 1200/21. (C.in C. Nore 1200/20).</p>
<p>F.N. 87 and 88</p>	<p>No ships sailed from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1215/20).</p>
<p>S.C.19</p>	<p>Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty - Begins. (D.T.D. 1354/20).</p>

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

D.L. HARPER.

My 1240/20 and my 1500/20. Ship making good speed towards her destination. Cannot keep up with her. Am proceeding Greenock.
(ANGLE 0015/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

WILK.

(Polish S/M) Your 1806/20. Tug BULGER proceeding.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 0340/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

CORNISH ROSE.

(British, 471 Tons) Ashore at Oyster Mouth, Swansea. Crew living on board. Expect float spring tide 26/1.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea. 1211/21).

TIERCEL.

(H.M. Yacht) (WESTERN ISLES 1622/20) Necessary work will be undertaken on arrival (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1302/21).

YORK CITY.

(A/S Trawler) Arrived for minor repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1355/21).

LEAMINGTON.

Proceeding Londonderry with defects.
(C. in C. W.A. 1615/21 to VETERAN).

BOREAS.

My 1212/20. Should be ready to sail 24/1.
(F.O.I.C. London 1706/21).

IMPULSIVE.

Returned to Rosyth with serious condenser trouble.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1909/21).

BIRTLEY.

(British, 2875 Tons) Reported ashore from Convoy F.N. 86.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1532/21).

THAMES.

^{Rescue}
(Tug) Arrived at Campbeltown with Steering Gear broken.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1912/21).

/LORD.....

War Diary.

21.1.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

LORD LLOYD.

(A/S Trawler) At Aberdeen with defects.
(A.C.O.S. 1930/21).

STOKE CITY.

(A/S Trawler) At Tyne, damaged. Due to
sail 20/1.
(A.C.O.S. 1930/21).

LINCOLN CITY.

(A/S Trawler) At. Aberdeen, delayed by
defect.
(A.C.O.S. 1930/21).

THOMAS DEAS.

Ashore at Islay sound. Request Motor-
Boat from Port Askain.
(Port Patrick Radio 1944/21).

KYLEGLEN.

(British, 3670 Tons) Left Oban 9/12, due
Baltimore 29/12. Overdue. Presumed lost.
(D.S. 505).

EUPHORBIA.

(British, 3380 Tons) Left Milford Haven
7/12, due Lynn, Massachusetts 1/1. Overdue.
Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).

JUMNA.

British, 6078
(~~Norw. 5746~~ tons) Left Mersey 16/12,
due Freetown 4/1. Overdue. Presumed
lost. (D.S. 505).

VALPARAISO.

(Swedish, 4979 Tons) Left Halifax,
N.S. 18/12. Due Glasgow 4/1. Overdue.
Presumed lost. (D.S. 505).

SKARAAS.

(Norw. Tanker 9826 tons). Extensive
damage to stem when she rammed TADORNA
at Princes Pier, Greenock 16/1,
Proceeding to Kiln of Clyde Anchorage.
(B.M.S.M. 203, 21/1/41.).

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Attitude
towards
escorted
convoys.

1st. Lord 2133/21. to C. in C. S.A.
see Operations Volume.

CANTAL.

Cont. and Gib. 1050/21. see French
Merchant Ships.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

S/M's.

Positions 0800/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/4.)

Convoy
W.S.5.B.

F.O.C.N.A. 1208/21 to Capt. D.(8) See
Operations Volume.

MARON
FOXHOUND.

MARON proceed 1815 to patrol areas
R 3 S 3. FOXHOUND will escort to Spartel
then resume patrol. (F.O.C.N.A.
1653/21.)

Air
Operations.

A.387. 21/1. No flying carried out
owing to weather. (200 Group 1705/21.)

Italian
U boat
at
Las Palmas.

My 1750/20. (?1750/21 intended) Italian
Submarine is being supplied with Gas
Oil Fuel ex drums from breakwater. These
drums were filled yesterday and during
the night from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN
placed in barge towed to and discharged
Woermann Coal Depot thence carted to
breakwater for supply to submarine.
I will keep you informed expected
departure quantity of Oil Fuel taken.
(B.C. Las Palmas 1645/21.)

See also
South
Atlantic.

My January 20th Italian Submarine hull
damaged forward above waterline
reported result of gunfire, repairs
being carried out. Captain rumoured to
have been killed. 2 crew wounded.
(B.C. Las Palmas 1750/21.)

Your 0940/20. Request immediate report
(a) whether Italian Submarine has left
Las Palmas, (b) if not, on what
alleged grounds submarine is being
permitted to stay beyond the 24 hours
allowed by International Law.
(Hd. of M. 1931/21 to H.M.C. Las
Palmas.)

/MONARCH.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

MONARCH
OF BERMUDA
CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

S.O. (I). Gib. 1806/19. FAULKNER and FORESTER are now escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE to Freetown. Request you will signal onward routing instructions to Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER. Capt. (D) 8 reports delayed by weather and may require fuel at Bathurst. (F.O.C.N.A. 1836/21. to C. in C. S.A.)

IMPERIALIST
MARON.

Gibraltar arrival 1830/21. IMPERIALIST to make good damage and loss of boat(s) (?through) bad weather. Departure 1900 MARON for R 3 and S 3. (S.O.(1) Gib. 1902/21.)

Areas
R3,S3.

My 1653. Areas R three S three are bounded by following positions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1932/21 to Ships and Authorities N.A.Station.

Ammunition.

Your 1711/4, 1140/10 and 1337/1, following ammunition embarked. (A) CAPETOWN CASTLE (B) MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (F.O.C.N.A. 2026/21. to Adty.)

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE'S
Aircraft.

Adty. 2227/20. Present position is as follows: Min. for For. Aff. informed H.M. Minister last night Monday that a note would be handed to him during forenoon 21/1 releasing aircraft and fixing 24 hour limit for its departure. No further delay is possible.

Provisional arrangements are made for LYNTON GRANGE to leave Monte Video so as to pick up aircraft during forenoon /22 in a position 35 miles 90° from Lobos Island. (S.O/1.) Monte Video 0432Z/21. to B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

See also p. 712

/Your 0432/21.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Your 0432/21 suggest arrangements for LYNTON GRANGE stand, but unless unexpected circumstances arise, NEWCASTLE will be 35 miles 090 from Lobos by 0800/22, Uruguayan time, and will remain near to recover aircraft. (R.A.S.A.D. 1430Z/21. to S.O.(1) Monte Video.) *See also p 712*

VIDETTE

Serious leak developed in lubricating oil system. Am proceeding to Freetown at 14 knots. E.T.A. 1900/22. (VIDETTE 0830N/21.)

WINKFIELD.

Overdue shipping. WINKFIELD due Durban 17/1 from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(1) Capetown 0955B/21.) (See 22/1.)

→ Raider Report.

D/F Bearings indicate German surface unit was within 150 miles 012° (? 2°) s. 008° w. at 2128Z/20, reliability 50% per cent. Alternative position 015° s. 001° e. reliability 45%. (C. in C.S.A. 0951N/21 to DORSETSHIRE S.O. Force K DELHI.)

NORSEMAN.

(Cable ship) Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1058/21.)

→ Raider report.

D/F bearings at 2117Z/19 indicated probable German surface unit though possibly U-Boat within 100 miles of line, joining Monrovia to Equator 011° W. Further bearing at 2158Z/20 indicates probability that this unit has moved to within 150 miles 2° s. 008° w. DELHI has gone to investigate. (C. in C. S.A. 1335N/21. to R.A.S.A.D., Adty.)

/Departures.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Departures 1000/21 DELHI on patrol,
1230 DUNEDIN for Bathurst with military
details. (S.O.(1) Freetown 1321/21.)

JEAN L.D.
(French).

S.O. Force K 1014Z/21 sec. French
Merchant Ships.

Certain
coast &
A.A.
defences
proposed.

Your 1108/19. (? 1408/19.) I do not
consider that these defences are
sufficient. (C. in C. S.A. 1143N/20.)

Italian
S/M. at
Las Palmas.

Reference Italian Submarine reported
at Las Palmas should be interested to
know if any information is obtained
whether Submarine is damaged and how
as two Submarines have been attacked
in Freetown Area recently. (C. in C.
S.A. 1147/21. to F.O.C.N.A.)

U-boat.

D.D.I.C. 1054/21 to AUSTRALIA see
U. boat Campaign.

SOBIESKI
KENYA.

Your 2000/18 SOBIESKI and KENYA have
deck cargo of petrol as first supply
for landing craft. Propose unless
this is likely to be required on
passage or on arrival it shall be re-
moved before sailing as adding danger
to air attack. (C. in C. S.A. 1247/21.
to Adty.)

ALMKERK
fired at.

5/1.

Dutch ALMKERK reports when steering
155° at 1520/5 in 040° 46' N. 022°
22' W. strange ship chased and fired
one very wide round. Increased to
16.5 knots and escaped in fog. From
description ship may be A.M.C.
(S.O.(1) Capetown 1216B/21.)

/Southbound.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

(D.T.D. 1259/21.)

Southbound
Ships
crossing
20° north
for Plate.

NEWCASTLE's
Aircraft.

Your 1421Z/20.

- (1) Note received releasing aircraft and granting 24 hours from noon/21.
- (2) Cannot ask for further delay.
- (3) We are proceeding with the plan to pick up aircraft by LYNTON GRANGE.
- (4) In case weather conditions enable us to delay aircraft please signal earliest time of NEWCASTLE can be within range of aircraft giving provisional R.V. for her.
- (5) Unwise for NEWCASTLE to visit Monte Video so soon after the incident. Submit she should visit Buenos Aires 24/1. If necessary CUMBERLAND could visit Monte Video instead of Buenos Aires.
- (6) Pending reply from you application for permission for NEWCASTLE visit is being held over. (S.O. (1) Monte Video 1445Z/21. to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.O.(I). Montevideo's 1445/21. B.N.A. Buenos Aires ask Ambassador to request permission for NEWCASTLE to enter Buenos Aires for 24 hours non fuelling visit picking up RECALADA pilot 0500. (z plus 3) /24/. Request Ambassador's views as to whether my visit to Buenos Aires in CUMBERLAND so soon after will still be quite convenient.

NEWCASTLE Fuel from ARNDALE as arranged 23/1, and r.v. with me in position 35° S. 53° 30' W. at 1800 Z/26. (R.A.S.A.D. 2009Z/21.) *5- p.p. 709 9710*

ALBATROSS.

Your 2221/19. Allowance of aircraft explosives for ALBATROSS is equivalent to that of a catapult ship carrying six Walrus aircraft. (D.N.A.D. 1654/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

/FORMIDABLE.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

DRAGON
DEVONSHIRE
FORNIA

South Atlantic Contd.

My 2235/17. In view of indication of enemy vessels near Cape-Freetown route, DRAGON is to sail A.M./22. DEVONSHIRE to follow at 24 knots as soon as ready and join DRAGON. After meeting ships to proceed as in my 2235/17. (C. in C. S.A. 1735N/21.)

Movements
of Force K.

Your 2231/19. (not Adty.) Area up to 200 miles North of position in your 2231/19 was searched by Force K on 20th. Force K passed through area given in your 1101 N/20 (1100/20 intended) on 18th. (S.O. Force K. 1953Z/21. to C. in C. S.A.)

S.S.MURJEK.

N.C.S.O. Santos 1634/20 is passed to you for action as you may consider necessary. Swedish ship MURJEK was reported by N.C.S.O. Santos as due to leave for Gothenburg direct 20/1 having asked for route. Norwegian members in the crew did not wish to return to Sweden and Santos Authorities refused to allow discharge there. Proposal was made to call at Freetown with which is concurred in my 1803/16. (S.O. (1) Freetown 2029N/21.)

S.L.63.
S.L.S.63.
NAILSEA LASS
BUR.
C.ARBORG. (no trace)
etc.

Convoys S.L.63 and S.L.S.63. NAILSEA LASS returned p.m./19 with engine defects. Norwegian BUR returned a.m./21 unable to maintain speed of convoy. Norwegian C.ARBORG Engine repairs. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 2047/21.)

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

I.45 21/1. 7. Wellingtons attacked Catania Aerodrome. Attack lasted from 1850/20 to 2025/20. Total weight of bombs dropped 24,220 lbs.G.P. and 1,920 incendiaries. Practically all dropped in target area. 7 aircraft seen bursting into flames. Fire seen near Cape Passaro. All our aircraft returned undamaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0005/21.)

Attack
on
Catania.

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

A.849. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No. 225 up to 1200 hours 21/1/41.

A.849, H.Q.R.A.F.,M.E. Operational Summary No. 225 up to 1200 hours 21/1/41.

Attacks on Tobruk and Valona.

Night 19/20th 3 Wellingtons and 2 Blenheims dropped 14,230 lbs. of bombs on Tobruk. Day 20/1. Offensive patrols of Hurricanes and Australian Gladiators over Tobruk area encountered no repeat no enemy aircraft. Attack on Tobruk commenced early today our troops entering defended area operations running to schedule. (2) Greece. Night 19/20th Jan. 4 Wellingtons bombed Valona . One Wellington attacked Brindisi railway station. Bombs overshooting target and falling on town. Day 20/1. 5 Blenheims bombed stores dumps at Valona

Piraeus bombed. S.S.VASCO. damaged.

During morning 4 unidentified enemy aircraft followed by 5 Cant Z.1007 bombed Piraeus damaging cargo vessel VASCO,

Heraklion aerodrome bombed.

(3) Crete. Day 20/1. One Savoia followed later by 3 CR 42's dropped incendiary and small bombs on Heraklion aerodrome causing slight damage. (H.Q. R.A.F.,M.E. 1206/21.)

Malta attacked.

I.47 21/1. Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/21. All times G.M.T. 0035 to 0215 and 0235 to 0330 several enemy aircraft passed individually over island and dropped bombs indiscriminately. Target appeared to be Luqa but not located and no damage to government property. Bombs fell in sea and 7 separate places on the island. Enemy kept very high to avoid gun fire and searchlights. One Hurricane up. No engagement. 1305 to 1321 R.C. by single enemy aircraft. 1242 to 1530 P.R.U. photographic R.C. Sicilian aerodromes and ports. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1715/21.)

/Coal.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Coal for Greece.

Following telegram sent to Athens, ^{re} N.C., arrivals of ships with coal. (D. of S.T. 0345/21. to S.O.I. Alexandria.)

Operation.

V.A.L.F. 0411/21, C. in C. Med. 0854/2/, 0857/21. ~~Tuesday.~~ See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy A.S.12.

1106387/41

Convoy A.S. 12 arrived less CLAN CUMMING latter reported to have returned to Piraeus. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0834/21.)

JAGUAR.

I am holding H.M.S. JAGUAR temporarily in Eastern Mediterranean until situation in Malta is cleared up. She is out of action for few days due to defects. (C. in C. Med. 0859/21 to Adty.)

Cables.

Your 2101/6. Army very insistent on need for cable to Western Desert. Reasons. (c) Cable will also be needed for Naval traffic in connection with operations of inshore squadrons and with supplies etc. (C. in C. Med. 0955/21. to Adty.)

State of Italian Capital Ships.

Following from Navy Department: by U.S. N.A. Rome from sources stated to be reliable: in air raid on Naples 8/1. ^{Giulia} CESARE was holed by stern below water line and arrived at Genoa 12/1 for repairs. ^{ANAKIA} DORIA is in dry dock at Venice. ^{Conte di} DUILIO is being repaired at Trieste. ^{Conte di} CAVOUR is sunk at Taranto. ^{Conte di} LITTORIO is repairing at Genoa or Taranto probably latter. ^{Conte di} VENETO is only battleship at present operating. (N.A. Warlington 1014/21.)

Comment by N.I.D. This appears to be a good report. ^{Giulia} CESARE may have been hit on the stern in this attack. She sailed the following night but her destination is not known. It is quite possible she went to Genoa for repairs as this is her port of building.

/DORIA.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

State of Italian
Capital Ships
cont.

ANDREA DORIA was at Spezia on 21.12. There is no reason to suppose she is damaged and there seems no object in moving her to Venice as she can be docked equally well at Spezia.

CONTE DI CAVOUR. Information correct.

LITTORIO. Was damaged during F.A.A. attack on Taranto and was docked there. She may well have gone to Genoa subsequently for further repairs as she was built there.

DUILIO. Was damaged in the F.A.A. attack on Taranto. No repairs were carried out at the time and she sailed for an unknown destination between 10th and 16th Jan.

VITTORIO VENETO. It is agreed that this ship is undamaged. This signal has been repeated to C.O.I.S. Alexandria and C. in C. Mediterranean and the former's comments asked for.

REGENT.

Establish patrol forthwith between Ras Et Tin (Cyrenaica) and Ras Aamer. Object interception of traffic leaving Tobruk. Report if you have less than six torpedoes remaining. (Capt.S.I. 1235/21. to REGENT.)

High Speed
Tankers.

Your 1525/15. Efforts are being made to obtain 2 such vessels from the United States, but negotiations have not yet been completed. (4th S.L.1339/21 to C. in C. Med.)

S.S. COLD
HARBOR.

X.446 21/1. American Red Cross is sending the s.s. COLD HARBOR to Spain from Baltimore on 30/1 arriving about 12 to 15/2 and to Marseilles France, due about 19/2. This vessel will carry exclusively supplies for Red Cross distribution in Spain and in unoccupied France.

/2. The COLD.....

21. 1. 41.+
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

2. The COLD HARBOR, which is owned by the U.S.Govt., will be marked thus:- (details). She will, of course, be unarmed and moving without convoy. 3. Particulars of the COLD HARBOR are as follows:- 4. Her course will be (details). 5. Take steps to ensure that this vessel is allowed to proceed and return without molestation. (Air Min. 1340/21. to Air Authorities concerned.).

Intelligence
of Italian
S/M's.

Most Secret source indicates that one Italian submarine will leave Italian waters on the 22nd., a second on the 24th and third, the NARVALO, on the 26/1, to arrive same destination in Dodecanese at dawn on 26/1, 28/1, and 30/1 respectively. Actual destinations unknown but most probable alternatives are Stampalia, Leros or Rhodes (Rodi). The two first mentioned submarines are expected to leave Dodecanese for Italy not later than 1/2 and 3/2, respectively. It is suspected that these submarines are carrying important stores to Dodecanese. (C. in C. Med. 1405/21. to Med. Fleet.)

Lethal
gas.

I am informed by reliable source that German gas producing plants must complete their stocks by March 1st. Re: (N.A. Budapest T.H.I. 1445/21.)

BULLFINCH.

A.M. 1356/8/12 and 1711/1/1. Cable ship BULLFINCH has been delayed and is unlikely to arrive in the Mediterranean before the end of April. 40 per cent of her cable has been offloaded and is being freighted. (D.A/S.W. 1647/21. to C. in C. Med.)

/German.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

German
air-craft
in
Mediterranean.

Air Ministry think that between 40 and 50 H.E. 111 may be based at Benghazi and/or Rhodes. (D.D.I.C. 1758/21. to C. in C. Med.)

Merchant
ships off
Apollonia.

Following merchant ships reported anchoring one mile off ~~APOLLONIA~~ 1412 today - 2 of 7000 4 of 5000 2 of 2000. tons. /C.C. (Capt. (S) 1 1931/21 to REGENT.)

Italian
Intelligence.

Reported. (?Brindisi) was so damaged in air raid as to be unusable for embarking troops but feverish efforts to repair being made. Bari slightly damaged. Valona chief Albanian port for reinforcements Durazzo mainly used, for evacuation. Tirana is central collecting station for wounded and becoming very congested. Giovanni de Medua being improved hastily for supplies and reinforcements from Ancona and Bari. Saw two large merchant ships at Brindisi very badly damaged. Told one hit 16/12 and other 9/12. Great damage to Genoa by R.A.F. and early in French naval bombardment at harbour stores and electric plant but not to factories. (British Military Mission, Athens. 1950/21.)

T.L.C.'s.

T.L.C's were shipped W.S.5a. as follows. Names and sailing dates of ships carrying remaining T.L.C.'s will be signalled later. (D. of S.T. 2141/21 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Result of
R/C. of
Italian
aerodromes.

I.48 21/1. Following non (expert?) interpretation photos today. Comiso Palermo Trapani. Catania (48 J.U.87's of which 14 damaged or destroyed. 4 JU.88's. 3 S.79's. 6 BR.20's. 11 Macchi 200's of which 2 damaged or destroyed. 1 S.82.) Interpretation should be treated with reserve. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 2200/21.)

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Ammunition.

Adty. 1032/15 can at present only be implemented on E.I. Station by the use of Far Eastern Reserve ammunition now at Trincomalee. Should this be drawn upon taking into consideration the impending relief of "K" destroyer by HUNT class in the Red Sea Force. (C. in C. E.I. 0450/21. to Admty.)

Ships off Merka.

(1) My 0644/20 (my 0642/20 refers) A.O.C. Nairobi reports ship (considered to be Italian ship ADRIA) off Merka on Jan. 18th was under way on a South Westerly course. Speed 10 knots. (2) Air r.c. Kisimayu 20/1 (?revealed) one additional vessel anchored making total 16. I assume this to be the ship referred to in para. (one). (3) Mogadiscio is being reconnoitred by cruiser P.M./21. (C. in C. E.I. 0538Z/21.)

ADRIA.
R.C. Kisimayu
and Mogadiscio.

My 0538/21/para. 3. No shipping seen. Nairobi informed. (C. in C. E. I. 1756Z/21, 1758Z/21.)

Kismayu.

C. in C. E.I. 0542Z/21. S.O. Force K 1024Z/21. See Operations Volume.

HINDUSTAN.

Departure 0640Z/21, for Perim Patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0701Z/21.)

GOSEI MARU.

In case GOSEI MARU fails to call at Karachi intend Khor Kuwai Patrol intercepts her in accordance with my 1110/16. (C. in C.E.I. 1054Z/21. to Adty.)

Convoy
B.N.F. one.

HECTOR will form force R for troop convoy leaving Bombay 26/1 which will be called B.N.F. one, and will escort to about 050° East. My 1008/28/12. refers. (C. in C. E.I. 1208z/21.)

/W.S.5.B.....

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. Contd.W.S.5.B.

Your 2247/18 speed W.S.5.B. received here as 11 knots. Request verification or correction. (C. in C. E.I. 1216/21. to D. of S.T.)

B.N.Convoys.

My 1316/18. (1) Intend B.N.14 and B.N.F.1 to leave Aden 1/2. (II) There after B.N. Convoy will leave Aden at 8 day intervals and B.N.F. Convoy at 6 day intervals.

B.N. Convoys.

When any B.N.F. Convoy has to be omitted owing to passage of a U.S. or U.S. Convoy the next B.N.F, will leave Aden 6 days after U.S. or U.S. Convoy has passed Aden. (III) To suit ocean escort arrangements troop convoys from Bombay to join B.N. or B.N.F. convoy at Aden may sail from Bombay at not less than 12 day intervals. These convoys will be called by the name of the convoy they will join off Aden as at present. (IV) Northbound convoys will be diverted in about 19° N. and escort will then proceed Port Sudan. Escort will leave Port Sudan the next morning to r.v.with southbound convoy as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is requested to sail southbound convoys accordingly. (C. in C. E. I. 1226Z/21.)

Force K.
Convoy W.S.5A.

Movements. (C. in C. E.1. 1230Z/21.)
See Operations Volume.

Operations.

(i) Code name for operation referred to in last sentence is ~~COMPOSITION~~ "Composition"

(ii) Code name for first operation is

~~BREACH~~ "Breach" BREACH. (C. in C. E.I. 1232Z/21. to S.O. Force K.)

Details of
Red Sea
Force and
Aden Force.

My 0942/14/12. delete LEANDER, MOONSTONE add PARVATI to Aden Force (joining shortly). (C. in C. E.I. 1802Z/21.)

Kenya,
R.N.V.R.

Your 0746/2 approved. Colonial Office agree. Re removing legal difficulties. (2nd. S.L. 1930/21 to C. in C. E.1.)

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

721

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (See also next page)

Naval
bases
at
Trinidad,
and
Jamaica.

My 1052/25/9. The Naval Bases at Trinidad and Jamaica, as distinct from the Air Stations, are to be named **BENDOW** and **MORGAN**. The bases will be independent commands with accounts carried out in GOSHAWK and BUZZARD respectively. (Hd. of M. 1752/21. to C. in C. A.W.I.)

NBEVA
ANDALUCIA.

*In Lloyd's register 1942-43
spell as above. (M/V 19044) Tanker.*

Ship named **NBEVA ANDALUCIA** has sent a radio message to oil company asking permission to enter this Port to load. Oil company has received no orders. Request instructions. Ship does not appear in Lloyds list. (S.N.O. Curacao 2124/21 to D of S.T.)

Use of
D.F. by
Convoys.

Your 2321/20 suggest proposal B be adopted for trial but present procedure re-introduced if number of stragglers is appreciably increased. (R.A. 3.B.S. 2137/21 to Adty.)

Convoy
B.H.X104.

Left Bermuda (date) (C. in C. A.W.I., 2232/21. to KING GEORGE V.

Australia & New Zealand.

Equipment
for raiders
in Japanese
Mandated
Islands.

Caroline Islander in Japanese ship which arrived Rabaul 15/1 from Japanese mandates reports number of large ships unloading ammunition and stores at Saipan and Tinian. Naval guns mounted. Submarine and bomber aircraft sighted. Increased activity at Truk and Ponape. One large gun mounted at Ponape. German raiders not seen but believed to be in Western Carolines. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0223/21.)

Undertakings
not to serve
during
remainder
of the war.

My 0558Z/20 13 F.A.A. new entries also signed statement. Matter has also been raised by N.Z. Gov. in Tel. to Dominions Office No. 20 of 20/1. (N.Z.N.B. 2312Z/21.)

21. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

722

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

→ JAVANESE PRINCE.

Your 1752/20. If destination is London vessel should be routed to Loch Ewe. (D.T.D. 1027/22. to B.C. New York.)

State of Italian Capital Ships.

N.A. Washington 1014/21. See. Mediterranean.

SAN FRANCISCO.

My 1711/20. SAN FRANCISCO now reports arms were in manifest on vessels arrival there consigned to Bolivian Government and U.S. authorities believe shipment bona fide. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1049/21.)

My 1752/20 aeroplanes will be carried on JAVANESE PRINCE destination therefore Liverpool due. (date) (N.C.S.O. New York. 1711/21.)

Convoy B.H.X.104.

Convoy sailing telegram 9 10 12. (Bermuda 1429/21.)

Bermuda departure ALAUNIA escorting BHX.104. on completion escort duty ALAUNIA will proceed Halifax through 39N. 49W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1500/21.)

H.X.104.

Sailing telegram 9,10,12(S.C.N.O. Halifax 1523/21.)

H.X.105.

Advance Sailing Telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S. 1631/21.)

Action taken by LACONIA on sighting of shadower.

Your 1845/14. LACONIA considered it his duty to remain close to his convoy until supposed enemy opened fire in case there should be another raider near. Report follows. (R.A.3.B.S. 1738/21.)

Japanese
News

MOST SECRET.

21. 1. 41. 723
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese
ships
entering
a British
port.

Your 0811/9 the matter raised in your 0531/1/12, was intended to be covered by F.O. tel. of the 26/12, to Ambassador Tokyo sent to you as No. 84. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1146/21. to C. in C. China.)

War Diary21.1.1941.
TuesdayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSCHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN

Supplying oil fuel to Italian S/M at Las Palmas. See North Atlantic.

ITHAKA

Left Batoum for Russian port (V.C. Varne 1725/20)

DRESDEN
BABITONGASantos reports. DRESDEN has taken on board 86 drums of oil, type unknown, and 30 cases of lubricating oil. BABITONGA has loaded 75 drums of oil, type unknown. Ends. (N.S.O. (1) Montevideo 2134/Z/21)TARONGA

See Enemy Intelligence

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSMAYA

Arrived from Batoum tanker MAYA with cargo 5,000 tons of gas oil. (V.C. Varna 1748/21)

ADRIA

See East Indies.

FRANCESCA MADRE
TRIPOLITANIA
G. GHIRARDIArrived from Batoum ^{Gib}FRANCESCA MADRE and TRIPOLITANIA with cargoes gas oil departure (BOT) GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI for Constantza (V.C. Varna 1725/20)NUMIDIA

Susak sailed 21/1 NUMIDIA in ballast for Trieste. (Susak 2000/21)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSJEAN L.D.Vichy French ship JEAN L.D. is being sent to Capetown under armed guard. Bound (? Barcelona) to Madagascar. Cargo small quantity of (? essences) and wine. (S.O. Force K., 1014Z/21)
Amended to Simonstown, not Capetown. (see 22/1)CANTAL

Weight of total cargo (Conband Gib. 1050/21)

War Diary

21.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRASK
(Torpedoed 15/1)

I D Form S A 1. SS BRASK. 4079 tons
Norwegian (Ex O.B. 272- D.S. 505)
3. 2050/15 52° 45' N., 23° 59' W.
4. At 2048 on the port beam parallel
course.
7. Sunk
8. 12 crew lost including master.
9. 2nd Officer claims it is BARGARIGO class
(Italian)
10. Torpedoed. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry
1035/21)

NEMEA
(Torpedoed 15/1)

1. NEMEA (Greek)
3. 1745/15 52° 33' N., 24° 13' W.
4. Starboard bow converging.
5. Starboard beam 1810 approx. unknown.
6. Half submerged
7. Damaged by torpedo
8. Five left behind in ship. Names.
9. Large presume ENRICO TAZZOLI class.
10 Torpedo.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1535/21)

THELMA ?
(Torpedoed 20/1)

Your 1303/20. Nothing found, am rejoining.
(LA MALOUINE 1601/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

EMPIRE SCOUT

This was the unknown ship gunned 16/1 in
S.W. Approaches. (D.S. 504)

Submarines Reported

1800/20

By D/F position probable German U-Boat
at 1800/20 was 230 miles West of Cape
Finisterre. (Capt. S. 8 0936/21 to OLYMPUS
PANDORA)

0518

D/F bearings at 0518/21 G.M.T. indicate
that U-Boat is operating in your vicinity
(D.D.I.C. 1054/21 to AUSTRALIA)

1900/20

Estimate one German U-Boat near 043° N.
014° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably homeward
bound. (F.O.(S) 1433/21 to S/M's Area B)

/2230.....

726

War Diary

21.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

2230

At 2230 D/F indicated an Italian U-Boat in approx. 048° N., 010° to 011° W. inward bound. (F.O. (S) 2306/21 to S/M's area B)

0700/20

My 0902/20 two amber lights type B were sighted 90 minutes and 60 minutes before encountering a U-Boat on surface at 0700 G.M.T./20. (Capt. D. 6 2315/21)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

German One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is.
1 near 43° N., 14° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably outward bound.
1 near 50° N., 9° W at 1949/20 outward bound.
Probably two near 52° N., 18° W
1 near 60° N., 25° W at 1158/20
1 was in 59° 40' N., 18° W at 0800/20
1 near 59° N., 19° W., at 0219/21
1 may be near 61° N., 12° W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

Italian 1 in Las Palmas probably from Freetown area.
1 off S.W. Portugal outward bound
5 or 6 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but probably to south and well to S.W. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1250/21)

War Diary.

22.1.1941.

Wednesday.

727

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep for
Raider.

C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA returned to Scapa this evening.

Enemy unit.

D/F at 1724 indicated an unidentified enemy unit, probably a homeward bound surface ship, in an area 25 miles from 57° 35' N. 16° 0' E.

Torpedo craft
off Gravelines.

There were indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054. Four aircraft were despatched to attack them, but failed to sight any enemy vessels.

Gale Damage.

Between 1200/21 and 1800/22, 11 of H.M. ships and 3 merchant vessels were damaged by a gale at Greenock.

U-Boat
campaign.

S.S. CARLTON was sunk in the Atlantic 20/12; four of the crew landed at an east Canadian port.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused Coastal Command patrols to be curtailed again to-day. Two patrols were, however, carried out along the coast of Norway. All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled, and little was effected today.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

728

Enemy Air Activity.

Unsuccessful attacks were made today on VORTIGERN and Convoy F.S.91 off Sheerness and GARTH escorting TORBAY 15 miles East of Harwich.
S.S. KAPETAN STRATIS was attacked in the N.W. Approaches.

There was no activity by enemy aircraft over this country last night.

Mining.

Minelaying between 1800 and 2300 by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Bristol Channel and Milford Haven area.

Tug ST. CYRUS was mined and sunk (apparently yesterday) and LL trawler LUDA LADY was sunk today in the Humber area. Five other mines were exploded by sweepers. The Humber is still closed.

S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER was damaged by a mine in the Bristol Channel and was beached in Old Harbour, Barry.
Milford Haven was closed late this evening.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE and 5 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 1400 today. ISIS and ENCOUNTER entered harbour, but the other ships were unable to do so on account of S.W. gale.

It is reported that the German S.S. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN has supplied gas oil fuel to the damaged Italian S/M at Las Palmas.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.

Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

729

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE's
aircraft
(see 15/1)

NEWCASTLE's aircraft, which was released today crashed on landing and sank. The crew were saved.

Attack on
whaling ships.
(see 19/1)

It is thought that PELAGOS (whale factory ship) and her catchers have also been captured by the raider.

Raiders,
estimated
positions.

There are apparently now three enemy units on the South Atlantic Station
A was in 25° S. 10° W. at 2017/19
B was in 12° S. 8° W at 2128/20
C was in 2° S. 8° W. at 2158/20
D/F bearings indicate that unit C may have been within 150 miles of 5° 56° W. at 2158Z/21. C may R.V. with unit B.

Mediterranean.

Operations
in Libya.

Tobruk was captured today. A large number of prisoners were taken. The Italian schooner DIEGO was sunk off Tobruk last night. Capt. D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolled off Tobruk; two destroyers from Alexandria are to join them tomorrow. R.A.F. cooperated with the attack on Tobruk, bombing the defences and gun positions and providing protective patrols for the Navy. Derna was bombed last night and today, and Apollonia was bombed today.

Graeco-Italian
Operations.

R.A.F. today bombed Martza aerodrome, Rhodes, where German bombers are believed to be located.

East Indies.

A supply depot at Assab was bombed and damaged today by a Blenheim on R.C.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

730

Policy.

Meeting
at Adty.
24/1.

Your 1745/17. Request meeting may be postponed till Sunday or Monday. (C. in C. H.F. 1217/22 to Adty.)

'Deluge'
DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/22. (D.C.1140/22.)
At 2330/22. (D.C.2354/22.)

Invasion
Exercise "Victor".
VICTOR.

(D.C. 0142/22. C. in C. Rosyth 1215/22. F.O.I.C. Iceland 1305/22. D.C.1419/22. Duty Met. Officer 1446/22. C. in C.W.A. 1514/22. V.A.Dover 1610/22.C. in C.W.A. 1644/22, 1705/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1713/22.C. in C.H.F. 1715/22. C. in C.W.A. 1727/22. D.5. 1742/22. C. in C. H.F. 1755/22. Weslanar 1820/22. F.O.I.C. Portland 1845/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1855/22. C. in C. H.F. 1900/22. D.5.1942/22. C. in C. W.A. 2031/22, 2037/22. D.C.2150/22. C. in C. Rosyth 2154/22. C. in C. Nore 2208/22. C. in C. W.A. 2215/22. C. in C. Nore 2230/22. C. in C. W.A. 2315/22, 2324/22, 2331/22, 2337/22. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2338/22. Weslanar 2345/22.

Roborough
R.N.Air
Stations.
Hatston.

Your 1328/16. Details of Ground Defences. (Roborough 1810/22. to ~~XXXXX~~, RANAS, Hatston 1402/22 to Adty.)

Movements.

J.3968.)
AURORA.)

My 1732/18 para. 2. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/20. Force is to sail PM/23. (C. in C.H.F. 1215/22. and 1703/22.) My 1826/20. J.3968 will not be ready to sail till 28/1, passing Bar Light 1200.(F.O.Liverpool 1043/22.)

D.6.

Your 1130/22. Proceed to Port Z.A. with your Force and remain there. (C. in C. H.F. 1404/22 to Capt. D.6.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/22.)

/BOREAS.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

731

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BOREAS.

My 1706/21. Following revised programme proposed. (F.O.I.C. London 1650/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Approved. (C. in C. Nore 2055/22.)

Force Z.

Sailing, Escort, Route. (Adty 1655/22 to C. in C. W.A,S.A, E.1, F.O.C.N.A.)

ARETHUSA.
NIGERIA.
NIZAM.

Arrived Scapa 1805. (A.C.O.S.1853/22.)

EREBUS.

My 2220/21. Correct to read 23/1. (C. in C. Nore 0805/22.) Proceed to Harwich at 1030/23. Route. (C. in C. Nore 2250/22 to EREBUS.)

AGNETE
MAERSK.

Your 0108/15, 1928/16, 2035/17, and 1927/21. Noted that ship is now at Dublin. (C. in C.W.A. 1237/22 to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation "Speciman".
~~OPERATION.~~

Your 1203/19. Not intended to fit a second Aerial System in PEGASUS. Reason. (D.S.D. 1147/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation "Bubble".
~~BUBBLE.~~

My 2233/21. Prospects. (N.A. Stockholm 1545/22 and 1822/22 to Adty.)
See Operations Volume.

P.W.3. and
P.W.1.

Your 1100/21. Proposals concurred in. Line W.N.W. from I.E. Buoy considered desirable. (A.C.N.S.H.1641/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

732

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TORBAY.

Sailed Harwich 0911/22 escorted by GARTH. E.T.A. Dundee 1700/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0917/22.)

SEALION.

My 1333/19 and 1957/21. Intend SEALION to R/V with D.20. at 20.R.Buoy at 1000/24 for exercise. (S.6.1011/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CACHALOT.

Sailed, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, as by 5.2's 1019/18 and 1417/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1040/22.) You may meet 4 Tribal Destroyers in North Minch. Destination unknown. (S.2.2202/22 to CACHALOT.)

H.50.

Sailed with VIRGINIA. E.T.A. Cumbrae Light 0830/23. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1220/22)

Positions.

For 24 hours after 0800/23. (F.O.S. 1734/22.)

UNDAUNTED
MINERVE.

Following movements may affect you. (S.9. 2203/22.)

R/C's of
Trieux and

Quimper
River.

British Air Activity.
(A) CC/G1/22/1.(C) Reconnaissances of Trieux position 48° 50' N, 03° 03' W. and Quimper River position 47° 52' N. 04° 07' W. are to be flown periodically when cloud cover permits with the object of detecting the presence of submarines. (H.Q.C.C. 0940/22 to Adty.)

Patrols.

~~fair~~ cancelled today. ~~stand~~ is being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1014/22.)

One Stirling aircraft leaving St. Abbe Head 1235 proceeding coast of Wrabness to The Wash. E.T.A. 1415. Then inland. (C. in C. Rosyth 1206/22.)

Suspected)
Sabotage.)

Your 1349/21. Reply. (St. Merryn 1059/22 to RANAS.)

/Thames.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

733

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Thames
Estuary
Balloon
Barrage.

Minelaying by aircraft in the Thames Estuary has led to the reduction of the Thames balloon barrage to such a degree that it no longer gives protection to the Southend convoy anchorage. As the balloon barrage is thought to be of value as a deterrent to low bombing attacks on ships in the convoy anchorage it is desired to retain sea borne balloons in the estuary if possible. A meeting will be held to discuss whether new balloon sites can be chosen which will give a measure of protection to the convoy anchorage and where balloon servicing craft can proceed to and from their duties with the least risk of damage by mines. Request you or your representatives will attend at Admiralty House, Chatham at 1100/27. (C. in C. Nore 1102/22 to Cdr. Sheerness etc.)

Lorient.

A.P.781/22/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in Naval Dockyard at Lorient.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1213/20.

Recognition
of Escorting
A/C on
approaching
Convoys.

a. This would prevent air escort in narrow waters such as the North Channel.
b. Would be extremely difficult to carry out in practice, would involve a large amount of extra signalling, and would endanger the aircraft if signals were not received in time. It is pointed out that the originator of a signal cannot be sure that signals will be received in time.
c. Is provided for in existing regulations. (C. in C. W.A. 1313/22 to Adty.)

Hatston.

Air Ministry have agreed to release 804 Squadron from operating under Fighter Command as from midnight 31st January. Hurricane Squadron will relieve it, 804 will then transfer to Yeovilton. (5th S.L. 1642/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

/British.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

734

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

British
A/C.

shot
down.

N.O.I.C. Lowestoft states that at 1226 today an aircraft came in from seawards over Lowestoft at 700 to 1000 feet. Ships opened fire and A/C was hit in port engine and came down in flames near Oulton. No recognition signals fired and A/C came out of sun on course 285°. Blenheim type but no roundels seen on wings or body. Was probably hit by point fire from QUEEN EMPRESS. A/C burnt out. Three bodies identified as R.A.F. Personnel. Further enquiry will be held. (C. in C. Nore 1956/22 to Adty.)

OPS 626 22/1. Blenheim 139 Squadron, returning from Operational mission crossed coast Lowestoft 1226/22 on straight course and recognised as Blenheim by local Constabulary. After passing over town, Naval guns opened fire and aircraft hit and crashed with loss of all crew. Action by Naval guns in direct contravention of S.D. 158 (1) appendix "A" paragraph 3 (2). Regret that I must press for a searching enquiry so that the responsibility for this act may be established, and in order that Naval A.A. fire may be brought under a proper system of control. This is the fifth occasion since last October in which my aircraft have been engaged by A.A. fire at Lowestoft alone and illustrates the irresponsible manner in which fire is opened on friendly aircraft. (C. in C. Bomber Cd. 2340/22. to Air Ministry.)

PORT HUNTER.

(British, 8826 Tons.) Outward for Curacao. Expects pass boom 2200/23. Route. Request Air Protection. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1215/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Zones for
Attacks
between A/C
and Warships.

Adty. 1201/12. I am averse to the revised Zones for following reasons. Suggest following Zones. Remarks. (C. in C. H.F. 2342/22. to Adty.)

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

735

Enemy Air Activity.

VORTIGERN.
Convoy F.S.91.

Attacked by Dornier 17. Two Bombs.
No damage. (VORTIGERN 0950/22.)

GARTH)
TORBAY)

Enemy bombing in $51^{\circ} 56' N. 1^{\circ} 39' E.$
(GARTH 1038/22.) Fighter being sent to
assist (Nore W/T. 1105/22.) One Dornier
 $330^{\circ} 3$ miles. Position $52^{\circ} 29' N. 2^{\circ} 5' E.$
(GARTH 1440/22.)

KAPETAN
STRATIS.

(Greek, 3574 tons) Attacked by A/C at
1028. G.M.T. in $54^{\circ} 34' N. 12^{\circ} 8' W.$
Require help. (Valentia Radio 1100/22.)
Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1245/22
to ARBUTUS.)

Convoy "Radio".
RADIO.

One A/C shadowing in $53^{\circ} 44' N. 0^{\circ} 36'$
E. (EGRET 1200/22.)

Dover.

At 1148/22. U.P. Battery fired 2 salvos
at a Junkers 88 flying South-Eastward
over. A/C altered course. (V.A.Dover
1449/22.)

Lowestoft.

Unidentified A/C fired 3 bursts of M.G.
fire apparently at Lighthouse at about
2240. Some bullets fell inside Depot. No
damage. (Patrols, Lowestoft 2340/22.)

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

736

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Entry to
Watchet
Harbour.

My 1451/21. Amend second position to read 225 degrees West Culver Buoy 0.5. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1028/22.)

Gardening
for
tonight.

(H.Q.C.C. 1206/22.)

Humber.
ST. CYRUS
sunk.

Tug ST. CYRUS mined and sunk in Gateway. (F.O. Humber 1212/22.)

Anticipated the earliest time the Humber can be opened is 1200/23. Ship when anchoring should pass to the Northward of Gate Vessel Convoy anchorage northern and southern anchorages are not to be used until further orders. (F.O. Humber 1455/22.)

LUDA.
LADY
Sunk.

LL Trawler LUDA LADY was mined at 1031/ today in position 281° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3 miles. LUDA LADY was sweeping at normal speed at the time when small mine exploded close on her quarter. LUDA LADY sank at 1107 in approx. $53^{\circ} 36' 33''$ N. $00^{\circ} 01' 09''$ W. Crew were saved. (F.O. Humber 1757/22.)

Five mines exploded plus two mines exploded under ships as reported in my 1212 and 1757. Details will follow. (F.O. Humber 1820/22.)

Sweeping
at Dover.

My 1109/20. Sweeping carried out to 0800/22 in Q.Z.X.247 between No.4. and No. 1 Buoys. Two sweep obstructors found. (V.A. Dover 1231/22.)

Harwich
Area.

Following signal received from E L G I N 1220/23. Sunk Light Vessel reports mine dropped approximately half cable 090 degrees from light vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1257/22.)

/Exploratory.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

737

Mining.

Exploratory
sweep at
entry to
Skagerrak.

F.O.(S) 1307/21. I do not consider the very low percentage given warrants the risk entailed to these valuable ships. Air R.C. of the area might disclose mines laid shallow.(C. in C. H.F. 1357/22.)

S.S. JAMAICA
PLANTER.
mined.

Immediate casualty (or Minefield) Report (1) 196° Nells Pt. 1.25 miles (2) JAMAICA PLANTER (Beached) (F.O.I/C. Cardiff 1720/22.)

My 1720/22 JAMAICA PLANTER has been beached in Old Harbour Barry. She is severely damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1730/22.)

Milford
Haven.

Port is closed owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.(F.O.I/C. Milford Haven 2116/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy T.B.'s
off French
Coast.

There are indications of eight enemy torpedo craft since 0933 off coast of France. Courses received 045° 070° and 083°. Latest speed 23 knots bearing at 1030 from South Foreland 170°. Air R.C. at present not possible as machines are grounded.(V.A.Dover 1058/22.)

My 1058 indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054. Four aircraft are taking off about 1200. (V.A. Dover 1127/22.)

Enemy Unit
at entrance
to Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1724 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface unit in area 25 miles from 57 35 N. 6° 00'E. It is thought unlikely that an outward bound unit would make a signal in this position. (D.D.I.C. 1814/22.)

/French.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

738

HOME COMMANDS.

French
Ships and
S/M's under
German
Control.

Mining Contd.

Following from Navy Department. From Rome dated 18/1. Source Italian Pilot just returned from Squadron in France (2) About 14 days previously he saw CLEMENCEAU running final trials. (3) JEAN BART will be ready for final trials in about two months. (4) After taking Le Havre and other French Ports, Germans salvaged and put in service 11 French submarines and 21 destroyers. (N.A. Washington, 1615/22 to Admty.) Comments by N.I.D. show information entirely incorrect or much exaggerated.)

Miscellaneous.

Replacement
of Sunk and
Shipwash
Light Vessels.

Your 1750/21. Arrangements are being made accordingly. (D. of N. 1250/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

739

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

AMSTERDAM
MAID OF
ORLEANS.

Military personnel ship AMSTERDAM has been ordered to report to you forthwith. E.T.A. 24/1. Arrange bunker fully with coal immediately on arrival. Order AMSTERDAM and MAID OF ORLEANS to report to S.N.O, Inverary early on 26/1. (D. of S.T. 2245/22. to P.S.T.O. Greenock.)

Use of
Lights.

Admiralty Message "EI". It is suspected that U Boats or Raiders may exhibit lights with the object of making a merchant ship disclose her exact position by switching on Navigation Lights.

In the event of strange lights being sighted or of another ship exhibiting navigation lights, Masters should not themselves switch on lights unless absolutely necessary in order to avoid collision. 1707/22. to G.B.M.S. all areas.)(D.T.D.)

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

740

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

- F.N.89. F.N.89 expected time of arrival 20 C Buoy 0130/23.
(EGRET, 0841/22, to N.O.I.C. Tyne).
- F.S.92. No berth available inside Tyne.
Adjust time of arrival Tyne pier to 1445.
F.S. 92 now sails from Tyne at 1500.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0859/22 to LONDONDERRY).

Your 0859/22. Can meet convoy 20 C buoy 1600 but cannot arrive Tyne at 1445. E.S.E. gale force 9 heavy (?North West) Seas.
Consider condition unsuitable for sailing convoy. (LONDONDERRY, 1158/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).
- F.N.87. Arrived in Firth of Forth during night.
Two ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0912/22)
- F.S.91. Reported at Nore L/V. 9 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1001/22).
- O.B.M.278. 1750/23. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY Five.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1030/22).
- W.N.73 Ref. my 1143/19, convoy sailing cancelled.
W.N.74 W.N.74 will sail as my 1523/21.
(N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1146/22).
- F.N.89. Due Flamborough 1530/22.)
F.N.92. Due Flamborough 0400/23.)
F.N.90. Sails from Southend 0830/23.)
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/22).
- O.B.O.277. Sailed VERBENA to escort O B O 277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1206/22 to N.O.I.C. Oban).
- O.B.C.277. Sailed VANQUISHER to escort O.B.C.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1340/22)

O.B.C.277 unable to sail owing to weather.
O.B.277 proceed to Clyde.
O.B.O.277 sailing to be delayed 24 hours.
O.B.M.277 will be ordered to proceed to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1519/22 to N.C.S.O. Oban, GENTIAN).

Sailed ARAKAKA with O.B.277.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1520/22).
- O.B.277. Sailed VISCOUNT, GENTIAN, WINCHELSEA,
WHITEHALL escort for O.B.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1640/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

741

Coastal Convoys. (contd.)

O.B.277.

Sailed 1650/22, 6 ships 9 knots
two ships with kites.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1710/22).

O.B. Routes.

A.M.1927/4 and 2238/4. Unless instructions
are issued to the contrary, Convoys OB 279,
281, 283 and all subsequent odd-numbered
OB convoys will be routed through the
Minchas and ships from EN convoys joining
these OB convoys should be detached to
Loch Ewe. Routes for OB convoys indicating
whether they will proceed through the
Minchas or not will be repeated to N.C.S.O.
Methil and Aultbea.
(D.T.D. 1218/22).

F.N.89. (FN.389)

Ships in F.N.89 for Blyth and Amble should
be diverted to Middlesbrough. Ships for
Methil should be diverted to Tyne.
You should escort final section of convoy
into Tyne then proceed independently to
Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1431/22 to EGRET, VERDUN).

Cancel my 1431. Ships bound Methil should
be diverted to Tyne proceeding independently
to Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival
after Amble Section has left you.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1710/22, to EGRET, VERDUN).

Your 1431, ships informed. Total now Humber
9 Middlesboro 15 Hartlepool 4 Sunderland 4
Tyne 14. Cdre. expects to arrive Tyne 0330.
Following ships not seen ABERHILL for Methil
PRINS KNUD and THESEUS for Blyth. EGRET
expected time of arrival May Island. 0930.
(EGRET, 1815/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1710 received too late to be complied
with owing to bad weather conditions.
Request N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough take
necessary action on arrival extra ships there.
(EGRET, 1915/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1715. Lowestoft trawlers have left.
Request permission to proceed to rejoin
EGRET. (VERDUN, 1826/22, to C.in C. Nore).

F.S.92. (F.S.392)

Your 1158/22. WOLFHOUND with ships of
F.S.92 will R/V with you at 20 C buoy 1600/22.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1435/22 to LONDONDERRY).

WOLFHOUND sailed with F.S.92. (F.O.I.C.
Tyne, 1501/22).

/ F.S.92 sailed ...

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday. 742

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S.392. (contd).

F.S.392 sailed 1500.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1508/22).

Ships in F.S. Convoy392 for Humber are detached at 62 D buoy to Humber light vessel where they will be protected locally until Humber is open.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1803/22 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND).

O.B.C. 278.

(a) 1030/24.
(b) Not known.
(c) 11.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1522/22).

E.N. 60.

Sailing of E.N. 60 delayed owing to weather. Intend to sail this convoy without Moray Firth Diversion a.m. tomorrow Thursday.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1648/22).

5.M.V.

Crown sailed, 5 M/Vs and 2 escorts.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1657/22).

F.S.391.

Arrived all ships except STANWOLD and MIERVALDIS.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1836/22).

S.L.O. 61.

Your 1149/22 via aircraft received. Trawler escort not available for Oban portion. Failing other escort joining you WOLVERINE is to escort S.L.O. 61 to Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at 1000 is to escort Liverpool Portion and then return to base.
(C. in C. W.A. 1843/22 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE).

Your 1943/22/1 (? 1843) received too late for action.

Request further instructions.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 2345/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

/W.N. 72.....

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War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 72.

Merchant ships are to be anchored in Scrabster. FOWEY and INDIAN STAR proceed to Firth of Forth reporting expected time of arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth, No. T.O.O/22 to FOWEY, INDIAN STAR).

W.N. 72 sheltering in Steer Bay.
(INDIAN STAR 1440/22 to A.C.O.S).

Steamship RATHLIN only ship in W.N. 72 present sheltering in ~~Steer Bay~~ will proceed Scrabster 0600/25 weather permitting arriving 1600/25. Will escort RATHLIN to Scrabster and proceed Firth of Forth as instructed by your 1152/22. Have not contacted FOWEY.
(INDIAN STAR, 1645/22 to A.C.O.S.).

ORONTES.

Your 1637/21 (2 Destroyers to escort ORONTES). GARLAND and LEOPARD detailed. ARROW carrying out A/S exercises in lieu of GARLAND.
(Capt (D) Greenock. 1246/22).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 104.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1131/17. 31 ships did not sail for following reason. 9 did not arrive, 5 degaussed, 3 slow convoy, 7 required repairs, 1 armament, 1 completing loading, 3 incomplete crews, 2 required water; 3 additional ships were able to sail.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1124/22 to Admty).

H.G. 50.

H.G. 50 not met. My position 055° 33'N. 016° 44'W. Patrol north and south, SHIKARI in company.
(HESPERUS 1129/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 103.

Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Admiralty (11 ships).
(D.T.D. 1808/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 61.

HEEMSKERK, TEMPLEMEAD and GRETA VALE not present.
(C. in C. W.A. 1919/22 to Admty).

S.C. 20.

Halifax departure 22/1 RANPURA ocean escort S.C. 20. (S.O.1. Halifax 1925/22)
Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1506/22).

S.L.S. 62.

Your 1118/22 has been repeated to Commodore SLS 62 in Merchant Navy Code (Commodore's Recoding table) giving position as a bearing and distance from X.
(D.T.D. 1936/22 to F.O.C.N.A.).

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Troop Convoys.
→ ORONTES.

Request reply to my 1500/20/1 if ORONTES is sailing tomorrow 23/1 in accordance with your 1506/9/1 to F.O.C. 3rd.B.S. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 0930/22. to Adty.)

B.H.X.104.
W.S.6.

Intend providing three destroyers in addition to normal escort group to meet B.H.X.104 on 3/2. This should leave seven destroyers available for W S six on (date) I consider 15 Destroyers is desirable escort for this convoy but 12 can be accepted as a minimum. Request additional destroyers may be detailed. (C. in C. W.A.1105/22 to Adty.)

T.C.9.

Propose to sail T.C.9 consisting of 5 ships from Halifax to arrive at R/v with A/S escort on (date).

In view of W.S.6 and other commitments your remarks are requested as to the date when T.C.9 can be met. (D.O.D.(H) 1330/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Reply C. in C. W.A. 1631/22. See Operations Volume.

GLENEARN.

Movements. (D.C.O. 1635/22 to V.A. Hallett, QUEBEC.)

Force Z.

Ships addressed will in future be referred to as Force "Z" (D.O.D.(H) 1636/22 to GLENGYLE, GLENROY, GLENEARN. Orders for (Adty 1655/22.) See Operations Volume.

→ ORONTES.

ORONTES does not anticipate being ready to sail before 0900/24/1. Suggest ship leaves Greenock at 1800/24 in order to avoid overtaking O.B.277 in Minches before daylight. Request further instructions be sent to N.C.S.Greenock. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 1645/22.)

BURDWAN.

Re Adty. 1413/14. F.O.I.C. Greenock is to inform C. in C. Rosyth if sailing of W.S.6. is delayed in order that sailing of BURDWAN may be deferred accordingly to give more time for loading at Rosyth. (Adty 1740/22.) W.S.6. Re destroyer escort (A.C.N.S.(H) 2207/22 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES. & DEFECTS.

Convoy "Radio"
RADIO.

Commodore aground on Haisborough. Am proceeding with remainder. (EGRET 0205/22 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

4 Ships aground on South Haisborough. Anticipate should float off on rising tide. Commodore now proceeding. (VERDUN 0302/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MERIONES.

(British, 7557 Tons.) Tug NORMAN sailed at 0815 and Tug KROOMAN at 0835 to assist vessel on Haisborough. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0855/22.) Aground in 52° 53' N. 1° 47' E. No damage at present, but damage likely if weather worsens. Tugs urgently required. Is VERDUN to remain (VERDUN 0900/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Remain in vicinity. Do not risk grounding. Tugs have been sent. (C. in C. Nore 1041/22 to VERDUN.) Ship reports settling. Request more Tugs. (VERDUN 1340/22 to F.O.C.N.P.) Ship reports feared holed but will float when off. Awaiting high water for last try tonight. 2 Trawlers from Lowestoft standing by. Tugs present. (VERDUN 1526/22 to C. in C. Nore.) High water attempt to re-float unsuccessful. Trawler now left. (VERDUN 1725/22.) Remain till relieved. N.O.I.C. Yarmouth requested to detail Trawler to stand by (C. in C. Nore 1915/22 to VERDUN.) Tug ST.MELLONS sailed 1530 to assist Yarmouth Tugs (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2051/22.) Proceed Rosyth when Trawler STRATHRANNOCK arrives or at daylight, whichever is first. (C. in C. Nore 2315/22 to VERDUN.) Sailed M/V's SIGNALITY and GLORY at 1030/23 to assist (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1035/23.) Proceed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to STRATHRANNOCK. Recd.2257/23.)

TRIBUNE.

Am proceeding Milford Haven to make good Engine defects. E.T.A.1201/22. (TRIBUNE 0917/22.)

/BEVERLEY.....

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BEVERLEY.

Intend anchoring Belfast Lough to examine and if possible make temporary repair of defective Steering Engine. E.T.A. 1730/22. (BEVERLEY 1315/22.)

OCEAN GAIN.

(Wiping Drifter, wooden). Sunk in collision. Now alongside Harwich West Pier. (Salvage Officer 1600/22 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

TIERCEL.

(A/S Yacht.) Your 1622/20. To be sailed for Belfast for repairs. (D.O.D.H.1801/22 to WESTERN ISLES.)

KIRRIEMOOR.
(Boom Carrier)

(British, 4970 Tons.) Ship is overloaded. Request Adty. inform me how much Ballast should be removed. Ship awaiting orders at Oban. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2210/22 to Adty.)

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Seized
French
Ships,
Gibraltar.

My 1012/8. Intend sailing CHARLES PLUMIER, SENATEUR DUHAMEL, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SALLY MAERSK in H.G.52 escorted by DUNCAN on 27/1. 2. As these ships have been seized in accordance with your 1845/13 and your 1348/17 and fly red ensigns, presume interception by French is unlikely and instructions contained in your 1200/8 no longer apply. 3. If possibility of interception has still to be reckoned with, it will be necessary to utilize Force H. 4. Several ships have perishable cargoes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1318/22, to Admty).

CLEMENCEAU
JEAN BART.

N.A. Washington, 1615/22 (See Home Commands Enemy Intelligence).

POITIERS,
crew
internment.

Ref: my letter 1303/1540 of 27/9/40. 28 members of crew of S.S. POITIERS who scuttled herself off Bathurst when intercepted by CUMBERLAND on 16/1 are still in internment at Freetown by the Colonial Government. It was originally suggested that they should be retained in view of the fact that the French have interned British Merchant Seamen. (See my 2319/17/10). Requested I may be informed if the situation has altered in any way. (C.in C. S.A. 2127/22 to Adty).

CUBA
ILE DE FRANCE.

My 0135/27/12. Portuguese COLONIAL sailed Freetown today 22/1 with 115 French for Casablanca ex French ship CUBA. Also on board crew of French ship ILE DE FRANCE embarked at (? Mozambique) for Lisbon and several German women and children. No grounds found for detention of latter. Ship fully Navicerted and after Casablanca proceeds Lisbon direct. (C.in C. S.A. 2151/22 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/Boat at
Las Palmas.

My 1645/21 Italian submarine. I have been informed, has been supplied with 75 tons of fuel and repairs now completed but diver continues examination of vessels hull(?) Rumour submarine leaving here tonight. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1100/22 to Admty, etc.)

My 1711/20 Las Palmas reports repairs to Italian U/Boat have been completed and it is rumoured that she will be sailed tonight. (F.O.C.N.A. 1847/22 to S. and A, N.A.)

Your 1750/21. Damaged submarine is only entitled to make such repairs as are absolutely necessary to render it sea-worthy and Spanish Govt., are being pressed for strict application of international law. Request report of any further details of damage available. C.in C. S. A should be kept informed. (Hd. of M. 1944/22 to Consul, Las Palmas).

Taking oil from German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (See German Merchant Ships).

Unknown
Ships.

Following from LOCH OSKAIG. (Begins). Sighted 12 miles south 12,000 tons merchant ship steering west 14 knots escorted by destroyer. Descriptions. Unknown nationality. My position 037° 50'N., 010° 00'W 1650/21 (Ends). Unable to identify. (F.O.C.N.A. 1115/22 to S. and A. N.A.) OTUS informed (Capt: S.8., 1154/22).

Your 1115/22. Spanish Cruiser ^{ALMIRANTE} CERVERA en route Ferrol to Cadiz was within 50 miles of this position at 1650/21. (2320/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OTUS
OLYMPUS
PANDORA.

Estimated positions of submarines at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours (a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (b) OLYMPUS 041° 20'N., 021° W., proceeding on surface through 043° 30'N., 013° 30' W. speed 10 knots. (c) PANDORA 042° N., 010° 50'W proceeding on surface through 043° 50'N., 010° 50'W speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1126/22).

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air
Report.

Daily summary operations. No flying.
Weather conditions unsuitable.
(200 Group 1711/22).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
Destroyers.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, DUNCAN, ISIS, ENCOUNTER,
FEARLESS, FURY arrived 1400/22. Unable
to enter harbour owing to S.W.Gale. Ships
less ISIS, ENCOUNTER are remaining at sea
to eastwards until a.m./23. ISIS,
ENCOUNTER entered harbour.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1750/22 to Admty, etc.)

French
Ships
at
Gibraltar.

My 1250/16 and 1318/22 to Admiralty and my
1702/22 to Admiralty for D. of S.T. French
ships awaiting crews can only be manned by
small maintenance parties. During a
succession of heavy S.W.Gales several of
these have dragged and sustained damage
which might have been avoided had they
been fully manned and capable of raising
steam. This has shown the necessity
of sending out crews from U.K. as quickly
as possible. Further these ships
congest an already restricted anchorage.
Admiralty inform D. of S.T.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1842/22 to Admty).

MARON.

Engine trouble. Returning to Gib. E.T.A.
1630 G.M.T./23.
(MARON 2120/22 to N.O.I.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.5.A.
HAWKINS,
FORMIDABLE,
SHROPSHIRE,
NORFOLK,
AUSTRALIA.

Admty. 1642/6, paras. C and D (See Home
Commands Shipping 6/1). Re Cruiser escorts.
Orders for HAWKINS, FORMIDABLE, SHROPSHIRE,
NORFOLK, AUSTRALIA. (D.O.D.(F) 0300/22 to
C.in C's S.A. and E.I. F.O.Force K and
1522/22 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations
Vol.

W.S.5.B.
Re fuelling
and
Watering.

D.O.D.(F) 0303/22, C.in C.S.A. 0907N/22.
See Operations Volume.

WAR DIARY.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)DRAGON
DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1735N/21 please cancel my 1721B/21. DRAGON carried out unbasing and sails 0830 and DEVONSHIRE at 1030/22. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0720B/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

317. Simonstown departures 22/1. DRAGON at 0630 speed 18 knots, DEVONSHIRE at 0930 speed 24 knots until DRAGON is overtaken when both ships proceed at speed of advance 18 knots to St. Helena (route). Unless further orders are received DRAGON will fuel at St. Helena and DEVONSHIRE will proceed to Freetown in accordance with your 2235/17. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0945/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Completion date has been delayed until 25/1 owing to defect. Hope to sail ship dawn that day. (N.L.O. Durban, 0732/22 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

WINKFIELD.

Overdue shipping, my 0955/21, WINKFIELD arrived Durban. (S.C.(I) Capetown 0905/22.)

8th D.F.

Your 2327/21 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 1836/21. My p.c and s. are 030° 37'N., 017° 09'W., 232° 15 knots. Fuel does not permit of reaching Freetown by route ordered. (D.8 0914/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

D.8's 0914/22. Request you will take necessary action. (F.O.C.N.A. 1328/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

REINA DEL
PACIFICO.

N.T. in W.D.
Your 1728/19 part 3 (four). REINA DEL PACIFICO does not require docking or repairs expected to sail for Capetown p.m./23. (N.L.O. Durban, 1009/22 to Admty for D.S.T.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)ALCANTARA,
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA,
PRETORIA
CASTLE,
CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Your No. 223 12/12 I will consider ALCANTARA for relief of QUEEN OF BERMUDA shortly. She should have been brought up to date and have catapult. PRETORIA CASTLE now refitting and having equipment brought up to date might be made available later. CARNARVON CASTLE is at present at Simonstown will not be able to have such additional equipment fitted as this can only be done at home port.
(C.in C. S.A. 1031/N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BUTESHIRE.

Southbound ship crossing 20° N., for Cape, approx. noon position 23/1 and route.
(D.T.D. (851) 1324/22 to S.A. Station).

NEWCASTLE'S
Aircraft.

NEWCASTLE'S aircraft crashed on landing; Aircraft sank at once. Crew safe and uninjured. LYNTON GRANGE who was at R/V has proceeded. Position aircraft sank 090° Lobos Island 33 miles.
(NEWCASTLE, 1332Z/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Enemy
Units,
estimated
positions.

Enemy units mentioned in my 1101/20 my 1051/21 and my 1335/21 will be referred to as follows. The one in 025 south 010° West at 2017/19A. The one in 012° S., 008° West at 2128/20B. The one in 002° S., 008° West at 2158/20C. D/F bearings indicate unit C may have been within 150 miles of 005° south 006 West at 2158Z/21. C may R/V with unit B.
(C.in C. S.A. 1359 N/22 to S.A. Station).

Attack
on
Whaling
Ships.

Following is situation in addition to that already signalled by South Georgia:
(a) SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN with 16 catchers are now working in approx. 062° S., 038° W.

(b) Argentine oiler ERNE^{STO} STORNQUIST leaving South Georgia 22/1 with 6000 tons of fuel oil for SVEND FOYN. Am escorting her South.

(c) Norwegian oiler LANCING has left Aruba and is on passage to oil ~~at~~ OLE WEGGER on 1/2.

(d) THORSHAMMER with seven catchers at Grytvyken awaits owner's orders to sail. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1531Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA can oil and water at Stromness. Have instructed Magistrate to reserve 3000 tons oil fuel for me. Have embarked a Norwegian Gunner one of the OLE WEGGER'S Catchers and intend proceeding to provide cover for SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1539Z/22).

Ref: Ponta Delgada'a 2145/19. Following is further description of enemy raider:- Raider will have been able to complete with up to 6000 tons fuel oil, food and water from ships captured.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1543Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

Convoy
W.S.6.

Re watering (C.in C. S.A. 1923/22) See Operations Volume.

R.A.F.
Developments,
Freetown,
Bathurst.

Would be of great assistance if some idea of general policy being followed in R.A.F. developments at Freetown and Bathurst could be given. The only Air Force Officer here has been a constructional engineer who is told to erect certain buildings. Aerodromes or landing grounds are mentioned which seem to have no bearing on main points at issue. No indication of priority has been given. Difficulty re accommodation for R.A.F. personnel. G.O.C. West Africa has no Official information. Concur fully with his recent recommendations that an R.A.F. Officer should be sent to Freetown who is fully conversant with R.A.F. policy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1747N/22 to Admty).

JAN. Jan.
VIDETTE.

Arrival 1830/22 ^{Jan.} VIDETTE, with minor defects.
(C.in C. S.A. 1957N/22 to Admty).

Italian
U/Boat.

Your 1650/21 (re damaged Italian submarine) has been passed to C.in C. S.A. who should be kept informed.
(Hd. of M 2002/22 to N.A.Madrid).

MOST SECRET.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.German Bombers.

Report 40 to 50 German H.E. III bombers may now be based on Benghazi and/or Rhodes T.O.O. 0003/22.
(Capt: S.3 0007/22 to Med. Fleet).

Air Reports.
Tobruk
SAN
GIORGIO.

Ops. Summ. No. 226 up to 1200 hrs. 22/1.
(1) Egypt. Night 20/21. 8 Wellingtons dropped 28,750 lbs. of bombs on military targets in the Tobruk defended area as preliminary to assault by army following morning.

Day 21/1. Blenheims made 56 Sorties during day against positions inside Tobruk defences in close support of assault troops 54,000 lbs of bombs dropped hitting M.T. vehicles gun emplacements buildings on wharf and cruiser SAN GIORGIO. 2 large 4 medium 2 small merchant ships seen anchored 1 mile off Apollonia no troop movements between Mechile and Derna. Assault on inner defences Tobruk continues without serious interruption by defence. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1152/22).

GLASGOW.

A.T.1312/16, para.1. GLASGOW will be required to escort an important convoy to Suez from the Cape.
2. Request you will sail GLASGOW accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta
Air
Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 22/1. No air activity enemy or own today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/22).

CLAN
MACAULAY.

Slight damage to CLAN MACAULAY due enemy action temporary repairs being effected Malta. No casualties.
(S.T.O. Malta 1737/22 to D. S.T.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Tunis,
report of
coming attack.

Report from Swiss secret sources (begins) San Marco specialised landing battalions preparing to leave Pola. Increased activity entitles Swiss to believe that attack on Tunis is imminent. (Ends).
Graded B.O.
(D.N.I. 1747/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Mines.

A dangerous area due to mines exists south of Pantellaria, within a radius of 2 miles of 36° 24' 15" N., 12° 10' E., a floating mine has been reported in 42° 12' N., 8° 27' E., approx. 5 miles west of Corsica. (D.S.506).

Convoy
A.13.

Arrived Piraeus 1700Z/22.
(N.C.S.O.Athens. 1800/22).

Dispositions.

Movement summary 184. Eastern Med.
Submarines. UNIQUE in area T south of 033° 05' N., and between 012° 25' East and 013° 00' East. REGENT patrolling between 282 Derna 49 and 304 Derna 62. RORQUAL left Malta noon/22 for Adriatic passing 035 20' N., 015 20' E and 040 00' N., 019 00' E., crossing lat. 40 N., about 1800/25.
H.M.Ships. ORION, BONAVENTURE, YORK, AJAX, ILEX, HERO in position 036 00' N., 024 028 east at 0800/23 proceeding westward. BARHAM VALIANT, PERTH, and six destroyers left Alexandria (? at full speed) 22nd to operate West of Crete. Capt: D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolling off Tobruk to be joined by two destroyers from Alexandria p.m./23. TERROR at Alexandria leaving for Sollum p.m./23. A.N.13 due Piraeus p.m./22 A.S.13 leave Piraeus 24th for Port Said pass Kaso 2330/25 joined by FAREHAM from Suda Bay. SALVIA, HYACINTH, patrol Kithera Straits. T.O.O. 2150/22.
(C.in C. Med. 2304/22).

War Diary.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Kismayu.Your 0542/21. Instructions.
(D.O.D.(F) 0502/22 to C. in C. E.I).
See Operations Volume.Operation
"Breach."My 1230/21. Movements of Force K.
(C in C E.I. 1154Z/22 to N.O.I.C Simonstown).
See Operations Volume.

Object and plans.

(C. in C. E.I. 1830Z/22 to S.O. Force K)
See Operations Volume.Air Reports.H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1153/22, 1154/22. A.H.Q.
Aden 1754/22. No naval items.DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
VICEROY OF INDIA.(1) DUCHESS OF ATHOLL and VICEROY OF INDIA
are to be detached on arrival at latitude
029 degrees South and are to proceed
independently at best speed to (?Capetown),
provided (a) VICEROY OF INDIA can await
arrival in U.K. for docking and repairs.
(b) Ships have sufficient endurance.
If answer to (a) or (b) is in negative
ship concerned is to proceed subject to
N.O.I/C Simonstown's concurrence to Durban.
(C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/22 to CERES).Cable Ships.Your 2004/18. (1) Managers and commanders
of cable ships are most helpful and
provide all the information at their
disposal. (2) They can not, however,
give authoritative information on the
following: (A) Advance programmes of
cable ships (B) Docking dates of cable
ships. (C) Head Office intentions as
regards priority of cable repairs. All
the above information is necessary to
me if the Cable Company are to obtain
the maximum benefit from such assistance
as I can give.
(C. in C. E.I. 0958Z/22 to Admty).

/KANIMBLA.....

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War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

KANIMBLA.

KANIMBLA is to leave Durban a.m./24 and proceed at 15 knots towards position 010° S. 047° E. (C. in C. E.I. 1042Z/22).

Contraband Control, India.

My telegram 26/12. I have now examined superficially contraband position here. Many gaps in existing co-ordination between Government of India and native states and complete lack of co-ordination between Authorities in India and H.M. representatives in Arabian Countries Iraq, Persia and Far East and such essential key points as Colombo. Existing contraband control in Egypt appears too distant to be effective against contraband exports from India and in Indian Ocean generally. Need of more stringent control appears urgent, task considerable and expense proportionately great and much tact with native states will be required. It is however feasible. (Steps to be taken) Centre should maintain intimate relations with C. in C. East Indies and Naval Authorities generally and be governed by Naval Exigencies (Ends). (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1153/22 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

A supposed German unit Bore 206° 2nd class from Bombay at 0212Z/21. No crossbearing received. (C. in C. E.I. 1654Z/22 to S.O. Force T).

U.S.8.

Departure 1930z/22 CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY for U.S. 8. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 2041/22).

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War Diary

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Conference.

Your 0317z/22. Re visit of C. in C. Far East.
(C. in C. China, 1047z/22 to First Naval Member).

Free French.

De Schompse to De Gaulle No. 45 20/1
Re volunteers from Philippines.
(C. in C. China 0427z/22).

Detention
of Ships
by Japan.

Your telegram No. 0001. Following letter received from Japanese Resident Naval Officer. (Asks for evidence of bribes accepted by Japanese Naval officers to release ships). As financial arrangements made by Chinese, definite proof unobtainable. As honour of Japanese Navy is involved, very delicate handling required. Suggest not to press matter further for the moment.
(N.L.O. Shanghai 0736Z/22 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

Attitude of
Admiral Decoux.

Ref. Bangkok's 45 to Foreign Office. We feel this is taking too pessimistic a view. Decoux in absence of instructions from Vichy was bound to take attitude he did. We consider seriousness of the results of continued conflagration are such as to justify every effort we can exert to bring about a peaceful solution. Next move would appear to depend on what action U.S.A. are taking in any wide my 48 to Admiralty (T.O.O. 1149/20) Governor and C. in C. Far East have been consulted and agree.
(C. in C. China 1025Z/22 to Admty).

N.E.I. Bombers.

Ref. Adty (? to) C. in C. China 1546"16 if N.E.I. are given bombers obvious advantage in making them same type as we shall be using.
(Easfar Singapore 1115/22 to Air Ministry).

/Indo.....

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21.1.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

Indo-China
Trade.

Your 0946/18 para 17. These three Norwegian Ships have recently been time chartered by the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission to H.M.G. and have been allocated to trades outside the China Station. Presumably Indo-China Gov. will not object to three other allied ships which are free and normally engaged in the Indo-China trade being substituted. (D.T.D. 1144/22 to C. in C. China). *Reply*

0529/28 p. 982

M.E.W.
Far East.

Your 0723/20/11. Exercise of contraband control in Far East governed by War Cabinet decision of 22/4/1940 that in view of delicacy of relations with Japan, no ship should be intercepted in Pacific without consultation with Foreign and Dominions Offices. Establishment of branch M.E.W. in Far East is therefore impracticable (Reasons). Observations re importance of stopping leakage of important commodities to Germany. (Hd. of M. 1417/22 to C. in C. China).

ASAKA.

Reference Embassy telegram to Foreign Office No. 108 21/1. (C. in C. China 27 C.O.I.S. Far East 47 D.N.I. Ottawa 4) Ministry of Marine have informed me that (?Japanese) Ship ASAKA left Yokosuka January 16th and is due at Panama Canal February 7th and Lisbon February 20th. From photograph of ship supplied by Ministry it appears that ASAKA is actually NYK Semi passenger ship ASAKA MARU 7298 tons. (Description). (N.A. Tokyo 1731/22 to Adty).

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War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Not: NUEVA ANDALUCIA (n/v) My 2124/21. Oil Company have been
In Lloyds Register spell (vobu) as above. informed by Texas Oil Company (owners)
ship is to remain at sea pending their
instructions.
(N.O. Curacoa 0942/22 to D. of S.T.).

S.S. TAMERLANE.

(Carrying aeroplanes) (N.C.S.O. New York
1048/22) (See Operations Volume. 22/1/41 Page 29)

Naval bases
at Trinidad
and Jamaica.

Your 1752/21 GOSHAWK late CORTICELLI
renamed BENBOW. Large Chris-craft crash
boat named GOSHAWK.
(N.O.I/C Port of Spain 1150/22 to Adty).

B.H.X. 106.
MALOJA.

B.H.X. 105 is cancelled, no ships
having arrived at Bermuda. Intend MALOJA
to act Ocean Escort for B.H.X. 106.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1642/22).

U.S. Bases.

C. in C. A.W.I. 1901/22 to Admty).

Australia.

HOBART,
flagship.

F.O. Australian Squad. Transferred to
HOBART 21/1.
(A.C.N.B. 0712/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

JESSICA.

998 G.T. Reported to have left Bergen 13/1 with 250 tons of aluminium for Hamburg. (D.S. 505).

CLARA HUGO STINNES.

5295 G.T. Reported to have completed at Gothenburg by 3/12 repairs of damage done to her in air raids in Norway. Crew said to have rejoined her on 30/11. (D.S. 505).

→ OSORNO.

Callao reports superstructure now painted black. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I. Kingston to Admty 1109/22).

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

Reported to have procided gas oil fuel in drums (transported by barge to shore) to the damaged Italian S/m at Las Palmas on 21/1. (D.S. 506)

DRESDEN.

Reported to have taken on board 86 drums of oil and 30 cases of lubricating oil. (D.S. 506).

BABITONGA.

Has loaded 75 drums of oil (D;S. 506).

SALZBURG.

Arrived Burgas 22/1 (Galata 1308/22) Left Varna for Turkey with transit goods from Germany for Persia (V-C Varna 1802/22).

→ OSORNO.
FRANKFURT.
PORTLAND.

Following from Navy Department. From Santiago de Chile 17/1. German OSORNO begins loading wool and oats today. German FRANKFURT granted permission to load 700 tons concentrates. She has not been dry docked since war began. German PORTLAND has loaded 1000 tons of lentils, 3000 oats, 500 wool, 1490 beans and 600 concentrates. She has requested permission to bunker 6 tons of lubricating oil and 90 diesel oil. Said to have 270 tons of fuel oil on board when she arrived at Talcahuano December for bottom painting. (N.A. Washington 1700/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

N.A. Rio de Janeiro's 1735/20 (Reporting French naval forces will take MENDOZA). Report distance MENDOZA can steam with the fuel now aboard her.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1252/22 to DORSETSHIRE).

Your 1252/22. Am rejoining MENDOZA in position 020° 50'S. 027° 53'W. at 0700/23 to ascertain whether she is being steamed with one engineer and three executive officers and 30 ratings ex DORSETSHIRE. MENDOZA's crew friendly but completely passive. Intend to stand by her pending further instructions and steer towards St. Helena at 11 knots.
(DORSETSHIRE 2301Z/22 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA sails 2200 local time/23 for Montevideo to complete fuel and loading frozen meat.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1820/22 to R.A.S.A.D etc)

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 1014Z/21. French ship JEAN L.D. should be sent to Simonstown, now Capetown vide my 1311/6/11 to C. in C. S.A. only.
(D.E.W.D. 1848/22 to C. in C. S.A.).

22.1.1941.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CARLTON
(torpedoed
20/12).

British, 5162 tons, from Newport to Buenos Aires with coal, torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic on 20/12. Four of crew, believed to be the only survivors, landed at an East Canadian port and are now in hospital. (D.S. 505/22/1).

NEMEA
(torpedoed
16/1).

Greek NEMEA, 5101 tons, reported to have been torpedoed about 250 miles W. of River Shannon on 16/1, has sunk. (D.S. 506).

Mediterranean.

CLAN CUMMING.

(Torpedoed 19/1) Returned to Piraeus under her own steam having been torpedoed right forward. No casualties. (D.O.R., 23/1).

PENDRECHT.
(torpedo 18/12)

Your 1606/20. S.S. PENDRECHT was torpedoed in North Western Approaches. (D.T.D. 1607/22 to S.O.I. Capetown).

Submarines Reported.

Las Palmas.

Italian U/Boat at, supplied with fuel. (See North Atlantic).

0940/22.

46° N., 7° W., 250' W. by N. of Gironde, indefinite position of Italian U-boat. (D.S. 505).

0940.

My 2306/21. At 0940/22 U boat was in approximate position 046° N. 007° W. (F.O.S., 1022/22, to S/Ms on patrol Area B.)

1506.

D/F bearings on 8500 kc/s at 1506 B.S.T. indicate Italian U-boat in area 37° to 39° N. 16° 30' to 18° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1545/22 to F.O.C.N.A. FOLKESTONE).

Direction finding bearings at 1506 B.S.T. indicates Italian U-Boat between 037° 00' North and 039° 00' North and 016° 30' West and 018° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1821/22 to S. and A., North Atlantic Station.).

War Diary.22.1.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)1815.

By D/F on 8500 kcs. at 1815 B.S.T.
Italian U-Boat in position 57° 30' N.
22° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1859/22).

1030Z/15.

United States ship WINDRUSH reports
sighting stationary periscope of S/M
distance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile painted dark brown at
1030Z/15 in position 018° 040' south
002° 050' west.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 120?/22).

2037.

At 2037 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat bore
319 degrees 3rd class from Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2105/22 to S. and A.
North Atlantic).

Estimated U-Boat
dispositions.German

One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is.
One about 40 degs. N. 16 degs. W. outward
bound.
One near Porcupine Bank outward bound.
Three between 50 degs. N. and 55 degs. N.
probably near 20 degs. W.
One near 60 degs. N. 25 degs. W.
One 48 degs. N. to 50 degs. N. West of
25 degs. W.
No further information of others but
probably two to N.W., one to N.E. and one
to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian

One in Las Palmas Canaries
One about 150 miles N.E. of Madeira outward
bound.
Four or five in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic
whereabouts unknown but probably to S.W. of
Rockall.
(D.D.I.C. 1335/22).

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1330.

1330/22. Position 055° 26' N. 008° 46' W. in Asdic contact submarine. Dopplar effect obtained one pattern dropped. Continued the hunt position by dead reckoning only. (LEAMINGTON, 1430/22, to C.in C. W.A.).

LEAMINGTON Asdic Contact in position 055° 26' North 008° 46' West at 1330/22. (C.in C. W.A., 1727/22 to ships in W. App. North).

Join LEAMINGTON hunting Submarine in position 055° 26' North 008° 46' West. (C.in C. W.A., 1735/22, to LINCOLN, WATCHMAN.)

My 1430/22, position of contact now confirmed by bearing Tory Island Light coinciding with wreck chart in position 055° 23' North 008° 36' West. Have passed over contact 8 times and dropped 19 depth charges 12 set to 500 feet. Nothing has come to the surface. Contact has remained in the same position throughout. High explosives effected (Could be "no effective") reports during first attack only. Definite Doppler report in first 5 attacks. Propose remain in contact until daylight tomorrow. (LEAMINGTON, 1835/22 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.23.1.1941.
Thursday.WAR DIARY.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Western
Channel
Patrol.

Four destroyers last night patrolled between the longitudes of the Start and Lands Ends.

Operation
P.V.One.

This operation was carried out between 2000 and 2359 tonight by 3 M.T.B's.

Engagement
with
E/Boats.

VALOROUS this evening engaged 3 E/Boats which attacked Convoy F.N. 90 off Lowestoft. The enemy did not return her fire and disappeared.

Operation
"Rubble".

Five Norwegian ships, broke out of Goteborg at 1600 today for U.K. Units of the Home Fleet proceeded to sea to locate and protect them, and air search was ordered for tomorrow.

GNEISENAU
SCHARNHORST.

It is reported that two large vessels, believed to be GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST, passed through the Great Belt at 1100 today north bound. Air search has been arranged.

Convoy
S.C.19.

The slow convoy from Sydney C.B. is 48 hours late.

Smoke
Defence.

The use of smoke for air defence of the Fleet in harbour is being considered, consequent on recent experience in the attack on Messina and development of R.D.F.

Destroyers
for
Gibraltar.

JERSEY and JUPITER sailed for Gibraltar this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.

Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

*(H.S. note
3 Ships lost see B.R.1337)
Page 46.*

Attacks on shipping today included S.S. LANGLEEGORSE (~~no damage reported~~), S.S. MOSTYN (abandoned), S.S. LURIGETHAN (on fire and abandoned), all in the Atlantic west of Ireland, and an unknown ship reported bombed and burning in the N.W. Approaches: Sunk Light Vessel (crew evacuated by ELGIN) and COVENTRY CITY (A/S Trawler slightly damaged by near miss near Sunk Light Vessel.

A/P drifter REIDS reports a possible hit on a Dornier 17 with a Holman projector off Brightlingsea.

Two bombs were dropped at Lowestoft without causing damage.

The rescue tug ENGLISHMAN has not been heard of since she reported being attacked by an enemy aircraft 40 miles West of Tory Island on 21/1. A German communique announced the sinking of a British rescue tug.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the South West Coast and probably off East Anglia. Estimated 10 aircraft employed.

The Humber is still closed owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Milford Haven was opened this afternoon.

M/S Trawler RONSO was mined off the South Foreland and M/S Trawler COURTIER was damaged by a mine ~~off~~ Milford Haven today.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic. On 18/1 one surface raider was approx. 900 miles to south of the Azores possibly outward bound.

South Atlantic. There are at least two enemy units but it is not known if one may be a supply ship. By D/F on 19/1 one was to southward of St. Helena, on 20/1 one was to Eastward of Ascension possibly moving northwards.

Southern Ocean. By D/F on 19/1 one in an area about 56° S., 0 to 10° W.

Admiral Scheer. No further information.

North Atlantic.

Italian
Submarine
at Las
Palmas.

The Italian submarine left Las Palmas at midnight 22/23/Jan. It is said that the action in which she was damaged took place 4 days before arrival at Las Palmas.

Bad weather prevented flying at Gibraltar.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

R.A.F. last night attacked Augusta, Catania and Comiso aerodromes and Syracuse. The harbour at Rhodes was also attacked by Wellingtons which failed to locate their target, the aerodrome at Maritza.

Bombs were dropped harmlessly on Malta last night.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean. (Contd).

Operations
in Libya.

C.in C. Med. reports that the Navy carried out maintenance work and supply of the army in the Western Desert without interruption since 17/1. FIONA and sweeper~~s~~ at Sollum are ready to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army control is established. One flight of F.A.A. aircraft is based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking force. First reports indicate that demolition in Tobruk Harbour is less than was at first anticipated. TERROR left Alexandria for Sollum today.

Operation
"Inspection."

ILLUSTRIOUS left Malta at 1930B today for Alexandria, screened by 4 destroyers, which left Suda Bay 21/1. At 0800 ORION, BONAVENTURE, AJAX and two des/royers (left Suda Bay 21/1) were in position 36° N., 24° 28' E., proceeding westward, BARHAM, VALIANT, PERTH and 6 destroyers left Alexandria yesterday to operate west of Crete in support.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SANDHURST.

To proceed to Londonderry to act as Destroyer Depot and Repair Ship. (V.C.N.S. 1253/23.)

Smoke as
A/A.Defence
of Fleet.

Use of smoke for air defence of Fleet in harbour has hitherto been rejected because of time and effort required to produce an adequate screen and also interference with own gunfire. Recent experience in attack of Messina and development of R.D.F. suggest, however, that employment of smoke under favourable conditions is worth considering, particularly at night, when less smoke is needed and direct control of ship's gun-fire is less effective than by day. Request your opinion and that any trials considered desirable may be carried out as opportunity offers. (V.C.N.S. 1706/23 to C. in C.H.F. and C. in C. Med.)

Kites in
Rescue
Tugs.

In view of attack on ENGLISHMAN request you will arrange for kites to be fitted in Rescue Tugs and flown when West of 7° West, (C. in C.W.A.1915/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/23. (D.C.1155/23.)

Invasion)
Exercise)
VICTOR.)
"Victor".)

C. in C.H.F. 0600/23, 1801/23,
C. in C. Portsmouth 0217/23, 1125/23,
1432/23, 1455/23, 1503/23, 1801/23,
1802/23. C. in C.W.A. 0320/23, 0519/23,
0556/23, 0850/23, 1031/23, 1034/23,
1326/23, 1749/23, 2325/23, 1741/23.
C. in C. Rosyth 0254/23, 0256/23, 0828/23,
1120/23, 1140/23, 1200/23, 1328/23,
1354/23, 1432/23, 1600/23, 1742/23,
2316/23. C. in C. Nore 0941/23, 1106/23,
1124/23, 1135/23, D.C. 0111/23, 0926/23,
0927/23, 1042/23, 1400/23, 1814/23.
F.O.I.C. Belfast 0002/23, 0013/23.
Air Ministry 0005/23, 1141/23.
FORESIGHT 0004/23. V.A. Dover 0215/23,
0315/23, 0814/23. F.O.I.C. Liverpool
0101/23, 0956/23. D.8.0116/23. F.O.I.C.
Greenock 0415/23. OTTAWA 0501/23.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Invasion
Exercise "Victor"
VICTOR.

H.Q.C.C. 0605/23.
Controller 16 Group 0717/23.
A.C.O.S. 1011/23.
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0430/23, 1130/23.
Capt. D. Londonderry 1320/23.
F.O. Humber 1416/23.
Admiral Blake 1721/23.
D.D.I.C. 2231/23.
Naval Umpire, Rosyth 2315/23.

Employment
of aircraft
at Iceland.

G.O.C. informs me function (corrupt group) Norwegian seaplane is army contact and striking force. Request early consideration be given to provision of aircraft to carry out functions previously undertaken by Walrus: oversea r/c. from each defended area, A/S patrol for A.M.C. and transports, investigation of reports at sea. Suggest in addition A/S protection for Northerly convoy routes by small numbers flying boats working from Reykjavik and Reydarfiord. Consider it essential that all aircraft proceeding seaward of coastline should be under naval orders. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1637/23.)

Movements

KELLY
JERSEY
JUPITER
KASHMIR.

Sailed 1630/22 from Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A. 0015/23.)

JERSEY)
JUPITER.)

Request you sail 2 of 5th D.F. for Gibraltar, making best use of dark hours, to arrive PM/26. (A.C.N.S.H. 0043/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Destroyers detailed to return Plymouth arriving Rame Head 1030/23. (C. in C.W.A. C203/23 to Capt. D.5.) Intend sailing JERSEY and JUPITER for Gibraltar at 1630/23. (C. in C.W.A. 1129/23 to Adty.) Route (C. in C.W.A. 1515/23 to Adty.) JERSEY, JUPITER sailed 1640.E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/26 (C. in C.W.A. 1819/23 to Adty.)

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

J.3968.

Cancel my 1215/22 and 1703/22. (C. in C. H.F. 0909/23 to AURORA) F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22. Request E.T.A. May Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 1545/23 to Adty.)

MOOLTAN)
WHITSHED)

Sailing delayed 24 hours by Fog. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1001/23 to C. in C. Rosyth) My 1452/22. Request same arrangements for 25th.(C. in C. Nore 1125/23 to H.Q.F.C.)

BOREAS.

Intend sail 0830/24 for Sheerness via. D.G.Range.(F.O.I.C. London 1243/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

Northern
Patrol.)
UNDAUNTED)
MINERVE.)

Trawler line occupied tonight (one trawler)(A.C.O.S.1931/23.) Should cross bar on flood tide, not earlier than 1100/24. (Capt. S.9. 1713/23.)

Force Z,
escort.

1. Your 1655/22. As KASHMIR must boiler clean, KELLY, KIPLING, and JACKAL will be available. Another destroyer will be attached to D.5. as four destroyers are considered minimum A/S escort.
2. There will, consequently, be no destroyers at Plymouth for several days which in view of the considerable traffic in the Channel is considered most undesirable.
3. Propose that two destroyers from the Clyde should be substituted for KELLY and KIPLING.(C. in C. W.A.1907/23 to Adty.)

Operations.

WISA.

(Finnish, 3830 Tons.) Have intercepted in 62° 44' N. 15° 48' W.(NORTHERN GIFT 0510/23.) To be sent to Reykjavik under armed guard.(F.O.C.N.P. 1105/23 to Adty.)

/P.V.I. Will.....

23. 1. 41.

Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

P.V.1.

Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2359 (C. in C. Nore 1103/23.) Sailed M.T.B.'s. 22,30,31 at 2017. (F.O.L.C. Harwich 2022/23.)

Inverary
Brigade
Exercise.

Following arrangements for Personnel Ships are being made for 5th to 7th February. (A.D.O.D.1331/23 to V.A.C.T.C.)

Patrols
H.R. and H.S.

My 0920/23. Patrols are covered by DHOON only. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1415/23 to Adty.)

Operation "Rubble".
RUBBLE.

Five ships sailing for U.K. 1600/23. (N.A. Stockholm 1510/23 to D.N.I.) My 1056/26/12. 5 Ships sailing 1600/23. (D.O.D.H.1745/23 to C. in C.H.F., etc.) Adty. 1056/26/12. 5 Ships reported sailed from Goteborg at 1600/23. Approximate speeds. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA to proceed when ready through Position Z.Z. to endeavour to locate and protect. Force should not operate Eastward of 5° E. and to withdraw to Westward after dark. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM will be operating in support. (C. in C.H.F. 1927/23 to C.S.15.) My 1510/23. Ships have sailed (N.A. Stockholm 1947/23 to D.N.I.) My 1745/23. Ships have sailed. (D.O.D.H.2255/23 to C. in C. H.F.) My 1927/23. C.S.18 in EDINBURGH, with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ECHO, and ELECTRA to proceed when ready, passing through 59° N. 3° E. at 1400/24, cruising to South-westward until 1600/24 and then shaping course for Scapa if no information received. C. in C. Rosyth requested to arrange Fighter Escort from daylight /24 for as long as possible. (C. in C. H.F. 2311/23 to C.S.18.) Request Air Search to report ~~RUBBLE~~ and Enemy Forces approaching Area from direction Horns Reef and Skaggerack during daylight/24. (C. in C.H.F. 2324/23 to C. in C. Rosyth Sailed from Scapa 2250/23. NAIAD with AURORA (A.C.O.S.2331/23.)

/E-Boats.....

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

E.-Boats.

5 E-Boats engaged in 52° 27' N. 2° 5' E. Enemy did not return fire and disappeared. (VALOROUS 2111/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

Submarines.

SEALION.

My 1011/22 and F.O.Humber 1205/25. R/V postponed till 1000/25. (S.6. 1555/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Positions.

At 0800/24. (F.O.S.1742/25.)

TITANIA
MAIDSTONE.
TYNE.

479. My 1752/21. Most desirable that the distribution of S/M Depot Ships should be completed before the invasion season becomes advanced. To ensure TITANIA reaching Gibraltar before the middle of March I would be quite prepared to dispense with the proposed docking of MAIDSTONE. C. If any possibility of completion date of TYNE being delayed, request consideration to releasing MAIDSTONE from her present duties without relief. (F.O.S. 2505/25. to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Fair"}
~~Fair~~ cancelled. ^{"Unst"}
~~Unst~~ delayed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1000/25.)

Shooting down of own A/C.

Your 1956/22. Request Board of Enquiry forthwith into circumstances in which Blenheim Aircraft of 139 Squadron was engaged and destroyed. 2/5 Arrangements.

Board of Inquiry.

(D. of L.D. 1221/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

FURIOUS.

Subject to machinery being satisfactory on arrival, FURIOUS to embark following A/C at Tail of the Bank. (D.N.A.D. 1226/25 to FURIOUS.)

Lorient.

AP.785/25/1. Repeat tonight operation ordered for Night 22/25. (H.Q.C.C. 1245/25.)

/Recognition.....

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Recognition
of A/C by
Convoy
Escorts.

C. in C. W.A. 1515/22., Consider most undesirable that ships should be prohibited from firing at an unrecognised aircraft until it is within 5,000 yards range. Lack of success achieved by the enemy in daylight attacks on east coast convoys is considered to be due largely to the fact that escorts have been able to fire on such aircraft in plenty of time. (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LANGLEE GORSE
GORSE.

(British, 4524 Tons.) Attacked in 53° 19' N. 13° 11' W. (Portishead 1000/23.)

ENGLISHMAN.

No further news this morning (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1050/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Tug last heard of 40 miles West of Tory Island being attacked by A/C. Keep look out for her or survivors (A.C.W.A.1523/23.) Enemy broadcast have claimed to have sunk a Tug going to help a bombed M/V. (D.D.I.C. 1736/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Lowestoft.

At 1105 a single A/C, believed Junkers 88, dropped 2 H.E. Bombs at root of Claremont Pier. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1152/23.)

M/V. bombed.

Detail one ship to investigate M/V reported bombed and burning in 56° 10' N. 16° 50' W. at 1115/23. (C. in C. W.A. 1223/23 to ANTELOPE.)

MOSTYN.

(British 1859 Tons) Bombed in 54° 37' N. 14° 35' W. Crew abandoning Ship. (A.O.C.No. 42.(M) Group. Recd.1246 and 1300/23.)

/Proceed.....

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN. Contd.

Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1307/23 to SHIKARI) Sailed SALVONIA from Campbeltown to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/23 to C. in C.W.A.) Have found no trace in position indicated. Intend rejoining convoy if search still unsuccessful at midnight. (HESPERUS 2205/23.)
see P. 781.

Sunk Light Vessel.

Bombed. Crew being evacuated by ELGIN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23.)

COVENTRY CITY.

(A/S. Trawler) Slightly damaged by near miss Bomb. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23, to C. in C. Nore.)

LURIGETHAN.

(British, 3564 Tons.) Bombed and on fire in 53° 46' N. 16° W. (Port Patrick 1311/23.) Abandoning ship (Lyness W/T. 1429/23.) Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1437/23 to ARABIS.) Sailed PRUDENT from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/23.)

TEMPLE MEAD.

Arrived CAMELIA with Survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)

see also p 784

REIDS.

(A/P Drifter) Reports possible hit on Dornier 17 with Holman Projector in 51° 41' 36" N. 1° 20' 30" E. at 1200/22. (SOAP. Brightlingsea 1640/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

LLANWERN.

(4986 tons) was damaged by air attack at Avonmouth 16/1. (DOR).

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep by
5th M/S.F.

Cancel my 2215/20. Operation ordered in my 2237/16 postponed and is now to commence at dusk Tuesday 28th Tuesday January completing by dark 29/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1105/23 to M/S.5.)

Sunk
Light
Vessel.

A Mine is reported dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ cable East of the Sunk Light Vessel. (D.S.507.)

B.S.50.

Intend to sail from Rosyth at 0845/24 and take departure for initial position from 21 C buoy at 1345/24. Returning to 21 C Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1545/24. (TEVIOT BANK 1118/23.)

Humber.
INTREPID.

My 1440/21. Anticipate Humber will remain closed until 1200 tomorrow Friday owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Consequently sailing of INTREPID is delayed. (F.O.Humber 1203/23.)

Milford
Haven.

Port will be opened at 1400 today subject to local restrictions. Except to I.C.E. Ships. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1258/23.) 3 Mines detonated by M/S Trawler and one spontaneous Explosion on 23/1. (D.S.507.)

IMPULSIVE.

Proceed to Humber, timing your arrival so as not to arrive before 1200/24. (C. in C. Rosyth 1453/23 to IMPULSIVE.)

Sails Methil at 2300 for Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1944/23.)

/RONSO. (See Situation Report
p. 746.)
Incorrectly reported
mine side VA
Done 10 29/7/2/41.

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

777

Mining.

COURTIER.

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by Mine on 23/1
in Milford Haven. (██████.)

Norwegian
Coast 13/1,
15/1, 16/1.

Enemy Intelligence.

WILK reports between 13/1 and 15/1
the following lights were observed
burning at various times. Glesvaeg,
Skarve, Tellevag, Marsten, Tekselen.
On the 16th two groups of fishing
vessels were near 60° 13' N. 4° 49'
(F.O.S. 1028/23.)

Unidentified
Vessels.

Following have not been identified.
One small slow vessel bearing 292°.
8 Miles course 240° at 0219/23. One
small slow Vessel bearing 300° Distance
9 miles course 040° at 0245/23. Both
from Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S. 1205/23.)

Lethal
Gas.

N.A. Budapest 1445/21. See Mediterranean.

Brest.

22/1. 1 HIPPER - class cruiser in dry
dock. (D.D.I.C. 1649/23.)

Ice
Report.

N.A.S. Stockholm 1803/23.

N.W. Coast
of Norway.

Air R/C of N.W. Coast of Norway on
21/1, gave the following results:-
In area 64° 30' N. 10° 00' E to 66°
N. 12° E. 6 ships, 5 proceeding North.

At ^{Reda} ~~BCDO~~ 1 M.V. 4-5000 tons at anchor
off shore. 1 M.V. about 4000 tons
approaching from S.W. No sign of activ-
ity on aerodrome.

Vestfjorden.
In VESTFIORDEN.

About 90' S.W. Narvik 1 MV 6000 tons.
course North.
About 65' S.W. Narvik 2 Ocean Going tugs.
Course North.
About 45' W x S Narvik 2 MVs. 4000 tons,
1 loaded Course W. 1 unloaded. Course
East.

/LAVANGSFIORD.....

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

Levangerfjord.
~~NAVANGSFJORD.~~

(About 25' W. of Narvik) 1 MV. 6000 tons and 3 or 4 smaller MV's,

Narvik.
~~NAVANGSFJORD.~~

5 ships between 3000 and 6000 tons, and 12 smaller vessels of coasting type. 1 MV. 6000 tons by jetty at railhead. (D.D.I.C. 1916/23 and 2354/23.)

Convoy
off
Stavanger.

From W.T.I. there is a possibility that a convoy may be moving northward on the Norwegian Coast and may be near Stavanger at 1800 tonight. (D.D.I.C. 1918/23 to C. in C.H.F.) (F.O.S. 1949/23 to 0.23.)

Enemy M/V.

German merchant ship 7700 tons was expected to leave Aalesund about 22/1 for Bergen. (F.O.S. 2001/23 to 0.23.)

E-Boat.

1 Enemy Motor Boat position 52° 17' N. 1° 58' E. (VESPER 2119/23.)

Enemy
M/V.

At 1400/22 in 52° 46' N. 2° 3' E. one 6000-Ton M/V. being towed backwards by 2 Tugs. Thought to be heading West. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 2221/23.)

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys.

O.B.277.

CORSAIR and 2 M.V.'s Sailed 0700/23/1/41 in convoy to join O.B. 277 at R/V D two. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0845/23.)

F.S.92.

11 Ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0932/23.)

W.N.73A.

My 0909/21 and N.C.S.O. Oban's 2105/22. → JASON is to return from Seapa with W N 73 A, code word ~~XXXXXXXX~~, escorts SOUTHERN PRIDE and PENTLAND FIRTH due Duncansby Head 1000/25. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1101/23, to JASON.)

W.N.73(O)

Sailed 1430/23. Escort from Bloody Bay onwards SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1531/23.)

E.N.61.

(a) 0100/24, H.M.T's ELLESMERE and SALTERELL, additional escort HASTINGS, 18 ships. (8 overseas.) Code words:- E.N.61, E.N.L. Portion, E.N.O. Portion. ~~MONITOR, MIXTURE.~~ (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/23.)

E.N.60.

My 0941/23 E.N.60, (para.(B) delete FOXTROT and add PIROUETTE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1131/23.)

E.N.60.

→ (a) 1200/23. (b) H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, RUMBA additional escort JASON (c) 14 ships, 2 ships for Clyde. 3 with Kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1511/23 to A.C.W.A.)

/F.N. and F.S.....

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N. and
F.S. Escorts.

My 1148/22.

<u>F N.</u>	<u>F S</u>	
-	95	PUFFIN.
91	96	WIDGEON.
92	-	SNAPDRAGON.
94	-	PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1152/25.)

F.N.92.

Am anchored with convoy F.N.92. 4 ships in company. Thick fog. (WOLFHOUND, 1220/23 to C. in C.Nore.)

F.N.90.

1046/23. 21 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1244/23.)

E.N.60.
→ F.S.94.
F.S.95.
W.N.72.A.
E.N.61.

E.N.60. sailed 1200 and will be met off Cruden Scaurs by 19th M/S Group who will then sweep ahead of F.S.94 sailing 1400 Due 20 C Buoy 0300/24. F.S. 95 sails 2300, W N 72 A, one ship only, off Noss Head 2000, E N 61 sails 0100/24. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1532/23.)

C.E.23.

My 1557/22. C.E.23 sailed 1515/23. Amendments to ships. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/23.) List and destinations. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1607/23.)

→ F.S.94.

Sailed 1430/23. 24 ships. 3 ships with Kites. Numbers are approximate. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1615/23.)

O.B.O.277.

0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1715/23.)

O.B.M.278.

Ships, destinations and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1720/23.)

O.B.M.278. 1700/23 H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY. Three. One with kite. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1754/23.)

/F.S.92.....

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.S. 92.

F.S. 92 weighed and proceeded.
(LONDONDERRY 2253/23, to C. in C.
Nore.)

F.S. 95.

Sailed. 38 ships. Ships with kites
unknown. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2331/23.)

Ocean Convoys.
S. L. 61.

Londonderry departure 23/1 AYRSHIRE
for S L 61. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry
0959/23.)

S. L. 61B.

Request you sail LEEDS UNITED to
endeavour to meet S L 61 B, estimated
to reach position in W A C I 269 E
part one para. 2 at 2200/23.
(C. in C. W.A., 1213/23, to N.O.I.C.
Greenock.)

S. C. 19.

48 hours late. 19 ships in convoy.
(AURANIA, 1100/23, to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.19 is 48 hours late. ANTHONY and
ANTELOPE are to leave O.B.276 at
1000/24 and refuel at Lough Foyle
then proceed to meet S.C.19. Other
escorts remain with with O.B.276,
leaving in time to meet S.C.19 in
55° 12' N. 21° 52' W. at 1100/26.
(C. in C.W.A., 1806/23, to ANTHONY,
ANTELOPE, PICOTEE, HEATHER, PEGASUS.)

H. G. 50.

Your 1307 re S.S.MOSTYN, HESPERUS
and SHIKARI in position 055° 52' N,
011° 36' W, searching for H.G.50. -
Am proceeding assistance of bombed
ship as SHIKARI is short of fuel,
(weather) (HESPERUS 1416/23, to
C. in C. W.A.)

/Positions.....

25. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Ocean Convoys.

Positions.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

My 1851/26/9, cancel 54° N. 20° W and substitute 51° N. and 30° W. Positions on ocean routes as far as 7° W, are to be included in VESCA signals. (D.T.D. 1640/23 to A.I.G.48.)

Evasive Steering.

Some Commodores have pointed out that, when carrying out evasive steering with columns 3 cables apart, the distance between columns sometimes becomes dangerously small if alterations of course are made by the methods ordered in your 1943/9/12/40. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1539/22. to Admty.)

Independent Sailings Special Protection.

To enable all possible protection or cover to be provided for Merchant Vessels sailing independently and carrying (1) 100 or more Service personnel (2) 1,000 or more tons of War Material (3) specially valuable stores or high officials or (4) ships of particular importance. Authorities addressed should keep each other and Adty informed of a forecast of all such movements by signal at approximately weekly intervals. Adty. will initiate similar signals for outward bound ships. (4) Ships in Troop Convoys, single Troop ships and ships carrying special supplies when escorted by H.M. Ships are not affected by above procedure and will continue to be reported to authorities concerned as at present. (D.T.D.1628/23.)

All signals giving sailing dates and routes of independent ships should include A.C.O.S. in addressees and should be repeated to S.O.N.P. Trawlers, Kirkwall. (D.T.D. 1941/23, to A.I.G. 47.)

/MILITARY.....

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

MILITARY
CONVOYS.

S. L. 61.B.

Your 0915/23. As it is improbable that LEEDS UNITED will be able to overtake S.L.61B AYRSHIRE is to escort Bristol Channel ships to destination unless relieved by LEEDS UNITED. VETERAN escort Liverpool ships to destination. (C. in C. W.A. 1505/23 to VETERAN.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

330. Your 1331/22. No information had been received of SOMERSETSHIRE'S route. It has now been ascertained as follows from Clyde through Minches. (C. in C. W.A. 1543/23 to A.C.O.S.)

W.S.6.

My 2318/21. W.S.6 delayed 48 hours and will not be ready to sail until February 7th. (D.O.D.H. 1604/23.)

T.C.9.

5 Ships. Movements, Escorts, Communications. (A.C.N.S.H. 1635/23.)
See Operations Volume.

Troop Convoys
Force Z.

Admiralty's 1655/22. Time and position of rendezvous K. (A.C.W.A., 2323/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

23. 1. 41.
Thursday

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAMELIA.
TIERCEL.
TEMPLE MEAD

Arrived CAMELIA with survivors from TEMPLE MEAD, and TIERCEL with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)

PASS OF LENY.

(British Tanker, 795 Tons.) Is safe but has extensive bottom damage and is leaking in most compartments. Engine room partly flooded but under control of salvage pumps. Rudder gone. Petrol and paraffin cargo will be transferred to PASS OF BALLATER. Estimated temporary repairs to enable proceed to repair port will take at least two weeks. METINDA in attendance carrying out repairs. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 1700/23 to A.C.O.S.)

BREDA.

(Yacht) While boiler cleaning alongside Princes Pier has been badly damaged by S.S. EMPIRE RAINBOW. Estimated time for repairs not yet known. (F.O.S. 1831/23.)

PICOTEE.
(Corvette)

Have struck submerged object in 056° 05' N. 017° 12' W.? (carrying away) dome and transmitter. Ship making water. Request permission to return to harbour. (PICOTEE 2015/23 to ANTELOPE.)

War Diary.

23.1.1941.

Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders.

Situation (my 1756/16). (D.D.I.C.,
1920/23 to C.in C's - See Situation Report.)

Operations Against Vichy French.

GUADELOUPE

Following from Navy department from Havana,
19/1. Report German S/M sighted position
21° 58' N. and 81° 23' W. German
(?COLOMBIA) Courier sailed for Mexico 17/1.
From Fort de France, French Ship GUADELOUPE
sailed for Guadeloupe 18/1.
(N.A. Washington, 1055/23, to Admty.)

French
Convoy.

French armed trawler CAPITAIN ARMAND
passed Gibraltar 0830/23, direction not
reported, escorting French M.V's MONTAIGNE,
2770 tons, IMERETHIE II, 3713 tons, and
EDEA, 3747 tons. (D.O.R. 24/1).

Ships not
to be sent
to S. African
ports.

My No. 125/62 of 15/11 as amended by
South Atlantic Station message 133G of
30/12 and 142G of 17/1 (none to Admiralty).
Vichy French merchant ships are not to be
sent into any port in Union of South Africa
except Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A. 2035N/23, to S. Atlantic
Station.).

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

786

North Atlantic.

OSIRIS.

My 1556/13. Has OSIRIS arrived?
(F.O.C.N.A. 0946/23 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)

Italian U/B,
Las Palmas.

Italian submarine still in port,
endeavouring to ascertain reason why.
(Consul, Las Palmas 1125/23, to Admty.)

Min. for For. Aff. informs Embassy that
Italian submarine at Las Palmas has damage
to double bottom and vertical rudder and
has been given five days to repair damage
to be fit to navigate. (NA Madrid 1800/23)

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
etc.

My 1750/22 (ships unable to enter harbour
owing to gale). Vessels entered harbour
at 1050/23. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/23).

Admty. 1655/22. Anticipated dates of
sailing and escort. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty.,
1838/23) See Operations Vol.
Your 1838/23. Requirements for VELOX,
VIDETTE, FAULKNOR, FORESTER. Not available
for Gibraltar on date required. (C.in C.
S.A. to F.O.C.N.A. 1947N/23)
See Operations Volume.

Patrol
Area.

G.W.O. 33 paragraph 21 not issued to F.O.C.
Northern Patrol. Amend Western Patrol
Trawler area Y 3 to read bounds on the
south by parallel 036° 15' N. on the west
by Meridian 008° 00' W. on the north and
east by line drawn 10 miles distant from
coast. (F.O.C.N.A., 1607/23, to Admty.
F.O.C.N.P.)

Air Patrols.

No flying carried out owing to weather.
(200 Group 1700/23).

MARON

Request gate at 1830 and tug. (Defect).
My 2120/22, amend e.t.a. to 1730 G.M.T.
(MARON, 1630/23 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Gibraltar arrival 1930/23 MARON with
engine defect.
(S.O.I. Gib., 2020/23).

OTUS.

Position of submarines at 0800/24 and
movement for following 24 hours.
(a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1728/23).

/ ORION ...

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORION)
BELGIQUE)

(Shipping) Routes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/23.)

South Atlantic.

SOBIESKI
KENYA

Your 1247/21. Approved.
2. Your 1823/20 approved.
3. My 1050/19. Cable and Wireless
Limited request (names) *return to UK.*
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0047/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

W.S.5B.
Cabin
Accommodation.

(D. of S.T. 0204/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Troopships,
Drydocking.

My 1728/19. In view of importance of (A) utilising all homeward cargo space and (B) minimizing strain on U.K. drydocks etc., request early report as to sailing dates from Cape if OTRANTO and VICEROY OF INDIA were to drydock at Durban and subsequently load cargo to capacity and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL were to load cargo also. What further delay would result if STRATHNAVER and STRATHALLAN were also to drydock?
(D. of S.T. 0205/23 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

JEAN L.D.

C.in C. S.A. 1011N/23 1105/23, S.N.O.
Simonstown 1532B/23 1843B/23, see French Merchant Ships.

CLAN MACNAUGHTON.

Overdue shipping, my 1135/20,
CLAN MACNAUGHTON arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1025B/23).

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI

.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic.

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI

Your 1252/22.

Present instructions are:-

(a) MENDOZA to proceed to Ascension arriving about 27/1, (my 2233/19.) (See also French Merchant Ships).

(b) DORSETSHIRE proceed St.Helena arriving about 25/1, fuel, thence to Freetown passing Ascension about 27/1.

(11) DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON will be at St.Helena 25/1 and can be at Ascension, DEVONSHIRE 27/1 DRAGON 28/1? DELHI will be available in Freetown neighbourhood.

(111) Intention was to provide (?onward) escort and cover for French ships from Ascension out of these forces.

(1V) There is fuel at St.Helena if desired to send French ships elsewhere - Cape or Lagos.

(V) If other instructions are intended request they may be sent at once as if DORSETSHIRE delays longer she will not be at Freetown in time to comply with your 1749/17. Suggest W/T silence be maintained by DORSETSHIRE if possible. This had been complete since leaving Freetown 8/1. (C.in C. S.A. 1123N/23, to Admty.)

Concur with the instructions contained in your 1123/23.

Cancel A.T. 1252/22.

(D.O.D.(F) 1818/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Suspicious Ship.

Punta Arenas 19/1 unrecognized tanker passed towards Atlantic. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1144/23).

Suspicious Ship, WINDRUSH.

U.S. ship WINDRUSH reports when steering 136° at 1000Z/6, in 8° 0' N. 27° 50' W. sighted a strange ship similar in appearance to Dutch ELANDSFONTESN (description). Sighted on port bow heading 000° apparently stopping later passed 5 miles astern at high speed in direction of Cape Verdi. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1156/23 to Admty.)

/ SARTHE

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War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

SARTHE.

Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Plate. Approximate noon position, 24/1 and Route.
(D.T.D. 1248/23 to S.A. Station.)

ALCANTARA.

Your 1917/20.
Following improvements are being carried out in ALCANTARA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1255/23 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Units.

My 1359/22. D/F bearings indicate following.
Unit A was within 150 miles 013° S (?013° or 030°)W. at 2136/22.
Raider who was in vicinity of 057° S. 012° W. at 2217/18 has moved to within 150 miles 053° S. 032° W. Reliability 60%. Within 300 miles radius 90%.
This unit will be referred to as D.
A possible U-boat within 80 miles 000° 30' N. 019° W. at 0016/23.
(C.in C. S.A., 1337N/23).

At 2137/23 G.M.T. on 8470 Kcs and unknown enemy unit bore from Cupar 200/3.
Text of message UU ZNAUVUZ.
(D.D.I.C. 2352/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Re Convoys.

N.C.S.O. Freetown 1539/22. See Ocean Convoys.

MURJEK.

It is desired that Swedish ship MURJEK now at Santos should proceed to Gothenburg via Freetown in order there to land Norwegian members of the crew who do not wish to go to Sweden. Master agrees but has been told by owners to go to Pernambuco for orders. Please arrange for owners to authorise call at Freetown. (D.E.W.D. 1646/23 to N.A. Stockholm).

/ VIDETTE
W.S.5B

.....

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

VIDETTE
W.S.5B.

Departure 1800/23 VIDETTE to rendezvous with W.S.5B at 0600/24.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1957N/23 to Admty.)

VIDETTE)
VELOX)
FAULKNER)
FORESTER)

Requirements for. (C.in C. S.A., 1947N/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Vol.

Mediterranean.

Air Report,
Comiso,
Catania,
Augusta,
Syracuse
raided.

Special Operational Summary.
All times G.M.T.
Following R.C. 21/1 of Sicilian Aerodromes, 6 Wellingtons despatched in 2 separate sections to attack Comiso and Catania night 22/3 Jan. First 3 detailed to attack Comiso but only 1 aircraft located target due to clouds. Remained 1 hour over target.
(H.Q. Med., 0715/23).

UNIQUE
UPHOLDER

My 1255/13 para. 4. Leave patrol P.M./25 through 033° 05' 013° 00' 035° 31' 014° 14' to arrive off Marsamxett Harbour 0700 A/27 making a short area report when considered safe to do so after crossing lat. 035°. UPHOLDER will leave Malta P.M./24 through 035° 38' N. 014° 07' approx. course 230°.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1213/23, to UNIQUE).

Air R.C. of
Genoa
required.

Air reconnaissance of Genoa to establish position of warships in harbour is urgently required.
(D.D.I.C. 1217/23 to V.A. Malta).

/ REGENT

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

REGENT.

Leave patrol forthwith and proceed through 033° 00' 024° 36' to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0500/26. British forces will be to northwards of you during 25th. Tobruk is captured and British forces are to be expected between this port and Alexandria continuously.
(Capt. S.1, 1509/23, to REGENT).

Air Report.
Tobruk,
Derna.
Capture of
Tobruk.

Operational Summary No. 227 up to 1200 hours 23/1.
1. Egypt day 21/1. Further report 31,000 lbs. of bombs dropped on Tobruk defences and gun positions by 31 Blenheim sorties. Night 21/22/1. 8 Wellingtons dropped 23 750 lbs. of bombs on Derna Day 22/1. 7 Blenheims dropped 7,000 lbs. of bombs on Derna hitting barracks and W/T Station. 7 Blenheims dropped 7000 lbs. of bombs on Apollonia barracks. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols over Acroma and Tobruk areas and provided protective patrols for Blenheims bombing Apollonia and H.M. destroyers operating off coast there. Army captured Tobruk with estimated 15,000 prisoners.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1519/23).

ILLUSTRIOUS
SOUTHAMPTON

Information would be of great value concerning recent air attacks on Mediterranean Fleet including ILLUSTRIOUS and SOUTHAMPTON. Experience on following points would be of special interest.
(C.in C. H.F., 1531/23 to Admty.)

Malta Air
Report.

2010 to 2113 4 aircraft flew over or near Malta separately. Searchlights did not expose and enemy apparently unable to locate the Island. Only 2 bombs on land caused neither damage nor casualties.
Part 2 Reconnaissances
0540 to 1030 Swordfish Anti-ship Patrol between Malta and Tunisian Coast. No ships seen. 1103 to 1250 Spitfire photo "reco" Tripoli Harbour and Castel Benito Aerodrome. Tripoli 8 large M/V's 2 Tankers 9 small M/V's 2 destroyers 2 torpedo boats.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/23 to Air Ministry).

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23.1.1941. **792**
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URSULA.

Pass through positions 038° 30' 007°
30' 038° 06' 011° 12' 037° 30' 011° 12'
036° 35' 012° 00' thence direct to 180°
Filfolia Is. 5 miles to arrive off
Marsamxett harbour (date).
U-boat patrols have been reported as
being maintained to west south and east
of Pantellaria.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1821/23 to URSULA).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS, JERVIS, JANUS, JUNO,
GREYHOUND left Malta 1930B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1839/23).

Tobruk
Operations.
DIEGO
sunk.

My 1847/19. Maintenance (?work) and
supplies of Army in Western Desert
continued without interruption since 17/1.
(ii) Bombardment preliminary to attack on
Tobruk carried out by TERROR and gunboat
night of 20/21. Earlier bombardment
stopped by bad weather.
(iii) Destroyers and REGENT to westwards
of Tobruk patrolled to prevent
communications. Italian schooner DIEGO
sunk off Tobruk night of 21/22nd, ten
prisoners in VAMPIRE.
(iv) FIONA and sweeper at Sollum ready
to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army
control established.
(v) One flight Fleet Air Arm aircraft
based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking
force.
(vi) First reports indicate (?demolition)
in Tobruk Harbour less than at first
(corrupt group) anticipated.
(C.in C. Med., 1915/23).

S/M
Obstructions.

Greek submarines have reported a single
wire scraping against hull in following
positions with reference to Fano Island
Light 326° 46, 309° 15½, 306° 13,
306° 10, 288° 22, 246° 8.
(Capt. S.1, 1945/23, to RORQUAL).

RORQUAL.

Following from B.N.A. Athens. (Begins).
Ref. return of RORQUAL; Greek submarine will
be southbound through straits of Otranto
night of 30/31/1. After night 26/27 Greek
submarine will operate all across Adriatic
but south of 42 N. T.O.O. 2100/23. (Ends.)
(S.O.(S) Malta Force, 2213/23, to RORQUAL).

War Diary.

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese Ships.
YAMAHUZI MARU
GOSEI MARU

My 1118/16, 1052/21 (not to Admiralty) and 1054/21 (to Admiralty and F.O.C.R.I.N.) are being passed to C.O.S. Singapore.

Request confirmation that vessel referred to by Director of Censorship was GOSEI MARU as it is unusual for a Japanese vessel of this size to trade on East Indies Station.

Suggest it might be YAMAHUZI MARU which was heard calling MANTAI MARU (Basra to Rangoon) on 500 kc/s on 18th 19th and 20/1. Request C.O.S. Singapore will report movements if known of both YAMAHUZI MARU and GOSEI MARU.

(C.in C. E.I., 0612/23, to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.5A.

Re Escort from Durban to Suez (C.in C. E.I. 0816/23) See Operations Volume.

Contraband
Control
Persian Gulf.

1. Introduction of navicert system for Iran and Iraq and exercise of contraband control in Persian Gulf is under consideration here. Under this system ships found without Ship Navicerts are sent in.
2. Number of ocean-going ships likely to be without Ship Navicert is small. Dhow trade may, however, be quite considerable. Larger dhows sail direct from Portuguese East Africa to places within the Gulf. Others pick cargoes landed from larger vessels at Hadhramaut, Muscat or various little known places in Gulf of Oman (and possibly Karachi).
3. Subject to your concurrence, proposed that representative of M.E.W. be sent to Bahrein to collect war trade intelligence.
4. It is presumed that you could conveniently undertake interception of ocean going ships with your present forces in Gulf without interfering with other important requirements.
5. Your 1746/25/8 and my 1701/6/10/1940, it is not considered necessary to establish a contraband control base in the Gulf itself. Ocean going vessels would be diverted to Karachi.
6. Dhows could be dealt with at Bahrein by M.E.W. representative there. Request your

/ remarks ...

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Contraband
Control
Persian Gulf
(Contd.)

remarks on method of controlling dhow traffic and whether useful and feasible to man and arm a few fast dhows, if M.E.W. representative considers volume of trade warrants this.
(Head of M. 1148/23 to C.in C. E.I.)

U.S.8.

S.S. CITY OF LINCOLN with mail, motor trucks, grain and general and S.S. THURLAND CASTLE with motor trucks, general, paper and wire joined U.S.8 for Suez off Aden. Southern Red Sea escort for U.S.8, CARLISLE, CAPETOWN, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, YARRA.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1211/23, to Admty.).

23/1 arrival 0900Z CAPETOWN, departure 1040Z YARRA, 1240Z CAPETOWN, for U.S.8.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1246Z/23, to Admty. etc.)

→ Force K.

Admty. 0300/22. Intend that FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS should form Force K.
(C.in C. E.I., 1306Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.).

GALILEO
GALILEI

Reported that prize proceedings were instituted at Aden against Italian S/M GALILEO GALILEI. If so report details and reasons as such action is seldom necessary when a man-of-war is captured. Did she carry any cargo?
(D.E.W.D. 1645/23 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

Enemy Unit.

Your 1654/22. Request frequency used, also preamble and text of message.
(D.D.I.C. 1832/23, to C.in C. E.I.)

→ Force K.

Your 1109/18. E.T.A. Aden. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/23 to C.in C. Med.)
(See Operations Volume).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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China.

Intelligence.

Far East week 14.

Siam Naval
Action.

(c) Undeclared war between Thai and Indo China. Naval engagement in Gulf of Siam 17/1. French claim 3 Thai torpedo boats sunk, other craft damaged and no French casualties.

(d) Measures to sustain Japanese morale
(e) Marked increase Japanese Naval Operational W/T Traffic maintained since 16/1.

Raider.

(f) Raider in Indian Ocean. Recent D/F fix showed supposed raider unit (1) Kergtolen 12/13 January. (2) S.E. of Durban 15/1 (3) 57° S. 10° W. 18/1. (4) 28° S. 10° W. 19/1.

Indo-China
Shipping.

(g) Shipping. First French ship to sail from Indo China under new agreement arrived Singapore 17/1.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0222Z/23).

N.E.I. Navy.

Interview with Admiral Helfrich.
(C.in C. China 0235Z/23 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

Air Bases,
Sembawang,
Penang.

My 0821/17. (?0841/17 Sembawang Air Base)
To ensure completion in time essential to produce outline of designs at once without awaiting Admiralty Officer.
Further essential to obtain steel works forthwith. (Proposals).
(C.in C. China, 0903Z/23, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

DUCHESS OF YORK
ORONTES
WARWICK CASTLE

Your 1242/13, 1356/15 and 1201/16. Numbers to be accommodated. Additional ships for T.C.9. (D.S.T. 1201/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
See Operations Vol. *Page 30.*

/ PATELLA,

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PATELLA,
explosion
report.

My 2256/20 Trinidad reports that further investigation suggests shock not due to enemy action. Possibly subterranean disturbance or quarry blasting Sombrero. (S.O.I., Kingson, 1024/23 to Admty.)

Suspected
Raider.

Your 1628/21. My 1146/18 was request for information re 22,000 tons ship, see N.A. Washington message 1001/8. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1249/23, to D.N.I. Ottawa).

COLD HARBOR.

My 1424/22. S.S. COLD HARBOR will travel from Cape Henry to Cadiz via the regular winter ocean track for ships going to Gibraltar. From Cadiz to Barcelona and Marseilles, her speed and course will be subject to local conditions in those areas. (Head of M. 1414/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Curacao
W/T.

Your 1716/6. (Proposals to make use of Netherlands W/T Station, Curacao). Approved. (Head of M. 1527/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Use of
D/F by
Convoys.

Your a137/21. Concur.
(D.T.D. 1615/23 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

FORMOSA.

Your 1628/12.10.40. New York reports Captain Swedish FORMOSA received telegram from owners in Sweden directing to proceed to Buenos Aires to load for Gothenborg and to watch his wireless for further instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1710/23, to Admty.)

COMORIN.

Intend sailing COMORIN for Freetown a.m./25 routed via Bermuda and refuelling Trinidad so that ship may be of greater operation value while in South Atlantic. E.T.A. Bermuda Trinidad. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1756/23, to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HOBART.

HOBART escorting AORANGI and NIEUW
AMSTERDAM departed Sydney for Auckland 23/1.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 0521Z/23, to Admty.
etc.)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELBE.

Yokohama 22/1 ELBE reported loading approximately 4200 tons oil fuel. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0953Z/23 to Admty.)

CONSUL HORN.

Reported loading fish at Kristiansund North on 17/1 and was expected at Aalesund on 19/1 spending 3 days loading there and then to proceed to Bergen and Hamburg with 7000 tons cod. (D.S. 507, 24/1).

ARKADIA.

Istanbul 23/1 departures, German ARKADIA. (Galatz, 1312/23).

SPEZIA
ATLAS
TINOS

Arrival 21/1. German steamer SPEZIA from Marseilles, 23/1 German Steamer ATLAS. Departure 22/1, German steamer SPEZIA carrying about 700 tons of coal for transshipment German Steamer TINOS. (Valencia, T.H.I., 2330/23).

GRETE

Danish, 1563 tons, at Valencia, reported is to be employed in German interests between Spanish ports and Genoa. Has recently been docked. (D.S. 507).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BURMA.

Consul Cadiz reports Italian Steamship BURMA blown ashore near Puerto Sant Maria night 21/22 will be total wreck. (N.A. Madrid, 1700/23, to Admty.)

MAURO CROCE.

Arrival 23/1 Italian Ship MAURO CROCE from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1835/23).

NUMIDIA.

Left Susak 21/1 for Trieste. (D.S. 507).

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Thursday.

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FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 1014Z/21. French ships should proceed Simonstown not Capetown, my 1159/7/11/1940 refers. Ascertain probable time of arrival from S.O. Force K. Intercept off Simonstown or Capetown and divert. (C.in C. S.A., 1011N/23 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Adty. 1848/22. Summary of manifest should be signalled to Admiralty. Ship should be examined and then detained pending further instructions from Admiralty. (C.in C. S.A. 1105/23, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Admiralty 1848/22. JEAN L.D. has arrived Table Bay and is in hand for Contraband Examination by Union Authorities and with Union Defence Force Armed Guard on board. Intend to leave matters as they are in view of Union War Measure No.9 of 13/12/40 which gives powers of control over cargo in such ships.

Your 1011/23. In view of my 1532B/23 which has crossed your message, no action is being taken to sail French ships for Simonstown. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1843B/23, to C.in C. S.A.).

MENDOZA.

C.in C. S.A., 1123N/23. See South Atlantic.

Your 1252/22 and my 2301/22. MENDOZA's endurance 16 days at 12 knots my p.c. and s. are at 1200Z/23, 020° 37' S. 027° 06' W. 078° 12 knots, in company. Situation MENDOZA still friendly but no assistance to (?work) ship. 6 women and 5 children on board. (DORSETSHIRE, 1200Z/23 to Adty.)

CAMPANA.

My 1820/22. Source B/C 3 stated mutiny will occur in French ship CAMPANA on interception to avoid scuttling when Free French pendant will be hoisted on fore yard. Boarding would then be necessary. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1230/23 to R.A.S.A.D.).

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Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1006.

54° - 54° 30' N., west of 17° W.,
indefinite position. (D.S. 506).
(C.in C. W.A. 1037/23).

1724.

D.F., Italian U/B, probably southward
bound, approx. 54.30 N., 22° W.,
unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1812/23).

1302.

57° N. 21° W., Italian U/B, indefinite
position (D.S. 507).

Havana.

U/B reported in 21.58 N., 81.23 W.
(N.A. Washington, 1055/23) See Operations
Against Vichy French.

Le Havre.

Salvage by Germans of French submarines
at Le Havre and other French ports.
(N.A. Washington, 1615/22, see Home
Commands, Enemy Intelligence).

Sail HIGHLANDER and destroyers at Milford
Haven to hunt U Boats reported S.W. of
Lands End. Exercise "Victor".
(C.in C. W.A. 1112/23 to F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven).

24.1.1941.
Friday.

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WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Employment
of Capital
ships in the
North Sea.

A meeting was held at the Admiralty today, to discuss the employment of capital ships in the North Sea in case of invasion.

Operation
N.C.

This operation was carried out this evening. Harwich was closed today owing to fog.

British Air Activity.

6 Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked Lorient this evening. One Beaufort on R.C. bombed the oil refinery at St. Nazaire today. On account of bad weather, Bomber Command carried out no operations last night and today.

Enemy Air Activity.

*See Ops Vol.
26.1.41 P. 68.*

(S.S. RANJA, ^{1/16355 Tanker} one of the Norwegian ships which broke out of the Skagerrak yesterday (See *File* Operation "Rubble") was bombed and machine gunned today on her way across the North Sea and had one casualty but no damage. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA was also bombed this afternoon whilst engaged in the operation, but no damage occurred.

Mining.

S.S CORHEATH
S.S. TASMANIA.

S.S. CORHEATH was mined and sunk off Margate this evening. S.S. TASMANIA was damaged by a British Mine p.m. today off Aberdeen, but reached port under her own steam.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Weather curtailed flying operations today.

South Atlantic.

Further bearings of enemy units have been obtained. One was estimated to be within 150 miles of 50.00 S., 17.35 W. at 2137/23Z which might be unit "C".

Proposals for the shipping required for the embarkation of the French Senegalese Brigade have been made to C.in C. S.A. by D. of S.T.

Mediterranean.

To prevent enemy air attack on the Malta to Alexandria convoy R.A.F. Blenheims bombed enemy aerodrome at Maritza ^(Rhodes) landing grounds at Sidi ~~(Rhodes)~~ and Magran, Soluch and Maraua.

~~Wellingtons bombed Maritza aerodrome, Rhodes last night.~~

The Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS claims to have sunk 3 Italian ships today.

East Indies.

Raider
in Indian
Ocean.

S.S. MANDASOR reports being bombed early this morning, apparently about midway between Madagascar and Ceylon. A subsequent cancellation of the distress message is not considered genuine.

V.Force.

SYDNEY, CANBERRA, LEANDER and COLOMBO have been allotted areas to search. Only the 2 former have serviceable aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

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WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

KING GEORGE V, battleship, arrived at Chesapeake Bay today with Lord Halifax, newly appointed Ambassador to U.S.A.

Atlantic
Convoys.

Mr. McDonald, Canadian Navy Minister stated today that some 3,770 vessels, carrying a deadweight tonnage of 22,260,000 were convoyed from the American side of the Atlantic in 1940.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Loch Ewe.
Proposed
inclusion
in
W.A.Command.

As Loch Ewe is now a Convoy assembly port and will be used very largely by convoys and escorts entirely under my control, propose that the boundary between W.A. and O and S. Commands be altered to include it in the former, under the Greenock Sub-Command.

2. Consider that such a change would simplify arrangements for defence and administration of the port.
(C.in C. W.A. 1007/24 to Admty).

Rescue
Tugs.
Proposed
Armament.

Your 1915/23. It is proposed that rescue tugs operated in N.W.Approaches should be fitted with Holman projectors, Schermuly pistols, and P A C rockets. When possible tugs will be operated in pairs observing that two tugs are usually required to get a ship in.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1536/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarine
Depot.,
Ships.

F.O.(S) 2303/23 Para.(c).
MAIDSTONE is continuously employed on maintenance work for destroyers and cannot be released without relief. The congestion in the repair yards is far more acute than when WOOLWICH was withdrawn last September and no alternative facilities for destroyers are available anywhere.
(C.in C. H.F. ?2306/24 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/24.
(D.C. 1147/24).
At 2330/24.
(D.C. 2355/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

805

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Exercise
Operation
"Victor".

A.C.O.S. 0839/24.

Admty. 0150/24, 0752/24, 0831/24, 0835/24,
1029/24, 1442/24.

Air Ministry. 1128/24.

ARETHUSA 0749/24.

AURORA 1008/24.

N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1015/24, 1545/24.

D.C. 1807/24.

D.8. 1312/24.

V.A.Dover 0925/24, 1106/24, 1504/24,
1828/24.

GALATEA 1020/24.

N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1010/24, 1017/24, 2140/24.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/24.

N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1701/24.

F.O.I.C. Harwich 1016/24.

C.in C. H.F. 1015/24, 1516/24, 1530/24.

F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0751/24, 0813/24,
0828/24, 0835/24, 0900/24, 1004/24, 1103/24,
1245/24, 1204/24, 1310/24.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2200/24.

C.in C. Nore 0735/24, 0832/24, 0857/24,
0907/24, 0943/24, 1509/24, 1055/24, 1231/24,
1525/24, 1575/24, 1825/24, 2007/24, 2189/24,
2250/24, 2358/24.

F.O.I.C. Portland 1024/24, 1030/24,
1200/24, 1509/24, 2103/24, 2104/24.

C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/24, 1133/24, 1137/24,
1146/24, 1020/24, 1148/24, 1457/24, 1606/24,
1608/24, 1640/24, 1745/24, 1800/24, 2004/24.

C.in C. Rosyth 0010/24, 0842/24, 0900/24,
0920/24, 6931/24, 1055/24, 1145/24, 1300/24,
1400/24, 0705/24, 0734/24, 1229/24, 0654/24,
1200/24, 1526/24, 1620/24, 1720/24, 2010/24,
2200/24.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

806

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Exercise
Operation
"Victor".
(Contd.)

Naval Umpire, Rosyth 0820/24, 0836/24,
1130/24.

REPULSE 0708/24.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN 0935 /24, 1115/24.

VANESSA 2133/24.

VANITY 0946/24.

C.in C. W.A. 0015/24, 0915/24, 0920/24,
1305/24, 1800/24, 1845/24, 1847/24,
1925/24, 2004/24, 2025/24, 2345/24.

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0828/24.

MAORI 1152/24.

Town-Class Destroyer 1218/24.

EDINBURGH 1609/24.

War Office (Heetool 3) 1640/24.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

807

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY,
KASHMIR,
JUPITER,
JERSEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1255/23.
(C.in C. W.A. 0025/24).

BEDOUIIN,
SOMALI,
MATABELE
TARTAR.

Arrived Scapa 0520.
(A.C.O.S. 0831/24).

BOREAS.

Sailed from London 0900/24 for
Sheerness.
(F.O.I.C. London 1032/24 to C.in C. Nore).

ORONTES.

Your 1544/23 and 1608/23. D.S.T.O. Glasgow
informs me that ORONTES cannot arrive
at Tail of Bank before 1100 today and will
then require about 1200 tons of fuel.
Fuelling should be completed by about 1800.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1045/24 to Admty).

Force Z.
Escort.

Your 1907/23. Approved if destroyers are
available after meeting your other
commitments.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1138/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

ESPERANCE
BAY.

Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off
Methil before dark today. Sail from
Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/25.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1157/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

Cancel my 1157/24.
Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off
Methil before dark tomorrow. Sail from
Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1755/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

INGLEFIELD.

My 1030/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours
owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1217/24 to A.C.O.S.)

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

808

Movements. (Contd.)

WOLFE,
CIRCASSIA,
CHITRAL,
LETITIA.

WOLFE and CIRCASSIA leave Clyde 1500/26, WOLFE to Reykjavik and N.P.43, CIRCASSIA to N.P.42 both keeping to Northern end of patrol lines until 1500/30. Routes. CHITRAL and LETITIA to leave Southern ends of N.P.41 and N.P.42 respectively to arrive Reykjavik 1400/30. F.O. Iceland is requested to complete LETITIA with fuel and sail her for Halifax and to fuel CHITRAL if necessary and sail her for Clyde. Route. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange inward and outward escort from Minches to 015° West if available. (V.A.N.P. 1230/24).

MOOLTAN
WHITSHED.

MOOLTAN sailed for London escorted by WHITSHED. WHITSHED subsequently proceeding to Harwich. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1355/24).

J.3968.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22. Confirmed that gun trials should be carried out subject to concurrence of C.in C. H.F. (D.O.D.H. 1528/24).

C.in C. Rosyth 1545/23. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30. Consequent on this it will be necessary to change firing area in Admiralty 1640/4. J.3968 intend to carry out gun trials 1400 to 1800/28 Liverpool Bay, 1400 to 1800/29 North Minch onwards, 0900 to 1200/30 off East Coast of Scotland between Aberdeen and May Island. (F.O. Liverpool 1614/24 to Admiralty).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight.
One Trawler.
(A.C.O.S. 1539/24).

5th
M.L.F.

It is requested that boats of 5th M.L.F. now at Dartmouth be sailed for their operational base under the Command of S.O. of F. when ready for service. (R.A.C.F. 1746/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

809

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

VULCAN.

When ready for sea C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail VULCAN for Alexandria via the Cape routed as follows, arranging with C.in C. Western Approaches as necessary.

2. U.K. to Freetown calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel. Onward route to be arranged by C.in C. concerned.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1833/24.)

Operations.

Operation "Rubble". Scapa Flow departure 0130 C.S.18 in ~~RUBBLE~~. EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA and ECHO.
(A.C.O.S. 0149/24).

Expect fighter escort by pairs of Blenheims relieving every two hours from 1030 to dusk.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0350/24 to F.O.I.C.15 C.S.)

E/B reported by aircraft in position 058°45'N., 003° 35'E at 1050 steering West.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1436/24 to C.S.15).

Enemy bombing in 58° 35'N., 3° 26'E., course 100°, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

Provide what cover you can for ^{"Rubble"}~~RUBBLE~~ during the night and be in position to cover Eastern ships at daylight tomorrow Saturday.
(C.in C. H.F. 1902/24 to C.S.15).

My 1902/24. Request Fighter Protection from daylight.
(C.in C. H.F. 2027/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

810

Operations. (Contd.)

Op. "T-666". cont:

On reaching 058° 48'N., 002° 00'W. at 0345, intend to alter course to 108 speed of advance 20 knots, to cover your return. Destroyers are escorting TAURUS and TAISHAM to Kirkwall. (C.S.18 2351/24 to C.S.15).

Operation
N.C.

Being carried out. Zero hour 1930. (V.A.Dover 1231/24).

Submarines.

UNDAUNTED,
MINERVE.
TORBAY.

My 1742/23. Add UNDAUNTED and MINERVE escorted by WHITE BEAR arrive Dundee A.M. amend movement of TORBAY to read leaves Rosyth a.m. unescorted for Dundee thence to Clyde escorted by WHITE BEAR. (F.O.S. 0011/24). *See also next page.*

OSIRIS.

Contact not made with convoy. Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles south west Dungeness. Request escort. (OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.5.)

A M.T.B. is coming to escort you. Trawler will be at S.W.Gate Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0815/24 to OSIRIS).

My 1401 and my 1449. OSIRIS touched submerged object about 0200 this morning when approximately two miles south of Dungeness in fog. Asdic compartment flooded and unable to dive. Ship never made contact with convoy C.E.23 and anchored until visibility improved. (V. A.Dover 1711/24 to Admt).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

811

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

OSIRIS cont.

Intend to sail OSIRIS escorted by GULLFOSS at 0600 tomorrow for Sheerness. E.T.A. 1200. Fighter protection is being requested.
(N.O.I.C.Dover 1545/24).

TORBAY.

Sails Rosyth 0520 to be off Tay Bar at 1200.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0526/24 to WHITE BEAR).

Proceed into Dundee.
(S.9. 0931/24 to TORBAY.)

My 0933/24. R/V with WHITE BEAR at eastern buoy of QZS 162 for passage to Clyde.
(S.9 1107/24 to TORBAY).

Sailed TORBAY escorted by WHITE BEAR for Clyde. E.T.A. 1400/26.
(S.9 1357/24).

SUNFISH.

Leaves Blyth 1100/24 unescorted on surface Northward.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1058/24).

TUNA.

F.O.S. 1642/18. Cancel para.C and substitute Para.C. Intend F.O.C.N.A. shall assume operational control of TUNA while on North Atlantic station and that he should be responsible for keeping her informed of movements that affect her during the same period. C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep TUNA informed of movements of own and enemy forces while on the home station. S.2. is to indicate time at which TUNA enters the North Atlantic station.
(F.O.S. 1132/24 to S.2.)

Positions.

At 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1654/24, 1741/24 and 1959/24.)

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

812

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

818 additional patrols being flown today.
~~STAB, BERT, HORNLI~~, S.A.2.
0800/24.

"~~Stab~~" "~~Bert~~"
~~STAB~~ and ~~BERT~~ in operation since 0900.
S.A.2 took off at 1030.
~~HORNLI~~ will probably not be flown owing
to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1040/24 to C.S.15., C.S.18).

My 1040/24. ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1240/24 to C.S.15, C.S.18).

Shooting
down of
own
aircraft.

Admiralty's 1221/23. A Board of Enquiry
will assemble at Lowestoft Naval Base at
1000/26. Request an Air Force Officer
be appointed as member of the Board to be
junior to a Captain R.N. of seniority 3rd
October 1940. and that witnesses from 139
Squadron Bomber Command may attend.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1000/24 to Air Ministry).

Admiralty T.O.O. 1221/23. Bomber Command
should detail R.A.F. Officer as member of
Board of Services.
(Air Ministry 1230/24 to Bomber Command).

Our X 989 24/1. Board of Enquiry will
assemble at Lowestoft Naval base at 1000/26.
The R.A.F. Officer you appoint as member of
Board should be Junior to a Captain R.N.
seniority 3/10/40. Witnesses from 139
Squadron should attend.
(Air Ministry 1806/24 to H.Q.B.C.)

A.660/24/1. Pilot of Wellington A/C reports
being fired on by heavy A.A. from
Lowestoft harbour at 1130/18 when flying
at 700 feet in poor visibility. Although
aircraft's undercarriage was lowered and
recognition signal was fired A.A. continued.
No damage to aircraft or injury to crew.
Request you investigate whether Naval units
were concerned and if so explain reasons for
opening and maintaining fire.
(F.O.6. Air Ministry 1435/24 to A.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

813

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

R/C
Aircraft.

AP/784/24/1. Your X.819 23/1 addressed to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Presume it is realised that no long range Spitfire will be available in United Kingdom to replace P.9551 for at least 3 weeks and that Genoa-Spezia and Toulon are out of range of other types photographic Spitfires available here.
(H.Q.C.C. 1035/24 to Air Ministry).

Lorient.

AP/786/24/1. Available aircraft No.217 Squadron to attack tonight submarines in naval Dockyard Lorient. Alternative Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1132/24 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN.

Engine and rudder wrecked in position 054° 30' N., 014° 52' W. Cargo pitwood salvable. Picked up entire crew at 1540 two lascars wounded. Reported German aircraft had British markings.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Proceed to assist. Tug SALVONIA also proceeding.
(C.in C. W.A. 1729/24 to SKEENA).

LURIGETHAN.

At 1835/23 in 53° 47' N., 15° 19' W. On fire in Engine-Room and No.4 Hold. Entire crew in Swedish MILOS proceeding to Oban, 2 slightly wounded. Ship may be salvable.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

LANGLEEGORSE.

Your 0037/24. Have found no trace of LANGLEEGORSE position indicated. Intend to continue searching in area until dark.
(SKEENA 1315/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

C.S.15.

Enemy bombing in 58° 35' N., 3° 26' E., course 1000, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

814

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aberdeen
Area.

Presence of many floating mines suspected between Rattray Head and Milton Ness. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1006/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

5th M.S.F. is to carry out Search of East side of dividing line A Z 787 between Aberdeen and Kinnairds Head forthwith. (C.in C. Rosyth 1043/24 to M.S.5.)

Aircraft
Minelaying.

For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1131/24 to 16 Group N.Coates).

INTREPID.

My 1203/23. Regret dense fog again will cause further delay. (F.O. Humber 1204/24).

Off Wick.

Floating mine in latitude 058 degs. 22' 30" N., 002 degs. 34'W. Have expended all available ammunition cannot sink it. (PIROUETTE 1245/24 to A.C.O.S.)

B.S.50.

Postponed on account of weather. Am proceeding to Immingham. (TEVIOT BANK 1437/24).

S.S.
TASMANIA.

(6405 tons) struck a mine 2 miles off Aberdeen p.m./24 but reached Methil under her own steam, damaged. (D.O.R.)

With ATTENTIF as escort proceeding to Leith. Owing to heavy swell at entrance consider operation of entering Aberdeen dangerous. TASMANIA using hand steering. Now making no water. Damaged and holed on water line under port quarter. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1238/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

815

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface
Unit
in
Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1015 indicates German surface unit (destroyer or larger) in the Skagerrak, approx. position 58° 20' N., 9° 20' East.
(D.D.I.C. 1055/24).

By D/F at 1303/24. Position of unknown enemy unit was 57° N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1333/24).

By D/F on 5915 dc/s at 1555/24. Position of enemy unit was 57° 50' N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1635/24).

Fish
Cargo
from
Aalesund.

Small Norwegian fishing vessel arrived Thershaven today with crew of two and 8 refugees onboard. They report when they sailed from Aalesund on 22/1 the Dutch ^{German} CONSUL HORN was about to leave for Bergen with 5,000 tons of salt fish destined for Germany.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1645/24.)

Miscellaneous.

Harwich
closed.

Port still closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1300/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

North
East Coast,
Independent
sailings.

Vessels bound from Firth of Forth to Dundee and vice versa are to proceed independently and are to be sailed at such times that they arrive in port before nightfall.
(D.T.D. 0009/24 to N.C.S.O's Methil and Dundee).

Routes.

Your 1536/23. No. (Routeing of ships through area North of 61° North., and East of 25° 00' West.
(D.T.D. 1155/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Reporting
of
Suspicious
Ships.

Admiralty Message E.K. When a warship or merchant ship is sighted which is suspected of hostile intent a distress message in accordance with D.M.S.B. Article 16 should be made (Admiralty Message CJ also refers), the word "Suspicious" being added as the "Nature of attack". Example QQQQ de GBTT 55° 07' North., 19° 20' West, QUEEN MARY Suspicious. Message EJ was not made by W/T.
(D.S.D. 1535/24 to All British M.S's.)

Coastal
Convoys.

F.S.94.

Sailed from Methil 1400/23. No ships from Tyne Area.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0044/24).

E.N.61.

(A) 0100/24. (b) H.M.T's ELLESMERE (S O) SALTARELLO. Additional escort HASTINGS.
(c) 13 ships. No ships for Clyde. 6 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0131/24).

F.S.94.

Code word for F.S.94 South of Tyne, ^{"Ocean"} ~~SECRET~~.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0509/24).

WAR DIARY.24.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.) ~~816~~Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

O.B.C.277.

(a) 0233/24 Jan.
 (b) VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA and GENTIAN.
 (c) 6 ships (two with kites) R/V with O.B.
 277 in Rothesay Bay.
 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0600/24).

F.S.95.
GARTH.

Proceed from Methil at 0800/25 to Sheerness.
 Adjust speed to overhaul F.S.95 by 0800/26
 and act as additional escort when in
 company. F.S.95 due off Aldeburgh 0600/26
 speed 6 knots. Escort F.S.95 is VANITY
 FLEETWOOD, VERSATILE, WALLACE, S.O.VANITY.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 0917/24 to GARTH).

O.B.O.277.

Sailed 0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA.
 12 ships. 8 ships carried kites.
 (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0932/24).

Sailed H.M.S. CORSAIR 0900/24 to R/V with
 O.B.277. E.T.A.Trinidad.
 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0946/24 to C.in C. A.W.I).

O.B.278.

Sailed KINGCUP escorting O.B.278.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1041/24).

W.N.74.

1000/24 H.M.Trawlers LADY ROSEMARY,
 SARABANDE 8 ships. Six ships with kites.
 (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1101/24).

F.N. and
F.S.

Movements to 1200/25, may be restricted
 through fog. SHEARWATER with F.N.90
 thence to Humber. PUFFIN Humber to
 Harwich with F.S.95. F.S.92 expected to
 anchor Barrow Deep for night 23/24.
 F.S.94 Flamboro Head 1200/24. F.S.95 due
 Flamboro Head 0330/25. F.N.90 due Flamboro
 Head 1200/24. F.N.91 due sail Southend
 0930/25.
 (C.in C. Nore, 1200/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.N.90.

Intend to sail S.S. SHOALFISHER with 6" mounting in F.N.90 for Methil.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1202/24 to C.in C. Rosyth, etc.)

F.S.94.
PUFFIN.

Request you will sail PUFFIN to form additional escort for F.S.94 due Outer Dowsing 1800/24.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1226/24 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

O.B.O.278.

0500/25/1. One ship SOPHOCLES.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1231/24).

W.N.75 (O).

Sailed 1430/24. H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY six ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1435/24).

F.S.95.

Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1515/24 to Admtly etc.)

O.B.278.

Sailed 1300/24. 3 ships 9 knots. No kites.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1517/24).

Liverpool portion O.B.278 is cancelled. Proceed with O.B.M.278 to Clyde R/V then return to base.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/24 to DERBY COUNTY).

F.N.90.

M.L.169 sailed to join F.N.90.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2013/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.N.91.

Commodore in UMVUMA. Vice Commodore in H.M.S. MALVERNIAN. Weigh at 0930/25. Number of ships 49. Additional escort WIDGEON.
(C.in C. Nore 2130/24 to VANESSA, PYTCHLEY, LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND.)

O.B.277.

H.M. Yacht CORSAIR returned to Belfast unable to contact O.B.277.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2230/24).

O.B.277.
O.B.279.

My 0820/23 and 0945/24. H.M.Y. CORSAIR and O.B.277. Not met. Former returned Belfast. Propose sailing her with O.B.279 E.T.A. Trinidad.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2232/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

12 M.Vs.

Intend sailing 1730/25 via Saint Catherines and Nab Tower 12 merchant ships including 2 large tankers for onward routeing 4 to Shoreham one to Littlehampton one for Poole. E.T.A. Nab 0830/26 escort LORD ESSENDEN and CORNELIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2330/24 to C.in C. Plymouth).

W.N.75.

Sailed A/S trawlers BERKSHIRE, ST. APOLLO for W.N.75, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/25.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2359/24.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.1.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.Escort
Groups.

Orders for sailing of Escort Groups.

2nd No.	Out Convoy	Feb.	1st Meet	BXH.104.
7th OB.281	"	"	"	H.X.105.
4th OB.282	"	3rd	"	S.L.63.
8th OG.52	"	5th	"	52 and SLS.63.
1st OB.283	"	7th	"	H.X.106.
5th OB.284	"	9th	"	S.C.21.
3rd OB.285	"	11th	"	H.X.107.
6th OB.286	"	13th	"	S.L.64.
2nd OG.53	"	15th	"	H.G.53 & SLS 64.

B.H.X.104.

2. BHX 104, is an extra convoy. HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HARVESTER, will be required to sail on 1/2 to meet BHX 104 and act as additional escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1129/24.)

O.G.51.

(a) 2200/26.
(b) Not known.
(c) 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1455/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.G.M.51.

1715/25. Not known. 2 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1820/24).

O.G.51.

If ready A/S Trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in O.G.51.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/24 to N.O.I.C. Oban)
(Cancelled C.in C. W.A. 1301/25).

S.L.62.

Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 2001/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military
Convoys.

W.S.6.

Following are proposed embarkation
arrangements.
(D. of S.T. 0201/24).

ORONTES.

Intend to sail ORONTES escorted by
O.R.P. GARLAND and LEOPARD at 2000 today
in accordance with a.m. 1137/24, 1544/23
and 1627/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1514/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

OSIRIS.

Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles S.W. of Dungeness. Request escort.
(OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.5.)

PORT HUNTER.

My 1215/22/1. PORT HUNTER does not expect to sail till 2200/25 owing to damage sustained.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1040/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MERIONES.

Situation unchanged. Vessel still aground. Thick fog.
(N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1130/24).

BULLFINCH.

(Cable ship, 433 tons). Slightly damaged by gale at Greenock from 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

GEORGETOWN.

(Destroyer). Slight damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

LADY LILIAN.

(A/S Trawler). Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

ANGLE.

(A/S Trawler) Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

ORCHIS.

(Corvette) Extensive hull damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

WAR DIARY.24.1.1941.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)TEDWORTH.

(Diving Ship) Extensive hull damage, main pipes punctured, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

CHEVREUIL.

(French Minesweeper) Hull damaged, Frames and bulkhead buckled, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

LE
TRIOMPHANT.

(French Light Cruiser). Hull damaged and frame buckled in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

LARKSPUR.

(Corvette) Side slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

BREDA.

(Yacht) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

TUSCARDRA.

(A/S Yacht) Slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

NORWICH
CITY.

(A/S Trawler) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

GIRL
ETHEL.

(Wooden Drifter) Hull very extensively damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.1.1941.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)SEAMAN.

(Rescue Tug) Damaged in gale at Greenock
1200/21 to 1800/22.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

LEOPARD.

(French Light Cruiser) Has requested
repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

ROSEMARY.

(A/S Vessel) Unseaworthy. Has requested
repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

HEATHER.

(Corvette) Unseaworthy. Has requested
repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

WIRTA.

(Finnish 4028 tons). Your 1543/23 and
my 1153/23. Grounded in 064° 08'N.,
022° 04'W., at 1100 today in fog.
Have placed armed guard on board. Ship
is damaged and it will be necessary to
discharge large part of cargo before
effort can be made to refloat her.
(F.O. Iceland 1651/24 to Admty).

War Diary.24.1.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Intelligence,
Dakar
Casablanca.

Following received from Dakar; (a) dated 17/1 CHELMA has sailed to French Guinea. **LIEUT. DE LA TOUR** arrived 16/1 with native troops. Following three ships are now in Dakar, RICHELIEU, MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, destroyers **MALIN** and **FANTASQUE**, S/MS and many smaller vessels. S/MS and smaller vessels are being used for escort duty. Personnel of naval establishment is estimated at 4000. (b) Dated 21/1. S.S. FORT DE DOUAUMONT arrived from South. Following from Casablanca dated 17/1. Tanker FIRUZ sailing 18/1 for Bene near Marseilles with Alpine troops and field guns. Troopships escorted by French warships reported to be "moving South of Dakar". (N.A. Washington, 1900/24 to Admty).

North Atlantic.Italian
U-Boat
Las Palmas.

Italian S/M left here midnight G.M.T. 22/1. It is said action took place 4 days before arrival Las Palmas and that Second in Command killed in action, not Commanding Officer. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 to Admty) (F.O.C. N.A. 1707/24 to N.A. Station and 1723/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

My 1800/23 not to Las Palmas. Min. of For. Aff. explains verbally to Embassy that five days repair period given in their note is from date of note (22/1). To that 24 hours must be added and that time allowed will therefore expire at 05350/28 (N.A. Madrid 1341/24 to Admty).

OTUS.

Position of submarine at 0800/24 and movements for the following 24 hours as follows:- (a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A, 1444/24).

NORTHERN
PRINCE.

Admty 1628/23 and 2306/22. Anticipate sailing NORTHERN PRINCE for Suez p.m./26 bunkering Capetown. Destroyer escort will be provided for 24 hours. (F.O.C.N.A. 1600/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

/Air.....

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 1 surface recco. East. 1 routine A.R. Patrol. Flying curtailed owing to weather conditions. Area covered Spartel to 4 West. (200 Group 1735/24).

A/C Gibraltar..

Now reported that 1 Glen Martin aircraft flew over Gibraltar a.m. 20/1 and was driven off by A/A fire. No bombs were dropped. (D.S. 508, 25/1).

South Atlantic.

South Africa
Mail Ships.

My 2247/18, P.S.T.O. Bombay in his 1317/20 has stated that no suitable ships can be sent from India to replace HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Request report whether any suitable vessels available locally e.g. India/South Africa mail ships. (D.S.T. 0202/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Enemy Unit.

My 2352/23. Add following bearings:-
Freetown 290/4. Ascension 342/3.
Bermuda 047/3.
(D.D.I.C. 0555/24 to C. in C. S.A).

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface unit within 150 miles of 005° degs. 00'South 05° 00'S 017° degs. 35' West at 2137/23 Z. This 17° 35'W might be unit C.
(C. in C. S.A., 0951N/24 to S.A. Station).

My 2352/23 and 0555/24. Enemy surface unit considered to be within about 150 miles of position 5° 00'S. and 17° 30'W. at 2137/23 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0955/24 to C. in C.S.A. etc.).

WAIMARAMA.

Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Cape. (Approx. Noon Position 25/1 and Route).
(D.T.D. 1230/24 to S.A. Station).

/KENYA.....

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24.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

KENYA. }
SOBIESKI. }

My 1721/18 and Admty 1750/17. Intend sailing escorted by DUNEDIN. Time and route and E.T.A. Gibraltar. A/S escort VELOX, VIDETTE until (date).
(C. in C. S.A. 1415/24 amended 2047/25 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume. *Page 33.*

French
Senegalese
Brigade.

Your 1615/21/12. Proposals for embarkation (D.S.T. 2003/24 to C. in C. S.A.).
See Operations Volume.

D.8.

Expected time of arrival Freetown 0730N/26.
(Capt. D.8, 1655/24 to C. in C. S.A).

FURIOUS.

Admiralty 1226/23 and 1826/22. Unless considerable delay can be accepted essential FURIOUS should be berthed alongside under crane as ship crane will be fully employed for at least 4½ days in disembarking aircraft and gear brought from Freetown and embarking stores and provisions. Only 12 boilers serviceable - but these should enable 22 knots to be maintained to limit of endurance. Request ship be allowed to proceed with escort at best speed rather than long passage in slow convoy. Most desirable fuel Gibraltar. Following urgently required as emergency aid to ventilation vide C. in C. South Atlantic's 1621N/14. Essential following long overdue stores reach ship before sailing. If 12 days or more in harbour propose leave in two watches.
(FURIOUS, 1828/24 to Admty).

Free French
Shipping.

Following for Claud Adams. Allocation of Free French ships. Mentions FORT DE TROYON, TOMBOCTOU, TOUAREG, CAPO OLMO and INDOCHINOIS.
(D.S.T. 2308/24 to N.C.S.O. Duala).

BRIDGEWATER
to overtake
ATLAS.

My 1931/23 and my 0801/24 to Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, and Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos 1017/24. As tug IVES has no W/T raise steam as convenient and proceed 25/1 overtake ATLAS and act as (corrupt group) (corrupt group) until S.S. GOVERNOR met. When tow is proceeding satisfactorily return to Lagos.
(C. in C. S.A. 2357N/24 to BRIDGEWATER).

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shipping Resources Port and Transit Committee.

Importance of developing resources of Egyptian ports. Port and Transit Committee set up. Questions of finance and administration.
(C. in C. Med. 0929/24 to Admty).

Operation "Inspection".

0600/23. ILEX, HERO, BONAVENTURE, AJAX, ORION, and YORK, sailed.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1057/24).

Ammunition.

Your 2313/20 Para. 1. 2 guns and 14 loose barrels embarked in R.89 and R. 90 leaving U.K. shortly.
(D.T.S.D. 1156/24 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Rumours of Attack.

Turkish Military Attache in Rome reported to Ankara on 19/1 that he has heard rumours of an impending attack against Malta by 1 or 2 Infantry Divisions and 2 Regiments of Parachute troops now in Sicily. Reliability unassessed.
(S.O.I Alexandria 1245/24 to Admty, C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta);

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 228 up to 1200 hrs. 24/1/1941. Egypt night 22/23. 2 Wellingtons unable to locate Maritza aerodrome owing to weather bombed Rhodes harbour causing fires and explosions on the jetty and demolishing buildings alongside.

Rhodes bombed.

Apollonia and Derna bombed.

Day 23/1. Apollonia and Derna landing grounds each bombed by 3 Blenheims. 4 explosions and small fires in barrack area Apollonia bombs burst among buildings at Derna. Blenheims dropped small bombs among aircraft on Maraua landing ground details awaited. Reconnaissances reported 3 large 9 medium 3 small merchant ships in Bengasi.

Benhazi Recco.

Malta Defence

Reply to Admty 1756/18 (C. in C. Med. 1257/24)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Kabret.

Re M.L.C. Base.
(C. in C. Med. 1615/24 to Admty).
See Mediterranean Volume.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Convoy B.N.13.

Arrived Suez 24/1. less STAR OF MEX and ADA.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1738/24).

Convoy A.S.13.

Convoy sailing telegram, part 2.A.S.13 1500/24
(14 ships).
(Athens 1801/24 to Admty).

Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 24/1. All times G.M.T. 0510 to 1320 Sunderland despatched to cover track of ILLUSTRIOUS proceeding to Alexandria Arrived first position and proceeded along track to second position without sighting. ILLUSTRIOUS presumed proceeded at greater speed than anticipated. 0920 to 1317 Glenn Martin photo recco. Gela Sciacca Castel Vetrano Syracuse. Syracuse aerodrome not located. Port no shipping 30 seaplanes. 0941 to 1006 2 formations enemy aircraft approached within 10 miles (NT sic) Grand Harbour and withdrew presumed recco. with fighter protection. 9 fighters up no interception.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1840/24).

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MANDASOR
bombed.

British ship MANDASOR reported being bombed in longitude 061° E. at 0545 G.M.T. 24/1 lat. corrupt but is believed to be 004° 18'S. There is no shipping south MANDASOR in long. 061° E. (C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/24 to E. E. Indies Sqdn)

My 0752/24. (1) British ship BEACON STREET also reports a suspicious ship in sight in position 017° 00' South 041° 36' East at 0349 G.M.T./24. No cancellation yet received. BEACON STREET did not make report in form of Q. or R. distress message. (C. in C. E.I. 0846z/24 to E.I Sqdn).

→ My 0752/24 Seychelles has been called MANDASOR by W/T. Call sign GCXB made at 1016Z/24. My message 0545 G.M.T. now cancelled (2) cancellation not at present considered genuine (3) MANDASOR left Calcutta 14th to pass Dondra Head 18th due Durban forth routed through position 017° 085° 006° North 082° 001° South 076° 009° 046° 027° 038° at 10 knots. (4) Seychelles will be instructed to give GCXB the impression that we consider cancellation genuine. SYDNEY may be able to D/F her at about 1400Z/24. (C. in C. E.I. 1210Z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

SYDNEY.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
COLOMBO.
(Force V)

My 0752/24.
(i) Following movements have been ordered.
(a) SYDNEY left Seychelles at 1000z/24 to search in supposed position of raider at about 27 knots.
(b) CANBERRA from position 005° 20'N. 080° 25'E. at 0915z/24 to pass through 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(c) LEANDER sails from Colombo at about 1130z/24 for 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(d) COLOMBO from position 003° 45' S. 052° 00'E. at 1045z/24 to position 001° S. 059° E. at about 14½ knots to cover shipping.
(ii) Note - (a) SYDNEY and CANBERRA have serviceable aircraft but LEANDER has not. (b) COLOMBO has engine trouble and her maximum speed is not known. (iii) Ships in paragraph (i) are to decode all addresses to Force V.
(C. in C. E.I. 1238z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

/My.....

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

My 1238/24 after passing 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁰ channel CANBERRA is to proceed towards position equator 070⁰ East.
(C. in C. E.I. 11432Z/24 to Force V).

KANIMBLA.

Departure 24/1 KANIMBLA in accordance with C. in C. East Indies. 1042/22.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1040B/24 to Admty etc).

Contraband Control.

Your 0059/24/12. Question of limiting exports from India, Burma, Straits, Ceylon and Netherlands East Indies with unified control is under consideration. See also my telegram timed 1148/23 to C. in C. East Indies.
(Hd. of M. 1111/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Air Report.

Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 24/1. Bombing nil. Convoy escort 3 Blenheims.
(Air H.Q. Aden, 11431/24).

Shipping Officer, Aden.

Ministry of Shipping propose to appoint a Deputy Ministry of Shipping Representative at Aden who would also work in close liaison with Barker at Alexandria. Captain Messenger, local P. and O. agent at Aden is suggested for the appointment. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1630/24 to C. in C. E.I.).

Meat Ships.

Admty 2247/18 and 0202/24. Re release of HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN for meat carrying.
(D.T.D. 2004/24 to C. in C. E.I).
(See Operations Volume). *Page. 33.*

Aircraft Sqdns.

Your 0816/24/12. Proposals for air sqdns, Ceylon, Mombasa, Durban, Calcutta.
(Hd. of M. to C. in C. E.I. 2148/24).
(See Operations Volume).

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War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China
and Thailand.

Your 0814/18. Following from Foreign Office, to inform Admiral Decoux. (D.N.I. to C. in C. China 2213/24).

From De Schompse to De Gaulle, No. 46, Indo-China Situation. Japan aggravating situation by supplying aircraft and material to Thai. (C. in C. China, 0507Z/24 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

T.C.9.

My 1201/23. Arrangements re DEMPO, JOHAN VAN OLDEN BARNEVELD, and DUCHESS OF YORK. (D.S.T. 0200/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). See Operations. *Vol 24.1.41. P.34.*

KING GEORGE V.

Arrived at Chesapeake Bay with Lord and Lady Halifax on board 24/1 (Press).

Expected time of arrival Cape Henry 0700/24 & Annapolis 1600. (KING GEORGE V., 0530R/24, to C. in C. H.F). (Conveying Lord Halifax Ambassador to U.S.A. etc).

ASCANIA.
PORPOISE.
H.X. 105.

Intend sailing ASCANIA and PORPOISE as ocean escorts for H.X. 105. ASCANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. PORPOISE instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy unless otherwise ordered by F.O.(S) (F.O.3.B.S. 1902/24 to Admty).

COMORIN.

My 1756/23 COMORIN route. (B.S.3., 1937/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

Australia.

Shipping.
Albany.

My 1802/12. Vessels destined for South and East Coast Australian ports need not call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1739/24 to A.I.G. 47).

Your 0345/22 vide my 1902/12 all ships from U.K. to Australia are now calling at Cape Town or Durban. Authorities will be instructed that it is not necessary for ships to call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1740/24 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne.).

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA.

German ship CORDELIA arrived Trebizond 21/1 from Kerasund and Ordu leaving for Varna after loading 400 tons shelled hazel nuts. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1023/24 to Admty etc).

PLUS.

(B.2.). German ship PLUS is expected to sail. German master who has piloted previous ships reported to have arrived and taken charge. (Consul, Vigo, 1115/13(?24) to D.N.I.).

Reported that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 2106/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Report received that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo. (V.A.S. 2244/24 to Subs. on Patrol Area B).

German ship PLUS expected to sail from Vigo. Unrecognised Tanker passed Punta Arenas toward Atlantic on 19/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2359/24 to Ships & Authorities N.A. Station).

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24.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIN.

French ship MIN passed Sunda Straits
0300/23 for Saigon.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0438/24 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA has not sailed. Not known if
sailing is postponed or cancelled.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1035/24 to C. in C.
A.W.I. etc).

French ship CAMPANA has not sailed from
Buenos Aires. A.I. report received that
ship will not sail till next week.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1216Z/24 to D.N.I.
R.A.S.A.D).

French Ambassador has informed (?Consul)
that CAMPANA will not sail.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1706/24 to D.N.I).

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K's 1014/21. French ship
JEAN L.D. held Capetown under Union
armed guard. Ship running a scheme
which has started regular sailing
Marseilles, Casablanca, Dakar, Madagascar
ports, Haiphong, Saigon, and Tourance
leaving Marseilles 10th and 20th of each
month. Ship is lightly loaded explanation
being unoccupied France has nothing to
export. Cargo about one thousand tons
chiefly wine loaded Algiers. Summary of
cargo follows in my 1203/24. Master
anticipates loading rice Saigon for France.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1135/24 to Admty).

My 1135/24. Following is summary of
cargo in French ship JEAN L.D.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1203/24 to Admty).

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24.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OROPESA
(torpedoed
16/1).

TENACITY arrived Campbeltown with survivors from OROPESA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/24).

Submarines Reported.

0208.

Following has been read. 60.12 N. 27.10 W., submarine sighted EMPIRE BUFFALO.
(Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0208/24)
(Graded C.3. D.S. 507) EMPIRE BUFFALO, 6404 tons in H.X. 102 with steel and trucks (D.O.R. 24/1).

Italian U/B.

Left Las Palmas (Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 etc) See North Atlantic.

0136.

57 to 59 N. west of 25 W. indefinite position (D.S. 507).

Estimated U/B.
Dispositions.

Situation still obscure.

German.

One probably to N. W. Cape Verde Is. may be proceeding home.

One may be to N.W. Cape Verde outward.

One about 49° N. 27° W.

Three probably in area 50° to 55° N. 15° to 20° W.

One 57° to 59° N. West of 25° W.

One may have been in 60° N. 27° W. at 0208/24.

Three more whereabouts unknown but may be one to N.W., one to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian.

One in Las Palmas.

One between Azores and Portugal.

One vicinity Canary Is.

One near 57° N. 21° W. at 1302/23.

One about 52° N. 20° W. bound for Gironde.

Two more probably West or South West of Rockall.

(D.D.I.C. 1334/24).

25.1.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel
Patrol

KELLY and KASHMIR last night patrolled between Start Point and Lands End.

Operation
"Rubble"

The five Norwegian merchant ships which broke out of the Skagerrak on 23/1 arrived at Kirkwall today.

Sweep for
SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU

A report was received this evening from N.A. Stockholm that two heavy ships, believed to be SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU, had passed through the Great Belt north bound at 1100/23. C. in C., H.F. in NELSON left Scapa at 0930 G.M.T. ~~with~~ with RODNEY, REPULSE, 8 cruisers and 11 Destroyers. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols, and Battles from Iceland are to patrol Denmark Strait tomorrow. *See also 23/1 - p 765 - 726/1 - p 880*

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused patrols in the southern half of the North Sea to be greatly curtailed today. Several air escorts failed to locate their convoys owing to low visibility in the N.W. Approaches.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Beauforts of Coastal Command last night attacked the docks at Lorient. E-Boats off Ameland were bombed today without result.

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War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS MERIONES, which ran aground on Haisboro Sands during the night 21/22 was unsuccessfully bombed today. Rescue tug NORMAN was bombed whilst assisting her, but was not damaged. An attacking aircraft was hit and crippled and jettisoned her bombs in the sea.

H.M.T. THEIR MERIT was slightly damaged by a near miss at Great Yarmouth this afternoon.

An unknown ship, believed to be Dutch STAD ARNHEM was attacked in the N.W. Approaches today.

It is reported that SS WOOLER (507 tons) was set on fire and considerably damaged at ~~the London Docks~~ ^{Plymouth} in air raid 13/1

Mining

Harwich was opened this morning and the Humber this afternoon; a large number of mines were exploded in the Humber today.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool today and M/S Trawler RUNSWICK BAY sustained minor damage.

One mine self detonated off St. Ann's Head (Milford Haven)

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Cables

The cable ship MIRROR, escorted by LEYLAND left Gibraltar this morning for an operation off Tangier and Cadiz.

Azores

Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Admty. 2146/30/10, re Western Patrol dispositions in relation to an attempt to capture the Azores, are to be in abeyance until further orders.

South Atlantic

MENDOZA

DEVONSHIRE is to meet the French ship MENDOZA at Ascension and provide cover until DRAGON can join, when both will escort MENDOZA to Freetown.

Mediterranean

Patrols

A standing patrol in Kithera and ante-Kithera has been established by corvettes. One A/S trawler in Elaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek torpedo boat.

Operation
"Inspection"

ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Alexandria today. Enemy aircraft appear just to have failed to make contact with her. V.A.L.F.'s force failed to make contact owing to the high speed of ILLUSTRIOUS and was attacked from 1710 to 1815/24 by about 30 enemy aircraft in position 34° 20' N., 20° 10' but no ships were damaged; four of 5 aircraft were possibly damaged. Details of the air attacks on her on 16/1 are contained in D.T.S.D. 1639/25 in response to a request from C. in C., Home Fleet.

A Junkers 88 reconnoitred Malta this morning at a great height but dropped no bombs.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

NORFOLK. AUSTRALIA) Intended Movements. (A.C.N.S. H. 1311/25
SUFFOLK. LONDON,) to C.in C. H.F.). See Operations Volume.
BERWICK. DEVONSHIRE.) 25/1 - P. 35
EXETER)

1st C.S.

Adty. 0300/22, 0910/12, and 1917/24/11.
Rear-Admiral Wake-Walker has hoisted flag
in NORFOLK as F.O.C. 1st C.S.
(A.C.N.S.(F). 1320/25).

9th M/S F.)
A/S Training.)

Your 1846/23. Under present conditions
I see no chance of being able to give
9th M/S F. adequate A/S Training here.
Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1401/25 to Adty.)

Loch Ewe.

C.in C. W.A. 1007/24. Concur that
Aultbea should be transferred to the
command of C.in C. W.A. Further proposals
will be forwarded with regard to the
proposed new boundary between the O and S
and W A commands taking into consideration
also the question of W/T areas vide your
1236/15 and C.in C. Rosyths 1746/17.
(A.C.O.S. 1737/25 to Adty.).

EAGLE Ships
Armament.

Your 2029/24.
(A) No arms can be spared from any existing
EAGLES which are already under-armed.
Particulars. It is also desired to fit
in any EAGLES which can carry them U.P.
Pig troughs or a number of single 3" U.P.
mountings firing explosive shells.
(C.in C. Nore 1755/25 to Adty.)

Rescue Tugs
Armament.

Your 1536/24. It is under consideration
to provide Oerlikon guns in rescue tugs
operating in N.W. approaches.
Ships should already carry Schermuly
pistols. P.A.C. rockets are being
provided but Holman projectors should not
be fitted at present.
(D.T.D. 1818/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Town
Destroyers.
Working up
arrangements.

A.M.1120/18, my 1917/18, and Captain (D)
Londonderry's 2340/20.
Intend Town Class destroyers shall carry
out preliminary training from Plymouth
and Dartmouth, and if necessary final
working up practices from Loch Foyle.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

"Town"
~~TOWN~~-class
Destroyers.
Working up
arrangements.
(Contd.)

2. It is proposed Holyhead S/M be transferred to Londonderry as the additional S/M and be available for Liverpool and Greenock escort groups as well as Town class destroyers. Request arrangements be made accordingly.
(C.in C. W.A. 1836/23 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Exercise
"Victor".

C.in C. Portsmouth 0006/25,
A.C.O.S. 0008/25, 1201/25,
C.in C. Rosyth 0010/25, 0044/25, 1212/25,
Air Ministry 0020/25,
V.A. Dover 0033/25, 0411/25, 2009/25,
1223/25,
C.in C. W.A. Recd. 0035/25, 0035/25,
0601/25, 0905/25,
F.O.I.C. Tyne. 0510/25,
F.O.I.C. Portland 0817/25, 1221/25, 1530/25,
D.C. 0900/25, 1009/25, 0210/25,
C.in C. Nore 1030/25,
My 2335/13. Exercise ^{"Victor"}~~VICTOR~~ will end at 1400 today. (Captain Edwards 1301/25 to C's-in-C.)

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/25. (D.C. 1138/25).
At 2330/25 (D.C. 2337/25).

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY
KASHMIR

Sailed Plymouth 2006/24. (C.in C. W.A. 0135/25).

T.L.C.4.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1116/25).

BOREAS.

Arrived Sheerness 1120/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1224/25 to F.O.I.C. London).

Intend sail for Scapa at 1300/27.
(C.in C. Nore 1234/25 to A.C.O.S.).

M/V's.

Sailed for Sheerness at 1200/25
H.M. A/S Trawler CAPE PORTLAND escorting
R.F.A. LARCHOL and three merchant ships.
Anchoring for the night in Barrow Deep.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/25 to Adty.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight.
One Trawler. (A.C.O.S. 1539/25).

Force Z.

My 1655/22 para. one. S.O. of Force for
GLENROY read GLENGYLE.
(D.O.D.(H) 1701/25 to C.in C's W.A., S.A.,
E.I., and F.O.C.N.A.).

MOOLTAN.

Arrived Gravesend 1650. Entering Tilbury
Docks 1100/26.
(F.O.I.C. London 1706/25 to C.in C. Nore).

DOUGLAS.

Return to Scapa with despatch.
(C.in C. H.F. 1905/25 to DOUGLAS).

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Rubble"
~~XXXXXXXX~~.

My position at 0500/25 is 058° 57' North
001° 37' West. E.T.A. Kirkwall 0700.
Norwegian Ship JOHN BAKKE in company.
(AURORA 0500/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 2351/24. At 0300/25 058° 48' N.
000° 28' W. 274°, 12 knots. AURORA
believed to be 12 miles ahead.
Each with one merchant vessel in company.
(F.O. 15 C.S. 0259/25 to F.O. 18 C.S.).

Scapa arrival 0600 ELECTRA, OSLO,
ESCAPADE, ECHO, 0900 AURORA.
(A.C.O.S. 0907/25 to Adty.).

^{"Rubble"}
Operation ~~XXXXXXXX~~ completed.
(C.in C. H.F. 0927/25 to Adty.).

A/S
Patrol.

Two A/S trawlers are proceeding from
Scapa at 1700 today to carry out an A/S
Patrol between Butt of Lewis Flannan
Island and position 059° N. 007° 30' W.
(A.C.O.S. 1204/25 to Adty.)

Azores.

D.O.D.(F) 1816/25 to F.O.C.N.P. see
North Atlantic.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

OSIRIS.

Sailed, escorted by GULLFOSS, at 0820 for Sheerness.
(V.A. Dover 0825/25).

Arrived Sheerness for Chatham escorted by H.M.T. GULLFOSS at 1355/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1522/25).

Azores
Patrol.

a. Intend following programme for maintenance of Azores Patrol and return of submarines of 8th Flotilla to Gibraltar.
f. Routes from Portsmouth to Azores will be ordered by F.O.S.
g. Cancel para. B. of my 1156/21.
(F.O.S. 1019/25 to Adty.).

Operation 'Steel'
~~SECRET.~~

Operation ^{'Steel'}~~STEEL~~ completed.
My 1011/23 restrictions on attacking Merchant ships are cancelled.
(S.6. 1212/25 to SUNFISH).

H.31.

Submarine H 31 completed and proceeded down river 25/1. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1212/25).

Positions.

At 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1736/25).

L. 27.

Intend to sail L 27 unescorted diving by day at 1530/26 through 50°N. 3° W. to R/V. with an M L 110°. Start Point 3 miles at 1000/27.
(S.5. 1855/25 to Adty.).

PANDORA.

E.T.A. position W 0900/27.
8 mark 8 and 6 mark 4 torpedoes on board.
(PANDORA 2257/25 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

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Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered for today. R.C. of Norwegian Coast Bergen to Lister by 3 a/c from Wick taking off 0845. "~~Hornli~~" taking off 1030. (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

"Hornli"
My 0906 ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1002/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Request following air patrols.
(A) During daylight/26th as in my 0055/20 modified as far as practicable to meet requirement stated in paragraph 2. of my 1440/24 to 18 group.
(B) Patrol ~~1959~~ during daylight/27th with new starting point 64° N. 5° West. (C. in C. H.F. 1959/25 to C in C. Rosyth.)

My 1959/25. If practicable would like patrols increased as follows. During daylight/ 26th ~~1959~~ and the patrol referred to in para.(A) of my 1059. Similar patrols during daylight/27th.

2. If all these cannot be done "~~Fugle~~" ~~1959~~ on 26th should be surrendered first. (C. in C. H.F. 2029/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 2029/25. The following increased patrols will be flown daylight 26th and 27th. amended Fugle Datum point 64° N. 05° W., mean line of patrol 330 degs. same length. Two cross over patrols as in my 1750/20/1 but amended datum point 61° N. 12° W, similar length and datum point for second displaced accordingly. (C. in C. Rosyth 2258/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Lorient.....

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

845

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Lorient.

AP/788 25/1. Repeat tonight operations ordered for night 24th/25th. (H.Q.C.C. 1030/25 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

A/C for
Iceland.

Your 1637/23. (1) Intention is ultimately to send in addition to Norwegian seaplane squadron, one squadron of G.R. land planes, one squadron of long range fighters and one squadron of flying boats.
(3) No dates for departure of these aircraft can yet be given.
(4) Re Operational control. (5th S.L. 1739/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MERIONES.

Bombed. South Middle Haisboro sand. (Lyness Recd. 1319/25.) (Humber Radio 1459/25.)

NORMAN.

(Rescue Tug) Attacked bombed South Middle Haisborough. (Lyness W/T. 1403/25.)

STAD
ARNHEM.

(Dutch, 3819 Tons.) Proceed to search for survivors probably Dutch ship STAD ARNHEM in 055° 40' North 015° 18' West at 1154/25. (C. in C.W.A. 1651/25 to SKEENA.)

LURIGETHAN.

Estimated position 53° 50' N. 15° 40' W Fuel remaining 80 tons. Tug not met. LURIGETHAN all after hatches on fire, expect Magazine explode any time, bridge and forward hatch intact. Will attempt towage if weather conditions allow. Your 1654/25 received and understood. (ARABIS 1700/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

/MOSTYN.....

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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MOSTYN.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Detach one Trawler to rendezvous with Tug SALVONIA endeavouring to locate S.S. MOSTYN in 054° 30' N. 014° 52' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1709/25 to SALADIN.)

Your 1729/24 and 1049/25. Have searched between 054° 10' N. and 054° 50' N. 014° 20' W and 015° 50' W. Found no traces of MOSTYN. Consider my position is accurate. Fuel will not permit continuing search tomorrow. Intend to abandon search at dark today. Tug SALVONIA and Lerwick aircraft not sighted. (SKEENA 1725/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Survivors of MOSTYN landed Scapa from PHOEBE state. Aircraft which attacked them was a four engined land plane, type not identified, carrying British Markings on side of fuselage. No other markings seen. (A.C.O.S. 1843/25 to Adty.)

RANJA.

(Operation
"Rubble".)

See Ops Vol. 26. 1. 41 P. 68.

Nonwegian 6355 Tons.
(~~Swedish, 1380 Tons.~~) My 1315/25. Attacked in 58° 45' mins. N. 4° 10' E. at 1610/24 by a twin engine seaplane. Showers of Red Green and White Lights were seen, presumably tracers, coming from the Machine. Two bombs. Upper deck raked by machine gun fire. First Officer wounded. Boats pierced by machine gun bullets. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1720/25 to A.C.O.S.)

THEIR MERIT.

(M/S Trawler) Slightly damaged, by near miss of H.E. bomb at coaling wharf Great Yarmouth about 1530 today. 2 killed, 4 slightly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1916/25.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich.

Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0824/25.)

A/C.
Minelaying.

AP.789 25/1. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1031/25 to 16 Group, N. Coates.)

CORHEATH.

(British, 1096 Tons), In C.E.23. Sunk by mine in about 270° Botany Buoy one mile, at about 2000/24 in very thick weather. Reported 19 survivors accounted for out of 22. (C. in C. Nore 1117/25.)

S.N.7.

Your 1004/18. Order of laying is concurred in. (A.C.N.S.H.1141/25. to RAML.)

Humber.

Open to navigation. Ships are to pass to Northward of Gate vessel. Convoy anchorage, Northern and Southern examination anchorages, still remain closed. (F.O. Humber 1322/25.)

TEVIOT BANK.
IMPULSIVE.

Arrived with WITHERINGTON in company at 1515. (F.O. Humber 1545/25.)

INTREPID.

Departure D.20 in INTREPID at 1640. (F.O. Humber 1705/25.)

Milford Haven.

Ground Mine self detonated 078° St. Anns Head 16.5 Cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1805/25.)

Liverpool RUNSWICK BAY
damaged.

Mine report to 1800/25. One detonated, 140° Q2 Black Buoy 3 cables. One detonated 210° Q1 Black Buoy 4 cables. M/S trawler RUNSWICK BAY minor damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1845/25.)

TASMANIA.

Arrived Leith Roads 1400/25. Damage hole 20 feet in diameter above waterline in port quarter. Hand steering only. Probability of further under water damage and leaking slightly. Speed 12 knots and difficulty in controlling. Repairs will involve dry dock. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1910/25.)

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Saturday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Spurn
Point.

The following ten mines were exploded today. (F.O. Humber 2136/25. and 1709/26.)

My 1820/22. Details of Mines exploded. (F.O.Humber 2155/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Unit.

By D/F at 1117/25. Position of unknown enemy unit was 58° 10' N. 10° 30' E. Unreliable. fix. (D.D.I.C. 1152/25.)

By D/F at 1236 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface vessel in position 58 N. 5 20 E. very indefinite fix.). (D.D.I.C. 1306/25) (F.O.S.1407/25 to S/M's Area B.)

My 1152/25 and 1306/25. Further information shows that this is probably the same unit. The position at 1117/25 should be regarded as the more reliable. (D.D.I.C. 1538/25.)

My 1407. Further information shows position to be 058° 10' N. 010° 30' E. (F.O.S. 1712/25 to S/M's Area A.)

Blocking
of Kiel
Canal.

Finnish. Kiel Canal. (1) On 13/1 forepart of ~~Swedish~~ INGA had been cut as far as bridge. Barges were alongside after part clearing iron ore, expected to complete early February. (2) During period of blockage caused by INGA sinking and further restriction when JOSEF BERGENDORF collided reliable information states total 300 vessels were held up. (N.A. Stockholm 1204/24.)

/2 Heavy.....

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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

2 Heavy
Ships
breaking
out.

Two heavy ships, believed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU, passed Nyborg Pilot Station (four) (corrupt group) North bound at 1100/23. A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1241/25.) (D.D.I.C. 1751/25.)

German main units at 1100/23 two large vessels, believed GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST, passed through Great Belt North bound. Graded A.2. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols and would very much appreciate your Battles patrolling Denmark Strait (W.O. 2305/25. to G.O.C. Iceland Force.)

TORDENSKJOLD.

Your 2202/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through single belt southward in tow on Jan. 22nd. A two. (N.A. Stockholm 1605/25 to Adty.)

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys.

Damage to
Lifeboats.

Instances have occurred of ships' lifeboats being damaged or completely destroyed through being left turned-out in heavy weather. Masters should be allowed to exercise their discretion in regard to turning-in boats in heavy weather and Commodores of Convoys are to be informed accordingly. (D.T.D.1850/25.)

Weather
Damage to
Cargoes.

Cases have occurred of Merchant Ships in convoy and their cargoes having sustained heavy weather damage. The attention of Commodore should be drawn to the necessity of reducing speed or heaving-to in bad weather in order to assist those ships who, owing to the nature of their cargoes or inferior power, have difficulty in maintaining convoy speed, without incurring damage. (D.T.D.1854/25.)

Channel
Convoys.

The number of ships specially fitted for service in Channel convoys is strictly limited. No avoidable delay in the turn round of these ships can be accepted. In particular, fast ships should be included in slow FS or FN convoys where this will mean earlier arrival. (2046/25 to C in C's Nore, Rosyth.)

Coastal Convoys.
F.S.92.

F.S. Convoy 92 proceeded.
(LONDONDERRY 0700/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

E.N.62.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 62 sailing at 1030/26.

W.N.72.

After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail WESTON to join W N 75 due Duncansby Head 1300/28. Code Word for E N 62 Mission and W N 75 Material. (C. in C. Rosyth 0930/25 to WESTON.)

/O.B.278.....

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

- O.B.278. Londonderry departures 25/1.
SALADIN, SKATE, SARDONYX, MALLOW, NORTHERN
SPRAY, NORTHERN PRIDE, ST.ELSTON, ANEMONE
for O B 278.(Capt. D. Londonderry
0945/25.)
- F.N.91. Southend 25/1 departure for Methil for
onward routing to Clyde ~~N.O.B.V.~~
MALVERNIAN with convoy F.N.91.(N.C.S.O.
Thames, 1010/25.)
- F.S.95. If my 1240/24 not received proceed so
as to R.V. F.S.95 due Outer Dowsing
1200 today. S.O. of Escort, VANITY
(N.O.I.C. Humber, 1011/25. to PUFFIN.)
- F.N.90. Arrived. 1015/25.(N.C.S.O. Methil
1024/25.)
- F.S.95. 63 Ships.(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1118/25.)
- F.S.94. The 5 ships previously reported with
PUFFIN have not been seen. Commodore
and remaining ships are with me off
South Shipwash.(COTSWOLD 1130/25 to
WESTMINSTER.)
- 5 M.V.'s Request you will sail ELISABETH BAKKE
for E.N. JOHN BAKKE, TAURUS, TAI SHAN, and
Convoy. DICTO, to join next convenient E.N.
convoy for the Clyde.(D.O.D.(H)
1136/25 to A.C.O.S. (Became Convoy ^CK.P.,
see 27/1.)(p. 926)
- My 1136/25. As these ships are carry-
ing extremely valuable cargoes C. in
C. W. App. is requested to provide
additional escort from as far north
as possible. A.C.O.S. to inform C.
in C. W.A. in which convoy they will
be sailed.(D.T.D.2014/25. to C.in C.
W.A, A.C.O.S.).
- W.N.73. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1900/25 speed of
advance 8 knots.(SOUTHERN PRIDE,
1145/25.)

/F.N. and F.S.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.N. and
F.S.

Amend my 1132/23/1. to read:-

F N.	F S.
91.	- WIDGEON.
92.	96 SNAPDRAGON.
93.	- PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1208/25. to C. in C. Nore, etc.)

My 1208/25 for F N 92 and F S 96, Read PUFFIN instead of SNAPDRAGON. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1059/26.)

F.S.95.
SELKIRK.

Anticipate sailing SELKIRK in time to catch up with F.S.95 today. (F.O. Humber, 1229/25, to C. in C. Nore.)

SELKIRK leaves Humber 1300 on passage to Harwich and will join escort of F.S.95 if possible. (C. in C. Nore, 1240/25 to VANITY.)

Humber 25/1. Departure SELKIRK at 1500 to join F.S.95 thence Harwich. (F.O. Humber, 1521/25, to Admty etc.)

W.N.73.

Scapa, departures 0930 CURACOA and JASON to escort Convoy W.N.73. (A.C.O.S., 1235/25.) *See also next page*

F.S.92.

Convoy F.S.92 reported in Barrow Deep 6 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1247/25.)

F.N.91.

Sailed 1006/25. 46 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1317/25.)

W.N.76.

My 1045/25 not to Admiralty. Sailed H.M.Y. CORSAIR escorted by A/S Trawlers KING SOL and STELLA CAPELLA. Trawlers also for W.N.76. Rothesay Bay 2100/25. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1425/25, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/F.S.94.....

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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.S.94. Convoy F S 94 reported in Barrow Deep 17 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1552/25 to Admty.)

W.N.73A. E.T.A. Kinnaird 1900. CURACOA parts company at dark. Returns to Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1644/25.)

See previous page.

7.M.V.'s. Intend sailing 7 M/V's at 1700/26 escorted by H.M.Y. MAID MARION, E.T.A.(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1648/25.)

O.B.278. Londonderry Departure 25/1 NORTHERN DAWN for O.B.278. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1741/25.)

→F.N.91. 12 Ships one H.M.T. and six Trawlers from Humber, joining at 62 D buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1742/25.)

E.N.62. 1030/26. H.M.T'S INDIAN STAR (S.O.) FOXTROT additional escort WESTON, 29 ships (18 overseas) Code Words:- E.N.62. ~~MISSION~~, E.N.L. Portion ~~MISSION~~, E N O Portion ~~MISSION~~. *Think 2.* (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1839/25.)

OGM 51. ALSEY. Controlled minelaying trawler ALSEY sailed in convoy O G M 51. E.T.A. Fayal, Azores, (date) (N.O.I.C. Milford H., 1855/25. to Admty etc.)

See also p.855

→F.N.91. 12 Ships one H.M. Trawler and 6 Trawlers joining F N 91 at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/25 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUD, amended 0947/26.) *See also next page*

/W.N.75.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

- W.N.75. Sailed 1823/25. Escort H.M.Trawlers BERKSHIRE(S O) and ST. APOLLO. 17 ships. Ten with kites.(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1940/25.)
- F.S.92. Arrived except TOMSK.(N.C.S.O.Thames, 2010/25.)
- C.W.24. Intend to sail C.W. 24 from Southend on 29/1. Timetable with names of escorts and number of M/Vs will be signalled later. (C. in C. Nore, 2124/25. to Admty.)
- Three A/S Trawlers are to be sailed to arrive Southend before dark on 28/1 to form escort of C.W.24.Trawlers detailed should act as escort for FITZROY proceeding in tow of KENIA to Sheerness. Fighter protection will be asked for.(C. in C. Nore, 2130/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
- F.N.91. F.N.91 with 52 ships due number 5 Buoy 0200/26. (LONDONDERRY, 2218/25, to FLEETWOOD.) *See previous page*
- F.N.90.
F.S.95. Rosyth 25/1, Arrivals VALOROUS, VORTIGERN with F.N.90 - includes M.L.169 on passage to Fort William and SHOALFISHER on passage Tyne - Devonport via Oban, Departures, GARTH, for F.S.95 and Sheerness. (C. in C Rosyth, 2237/25.)
- W.N.76. Sailed A/S trawler FANDANGO for WN 76, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2335/25.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X. 103.

Meet. (C. in C.W.A., 1021/25 to WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, VEREENA.

/H.G.50.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

- H.G.50.
S.L.S.61. H.G.50 and S L S 61 THELMA (undamaged) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1205/25. to Admty.)
- O.G.51. If ready A/S trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in O.G.51.(R.V.) (C. in C.W.A. 1309/25. to Commodore, WESTERN ISLES.)
- H.G.50.
H.X.101. My 1207/25. FENDRIS only ship in H.G.50B for Bristol Channel dropped astern during night will be late at rendezvous. Keep sharp look out also for SAN CIRILO Ex H.X.101 bound for Barry Roads which should have joined Convoy today.(C. in C. W.A. 1607/25 to DEREY COUNTY.)
- O.G.50. O.G.50, 64 (as received.) hours early at Oll(?) West. 8 Ships present of which 5 part company at Cape St. Vincent. 2 others for Gibraltar lost touch and are believed to be 12 hours ahead. (DEPTFORD, 1806/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- O.G.M.51. 1855/25.HM.T. LEEDS UNITED. One Ship and H.M.T. ALSEY. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1900/25.) *See p. 553*
- O.G.51. Fayal for Sierra Leone H.M.T. ALSEY (45) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1900/25.)
- H.X.102. My 1245/25, Estimate convoy H.X.102, Approx. 20 ships will cross your track before midnight.(C. in C.W.A., 2159/25. to GARLAND, LEOPARD, repeated ABERDEEN, WITCH, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, PERIWINKLE, CAMPANULA, GARDENIA.

/PORT HUNTER.....

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys Contd.

PORT
HUNTER.

(British, 8826 Tons). Now expects to pass boom outward bound for Curacao at 2200/25. Route through Minches and thence as follows:- Request air protection. (N.O.S.O. Clyde 1215/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MILITARY *military*
CONVOYS *Convoys.*
W.S.6.

Your 2207/22. At the time of this commitment the only destroyers working up, other than Home Fleet and ~~HUNT~~ Hunt Class, will be NIZAM and LEGION. These will be available. KEPPEL will also be made available and DOUGLAS will have joined Western Approaches Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/25 to Adty.)

A/S. Escort.

Your 1437/25. In addition to ships named request you will detail two Hunts. (D.O.D.H. 1637/25. to C. in C. H.F.)

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

857

Unknown
Ship.

Following intercepted from unknown station at 1013 G.M.T. begins (jammed) ship breaks in two have save what can. Ends. Please keep sharp look out. (Wick Radio 1013/25.)

MORVEN HILL.

(Naval Control Service S/Drifter) Damaged whilst going alongside S/S BRITTANY COAST at 1730/24 in Methil Roads. No apparent damage to other vessel. Request A.S. Rosyth arrange survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1020/25.)

SPEY.

Ashore on Coquet Island. Amble C.G. report crew brought ashore by lifeboat. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1227/25.)

WIRTA.

My 1651/24. WIRTA is breaking in two and has been abandoned. Crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1256/25.)

M.T.B.30.
M.T.B.31.

M.T.B.31 and 30 in collision while leaving Harbour on 23/1. M.T.B.31 sustained damage to bow. M.T.B.30 damage to starboard side abreast bridge involving torpedo tube. No casualties. M.T.B.31 can be repaired here. Damage to M.T.B.30 is beyond capabilities of BEEHIVE. She is being made serviceable for passage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1603/25.)

BANDAR
SHAHPOUR.

BANDAR SHAHPOUR ex Convoy O B O 275 damaged in collision with KORFSJORD has put into Stornoway. No casualties. Requires docking and dockyard repairs. Able to proceed under own steam. Request instructions. KORFSJORD sunk. 19 survivors landed Stornoway, two lost. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1700/25.)

KORFSJORD
(Norwegian,
1620 tons)

War Diary

25. 1.1941
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French

French Submarines

French Admiralty via N.A. announce submarines AMPHITRITE, SIBYLLE, AMAZONE, escorted by a small surface vessel will pass Gibraltar eastbound 28/1 between 1000 and 1200 hours. (N.A. Madrid 1613/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at Casablanca

Reliable source states German representative Casablanca is now exerting his powers. He has forbidden further repairs to military plants and has stopped import of stone crushing machinery brought by SS MARSHAL LYAUTEY. This cargo is supposed to be re-exported to France when MARSHAL LYAUTEY returns from Dakar. Germans propose to take over control from Italian Armistice Commission. Telegram No 1686 (Consul General, Tangier, T.H.I., 1813/24)

North Atlantic

Cable Operation LEYLAND MIRROR

Gibraltar 25/1 0930 departure LEYLAND escorting cable ship MIRROR for operation off Tangier and Cadiz. (S.O.I., Gib., 0940/25 to Admty.)

Report of Ship from Casablanca to Bordeaux

Following is a repetition of my 1056/24 (no trace of previous receipt in W.R.) (begins) Admty. 819 from F.O.C.N.A., My 1822/18. Confirmed SS SAINTE LOTUSE ex German SS TRIFELS 1056/24 (ends) (F.O.C.N.A. 1138/25 to Admty.)

OTUS

Position of submarine at 0500/26 and movements for the following 24 hours OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/25)

Passage of German Air Personnel

Reported ship leaving Corunna today 25/1 for Canary Islands having on board 15 German Air Force personnel travelling with South American passports. Any ships from Corunna Vigo or Ferrol on or about this date which are encountered should be examined closely and if doubt exists sent to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1229/25)

/SCOTTISH.....

War Diary

25.1.1941
Saturday 859

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

SCOTTISH
ALOUETTE
MIRROR
LEYLAND
NORTHERN PRINCE

SCOTTISH on patrol off Lisbon onwards
ALOUETTE on patrol between Cape St. Mary's
and Cadiz. Cable ship MIRROR escorted
by LEYLAND is working cable in position
036° 18' N., 006° 25' W., NORTHERN PRINCE
escorted by one destroyer sails Westbound
2000/26. (F.O.C.N.A., 1446/25 to JERSEY,
JUPITER)

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A/S
patrols. 1 surface recco. West. Area
covered 4° 45' W., -10°W. (200 Group, 1700/25)

Azores

Until further orders paragraphs 5 and 6
of Admty 2146/30/10 (re possible attempt
by enemy to capture Azores) are to be
considered in abeyance. (D.O.D. (F) 1816/25
to F.O.C.N.P.)

Spain

Bi-weekly Report. German pressure for
passage to attack Gibraltar certain but
will be refused. Attempt to force
passage most improbable at present. (N.A.
Madrid, 1834/25)

ALSEY

Controlled minelaying trawler, left for
Fayal, Azores. (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven,
1855/25 - see Shipping & Convoys)

South Atlantic

HIGHLAND)
CHIEFTAIN)
ORMONDE)
EMPRESS OF)
AUSTRALIA)

My 1154/11. Re disposal of personnel.
(D. of S.T. 0221/25 Amended 0223/26 to
C. in C. S.A.) See Operations Vol. Page 35.

Troopships
dry docking.

Situation at Durban (N.O.I.C., Durban 0830Z/
25)

DELHI

Return to Freetown so as to sail 0730/28
(c. in C., S.A., 0939N/25 to DELHI)

/DORSETSHIRE...

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

→ DORSETSHIRE

Your 1123/23. (No trace W/R) After fuelling at St. Helena proceed to Freetown so as to arrive p.m./29 passing close to Ascension. (C. in C., S.A., 1045N/25 to DORSETSHIRE)

W.S. 5 B

Arrived a.m./25. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1257N/25) See Operation Volume.

Force K

25/1. Capetown departure and Simonstown arrival force K. C. in C., E.I., 1306/23? refers. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1403Z/25)

Raiders
"A" and "D"

Re C. in C., S.A's 1337N/23 and a plain language signal from Magistrate South Georgia reporting unknown ship at harbour mouth for which a cancellation was not received, I returned to Grytviken at maximum speed. Am proceeding again in accordance with my 1539Z/22.
N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles please repeat to Admty., C. in C., S.A.D. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1424/25)

1424/25 Passed to you (N.O.I.C., Port Stanley 1834Z/25)

COMMANDANT
DUBOC

Admty. 1217/22/12. Orders for. (D.O.D. (F) 1748/25) See Operations Volume. 25/1/41 - p. 36

BULLFINCH

Your 1202/23. Route and instructions. (D.A./S.W. 1815/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock,) See operations Volume. 25/1/41 - p. 35

Convoy W.S. 6

Your 1923/22. Re water supply. (D. of S.T. 1916/25 to C. in C., S.A.,) See Operations Volume.

→ DORSETSHIRE

Your 1045/25 acknowledged. Arrived St. Helena 1900Z/25 and commenced fuelling. Expect to pass close to Ascension 1700Z/27 and arrive Outer end of Freetown swept channel 1230 plus 1 29/1. (DORSETSHIRE, 2100Z/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Shipping.....

War Diary

25.1.1941
Saturday 861

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Shipping
movements

Southbound ships crossing 20° N., Approx noon positions 26/1 and Routes. (D.T.D., 1206/25 to S.A. Station)

DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
MENDOZA

My 1123/23 On arrival St. Helena DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Ascension meet MENDOZA there and provide cover until DRAGON can join. DRAGON is to complete with fuel and proceed to join DEVONSHIRE at Ascension when both ships are to escort MENDOZA to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1325/25 to DEVONSHIRE, DRAGON)

Enemy Unit

D.F.'s at 0317Z/25 suggest U-Boat or auxiliary within 80 miles of position either 006° S 013° W., or between Cape Blanco and Canary Islands. Reliability of position 45% and 35% respectively. (C. in C., S.A., 1343N/25 to S.A. Station)

Suspicious
Vessel
? Disguised
Submarine

British ship CLAN MACNAIR reports following 1200Z/1 in 051° 20' N., 027° 44' W., sighted seven miles strange small craft one funnel amidships two masts foremast taller than main mast. Appearance trawler steering 45 then attempting to close. Rain storm lasting ten minutes obscured strange craft which was not seen again. Master of opinion she was submarine disguised. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1502/25)

ISMAILA O.R. 277

Commodore Birnie and Commodore Illingworth in steamship ISMAILA from Clyde due Freetown (date) (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1644/25 to S.O.I. Freetown)

Dispositions

Weekly state at 1200/25 (C. in C., S.A., 1513Z/25)

NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE arrived Buenos Aires 1500 zone + 3 24/1. Intend depart 1430 zone + 3 25/1 and rendezvous with CUMBERLAND in position 35° S., 53° 30' W., at 1800Z/26 (NEWCASTLE, 1729/25 to C. in C., A.W.I., R.A.S.A.D. etc.,)

/START POINT....

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic-Contd

START POINT

No trace in W.D.
My 2150/12. START POINT has no charts of Freetown or Approaches. (D.T.D. 1732/25 to C. in C., S.A., N.C.S.O., Freetown)

VELOX
VIDETTE

Owing to difficulty of cleaning three boilers together at Bathurst, intend to defer boiler cleaning of VELOX and VIDETTE until arrival at Gibraltar. Anticipate VELOX and VIDETTE will sail for Gibraltar after fuelling at Bathurst about 5/2. My 1415/24 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 1901N/25)

Cable Ships

Your telegram W. 9 of 22/1 to secretary of state para 6 (b) Operation of cable ships is arranged by Admty., Similar proposals have already been forwarded to Admty in my 0825/16 repeated to Governor Nigeria. Brazzaville C 26 of 21/1, being passed to you and Admty, also refers. (C. in C., S.A., 2015N/25 to Waggon, Lagos)

Raider
Situation

I concur generally with the summary given in your 1951/4/1. Suggest raider D was the one north of Bermuda by D/F 21/12. Raider E it is possible was the one the D.F. bearings indicated on 19/11, 20/12 and 4/1 about positions 50° S., 28° W., 15° S., 13° W and 28° S 6° W., respectively else these positions might have been ~~VON~~ ADMIRAL SCHEER. (C. in C., S.A., 2331/25 to Admty.)

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Guns.

Your 2313/20, barrels and guns shipped in W.S. 6. My 2206/22 (not to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.5) refers. Outstanding items of gunmounting spares will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(D.A.S. 0655/25 to C. in C. Med).

DAINTY.
PROTECTOR.
JAGUAR.
REGENT.

Take PROTECTOR and JAGUAR under your orders and sail p.m./25 to proceed to approx. position 032° 30'N. 024° 00'E. at 1500/26, thence carry out an A/S sweep, to (? proceed out of) Kathera Channel thence Suda Bay. On arrival Suda Bay DAINITY and JAGUAR are to be at disposal of S.B.N.O. Suda Bay to reinforce (?other) patrols until further orders. REGENT expected time of arrival Alexandria sanctuary 0500/26 direct from position 053° 00'N. 024° 36'N. 024° 36'E. FIONA pass to S.N.O. Inshore Squadron. T.O.O. 0913/25.
(C. in C. Med, 0917/25 to DAINITY).

Genoa
Air Reccon.

Your 1217/23. (Air reconnaissance of Genoa required). This will be arranged by R.A.A. Mediterranean as soon as special aircraft is serviceable and weather is suitable.
(V.A. Malta 1015/25 to Admty).

Patrols.
Crete.

Standing Patrol in Kithera and Anti Kithera Channel has been established by Corvettes. One A/S Trawler R. Elaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek T.B. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay inform Mediterranean Fleet of date of relief. Orders for these Patrols are contained in Mediterranean 00211/5 of 21/1 in course of distribution. T.O.O. 1151/25.
(C. in C. Med 1153/25 to Med. Fleet).

/Air.....

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Report.

Summary No. 229 up to 1200 hours 25/1 1941. Egypt. Night 23/24 Jan. 2 Wellingtons dropped 5000 lbs of bombs on Maritza aerodrome Rhodes starting small fires.

Rhodes bombed.

Day 24/1. Following operations undertaken to prevent enemy air attack on special convoy during passage Malta to Alexandria. 5 Blenheims dropped 500 lbs. of bombs on Sidi Magrun landing ground damaging 2 aircraft. 8 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft on Soluch landing ground no damage reported. 8 Blenheims bombed Maraua landing ground. Hurricanes patrolled between Mechili and Martuba, enemy aircraft encountered, 1 Hurricane missing.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1216/25).

Protection of Convoy.

Operation "Inspection" ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS has arrived Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1351/25 to Admty).

Enemy Ship .

Aircraft report at 1110A/25 5000 ton laden motor ship escorted by auxiliary(ies) 037° 40', 011° 42' course 225° 15 knots. (V.A.(S) Malta 1433/25 to UPHOLDER).

ILLUSTRIOUS. SOUTHAMPTON. A/C attacks on 10/1.

Your 1531/25.
(A) Attacks on Mediterranean Fleet on 10/1 were made as follows:-
1223 T/B attack by 2 T/B aircraft on Battle Fleet.
1235 Upwards of 25 Ju. 87 and 88 made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS, Battle Fleet and Cruisers.
1330 H.L.B. attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS.
1600 - 1700 Upwards of 30 aircraft made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS and Battle Fleet.
1920. T/B attack on ILLUSTRIOUS off Grand Harbour.
The torpedoes dropped in the T/B attacks all missed and the H.L.B. attacks obtained no hits and did no damage. The D/B attacks obtained 6 hits on ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 on SOUTHAMPTON, 1 on GLOUCESTER (unexploded) and caused slight damage by near misses to WARSPITE and VALIANT.
The only attempt at synchronisation of T/B with D/B attacks appears to have been in the case of the first attacks.
Fighters did not intercept in first D/B attack as they were chasing T/B aircraft.

/To.....

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS.
SOUTHAMPTON.
A/C attacks
on 10/1.
(contd).

To this extent attempt at synchronisation if such was made, appears to have achieved considerable measure of success. Two confirmed casualties obtained in first D/B attacks with gunfire, but fire discipline reported not good. Importance of special fire distribution officer or rating at each close range weapon received further emphasis.

In second D/B attacks 6 confirmed JU.87 and 4 S.87 plus 1 and 4 respectively unconfirmed are claimed by Fulmars.

Further remarks (technical).

Fleet Order summarising all experience gained to date and including this change of principle will be issued shortly.

(D.T.S.D. 1659/25 to C. in C. H.F).

[See also DTSP. 1741/15 Feb., page 516A February.]

Malta Air
Report.

X.5525. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 25/1. All times G.M.T. At 1010 sighted M/V 5,000 tons escorted by fleet auxiliary position 37° 40'N. 11° 42' east, course 225° speed 15 knots appeared heavily laden. Naval authorities informed. 1005 to 1010 a Junkers 88 flew over Island at considerable height evidently on reconnaissance as no bombs dropped. Two Hurricanes up. No interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/25).

Italian European prisoners skilled in building and engineering trades may be required for employment in U.K. Such prisoners should not repeat not be transferred to India without reference to us.

(W.O. 1800/25 to C. in C. M.E.).

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

MEW.
Intelligence
Centre.
Bahrein.
Contraband.

Re. Adty 1701/6/10/40.
(1) Can information be given when M.E.W. Intelligence Centre Bahrein will be established (?) numerous reports of contraband received from Indian censorship (some details).
(C. in C.E.I 0500Z/25).

Convoy
B.N. 13.

Due Suez today. 39 ships with supplies for Middle East, total gross tonnage 200,000. Rear-Adm. Clegg Commodore.
(D.S. 508, 25/1).

ANTENOR
Convoy
B.N.F. one.

Cancel my 1306/22 ANTENOR is to proceed overtake B.N.F. one and reinforce escort as far as 055° E. and then return to Bombay for boiler cleaning.
(C. in C. E.I., 0709Z/25 to ANTENOR.).

Force V.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
SYDNEY.
COLOMBO.
PEARLEAF.
Search for
Raider.

(i) Ships are to search following area, speed being adjusted to cover as much as possible in daylight. It is estimated that each ship can reach its area by daylight 26/1.
(ii) CANBERRA in area enclosed by following points.
A. 004° 30'N. 063° 40'E.
B. 003° 10'N. 063° 10'E.
C. 001° 30'N. 067° 50'E.
D. 000° 40'N. 066° 50'E.
(iii) LEANDER in area enclosed by points C. and D. above and E. 002° 00'S. 069° 40' and F. 002° 10'S. 068° 20'.
(iv) SYDNEY within a radius 300 miles from Davis Point 004° 18' S. 061° 00' E. bounded by line of bearing 340° and 050° from Davis Point.
(v) COLOMBO is to patrol along a line between 001° S. 059° E. and 003° 30'S. 053° E. speed 14½ knots.
(vi) Oiler PEARLEAF will be in the vicinity 1½° Channel a.m./27.
(C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/25 to Force V).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies. (contd).

Enemy Unit.

Your 1852/25. Frequency 5315 kcs. No preamble heard. Text presumed 4 letter code groups last meteorological. Station only heard WLIX.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0721Z/25 to Admty).

R.N.V.R.
Kenya.
Tanganyika
Zanzibar.

(1) In order to obtain maximum efficiency in local Naval Defence operations in East Africa and Zanzibar, the Naval Volunteer Force in Kenya Tanganyika and Zanzibar, while maintaining their respective identities, are available to act in conjunction on any particular operation (such as mine clearance, coastal patrol) at my discretion.
(2) N.O.I/C East Africa and Zanzibar will direct these forces when taking combined action, and as my representative, is empowered to act for me in an emergency requiring immediate co-ordinate action in area. He will also act as adviser on minor Naval matters to Governor Kenya Tanganyika the British Resident Zanzibar.
(3) Colonial Office is in touch with above Authorities concerning means for removing any legal difficulties.
(C. in C. E.I. 0750/25 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini, R.O's Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika).

Ships for
B.N. Convoys.

Cancel my 0708/26/12. Ships for B.N. convoys should be sailed at best speed as and when ready.
(C. in C. E.I. 0724/25).

Convoy
B.S.137.

Sailing telegram 0600 G.M.T./25. Ships.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 0914/25).

Interception
of Japanese
Ships.

My 0612/25 (i) YAMAHUZI MARU passed Singapore 1700/25 bound for Bahrein. C. o.S. Singapore reports nothing known of GOSEIMARU.
(ii) Intend therefore that previous orders for intercepting GOSEIMARU should be taken as applying to YAMAHUZI MARU instead. Please inform censorship authorities.
(C. in C. E.I. 1002/25 to Admty).

/Port.....

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday. -

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

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Port Sudan.

Re use as transshipment post.
(C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/15)
See Operations Volume.

Convoy
U.S. 8.

Date vessels leave Suez in B.S. F.2.
etc.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/25 to S.B.N.O. Suez
Canal).
See Operations Volume.

Force K.

FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS will form Force K.
temporarily while on passage to Aden.
(D.O.D. (F) 1320/25 to C. in C'S).

Troop
Movement.

In view of N.B. Melbourne 2010/24 is it
possible to allocate any other ships for
the move referred to in S.S.T.O. India's
^{p685} 1317/20 which Admiralty inform me is an
urgent necessity. Fast ones are
specially desirable so that they may
if possible reach Durban by 10/2. Is
DOMINION MONARCH available?
(C. in C. E.I. 1420/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

CHRISTIAAN
HUYGENS

^{p.615} Your 2247/18 and S.S.T.O. India ^{p.680} 1317/20.
Can CHRISTIAN HUYGENS be used if she can
be got to Durban in time.
(C. in C. E.I. 1424Z/25 to D. of S.T).

W.S.5B.
release
of 2
Ships.

D. of S.T's 2247/18. Will NIEUW HOLLAND
be available and can you suggest any other
ship (ii) Admiralty attaches greatest import-
ance to release of ships for meat trade.
(C. in C. E.I. 1422Z/25 to N.O.I.C.
Simonstown).

Storage of
wheat at Bandar
Shapur.

Your 0626/15. Ask censorship to pass
this information to Legation at Teheran.
(D.E.W.D. 1445/25 to S.O.I. Bombay).

/S.S.KYRIAKI.....

25
26. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies Contd.

S.S. KYRIAKI
on fire.

(Greek) here with fire in bunkers.
Fire now out discharging bunkers and
coal cargo. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1554z/25.)

NYMPHE
EVOIKOS.

Greek ships NYMPHE and EVOIKOS due Aden
shortly for orders are to be sent to
Piraeus. (D.T.D. 1944/25 to N.C. S.O.
Aden.)

Mogadishu.

Proposed operation. ^{D.}(W. of P., 1946/25.
to C. in C. E.1.)

Whaless,
Renaming.

Your 1210/5/11. Proposed named approved.
(Head of P. Branch, 2054/25 to C. in
C. E.1.)

Operation
"B-reach".

So Force K. 2159Z/25. Sec Operations
Volume.

Flying Boat
Bases.

Mombasa, Durban, Ceylon etc. Plans,
(Air Ministry X.135, No.T.O.O./25/.
See Operations Volume.

PI
S.S. PINA. 2650.G.T.
^

China.

(Greek) Suspicious circumstances.
Meantime am holding ship at Hong Kong.
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0415Z/25 to D of
S.T.) See 28.1.41. Page 982.

KING
GEORGE.V.

America & West Indies.

Movements. (KING, GEORGE V. 0121/25.)
See Operations Volume.

KING GEORGE V. arrived Annapolis 1500/
24. Passengers landed satisfactorily.
Ship refuelled and fresh provisioned
and sailed 1,000/25. (N.A. Washington
1350/25.)

S/M sighted
19/1.

My 1055/23 S/M report should be
treated with reserve. Navy Department
consider reliability of source poor.
(N.A. Washington 1010/25.)

/Examination.....

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies Contd.

Examination
of mail from
Portuguese
and Spanish
ships.

Your 1651/2/12, and 2048/5/12. No Portuguese or Spanish ships have yet made calls at Bermuda. Request information whether these ships are likely to carry mails and be required to call. (C. in C. A.W.1, 1002/25 to Adty.)

Contraband
Control at
Bermuda.

My 1052/5. Situation regarding vessels of American Export Line arriving Bermuda from Lisbon is still most unsatisfactory. Proposal.

(ii) S.S. EXCAMBION which passed through Bermuda recently carried 15 passengers whose names did not appear on list approved by British passport control Lisbon. My 1532/18. Consul Lisbon had informed me by telegram of some of these, but his list was inaccurate and incomplete. Passive obstruction on part of ship's Officer in producing passengers for examination was experienced. As examination of passengers is at present exercised by Bermuda Government, full control is not in my hands, but would be glad of Adty's view as to whether detention of U.S. Ship for a short period as a lesson is considered desirable in the event of further obstruction. (C. in C. A.W.1. 1012/25.)

Reply: 1221/26/2.

Japanese
mediation
in Thai-
Indo-
China dispute.

Task Force, orders. (N.A. Washington 1011/25.) *Comment by N.I.D.*

The presence of this strong force at Camranh Bay, as well as providing an advanced base in the South, will ensure that Japan's settlement of the Thai - Indo China dispute is accepted without demur.

Diversion
of shipping.

Your 1640/23 and 1722/11/11/40. Can it be assumed that accurate lettered positions are to be given on all Ocean Routes reported, thus enabling authorities abroad as well as at home to divert any ship clear of some dangerous area. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1138/25.)

/WESTLAND.....

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America & West Indies Contd.

WESTLAND.

H X 106. My 1544/25. (advance sailing telegram). Dutch ship WESTLAND carrying one Lockheed and 3 Douglas Bombers. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1545/25, to Admty.)

Convoys
T.C.9.
H.X.106.

Your 1635/23, para. 3 and my 1511/10. More satisfactory employment of available capital ships will now result from the use of ROYAL SOVEREIGN for T.C.9. RAMILLIES would escort H.X.106. Intend to arrange accordingly. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1620/25. to Adty.)

COMORIN
ASCANIA.

Halifax departure 25/1. COMORIN for Bermuda, ASCANIA ocean escort? H X 105. (F.O.I. Halifax 1735/25 to Admty etc.)

PORPOISE
SURCOUF.

B.S.3. 1902/24, (ASCANIA and PORPOISE as Ocean Escorts for H.X. 105.) Is the return of PORPOISE to U.K. in accordance with Admiralty wishes? SURCOUF will probably be worked up and ready to sail about 20/2. PORPOISE is due to refit about mid April. My 1914/13/1 and para. 3 of my No. 116/SM0028 of 23/1. refer. (F.O.(S) 1941/25. to Admty.)

Halifax
Escort
Force &
Northern
Patrol.

R.A.3.B.S. 1953/25. See Operations Volume.

Dutch
Tankers.

New Zealand.
Your 0803Z/17, no objection as regards Area Eleven. Request consideration may be given to use of Dutch Tankers for oiling by Naval Units in cases of emergency., (N.2.N.B. 2202/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRIFELS.

Now S.S. SAINTE LOUISE (F.O.C.N.A. 1138/25.) See North Atlantic. ⁸⁷²

ADANA.

Completed discharging cargo at Genoa on 21/1. Ship was previously refuging at Cagliari, Sardinia, not known when she moved to Genoa. (D.S.509.)

ACHAIA.

At Trieste, reported to her owners at Bremen on 23/1, she had no engine-room defects, but was without engine - room personnel and urgently requiring an engineer and a cook. (D.S. 509.)

SULLBERG.

Completed docking at Cartagena on 21/1 and is now loading iron ore. (D.S.509.)

NORBURG.

Arrived Istanbul 24/1. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1221/25.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARCO POLO.

Stated by The Times Special Correspondent to be a burnt out wreck in harbour, ^{Zabruk.}
(Times 25/1. D.S.509.)

MAYA.

Departure in ballast for Batown^{um}. (Vice Consul, Varna, 1214/25.)

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

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MENDOZA.

See South Atlantic.

JEAN L. D.

My 1135/24. Ship was routed to keep at least 300 miles from coast. Master instructed to destroy ship if sighted and resist a boarding party. He considered lightly loaded ship difficult to scuttle and contemplated setting fire to ship. Not clear why no action taken possibly due to distance from coast coupled with dislike of these instructions. Ship took 400 Senegalese troops from Casablanca to Dakar and refused to take 600 Senegalese troops from Dakar to (Madagascar) as ship not suitably fitted for troops. Master pro De Gaulle. Gave following information:- Shipping. The bi-monthly sailing referred to started with VILLE-DE-VERDUN which sailed from Marseilles 18/11.

Ref. to French Ships trading between Dakar and Marseilles, which he declares have already delivered 30 cargoes of ground nuts at Marseilles, he is most definite that 60% are commandeered by German authorities. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1203.)

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.

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep for
ADMIRAL HIPPER

Photographs today showed the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER, ~~class~~ cruiser, still in dock at Brest and that the Dock was being flooded. KENYA and all available destroyers in Western Approaches and Portsmouth Command were ordered to raise steam and sweep towards Ushant, in the anticipation that ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight.

Two submarines were ordered to patrol off Cherbourg, and two west of Ushant, where TAKU is patrolling.

A Hudson with special equipment was despatched to patrol off Brest. Air attack on ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER at Brest was ordered for tonight but had to be cancelled on account of bad weather.

Sweep for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU
(See 25/1)

Air reconnaissance in Denmark Strait today was negative. Visibility was good.

British Air Activity

Offensive operations by Coastal Command aircraft last night were cancelled on account of bad weather. Routine patrols today were curtailed for the same reason.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
Shipping in
Thames Estuary

S.S. CATFORD
damaged by a
mine - B.R. 1337.

Convoy F.N.392 was repeatedly attacked this afternoon in the Thames Estuary. SS BELGIA was set on fire and abandoned, and drifted ashore at Frinton. Convoy F.S.395 was also attacked several times and SS CATFORD was damaged. A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY was also bombed, in the Walleet. During these attacks at least two enemy aircraft were shot down, several ships probably participating in their destruction.

/SS MERIONES...

875

26.1.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS MERIONES, ashore on Haisboro Sands was attacked again today. One of the trawlers acting as guard, GALVANI hit the attacking aircraft, which crashed subsequently at Horsey.

Mining

Bad weather caused minelaying operations by Coastal Command to be cancelled last night.

SS BEEMSTERDYK was mined this morning 12 miles west of the Smalls.

M/S Trawler BERVIE BRAES was slightly damaged by the detonation of a mine off Falmouth.

Several mines were exploded today off Spurn Point. Mines were also detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

Mediterranean

Tobruk

A channel has been swept into the harbour which is now open to sea traffic. The army are proceeding with the installation of A.A. and Coast defences, ^ The SAN GIORGIO is completely gutted. There are a number of sunken vessels in the harbour and considerable damage has been done to the quay and cranes. The internal communications are efficient.

MOST SECRETWar Diary26.1.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEast IndiesSS SONTAY
Intercepted

Force T intercepted Vichy French SS SONTAY this afternoon in the southern Indian Ocean and put an armed guard from ENTERPRISE on board. The SONTAY carries troops as well as cargo and sails for Dakar and France. S.O. Force T is escorting her towards Durban for the present.

Operation
"Breach"

S.O. Force K in FORMIDABLE with HAWKINS left Simonstown early this morning.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom."Deluge".
DELUGE.At 1130/26. (D.C. 1158/26).
At 2330/26. (D.C. 2345/26).Exercise
"Victor".Following particulars to reach Admty by 31/1
Meeting will be held at Admty. 1115/7/2.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1616/26).Movements.KELLY,
KASHMIR.Arrived Plymouth 1110/25.
(C.in C. W.A. 0031/26).BOREAS.Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore 0913/26).ULSTER
MONARCH.Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/26).Western
Patrol.MARSDALE take R.3 - S.3. MANISTEE take
R.2. - S.2.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/26).J.3968.
(PRINCE OF WALES)Am sailing MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL,
COTTESMORE p.m./26 and NIGERIA a.m./27 to
Liverpool for J.3968.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F.)Intend sailing J.3968 for Rosyth escorted
by NIGERIA, MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL and
COTTESMORE 1200/28. Speed of advance 15
knots approx. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30.
Gun trial Liverpool Bay 1400 to 1800/28,
North Minch onwards 1400 to 1800/29,
between Aberdeen and May Island 0900 to
1200/30.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1516/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)J. 3966. (contd.)

Request fighter escort (a) 1 Battleship
1 Cruiser 4 Destroyers (b) 0900/28 to
1530/30. (c) escort (d) Leaves Princes stage
0900/28. Bar L.V. 1200/28 thence 288° to
004° W. speed 9 knots. Thence to Rosyth.
Route.

(F.O. Liverpool 1615/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1043/22. C.in C. W.A.
is requested to provide A/S escort as far
as vicinity of Scapa.

2. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide such
surface ship escort as may be available
throughout the passage.

3. A/S escort for onward passage should,
in the absence of orders from C.in C. H.F.
be detailed by R.A.(D) using such destroyers
as may be available.

4. R.A.(D) is requested to arrange necessary
R/V for relief A/S escort.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1614/26).

433. Admiralty 1614/26. A/S escort to
vicinity of Scapa. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK,
HESPERUS from Liverpool. JACKAL to R/V
from Londonderry as arranged by F.O.I.C.
Liverpool.

(2) HIGHLANDER is available for onward
escort and is to proceed to Tyne on
completion.

(3) HAVELOCK, HESPERUS refuel at Scapa and
meet B.H.X.104.

(4) JACKAL proceed to Clyde from Scapa
R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1847/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)J. 3968 (contd.)

Destroyers under your orders return to harbour.
(S.O. Destroyers 2022/26 to MAORI).

Admiralty 1614/26. para.2. Intend sailing CURACOA to R/V J.3968 noon 28th and NIGERIA to relieve CURACOA daylight 29th by which time NIGERIA's defects will be completed. My 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F. is cancelled.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2312/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

558. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22 and 1614/24 Admiralty 1614/26 attached. CURACOA proceed passing Switha 0600/27 to R/V with J.3968 at noon 28/1 off Bar Light Vessel.

2. Provide escort until relieved by NIGERIA.
(R.A.D. 2335/26 to CURACOA).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1436/26).

WOLFE, CIRCASSIA.

Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1540/26).

5th M/L.F.

My 1746/24. Request sailing of 5th M.L.F. may be delayed until M.L.140, now completing is in service. M.L.140 should be ready on 3rd February.
(R.A.C.F. 1614/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep
for
SCHARNHORST
and
GNESENAU.

Scapa departures 0030/26. C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with RODNEY, REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, PHOEBE, NAIAD, AURORA, ARETHUSA, GALATEA, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, MATABELE, PICRUN, TARTAR, KEPPEL, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECHO, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE. (A.C.C.S. 0117/26).

Sweep
for
ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

Raise steam with all available destroyers and KENYA. (D.O.D.(H) 2102/26 to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Portsmouth).

^{ADMIRAL}
Anticipated HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight making to eastward. Proceed with destroyers to position 270 Casquets 11, and carry out a sweep towards Ushant to intercept, timing your arrival off Plymouth, 1030/27. Fighter protection will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A. 2231/26 to C.S.10).

Establish following Patrols.
(F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA, L.27).
See Submarines.

One Hudson with special equipment to patrol off Brest.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26).
See British Air Activity.

Submarines.

WILK.
UNDAUNTED,
SEALION.

Following S/M movements taking place today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0314/26).

THUNDERBOLT
OLYMPUS.

Estimated position 0800/26.
(Capt: S.2. 0813/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. (Contd.)SEALION.Sailed for exercise and patrol.
(S.6. 0900/26).UNDAUNTED.Sailed from Dundee 1030/26 for Methil.
(S.9. 1129/26).TAKU.My 1036. TAKU is to proceed to North
Western part of her patrol Zone now.
(F.O.S. 1221/26 to S/M's Area B).TORBAY.Arrival Clyde escorted by WHITEBEAR.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/26).PANDORA.Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL will R/V
with you at 0900/27 180° St. Catherines
5 miles.
(5 S. 1455/26 to PANDORA).*Amended 27/1. See p 915*L.27.S.5's 1855/25. Sailed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/26).Positions.At 0800/27 and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1534/26 and 1737/26).SEALION
INTREPID.Arrived Blyth. Trial unsatisfactory
in spite of INTREPID being fitted 10 K/C
oscillator. Maximum range obtainable
3 miles medium weather conditions. Not
considered further trials useful in view
of limited time available due to light
conditions. Request instructions for
INTREPID and SEALION.
(S.6. 1540/26 to Admtty).*See also next page*

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. (Contd.)SEALION.

Cancel my 1011/22 and my 1333/19. Intend sailing SEALION at 0900/27 routed gap A and positions 56° 56' N., 00° 12' W., 61° 05' N., 02° 04' E. For patrol off Stadtlandet unescorted on the surface to Gap A thence diving by day. (S.6. 1801/26).

Total
Bombing
Restrictions.

Ops. 125 26/1. Institute total S.B.R. area 24 from 0400/27 to 1200/27. Clyde Sanctuary from 1800/27 to 0800/28. Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0800/27 to 1200/27. Dartmouth Sanctuary from 0900 to 1700 daily from 27th to 31st inclusive. Forth Sanctuary from 1100 to 1600 daily from Monday to Friday each week until further notice commencing 27/1. (H.Q.C.C. 1605/26).

PANDORA
L.27.

ADMIRAL

A. There is a possibility ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~Cruiser~~ (Cruiser) may leave Brest today Sunday and proceed up Channel keeping close to French Coast.

B. Establish patrols as follows. PANDORA within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 48' W. L.27 within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 14' W.

C. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as being hostile. (F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA L.27).

THUNDERBOLT,
OLYMPUS,
TAKU.

ADMIRAL

A HIPPER ~~Cruiser~~ (Cruiser) may leave Brest tonight Sunday. THUNDERBOLT establish patrol in vicinity 48° 05' N., 05° 45' W. OLYMPUS establish patrol in vicinity 48° 30' N., 06° 50' W.

TAKU is patrolling vicinity 47° 40' N., 06° 50' W. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as hostile. (F.O.S. 2204/26 to THUNDERBOLT, OLYMPUS.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Shooting
down of
own
Aircraft.

Your 1850/17. Air Ministry report 1435/24 that aircraft in question (a) had under carriage down (b) fired correct recognition signal after which A.A. fire was continued. Request you further investigate and report. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0014/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 1435/24. Understand date should read 17 Jan.

2. Following received from C.in C. Nore 17/1/41. Begins. N.O.I.C. Lowestoft reports at 1130 during alert, when military had been warned enemy aircraft approaching, single Wellington A/C flew at about 600 feet over centre of town from W. to E. Military opened fire, A/C turned North close to ships berths. Ships opened fire. Ends.

3. C.in C. Nore has been asked further to investigate in light of your message.

4. Report will be forwarded. Meanwhile request attention of all pilots concerned and Officer responsible for routing aircraft may be directed to S.D.158 (1) Section 34 articles I and II. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0015/26 to Air Ministry).

Patrols.

Following additional patrols ordered today. Times to take off.
HORNLI 1030, BERT 0645, TROST 0845,
STAB, 0855, UNST 0900.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0338/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

"Hornli"

Patrol ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled for today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0934/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Search
for
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

3

This afternoon two ~~Battle~~ aircraft will fly up Denmark Straits from Staalberghuk Light to Itraumnes Light keeping within sight of land and thence to position 067° 10'N., 023° 10'W. subsequently returning to Kaldadarnes. (F.O.Iceland, 1141/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

514. Cipher 26/1. Your 98711 (M.O.8)
25/1. Battles patrolling Denmark
Straits today as requested.
(G.O.C. Iceland 1331/26 to War Office).

O.516/26. My O.514/26. Denmark
Straits between general limit 67° (?North)
and 65° 20' (?North) and Iceland and 25°
30' W. patrolled 26th between 1305 and 1405
and 1455 and 1730 hours B.S.T. Nothing
significant seen. View beyond 50 miles
from coast restricted by fog but
visibility (?North) and East excellent.
(G.O.C. Iceland 2015/26 to War Office).

Patrol
off Brest
(ADMIRAL HIPPER).

One Hudson with special equipment to carry
out a patrol outside Brest in case ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER
is being sent out from there tonight.
This aircraft to leave patrol area at
day. Beauforts to inform Hudson by W/T
if ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER has left the dock when they
arrive. Flares to be carried and dropped
by Beauforts.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

Lorient.

AP/793. 26/1. Available aircraft
of No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight
U/Boats in Naval Dockyard at Lorient.
Alternative target Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1143/26 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

→ Brest.

ADMIRAL

All available A/C of 217 Squadron to attack
HIPPER-~~class~~ (Cruiser) at Brest tonight
with Magnums tonight as soon as weather
conditions permit.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

FURIOUS.

Admty's 1226/23 and my 1828/24. Please
explain delays consequent on loading at
Tail O' the Bank which are inevitable due
to peculiarities of ship. Arrangements
at Gladstone Dock Liverpool were
admirable.
(FURIOUS 1431/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)812.
Squadron.

All available A/C of 812 Squadron are to load up with torpedoes forthwith. They will probably be required at dawn 27/1. Further orders will be sent later.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2215/26 to N. Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.STAD
ARNHEM.
(Bombed
25/1).

Your 1651/25. No trace of survivors. Have insufficient fuel to remain until daylight, must abandon search at 0200 today. SALVONIA not met.
(SKEENA 0145/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MERIDONES.

Departure at 0625/26 KROOMAN to ~~MERIDONES~~ after coaling.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0710/26).

MOSTYN.

Proceed to stand by SALVONIA endeavouring to locate and tow S.S. MOSTYN bombed and abandoned in 054° 30' N., 014° 52' W. SALVONIA reported in 054° 22' N., 015° 20' W at 1400/25 probably searching further to westward.
(C.in C. W.A. 0839/26 to ARABIS).

SALVONIA abandoning search for MOSTYN at dark today and returning to harbour. Endeavour to locate SALVONIA and return to harbour in company.
(C.in C. W.A. 1535/26 to ARABIS).

Brest.

W/T detection suggests special German Naval aircraft reconnaissance from Brest today. This may be connected with a movement in that area.
(F.O.S. 1036/26 to S/M's, area B).

MOST SECRET.26.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Use of
British
Markings.

It has been recently reported that a Folke Wolf Condor aircraft engaged in attacking merchant shipping in N.W. Approaches was carrying British markings. (D.D.I.C. 1147/26).

2 Aircraft
over
Scapa Flow.

Two enemy aircraft were plotted over the Flow at 1245/26 and at 1420. On first occasion fire was opened by unseen (?Fleet spotting aircraft). Weather conditions low cloud and snow. It is possible on second occasion aircraft saw into the Flow.
(A.C.O.S. 1521/26 to Admty).

Convoy
F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing F.S.Convoy in 51° N., 1° 25'E. Course 228 speed 8 knots. (FLEETWOOD 1520/26).

Convoy
F.N.92.

One enemy aircraft position 51° 8'N., 1° 31'E. 3 bombs no hits. (WESTMINSTER 1520/26). *See also next page*

My 1515 2 bombs no hits.
(GARTH 1535/26).

Convoy
F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy in 51° N., 1° E.
(WALLACE 1553/26).

3 bombs. 1 JU 88 shot down flames. One unidentified aircraft shot down.
(WALLACE 1601/26).

My 1601. No hit on convoy. JU.88 crashed by B five buoy, wreckage and note book(s) only recovered. Second plane forced landing on East of Barrow probably M.E.110. One body and one prisoner recovered.
(WALLACE 1705/26 to C.in C. Nore).

See also next page

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy
F.N.92.Even numbered F.S.Convoy (^{"Agent"}~~AGENT~~) being repeatedly attacked by single aircraft in 51° 56'N., 1° 41'E. (WESTMINSTER 1625/26).PECKENHAM.

(British, 4636 Tons). Gunned in 61° 30'N., 21° 19'W. (Lyness W/T. 2046/26).

WOOLER.

(British 507 Tons) Reported set on fire and considerably damaged by H.E. bomb during air raid on Victoria Wharf, Plymouth not London as previously reported. (B.M.S.E. 285/27/1.)

A/Cs
shot down.
Attacks on
FISHER BOY
and Convoy
F.S.95.

At 1656 today F.O.I.C. Harwich reported that A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY, after being bombed at 1600 in the Wallet (no damage) believed she hit the enemy, whose pilot bailed out and was rescued by her.

Shortly afterwards at 1619 the A.P. Drifter REIDS reported having shot down an A/C near B.5 Buoy, and having recovered wreckage. At 1601 WALLACE with F.S.95 reported enemy A/C bombing. At 1705 reported no hits in this attack, and that a J.U. 88 had crashed near B.5 buoy wreckage and a note book recovered. She also reports a second A/C made forced landing on East Barrow probably M.E. 110 one body and one injured prisoner being recovered by her.

It appears likely that the above reports refer to the same two aircraft and that two have definitely been brought down. Also an unconfirmed report from S.S. GRANGETOFT that she brought down another near B.2 buoy will be investigated in the morning.

(C.in C. Nore 1949/26). Reply P. 918. (Damaged by B.R. 4327.)

MOST SECRET.26.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.BEEEMSTERDYK.Explosion 12 miles 290° . Smalls S.O.S.
(Lands End 0927/26).Still floating approx. 12 miles of Smalls
bearing 290° . Sinking slowly.
(BEEEMSTERDYK 0930/26).Rescue tug GOLIATH sailed to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/26).Have to abandon ship.
(BEEEMSTERDYK 1239/26).Liverpool.At 1000 today three heavy underwater
explosions felt disturbed water in
position approx. 180° from Bar Light 11
Cables. Sighted by Officer of Watch at
third explosion.
(CROCUS 1030/26).Your T.O.7569/40 and my 1845/25.
Mine detonated by RUNSWICK BAY at 1000/25.
Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/26).Thames
Estuary.Red mine detonated 272° No.2. Sea Reach
Buoy 4 cables, at 0930/26.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 1032/26).A/C Minelaying.For tonight.
(H.Q.C.C. 1145/26).Falmouth.
BERVIE BRAES
damaged.S.A. gear type A detonated mine at 0925/26
in 50° 7' 53" N., 5° 1' 45" W. Only
slight damage to vessel.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1455/26).

WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Mining
Operation.

Admiralty 1032/16 and 1411/11.

1. Trials by INTREPID and SEALION not successful.
2. In view of importance attached to carrying out operation it is intended to dispense with assistance of SEALION, the decision to lay or not being left to discretion of Commander D.20.
3. When ready IMPULSIVE now at Immingham is to sail to R/V with INTREPID off Blyth, both ships proceeding in company to Scapa.
4. Commander D.20 report E.T.A. Scapa to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1757/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Spurn
Point.

Six mines exploded today by sweepers as follows. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 1240 in 219° Spurn Point lighthouse 0.5 miles and at 1335 in position 244° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.7 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1849/26).

Enemy Intelligence.Brest
ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

My 1129/26. Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance of Brest show ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER in dock at noon today.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/26 and 1816/26).

There are W/T indications of enemy air reconnaissance in the Brest area p.m. today 26th Jan.

Air reconnaissance shows ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER in dock at noon today. Dock was being flooded.
(D.D.I.C. 2052/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Unknown
Unit
off
Bergen.

By D/F at 1606/26 unknown enemy unit probably destroyer or larger vessel, was in the vicinity of Bergen. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1659/26).

M/V Off
Haugesund.

Aircraft reports M/V about 8000 tons near Haugesund steering 170° 10 knots at 1300.
(F.O.S. 1841/26).

TORDENSKJOLD.

My 2002/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through Great Belt Southward in tow on 22/1. Graded A.2.
(D.D.I.C. 2158/26).

MOST SECRET.26.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

W.N.73.

Arrived 0915/26.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0940/26).Coastal
Convoys.7 ships
sailing
for
Dartmouth.Your 1648/25 addressed C.in C. W.A.
these ships cannot be received at
Dartmouth until 28/1.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0952/26).F.N.89.
F.N.90.F.N.89 Tyne ships arrived except Tynemouth.
F.N.90 arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0953/26).E.N.63.
W.N.76.Act as additional A/A escort to
E.N.63 sailing at 0400/28. on meeting
transfer to W.N.76 due Cape Wrath 0130/29
and Duncansby 1230/29. Code word for
E.N.63 "Usage" and for W.N.76 "Metric".
(C.in C. Rosyth 1000/26 to JASON).O.B.C.
279.(A) 1930/28.
(B) ARROW, OURAGON, HEATSEASE, HOLLYHOCK.
(C) 30.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1031/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.N.72.

Scapa. Departure 1015 CURACOA and
HASTINGS for escort of convoy W.N.72.
(A.C.O.S. 1131/26).

F.N.92.

Southend 26/1, departures for Harwich
with Convoy F.N.92 H.M.T. KINGSTON
OLIVINE, AGATE, LORD PLENDER.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1138/26).

F.S.95.

Reported in Barrow Deep. 42 Ships for
London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1155/26).

26. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

7 m/vs.
sailing
for
Dartmouth
escorted
by MAID
MARION.

Cancel my 1648/25. Dartmouth unable to accept ships until 28/1. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1202/26.)

O.B.280.

Sail CRISPIN with O B 280. (C in C.W.A. 1205/26. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

5. M.V.'s
for
E.N.62.

Your 1136/25 2014/25 not to R.A.D. These ships cannot be prepared in time to join EN 62 tomorrow, but could be ready by the 29th. Intend to sail them with next fast convoy expected 31st. As they are large ships of good speed and unaccustomed to British convoys they could be sailed as separate convoy. This course is recommended if escorts can be provided. No suitable trawlers are available at Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1211/26 to Adty.)

O.B.279.

0100/29/1. unescorted. One. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1220/26.)

E.N.62.

1030/26, H.M.T. INDIAN STAR, Additional escort WESTON. 21 ships. 11 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1223/26.)

F.N.92.

1030/26. 25 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1226/26.)

3.M.V.'s.

3 M/Vs. and 2 A/S Trawlers Needles to Dartmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1437/26.)

F.N.92. Southend. Ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1447/26.)

→ F.S.96.

Sailed 1400/26. 19 ships. No ships with Kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1545/26.)

F.S.91.

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1554/26.)

O.E.51.

Sailed WESTCOTT and VOLUNTEER escorting O.E.51. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600/26.)

→ F.S.96.

One ship and one H.M.T. from Humber joining at 62D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1704/26.)

/F.S.96.....

26. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

→ F.S. 96.	Ships. (F.O.i/c.) (Tyne 1711/26.)
W.N. 74.	Passing Rattray Head 2000 speed of advance, 8 knots. (G. & Escort. 1715/26.)
F.S. 95.	Any ships which cannot enter tonight are to anchor to eastwards of Nore light vessel. (C. in C. Nore 1717/26. to WALLACE, E.D.O.)
W.N. 75. (O)	Sailed 1600/26, escort NOTTS COUNTY. Four ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1730/26.)
F.N. 87, 88, 89, 90.	Humber ships arrived except MARLWOOD and MERIONES. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1556/26.)
F.N. 91.	Ships & Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1610/26.)
→ F.N. 92.	5 Ships from Humber joining at 62D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1701/26.)
F.N. 91.	Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1712/26.)
F.S. 94.	Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1719/26.)
→ F.S. 96.	Ships which sailed. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1728/26.)
→ F.N. 92.	Further ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1746/26.)
E.N. 61.	Arrived less LACKENBY. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1752/26.)
F.N. 90.	Non arrivals, LA PAMPA, SUSAN MAERSK. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1754/26.)

/M.V.'s for...

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

M.V.'s for
Various
ports.

Your 1718/25. Arrived less MARI not yet reported. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1754/26. to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth.)

→ F.S.96.

For F.S. Convoy 96. 29 from Tyne 7 from Sunderland one from Blyth 5 from Middlesborough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1910/26. to WOOLSTON, VIVIEN.)

6 M.V.'s

Your 1527/26, sailing at 1630/27. 5 M/VS for Hartland Gap. 1 M/V for Falmouth. Escorts KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2223/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

→ F.S.96.

1½ hours late 20 C Buoy. (WOOLSTON 2240/26.)

F.N.92.

5 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/26 to WESTMINSTER, COTSWOLD.)

→ F.S.96.

One ship and one H.M. Trawler from Humber joining at 62D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2251/26 to WOOLSTON, VIVIEN.)

→ F.S.96.

One corvette in addition to H.M.S. PUFFIN is to be sailed to rendezvous with F.S.96 off Outer Dowsing at 1800/27. Report name of corvette detailed. (C. in C. Nore 2334/26 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

/Ocean Convoys.....

MOST SECRET.26. 1. 41.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Ocean Convoys.O.G.M. 51.
ALSEY.Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Instruct H.M.S. ALSEY in Convoy O.G.M. 51 to proceed direct to Belfast and embark telegraphist then rejoin convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 0025/26 to LEEDS UNITED.)

H.M.T. ALSEY sailed from Milford Haven bound for Freetown without a Telegraphist. Reference my 0025/26 to LEEDS UNITED, request you will detail a Telegraphist to join ALSEY and also route her to rejoin O.G.51. (C. in C. W.A., 0043/26 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

O.G.51.

Sailed LEITH and CANDYTUFT escorting O.G. 51. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/26. to C. in C. W.A.)

O.G.C.51.

→ O.G.O.51.

Sailed BLUEBELL and TULIP escorts for O.G.C.51 and O.G.O. 51 respectively (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1145/26.)

H.X.106.

My 1524/25 (1544/25 intended) add following ships. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1159/26.)

O.G.51.

Sailed 1230/26. 3 ships 7½ knots 1 ship with kite. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1325/26.)

→ O.G.O.51.

0530/27/1. Escort TULIP. 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1558/26.)

H.G.50 and
S.L.S.61.

Add following ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban 1602/16.)(?1602/26.)

O.B.277.

Corvettes leave O.B.277 in time to meet H.X.103, as in my 1449/24. Destroyers leave in time to meet before dark 27/1. It is anticipated that H.X.103 will be late at R.V. (C. in C. W.A. 1657/26 to WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN.

H.X.103.

/H.X.103.....

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys Contd.

H.X.103. H.X.103 36 hours late. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1900Z/26.)

S.L.S.62.
H.G.51. Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty begins:-
(1) Combined S.L.S. 62 - H.G. 51. Ships, cargoes, destinations. (D.T.D. 1950/26.)

H.G.52. Sailing destinations. (D.T.D.1951/26.)

S.L.52. S.L.62. meet . SALADIN. SARDONYX, SKATE. MALLOW. ANEMONE. KINGCUP. (C. in C. W.A. 1957/26.)

H.X.105.
escort. A.C.N.S.(H) 2316/26. See Operations Volume.

O.G.51. 2235/26, Not known, 4 Ships,(1 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2330/26.)

MILITARY CONVOYS.
ORONTES.

Destroyers are to remain with ORONTES to (? considered) limit of endurance returning to Greenock independently if necessary and reporting position when well clear. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/26.)

S.S. GEORGIC.

S.S. GEORGIC with service personnel for Bermuda speed 18 knots is to sail with special convoy as in my 1655/22. 2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange position from which GEORGIC is to proceed independently and onward route. (D.O.D.(H) 1452/26.)

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NORMAN.

(Tug) Ashore Scroby Yarmouth.
(Portishead Radio 0126/26.)

Sailed. Returning to MERIONES after coaling at 0142. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0204/26.)

Ashore on South Scroby Sand. Assistance being sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0311/26.)

Reports leaking. Unable to proceed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0515/26.) Entering harbour at daylight under own steam. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0710/26. to Adty.)

STOKE CITY.
(A/S Trawler).

Has proceeded to Aberdeen with defects. (C. in C. Rosyth 0127/26.)

T.L.C.3.

Needs repairs to starboard degaussing cable and repairs probably of a minor nature to engine. (C.O. T.L.C.3. 0157/26.)

RUBENS.

(A/S Trawler) Arrived with compass coil defect which will prevent her sailing in O.G.51. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1305/26.)

SOUTHSEA.

WATERMEYER proceeded to assist Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA, broken down off 20 D buoy, back to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1537/26.)

CATFORD.

Reported aground Oaze Bank. Investigate and report if assistance required. (C. in C. Nore 1637/26 to WALLACE.)
See P. 874 + 917.

GREYFRIARS.

M/S -
Intend sailing A/S Trawler CELIA as escort to S.S. GREYFRIARS in tow of tug for Tyne leaving Spurn 1100/28, thence to Methil for onward routing to Tobermory. (F.O. Humber 1908/26.)

/MACGREGOR.....

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

898

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MACGREGOR
LAIRD.

(British, 4,992 Tons) 051. 13' N,
025° 01' W. Engines disabled, impossible
to effect repairs. Require assistance
towage. (?MAPJ. 1915/26. to Admiral
Devonport.)

Proceed to assist. Escort is pro-
ceeding to this position and will re-
main with you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
2310/26. to RESTIVE, ASSURANCE.)

SELENE.
(R.A.F. Rescue
Boat.)

Grounded whilst entering Ramsey Harbour
in S.E. gale, 25/1. N.O.I.C. Isle of
Man now reports boat considered total
loss. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
2206/26.)

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipping.

Greek
requisitioned
ships.
Reporting.

For N.C.S.O's. Arrivals and Departures of Greek requisitioned ships bound for Greece to be reported to B.N.A. Athens. Masters are to be informed that Greek Government directs them not to wire directly to give ships position even to owners. The importance of maintaining W/T silence is again to be stressed.
(D.T.D. 1346/26 to C.in C. Med., E.I., S.A., A.C.N.E).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Bringing
in of
French
Merchant
Ships.

My 1903/17. Cancel para. (2) and substitute: (2) If the French warship request or demand release of ships, action is to be taken as at (1) above. If the French warship attack without any demand for release of ships being made, attack should be resisted, action being broken off as required if opposing force is clearly superior. (3) If in any doubt or reinforcements are in the near neighbourhood, a report is to be made to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty but if no other instructions are received within a reasonable period, action is to be taken as in (1). The intention is to avoid having to engage French warships, the idea being that if British force is overwhelming French will not start action.
(C.in C. S.A. 2115N/26 to S.A.Station 147G).

North Atlantic.MARON,
CAMITO,
Completion
dates.

Ref: MARON 1630/23. Defects will be completed 3/2 approx.
Ref: F.O.C.N.A. 1032/19. Date of completion of CAMITO is still under consideration but ship will not in any case be available before mid February.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1116/26) .

Submarines.

Position of S/M at 0800/27. OTUS on patrol Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132/26).

ARK
ROYAL.

Your 0126/14. Repairs completed.
(F.O.(H) 1240/26 to Admty)

DUNEDIN.

Re GERANIUM and JONQUIL. Rendezvousing.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/26) See Operations Volume.

Spain.

Bi-weekly report. (N.A.Madrid 1835/26 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Operation
"Breach".Simonstown departure 0300/26 Force "K"
for "Breach" in accordance with Admty.
1320/19 and your 1232/21 para 2. Speed of
Advance 18 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0330Z/26 to C.in C.
East Indies.)MONARCH
OF BERMUDA,
CAPETOWN
CASTLE.My 1257/25. Arrival 0738/26. FAULKNER
and FORESTER escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA
and CAPETOWN CASTLE.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0945N/26).NEWTON
ASH,
INNESMOOR,
WANDERER.Southbound ships crossing 20° North.
Approx. noon position 27/1 and routes.
(D.T.D. 1134/26 to S.A.Station).S.S.
GOVERNOR.Tug ATLAS left Lagos 24/1 to go to your
assistance. Report at 1800 G.M.T./28
your position at that time.
(C.in C. S.A. 1330/26 to GOVERNOR).SOBIESKI,
KENYA.Departures 1500/26 DUNEDIN for Gibraltar
escorting SOBIESKI and KENYA. Local
escorts VELOX and VIDELETTE until 30/1
afterwards fuelling Bathurst.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1641N/26).SARPEDON
BATORY.Left 26/1 for Liverpool and Clyde
respectively. Routes.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 2055/26).

MOST SECRET.26.1.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Cables,
Coast of
Libya.

W.O.0800/26 to C.in C. M.E.

Air
Operations.

My A.855 25/1. Day 25/1. 7 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft Maraua landing ground. Further Blenheims bombed Derna and Barce landing grounds. Reports awaited. Reconnaissance reported 17 ships Benghazi.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1119/26).

1720 hours 1 Cant Z 501 approached and flew over Malta for 45 minutes at 2000 feet with navigation lights on. When searchlight exposed it alighted near Comino Island undamaged. 4 crew prisoners. Preliminary interrogation proved Cant lost and signalled base to expose searchlight to aid its return. Our searchlight exposed by chance at psychological moment. Reconnaissances. 0540 to 1330 Sunderland anti convoy patrol eastern Tunisian coast with striking force standing by at 0708 sighted 1 Tug and 7 Barges 72 miles S.W. Lampedusa course 030° speed 4 knots. Striking force not despatched owing existing instructions governing action of aircraft against shipping at sea.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/26).

GLASGOW.

C.in C. Med. 1215/26 see Mediterranean Volume.

Operation
"Inspection".

My 1351/25. Operation "Inspection" covering ILLUSTRIOUS completed. Enemy aircraft appearing from R.D.F. plotting just to have failed to make contact with her passing across her stern. Ship averaged 23 knots on passage. V.A.L.F. and cruiser failed to make contact owing to amount of high speed of ILLUSTRIOUS and they were attacked from 1710 to 1825/24 by about 12 high Level and 18 dive bombers in position 034° 20'N., 020° 10'E. No damage many near misses. 4 or 5 aircraft possibly damaged.
(C.in C. Med. 1327/26).

Amended to 8 a/c

1916/8/2/41 p.262 B. February

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

→ Enemy Intelligence.

Unassessed report states Italian ships proceeding through Tunisian territorial waters en route to Tripoli.
(S.O.(S) Malta Force 1425/26 to UPHOLDER).

USK.

Sabotage discovered on passage Portsmouth - Gibraltar and again Gibraltar - Malta.
(V.A.Malta 1813/26).

Situation in Mediterranean - Air raid on Canal area.

By German A/C's from Rhodes took place night 17/18/a.m. 2 Heinkels. Subsequent my force landed near Sollum and crew captured.
(C.S.3 1917/26 C.in C. Med. 1935/26).
See Mediterranean Volume.

→ Orders for UPHOLDER.

Proceed area T. UNIQUE reports ship appears to be proceeding D. to C. thence (corrupt group) and unsuccessful attack of C. Jan. 22nd.
(S.O.(S) Malta Force 2311/26 to UPHOLDER).

M.N.B.D.O.

Composition of M.N.B.D.O. units sailing for M.E. in W.S.6.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2335/26).

East Indies.

Convoy B.N.F. One.

Bombay departure 0110Z/26 HECTOR escorting B.N.F.One.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0331Z/26).

List of ships (5) and convoys etc.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0328Z/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Raider
Search.
Orders for
V. Force
CANBERRA,
LEANDER,
SYDNEY,
COLOMBO,
PEARLEAF.

My 0710/25. 1. CANBERRA is to leave her area after dark 26/1 and avoid ^{ing} LEANDER'S area proceed to Addu Atoll to refuel adjusting course and speed so as to arrive about 0300Z/28. In absence of any further information of raider CANBERRA on completion of fuelling is to proceed to Freemantle at 25 knots if weather permits.

2. LEANDER is to leave her area on 27/1 so as to arrive Addu Atoll about 0700Z/28 to fuel after CANBERRA.

3. On completion of fuelling at Seychelles on 27/1 SYDNEY is to proceed to Freemantle direct at 20 knots.

4. COLOMBO is to leave patrol so as to arrive at Seychelles to refuel 0400Z/28.

5. Oiler PEARLEAF has been ordered to arrive at Addu Atoll about 0300Z/28. (C.in C. E.I. 0746/26 to V. Force.

S.S.
SONTAY.

Re interception by Force T. (S.O. Force T. 1200Z/26 C.in C. E.I. 1858Z/26). See French Merchant Ships.

B.S.F.1.

My 1420 and 1424/1/25 request very special effort be made to sail DOMINION MONARCH and CHRISTIEN HUYGENS with B.S.F. One. (C.in C. E.I. 1220Z/26 to S.S.T.O. Port Said).

Sighting
of
Suspicious
Vessel by
BEACON
STREET.

855. My 0846/24. para two message now cancelled by BEACON STREET in accordance with Admiralty message D.V. (C.in C. E.I. 1450Z/26.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)

<u>Convoys.</u>	}
<u>W.S.5.A.</u>	
<u>B.N.F.2.</u>	
<u>U.S.8.</u>	
<u>S.U.1.</u>	

Dates, etc.
(C.in C. E.I., 1902Z/26 to S.N.O. Red Sea,
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
See Operations Volume.

America and West Indies.

TAMERLANE.
CARADOC.
to cover.

Norwegian TAMERLANE carrying aircraft from New York to Takoradi due to pass 4 miles N.E. of Galera Point Trinidad at 1200Z/27 routed through (a) 007° 00' N., 049° 40' W., (b) 001° 24' N., 007° 35' W. Speed 16 knots. Proceed to cover TAMERLANE returning so as to arrive Trinidad a.m./31.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1021/26 to CARADOC).

Position of
AUSTRALIAN
STAR.

No trace in W.D.
Your 1900/25 059 40' N., 025 00' W.
(N.C.S.O. Kingston, Jamaica, 1215/26).

S.S. HIE.
(Japanese).

Balboa departure 23/1 HIE Los Angeles en route to Japan. Germans on board.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1306/26).

Arrivals
and
Departures
of French
Ships
at Dakar.

N.A.Washington 1425/26. See French Merchant Ships.

Japanese
Schedules.

My 0956/23/11/40. Despite present advertised Schedule it appears that Japanese ships AZUMA and NARUTO operating according to previous schedule. *My 1122/21/12 TAKETOYO sailed Los Angeles 21st Jan. now scheduled to call Curacao Ciudad Trujillo.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1729/26).
*(1121/21 intended).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)H.X.105
PORPOISE.Halifax departure 26/1 PORPOISE ocean
escort H.X.105.
(S.O.(I) Halifax N.S.1830/26).TAHCHEE.Master of TAHCHEE reports arrived Sydney
N.B. 25/9/40 ready to sail for U.K. but
no instructions obtainable from N.C.S.C.
Please say whether my 1938/10/10 was
passed to Sydney for action.
(D.T.D. 1903/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)Dutch
Warships,
Fuelling.Your 0803a/17. General permission for
Dutch warships to use harbours and
roadsteads in British Australian territory
or Mandated Islands for fuelling from
Dutch Tankers is granted by Australian
Government.
(N.B. Melbourne 0423Z/26 to C.in C. China).

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAMITO.

Completion date.
(A.S. Gib. 1116/26) See North Atlantic.

SONTAY.

Vichy French Merchant ship SONTAY 8917 tons intercepted at 1500 D in position 028 56' S., 042 23' E. Ship is from Saigon and Tamatave for Dakar and Marseilles. There are 63 officers and their families and 277 troops on board 6960 tons of general cargo and mails for Dakar and France. Armed guard from ENTERPRISE has been placed on board. Owing to troops intend at present to escort ship with force T in the direction of Durban continuing patrol in meantime pending instructions as to whether she is to be sent to Simonstown with or without escort.
(S.O. Force T 1200Z/26).

S.O. Force T. 1200/26. Can you provide escort from Durban to Simonstown? presuming SONTAY could if necessary remain in examination anchorage at Durban until escort is available.
(C.in C. E.I. 1858 z/26. to C.in C. S.A.)

Arrivals
and
Departures,
Dakar.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar Jan. 23/1. Arrivals include French GUERGHA carrying 1000 tons sugar plus mixed cargo believed from Bordeaux. SINAI, SAGITTAIRE, and DESIRADE with Senegalese troops from Morocco plus 100 general motors trucks. Departures include DAHOMEY and FORT DE VAUX for Casablanca.
(N.A. Washington 1425/26.)

War Diary26.1.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked

THELMA
(Torpedoed 20/1) (Straggler from H.G. 50) Arrived Oban undamaged (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1205/25)

Submarines Reported

0730 British FRAMLINGTON COURT reported (C.3) suspicious U-Boat on surface, 55.30 N., 26.00 W., (D.S. 508)

1357 Westward of Ireland, very indefinite position (D.S. 509)

1539 Possibly N. of Shetlands, very indefinite position (D.S. 509)

In view of U-Boat reported in position 055° 00' W., at 0730 remain in vicinity of convoy as long as possible leaving in time to make rendezvous 1100/26. PEGASUS pass to trawlers for information. (C. in C., W.A., 0937/25 to HEATHER)

Estimated Italian U-Boat about 050° N., 015° W., bound for Gironde. (F.O. (S) 1359/25 to Submarines on Patrol Area B.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

German:- 1 probably north of Cape Verde Islands may be homeward bound. 1 may be between Canaries and Cape Verde Islands Outward.

1 about 49° N., 25° W.,
3 probably in area 50° to 55° N., 15° to 20° W
1 about 55° to 57° N., 21° W.
1 may be about 60° N., and W., of 25° W
2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown, but 1 may be to N.W., 1 to N.E. and 1 to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian:- 1 has left Las Palmas at 0100/24 homeward.

1 between Azores and Portugal
1 in Canary Islands area
1 about 57° N., 21° W.,
1 about 50° N., 15° W., bound for Gironde
2 more probably west of S.W. of Rockall
(D.D.I.C., 1217/25)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.1.1941.
Sunday.Submarines
Reported
1945.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

My D/F at 1945/26 position of probable German U/Boat was approx. 55° N., and W. of 20° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2029/26).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.German.

1 within 100 miles radius of 60° N., 26° W.
1 North of 55° N., near or W. of 25° W.
2 within 150 miles radius of Rockall probably in sector between W.N.W. and N.E. from Rockall.
1 between 55° N., and 57° N., 12° W. and 15° W.
1 between 52° N., and 55° N., 16° W. and 20° W.
1 within 100 miles radius of 34° N., 20° W. homeward bound.
1 within 100 miles radius of 25° N., 23° W. southbound.

Italian.

1 from Las Palmas about 34° N., 10° W. may pass Gibraltar night 27th.
1 within 100 miles of Palma Canaries.
1 within 100 miles radius of 39° N., 17° W.
1 about 47° N., 13° W. bound for Gironde.
2 in N.W. Approaches may be within 100 miles radius of (a) 57° N., 21° W. (b) 56° N., 17° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1350/26).

Submarines
Attacked.0114.

By ARABIS. (See 29.1.41.)

War Diary

27. 1. 1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for ADMIRAL
HIPPER

KENYA, KELLY and KASHMIR returned to Plymouth this morning, with nothing to report.

Photographic R.C. of Brest this afternoon was unsuccessful owing to cloud.

An attempt to locate the cruiser at Brest by means of a flare failed owing to low visibility.

Sweep for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU
(see 25/1)

Air reconnaissance in Denmark Strait today was again negative.

Enemy Air Activity

There were no reports of attacks on shipping today.

Mining

During the easterly gales from 19/1 to 27/1 2 German floating mines and 112 British were washed ashore between Peterhead and Hartlepool; 31 others were sunk by patrols and 5 unidentified explosions at sea were reported.

H.M. Trawler DAROGAH was mined and sunk in the Thames Estuary today. Other mines were also detonated in the Estuary.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool, the Tyne, in the Bristol Channel Humber, and Firth of Forth.

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

German Aircraft
in Mediterranean

It is estimated that there are now between 420 and 430 German aircraft in the Mediterranean. The majority are probably in Sicily, and some at Benghazi and perhaps Rhodes.

F.A.A.
Attack on
Convoy

Consequent upon a report by a Sunderland on anti-convoy patrol, Swordfish of the F.A.A. with Fulmar escort were today despatched to attack a convoy of 3 ships near Kerkenah Island on the coast of Tunis. They sank one ship, of 4000 tons and probably hit with a torpedo a 6000 ton ship; the third ship escaped. One of these ships was probably the M.V. CARALIS (3510 tons) which at 1420/27 made S.O.S. in 34° 30' N., 11° 50' E., (about 30 miles S.E. of Kerkenah Island) and later reported that she was nearing Tripoli

China

Swedish SS OSCAR GORTHEM broadcast by W/T that she sighted an armed raider with a prize in company in approx 18° N., 147° E at 0300 G.M.T. today.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/27 (D.C. 1156/27).

Movements.

J. 3968.

Adty 1614/26 para 4. R.V. 130° Tiump
Head 13 miles at 1700/29. Do you concur.
(R.A.D. 0035/27 to J.3968).

Your 0035/27. Estimated position at
1600/29 260° Cape Wrath 15 miles.
(J. 3968 1300/27).

Requesting fighter escort 0900/28 to
1530/30. Details of movements.
(F.O. Liverpool 1617/30).

JACKAL to R.V. 1630/28. Position.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27).

My 1516/26 escort from Liverpool CURACOA,
HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, JACKAL
will R.V. in 055° 45'N. 004 49'W. at
1630/28.

- 2. CURACOA will be relieved by NIGERIA.
- 3. HIGHLANDER will continue to escort until May Island thence to Tyne for refit.
- 4. Remaining escort will be relieved by Home Fleet destroyer in position 260° Cape Wrath 15 miles at 1600/29. HAVELOCK and HESPERUS thence to Scapa Flow to refuel and meet H.X. 104 B. JACKAL to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2016/27).

HIGHLANDER.

Cancel my 1425/25 (re sailing 1300/27 for Tyne).
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0230/27).

/WORCESTER.....

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

WORCESTER.

Capt. (D) 16 in WORCESTER is to sail for Sheerness to arrive before dark today Monday. (C. in C. Nore 1001/27).

Keep in Southern part of Admiralty mess. Q.Z.S. 202 between B.2 Buoy and South Oaze Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1303/27 to WORCESTER).

Screen for
KING GEORGE V.

Adty 1024/21. 4 destroyers are to be sailed to provide A/S screen to Scapa for KING GEORGE V. from (position). (C. in C. H.F. 1106/27 to R.A.D. H.F.).

EMPRISE and
A.P.V. H.M.S. SAVEUR
DU MONDE.

My 0945 vessels returned to harbour owing to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1108/27).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines occupied tonight. (5 trawlers). (A.C.O.S. 1519/27).

FURIOUS.

FURIOUS reports:- Adty 1226/23 and 1826/22. Re berthing.

(11) Regret only 12 boilers serviceable - but these should enable 22 knots to be maintained to limit of endurance. Heavy loss of feed water necessitates evaporators being employed solely on making up feed. Fresh water rationed and none for washing. Therefore request ship be allowed to proceed with escort at best speed rather than long passage in slow convoy. Most desirable fuel Gibraltar both for endurance and seaworthiness when very light. 1828/24 Ends.

(5) Ship is expected to arrive Clyde about 4/2.

(6) Date on which ship will be ready to sail should be reported as soon as this is known. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2354/27 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep for ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

Plymouth 26/1 departures 2320 KELLY, KASHMIR.
(C. in C. W.A. 0041/27).

Plymouth 26/1 departure 2310 KENYA.
(C. in C. W.A. 0059/27).

Exercises today Monday are to be carried
out as in my 1642/25.
(C. in C. W.A. 0801/27).

All Exercise today cancelled. KENYA,
KELLY and KASHMIR return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 0901/27).

Your 2231/26. Nothing to report.
(C.S.IO. 0944/27 to C. in C. W.A.).

Arrivals. 1105 KENYA 1145 KELLY, KASHMIR.
(C. in C. W.A. 1205/27).

My 2102/26. Vessels concerned are to
revert to one hour's notice for steam.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2122/27 to C. in C. W.A.,
C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation
N.C.

Will be carried out. Zero time 2200.
(V.A. Dover 1323/27).

Submarines.

PANDORA.

PANDORA is to leave patrol now and return
to Portsmouth proceeding submerged by day.
Adjust speed to arrive Portsmouth Sanctuary
at daylight/28. *See also next page*

L.27.

At 1800/27 L.27 proceed to patrol within
8 miles radius of position 049° 53'N. 001°
48'W.
(F.O.(S) 0942/27).

THUNDERBOLT.

Cancel my 1707/26 THUNDERBOLT diverted
LA MOQUEUSE proceeded Falmouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 1013/27).

Cancel my 0757/24.
(Capt. S2. 1416/27).

/SEALION.....

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (contd).

SEALION.

My 1801/26 for off Stadtlandet read in Zone C.5. (S.6. 1022/27).

SEALION left Blyth at 0900/27 routed Gap A and positions 056° 56'N. 000° 12'W. 061° 05'N. 002° 04'E. for patrol is Zone C.5. diving by day.
(Capt. S.6. 1033/27).

Positions.

At 0800/27 Addition. (F.O.S.1031/27).

OLYMPUS.

Leave Patrol after dark today. You are expected to arrive position W. at 0900 B.S.T./29.
(F.O.(S) 1051/27).

TUNA.
SNAPPER.
LA CAPRICIEUSE.

Intend to sail TUNA and SNAPPER escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 0845/29 for vicinity of Bishop Rock, thence (A) TUNA through 49 34 N. 10 32 W. to Southwestwards diving by day north of 48 30 N. Time of entering and leaving N.A. Station and homeward route will be signalled.

(B) SNAPPER south to patrol diving by day.

(C) LA CAPRICIEUSE to Plymouth to Escort TALISMAN to the Clyde.
(Capt. S.2. 1128/27).

Q21

Netherlands Submarine Q21 passes Bell Rock 1800/27 (route) for patrol in zone C.3.
(Capt. S.9 1217/27).

You may encounter Netherlands S/M 021 passing Bell Rock at 1800/27.
(Capt. S.6. 1433/27 to SEALION).

Positions.

At 0800/28 and movements for following 24 hours
(F.O.S. 1722/27).

PANDORA.

My 1455/26. Amend as follows. 1. Name of escort and date KINGSTON AMBER 28/1. (S. 1881)
2. Movements. Nil.
(Capt. S.5. 1850/27 to PANDORA).

War Diary.27.1.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.→ Search for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.Weather permitting Denmark Straits will
be patrolled 27th and 28th Jan.
(G.O.C. Iceland Force 0025/27).Reference Patrol Denmark Strait urgently
request continue 27/1 28/1.
(W.O. 0045/27 to G.O.C. Iceland Force).Result of air reconnaissance in Denmark
Straits from Staalberghuk Lt. to Straumnes
to 67° 10' N. 25° 10' W. 26/1 was negative.
Visibility good.
(D.D.I.C. 1028/27 to C. in C. H.F.).Fighter
Protection.Request fighter protection in accordance
with N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2228/26.
Code word ~~Rivet~~ "Rivet".
(C. in C. W.A. 0605/27 to H.Q.F.C).My 2228/26. Postponed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1546/27).Patrols.Cancel Sharp weather unsuitable.
(F.O.i/c Portland 1130/27).Patrol ^{"Jep"} ~~Jep~~ will be flown this afternoon.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1416/27).Penalty
Areas.Commencing 0800/28.
(H.Q.C.C. 1870/27).→ Search for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.My 0517/26. Denmark straits patrolled 1200
to 1436/B.S.T./27. Nothing significant
seen between Grimsby Island 66° 34' N.
18° 00' W. and 67° N. 22° W. and 65° 50' N.
24° 40' W.
(G.O.C. Iceland Force 1945/27).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Activity.
Enemy Air Intelligence.

Attacks on
F.N. 92 26/1
S.S. BELGIA
bombed.

Following shipping casualties yesterday as results of air attacks.
(1) F.N.392 - S.S. BELGIA reported bombed near Sunk L. V. about 1620 - abandoned and on fire - survivors being taken to Rosyth in COTSWOLD.

BELGIA reported drifted ashore at Frinton this morning fire apparently extinguished - investigating possibilities of refloating.

F.S. 95.
S.S. CATFORD
bombed.

*(CATFORD damaged
by mine - BR.1337)*

(2) F.S. 95 - S.S. CATFORD damaged (details not yet known) about 1600/26 anchored for night near South Oaze Buoy. Two survivors (one injured) in FLEETWOOD - remainder of crew remaining on board, one slightly injured. Ships reported in tow 1000/today and will be brought up Thames.
(C. in C. Nore 1040/27).

LURIGETHAN.
TEMPLE MEAD.

H.G. 50 and S.L. 61 MILOS arrived with survivors. 20 from S.S. LURIGETHAN and 18 from S.S. TEMPLE MEAD.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/27).

ESPERANCE BAY.

Fighters have left for Convoy ^{"Hatch"} ~~HATCH~~
(ESPERANCE BAY).
(Rosyth 1427/27).

Following has been read AN 301. One enemy A/C in sight of Convoy ~~HATCH~~ (ESPERANCE BAY) my position May Island.
(VALOROUS 1535/27).

Negative Fighters despatched to convoy "Hatch"
~~HATCH~~ (ESPERANCE BAY).
(Rosyth 1519/27).

/Attacks.....

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War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air ^{activity.} Intelligence. (contd).

Attacks on
Shipping in
Thames
Estuary 26/1.

1. My 1949/26 Master of S.S. GRANGETOFT reports that at 1555/26 he saw a destroyer shoot down an aircraft. At 1608/26 off No. 11 Barrow buoy a twin engined aircraft approached his starboard side from the Northward and passed overhead. Aircraft was engaged by GRANGETOFT with Lewis and Hotchkiss guns and brought down in position $030^{\circ} 2\frac{1}{2}$ cables from N. 11 Barrow buoy. Two men climbed on to tail. S.S. LADY OLGAR next ahead and Norwegian S.S. ASK next astern confirm destruction.

2. Although this may be a third aircraft destroyed it is considered more likely that only two were brought down several ships participating in their destruction. (C. in C. Nore 1723/27).

Markings of
German planes.

Your 1147/26. A Fighter pilot recently contacted enemy aircraft bearing markings at first thought to be British. Further inspection showed marking to be swastika on circular white background. Suggest marking of Focke Wulf Condor likely to be similar. Would be appreciated therefore if your signal under reference could be suitably amended to allay suspicion of British markings. (Air Min 1740/27 to Adty).

S.S. MERIONES.
attacked A/C
brought down.

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports:- At approx 1620/25 an enemy aircraft attacked S.S. MERIONES ashore on Haisborough Sands, whilst circling to deliver attack and at an altitude of about 800 feet she came under heavy fire from A/P trawlers STRATHRANNOCK, GALVANI and PHILIPPE acting as guard for MERIONES. All ships saw shots hit target and she made off Eastwards with smoke coming from her starboard engine apparently crippled. She then dropped her bombs in the sea wide of any objective.

At about 0900/26 another enemy aircraft attacked MERIONES, visibility was bad at the time and she was sighted at about 700 feet by GALVANI over which ship she flew. GALVANI opened fire with 12 pounder and machine guns and a large number of bullets were seen to hit. The aircraft flew towards the land and subsequently crashed at Horsey. The other two escorting Vessels did not see this A/C on account of low visibility. 1745. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 2051/27).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.S. BEEMSTERDYK.
(Mined 26/1)

Departure Rescue Tug SEINE to search for
S.S. BEEMSTERDYK.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0040/27).

It appears that BEEMSTERDYK is anchored
in 60 fathoms in approx. 167 Coningbeg L.V.
50 miles. Assume she steamed into this
position coming south. She has reported
her compass out of order and gave her estimated
position as 290 degrees Smalls 12 miles.
Rescue Tug SEINE is being routed through
western extremity of Q Z X 238 when weather
moderates and search by M.L.s will be
continued.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1208/27).

Sail CAROLINE MOLLER to assistance of
BEEMSTERDYK damaged by explosion and reported
anchored in position 51° 17'N. 06° 23'W.
at 0930/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1215/27 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Cancel my 1208/27.
(Milford Haven 1931/27).

Mines off
Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/26. Three mines
detonated 270' Bar Light Vessel 7½ cables.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1024/27).

IMPULSIVE.
INTREPID.
movements.

Intend sailing IMPULSIVE so as to R.V.
with D.20 in INTREPID at 20 R. Buoy at
1800/28 thence to Scapa.
(F.O. Humber 1043/27, 28, N.O.I.C. Blyth
1544/27).

Nore.

My 1127 (Re enemy plane over convoy) 2
mines dropped in position 262° B.2. Buoy
7 cables.
(VANITY 1217/27).

/TASMANIA.....

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War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

TASMANIA.
(mined 24/1).

My 1910/25 (S.S. TASMANIA arrived Leith Roads with damage requiring dry dock for repairs). Part of British Mine recovered on board S.S. TASMANIA.
(N.O.I.C. Leith).

Tyne.

2 Ground Magnetic mines detonated by L.L. Sweep at 1230/27 in position 123° 3 cables Tyne North Pier Light.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1404/27).

Thames Estuary.
H.M.T. DAROGAH.

Detonated mine by S.A. gear 0915/27, off Sea Reach Buoy. Sank.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1428/27).

Swansea.

Red mine exploded centre of position 270° distant one mile 8½ cables.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1456/27);

My 1456/27 last line add "from Flatholm".
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1800/27).

Firth of Forth.

Firth of Forth. Two mines exploded today Inchkeith Light 2500 to 2800 yards wind East 4 sea slight no drifting mines seen in this vicinity at above times nearest vessel danlaying yacht SYLVANA underway about two miles to Northward of A. Aircraft believed dropped mines near HERWIT 15/11/40.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1537/27).

Thames Estuary.
H.M.T. HEROINE.

Mines detonated by S.A. gear (1) 1241 /27/1/41. H.M.T. HEROINE. 191 deg No. 1 sea Reach buoy 5 cables.

1. 1258/27/1/41 H.M.T. HEROINE.
4. 074 deg. No. 1 sea Reach Buoy 1/2 cable.
(Capt M/S Sheerness 1538/27).

Humber.

Mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 1317/27 in position 276° 2.5. miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse.
(F.O. Humber 1843/27).

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War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Armed
Merchantman
off Petsamo.

Re-possible mining off Norwegian coast
29/12/40.
About 4 hours steaming from Petsamo.
Suggest might be armed merchantman referred
to in my 1115/5/12 which has not been
reported as in this neighbourhood since
that date. B.2.
(Petsamo 1511/27).

Note Tel. 1115/12 reads:-
From Petsamo.

S.S. KARIN THORDEN arriving from New York
30/11 was stopped by small German armed
merchantman one mile outside Finnish
territorial waters and ordered to proceed
to Vardo released after 24 hours. She
reports two armed trawlers are no longer
there. T.O.O. 1115/3)

Raider Report.
By S.S.
BEAVERDALE.

RRRR 61 R05 N. 19528 W. BEAVERDALE
suspicious.
(BEAVERDALE 1450/27).

Cancel my 1450/27.
(BEAVERDALE No. T.O.O. Recd. 1622).

Your 1805/27. (Sent By D.S.O. Cancellation
of Raider Report from S.S. BEAVERDALE).
Change of watch occurred before cancellation
but Wick considers it was from the same
station.
(A.C.O.S. 1923/27).

E-Boat.

High Speed Hydrophone Effect. 52° 17'N.
1° 58'E. 1758.
(VANITY 2007/27).

Important.
Indication of E. Boat in a position 52° 17'N.
1° 58'E.
(C. in C. Nore 2031/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich,
N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, SOUTHDOWN, WHITSHED).

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War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys.

W.S.5B.

Your 0303/22. W.S.5B. Master of FRANCONIA reports unable to carry sufficient water for voyage from Capetown to Suez FRANCONIA is therefore being included in Durban portion of Convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1507/27).

S.S. CLAN
FRASER.

To sail in W.S. 6. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2232/27)
See Operations Volume. *340.*

Independant^e
Shipping
Information to
permit of
diversion.

Cancel A.M. 1340/29/10/40 and substitute:-

In order that Admiralty may be able to judge accurately the position of homeward bound independent shipping, it is of the greatest importance that this position at any time, and particularly when East of 25° W. and North of 51° N., should be known, accurately by Admiralty. With this object in view Vesca telegrams are to include the date and time at which the ship will cross 51° N. if coming from the southward or 25° west if from the westward.

The date and time of crossing 51° N. or 25° W. is to be settled by the N.C.S.O. and Master in consultation based on an estimate of the time required to reach the arc described in A.M. 1236/7/1 at 0600 B.S.T. with vessel making best speed possible between 51 N. or 25 W. and the arc.

The object of stipulating that homeward bound ships should cross this arc at 0600 B.S.T. are (a) they will be passing through what is at present the worst part of the aircraft danger area in dark hours and (b) they will be within fighter protection range when East of the arc.

In order to enable Adty to divert shipping clear of U boats it is of paramount importance that ships should arrive at 51° N. or 25° W. at the time and date named in the Vesca telegram and this should be specially impressed on the Masters who might otherwise concentrate on arrival at the arc on time neglecting the overriding importance of 51° N. or 25° W. If necessary to reduce speed of advance in order to avoid crossing 51° N. or 25° W. ahead of time this should be done by heavy zig-sagging rather than reducing speed keeping reasonably close to route ordered.
(D.T.D. 1818/27, to C. in C's A.W.I. S.A.
F.O.C.N.A. etc, for N.C.S.O. 18)

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Coastal Convoys.

O.B. 280. Your 2100/26. Take no action until instructed by N.O.I.C. Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A. 0017/27 to CRISPIN).

→ F.N. 93. Southend 27/1 Departure for Hull H.M.D. BEN and LUCY with Convoy F.N. 93 No R/T or W/T.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0941/27).

→ F.S. 96. Sailed 0200.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0205/27 to Admty etc).

48 ships.
(F.O.I.C. 1001/27 to Admty etc).

E.N. 63. (A) 0400/28. (B) H.M.T.'s SOUTHERN PRIDE (S.O.) PENTLAND FIRTH. Additional escort JASON. (C) 26 ships. (E) Code words E.N. 63
"Usage" ~~usage~~ ENL Portion ~~usage~~ ENO Portion "Mixture"
~~MIXTURE~~.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1019/27).

W.N. 76. 0945/27. H.M. Trawlers STELLA CAPELLA (S.O.) FANDANGO escorting 3 ships including B.D.V. BARRINGTON for Aultea.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1101/27).

W.N. 74. Arrived 1045/27.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1102/27).

F.N. 96. E.T.A. 62 D. Buoy 1930.
(WOOLSTON 1105/27 to C. in C. Rosyth etc).

→ F.N. 93. Movements to noon/28.
→ F.S. 96. WIDGEON on passage to R/V with FS96
Outer Dowsing at 1800/27.
QUORN leaves FN 93 at 1100/28 returning to Harwich. F.N. 93 due Sheringham 0600/28
F.S. 96 due Aldeburgh 0800/28.
(C. in C. Nore 1200/27). See also pp 924 & 925

/O.B. 280.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

O.B. 280.
B.H.X. 104.

PHILANTE and HARVESTER are to sail as additional escort to O.B. 280. My 1129/24 HARVESTER will not be required to meet B.H.X. 104.
(C. in C. W.A. 1245/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

K.C.

(Norwegian ships to Clyde) (C. in C. W.A. 1325/27 - see Ocean Convoys).

→ W.N. 75.

058° 00'N. route N. speed made good 6.6 knots. (BERKSHIRE 1415/27 to A.C.O.S).

F.N. 93.

0930/27 46 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1422/27 to N.C.S.O Thames).

QUORN is to part company with F.N. 93. so as to arrive Outer Dowsing at arrival 28/1 proceeding thence to Humber whence she is to act as escort for B.S. 50 under orders TEVIOT BANK.
(C. in C. Nore 1440/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

See previous next page

F.N. 91.

Tyne ships arrived.
(F.O.I.C; Tyne 1422/27 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

F.N. 91.
and 92.

Humber ships arrived .
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1446/27 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

E.N. 62.
→ W.N. 75.
H.X. 103.
O.B. 277.

Estimated positions at 2000/27:-
058° 44'N. 004° 55'W.
058° 25'N. 005° 45'W.
061° 00'N. 017° 30'W.
061° 14'N. 015° 38'W.
(A.C.O.S. 1542/27).

/E.N. 66.....

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

O.B. 279.
O.B. 280.
CORSAIR.

F.O.I/c Belfast's 1045/25 CORSAIR unable to sail in Convoy O.B. 279 due to weather. Intend sailing her in O.B. 280. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1642/27).

F.N. 95.

15 Ships. One H.M.T. and 14 Trawlers from Humber joining at 62 D. buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1712/27 to Admty etc).

Harwich 27/1 departure QUORN at 1449 for Humber with F.N. Convoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1723/27 to Admty etc).

See pp 923 & 924

F.S. 95.

Arrived. Non arrivals BESTUM (Nor) OXFORD, SKUM, STELLING also DAGNEY and MARX reported sheltering in Humber, IPSWICH TRADER reported arriving astern of F.S. 96. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1822/27).

W.N. 74.
F.N. 91.
F.S. 97.

Rosyth 27/1. Arrivals, HASTINGS, LADY ROSEMARY and SARABANDE with W.N. 74. KYLE FISHER and STRAIT FISHER from Scapa. LONDONDERRY and WOLFHOUND with F.N. 91 includes MALVERNIAN on passage Sheerness - Clyde. Departures. VALOROUS and VIMIERA with F.S. 97. (C. in C, Rosyth, 2305/27).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 102.

Greenock Code Office pass to N.O.I.C. Oban H.X. 102 Section Escort, Oban CAMPANULA, Clyde PERIWINKLE, Liverpool ABERDEEN and remainder. (ABERDEEN, 0201/27 to C. in C. W.A).

O.G.O. 51.

Sailed O.G.O. 51. 0530/27/1. Escort TULIP. 6 ships. 2 Ships carried Kites. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0655/27).

/H.X. 103.....

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

→ H.X. 105.
K.C.

WHITEHALL is to detach two destroyers from H.X. 105 as fuel necessitates or off Butt of Lewis to fuel at Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail these destroyers to escort to Clyde ships named in Admiralty's 1136/25. Name of Convoy K.C., Code word ~~SCILLA~~. Anticipate destroyers will arrive Scapa A.M./30. (C. in C. W.A. 1325/27 to A.C.O.S. WHITEHALL).

My 1325/27 now anticipate destroyers will arrive A.M./1.
(C. in C. W.A. 1851/27 to A.C.O.S).

O.G. 51.

Your 0034/26. Arrived and sailed ALSEY to rejoin O.G. 51.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1425/27 to C. in C. W.A).

H.X. 102.

WILD SWAN with S.S. INDUNA, CAIRNESK, and Norwegian SOLSTAD arrived 1000/27. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1445/27, to Admty).

MANISTEE.
S.L. 65.

MANISTEE to leave areas R.2 -S2 (route) to R.V. with SL. 65 (position) for inward escort to Clyde. SL 65 route.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1700/27 to Western Patrol).

→ H.X. 105.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN reports H.X. 105 36 hours late. Proceed to meet accordingly having regard to limits of endurance.
(C. in C. W.A. 1731/27 to WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, VERBENA).

S.C.18.

On time at R. V. with 26 ships, all now arrived. Heavy weather for two days.
(D.T.D. 1819/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Unknown Ship

Unknown ship ashore and on fire at (? South) Middle Haisborough. Ship appears to be almost burnt out. (WESTMINSTER 0250/17 to C. in C., Nore)

MACGREGOR LAIRD

Sailed RESTIVE and ASSURANCE through position 56° 00' N., 08° 00' W., and 56° 00' N., 16° 00' W., to assist MACGREGOR LAIRD disabled in position 51° 13' N., 25° 01' W. Estimated speed of advance 10 knots. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0350/27)

SS SANDHILLS

Coaster SANDHILLS 25 miles 282° from Bar Light vessel making water tug urgently required. (Seaforth Radio, 0548/27)

BREDA

My 1831/23. Estimated time for repairs to BREDA 3 weeks from 27/1. (F.O.S. 1039/27)

SILVA

^(?Fouled)
SILVA H.M. Danlaying water. Fouled wreck SPIRALITY Saturday High water tugs pulled SILVA off wreck which has suffered very little damage. SILVA considerable bottom damage forward. Salvage operations Sunday reduced leaks and fire pumps kept water under control high water noon today Monday beaching SILVA on Harwich hard to locate damage and effect temporary repairs. (Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1115/27)

SS DENEB

~~SS DENE~~
M/V DENE B (Dutch) after collision with unknown vessel at 0700 has been beached off No. 3 buoy inside Mouth of River Tees (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1125/27)

SALADIN SKATE

Returning to base owing to defects in forced lubricating system causing loss of oil. SKATE returned defect in starboard engine. (SALADIN, 1230/27)

ANASTASSIOS PATERAS

De ANASTASSIOS PATERAS steering damage very bad weather in position between Skerries and Isle of Man. Bearing from G.L.V / 300 degrees from GPK 187 degrees from GLD * 002 degrees 1233/27. We have not immediate assistances we endeavour to improve master. (Seaforth Radio 1233/27, Portishead Radio 1303/27)
/ Seaforth Radio
* Land's End Radio.

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

M.T.B. 71.
M.T.B. 42
M.T.B. 43

27/1. Arrival M.T.B. 71 at 1446, and M.T.B. 42 at 1728 with engine defects. M.T.B. 43 put into Newhaven with steering defects. (V.A.Dover, 1729/29)

CALDWELL

Further defects to CALDWELL dynamos make it impossible for her to sail. (Capt. D Liverpool, 1747/27)

Unknown Ship

S.O.S.SANDHILL\$ bearing 206° 12- 1/2 miles from Chicken Rock damaged requires tug, please reply as we are standing. (Portishead Radio, 1932/27)

PEGASUS

My position 2000/27 055° 32' N., 019° 02' W., course 080° speed owing to weather conditions 1 knot.

Fuel will last until a.m./3/2 Request tug be sent to stand by ship. Have no suitable towing hawsers on board. (PEGASUS 2035/27)

SALADIN

Expect to arrive Lough Foyle 1900/28 Search absndoned (bad?) leak in ship's side above waterline. (SALADIN 2230/27)

VERSATILE

Steering Engine broken down. Am anchoring 190° 54 E Buoy 4 cables. (VERSATILE 2302/27 to VERSATILE 2302/27 to VANITY)

War Diary.

27.1.1941.

Monday. 929

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Lisbon
Intelligence.

On 27/1 at 1500 there passed Peniche going north a French four funnel Warship.
On 26/1 a destroyer escorted a French ship up the coast of Portugal as far as Cape Fulha. (Source a).
(N.A. Lisbon, 1619/27, to Admty.).

PONCELET
POITIERS

Your 2127/22. It is hoped that the French will very shortly agree to exchange the crew of Submarine PONCELET for British service and merchant seamen personnel held in French West Africa. The French are being asked to send ship to Freetown to effect exchange there. POITIERS crew will be included in the exchange.
(Head of M. 2256/27 to C.in C. S.A.
(M.019040/40).

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN
VELOX
VIDETTE

Re escort, DUNEDIN and Convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/27 to C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

Your 1220/27. Remarks. (C.in C. S.A., 1731N/27 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume. Reply. (F.O.C.N.A. 2350/27 to C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

Germans in
France.

Unconfirmed report from French Source via American official source that three armoured divisions numbers 42 2 and 28 are stationed South of Bordeaux.
Confirmation will be sought. They are certainly not South of Bayonne.
(N.A. Madrid, 1131/27 to D.N.O.).

Information,
OTUS.

My 1746/17 (B). American ship EXETER left Lisbon 25/1 for Bermuda. For information. (c) 2 Battle Cruisers and one Hipper Class Cruiser are at large. Possibly Italian submarine (?bearing) 2900 by D/F from Gibraltar at 1049/27. (Capt. (S) 8, 1234/27, to OTUS).

ROCHESTER
JONQUIL
GERANIUM

War Diary.27.1.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)→ ROCHESTER
JONQUIL
GERANIUM

Gibraltar departure 1500/27 ROCHESTER escorting H.G.52. Additional escort JONQUIL, GERANIUM, in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1246/26. (S.O.I., Gib., 1532/27, to Admty.).

S/M's
positions
0300/18.

OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/27).

Air ReportDaily Summary Operations.
2 routine A/S patrols. 1 surface recco West. 1 Convoy escort to West. Area covered 4° W. to 8° 30' W. (200 Group, 1715/27).FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Admty. 2250/24 (Sailing of FURIOUS and NEPTUNE). FURIOUS represented urgent need of harbour time for boiler cleaning and making good minor defects. Intend therefore to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE after dark 29/1 without A/S escort making good 22 knots until reaching meridian 016° west. This has advantage of reducing time on passage in view of Admiralty's 1831/25 (German main units). (F.O.C.N.A. 1834/27 to Admty.)

→ H.G.52.

Gibraltar departures 1745/27 NEPTUNE SHEFFIELD to cover H.G.52 returning 1200/28 and 1200/30 respectively. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1916/27, to Admty.)

RESOLUTION.

Orders for RESOLUTION and escort. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. W.A., 1919/27) See Operations Volume.

FOXHOUND
NORTHERN PRINCE

Gibraltar 1915/27 departure FOXHOUND escorting NORTHERN PRINCE in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1600/24. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1920/27).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MOBEKA
MARY SLESSOR

S.S. MOBEKA sailed Glasgow 20/1 with 12 Blenheim Aircraft for Takoradi. S.S. MARY SLESSOR sailed London 23/1 with 2 Blenheims for Takoradi. (D. of S.T. 1115/27 to S.T.O.i/c Takoradi).

Transport of
S. African
troops.

Remarks on D. of S.T.'s 2246/18. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1121/27 to Admty.) (See Operations Vol.).

MOUZINHO,
copyright of
mails.

Portuguese MOUZINHO arrived Freetown 27/1 with 2172 bags of mail for ANGOLA. Copyright is beyond capabilities of local copyright staff without very great delay. S.O.I. Capetown has reported that Portuguese mail can be censored in the Union and forwarded by train. Intend therefore to forward this mail to Capetown in ship of W.S.5B for Copyright there. (C.in C. S.A., 1147/27 to Admty. etc.).

Transport
of S. African
troops.

Your 1422/25 and D. of S.T. (2747/18). NIEUW HOLLAND cannot be spared and I cannot suggest any other ship unless D. of S.T. will let me have ORBITA after disembarking troops at Mombasa (?27) troops could possibly be put in camp at Durban to await onward passage to destinations. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1240B/27, to C.in C.E.I.)

Shipping
Intelligence
for U.S.A.

American Consul Capetown has received instructions from Department of State Washington to telegraph in code arrivals and departures with port of destination and last port of call of all foreign shipping over 2,000 tons except British. Consul does not know object. American Minister would be very grateful if we can provide information but quite understands that this cannot be done without authority from Adty. He cannot get it from any other source. Request instructions observing that this probably affects most large ports. (S.O.I. Capetown 1240B/27 to Admty.)

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CHITRAL
TAMERLANE

Proceed to R/V with and then escort TAMERLANE who passes four miles N.E. of Galera Point, Trinidad, at 1200 G.M.T./27 and then (route) to Takoradi. Report present position and time and position you expect to R/V. Also (?Oil) remaining in order that relief may be arranged neighbourhood of Freetown, if required.
(C.in C. S.A., 1331N/27, to CHITRAL).

Cancel my 1331 N/27. (C.in C. S.A. 2003N/27, to CHITRAL).

Your 1331 N/27. CHITRAL is in Denmark Strait. (D.O.D.(F) 2115/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 2115/27. C.in C. S.A. 1331N/27 does not concern you. (D.D.O.D.(F) 2254/27, to CHITRAL).

A.T. 2115/27 to C.in C. S.A. only. Regret that confusion as to CHITRAL's location should have arisen. It appears to be due to F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1401/14 as you were not in address of F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12. Admty. 1012/11 para. 1 (b), date is still under consideration.
(D.O.D.(F) 2307/27 to C.in C. S.A.).

See also p 939.

S.L.S. and
H.G. Convoys,
Speed.

Your 2047/25. Speed of advance of S.L.S. Convoys is calculated as 6.8 knots, while that of H.G. Convoys between R.V. with S.L.S. Convoys and R.V. with local escort works out at 5.5 knots. (N.C.D.O., Freetown, 1546/27 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

Arriving Durban in W.S.5.B. Re cargo of maize. (D.S.T. 1744/27 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

MURJECK.

Your 1646/23. Owners of MURJECK state that Norwegian members of crew landed at Santos. Vessel now proceeding on voyage direct Gothenburg. (N.A. Stockholm 1848/27, to Admty.).

933

War Diary.27.1.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Convoy W.S.5 B.

My 2218/20. Suggest Tanker BRITISH TRUST due Durban 6/2 with cargo of furnace oil be used assist bunkering.
(D.S.T. 1934/27 to C.in C's S.A., E.I.).

BRITISH UNION
(sunk by raider
18/1).

Jan
See WD 642

ARAWA's 0315/19 and 0458/19. BRITISH UNION was sunk at 2300 GMT 18/1 in 26° 34' North 30° 58' West by Armed Merchant Cruiser. Ship damaged by gunfire sunk by Torpedo. Nine survivors in boat found by ARAWA of whom one subsequently died. Remaining 37 including Master probably in other two boats and may have been picked up by Raider. Raider only seen by own searchlights but appears to be modified KULMERLAND or RODA type, about 10,000 tons (description). 2 Naval Ratings reported to be on board. These are not among survivors at Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1950/27, 1955/27, to Admty.).

W.S.5 B.
? French
Recon.

One Glen Martin aircraft presumed French carried out reconnaissance over Freetown at 0930/25 as convoy W.S.5 B. was entering harbour. (C.in C. S.A. 2027/27, to Admty.).

BRIDGEWATER
ATLAS

My 2357/24. Tug ATLAS arrived Takoradi p.m./27. Am instructing tug remain Takoradi until you make contact with ~~GOVERNOR~~ ~~Governor~~. You should commence tow and report daily course and speed made good as GREEN will be sent to rendezvous with you.
(C.in C. S.A. 2035Z/27 to BRIDGEWATER).

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU

SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU reported in Great Belt on a Northerly course A.M./23 have not been located since. (A.2).
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2321/27 to C.in C's S.A., A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., etc.).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Salonika.

Report of German intention to occupy (A.A., Ankara to Air Ministry 0729/27)
See Med. Vol.

→ BONAVENTURE.

Experience in recent actions has shown that 5.25 turret cannot be trained whilst ship is heeling under full helm at high speed. (BONAVENTURE 1030/27.).

M.L.'s
for
Harbour
Defence.

Harbour defence M.L.'s. Three shipped in S.S. CLAN MACTAVISH sailed 17/1, for Alexandria, two following in S.S. CITY OF ATHENS (Characteristics:) Crews who have had short training in similar craft following by separate passage. Intend sending eleven more of these craft as soon as shipping space can be found. Anticipate additional sixteen will be available for Mediterranean later. (D. of L.D. 1050/27 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Report.

1. Egypt. Day 26/1. 3 Blenheims dropped 3,000 lbs. bombs on Barce landing ground hitting buildings near hangars and probably damaging 2 aircraft. 9 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft on Maraus landing ground. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1146/27).

→ BONAVENTURE.

Re ammunition. Proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1359/27) See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta Air
Report.
M.V. sunk.
M.V. hit.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 27/1. All times G.M.T. 0500 to 1527 Sunderland anti convoy patrol eastern Tunisian Coast with striking force standing by. 0700 reported small M/Vs and at 1025 reported two M/Vs and 1 escort vessel. 7 Swordfish and two Fulmars detailed to attack. Sunderland saw attack and state 1 M/V 5,000 tons sunk. 1 M/V 8,000 tons hit but escort vessel escaped damage. All aircraft returned safely. No enemy aircraft except 1 recco aircraft over Malta today. (H.Q. Med., 1710/27.).

/Italian ship CARALIS, ...

War Diary.27.1.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian motor ship CARALIS, 3510 tons, made an S.O.S. at 1420/27 in 34. 30 N., 11.50 E., about 30 miles S.E. from Kerkenah Island. Later she reported she was nearing Tripoli. (D.S. 511, 28/1).

Mine

Floating mine was reported on 27/1 approx. 44 miles N.E. of Stromboli. (D.S. 511).

Ships off coast of Tunis

Commencement of patrol UNIQUE sighted 4 ships all passed C about noon; after detection only sighted 2 destroyers 0320/24. Consider route D C thence eastbound to Ras Jloggig thence direct Kerkenar. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1815/27 to UPHOLDER).

Re aircraft strength.

V.A.A. Med. 1130/17. What is position now as regards Glen^H Martins. (C.in C. Med. 1925/27 to V.A. Malta, V.A. Med.).

German Aircraft, Sicily.

Probable German aircraft in Sicily now being reinforced by one long range bomber group (40 aircraft) practised in minelaying. This together with replacement of losses already sustained would give total strength Mediterranean: Long range bombers 160
Bomber Reconnaissance 20
Dive bombers 150
Twin engined fighters 40
Transport 40 - 50
Majority probably in Sicily. Of rest about 40 long range bombers are at Benghazi and/or Rhodes and 40 Dive bombers in Benghazi area. (D.N.I. 1947/27 to C.in C. Med. etc.).

Following from N.A. Washington. From Navy Department. From Rome undated. German Air H.Q. Catania located Miranare Hotel Taormina. German aviators boast they will take Malta in 2 weeks. German trucks being transported from Trieste to San Giovanni Di Medua through Yugoslav Territorial Waters. Conditions internally getting worse, food scarce and discontent increasing. (D.N.I. 2323/27 to C.in C. Med., V.A. Malta.).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Exercise of
Contraband
Control in
Persian
Gulf.

In view of Adty. 1148/23 cancel para. one of my 0500/25. (C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/27).

Repatriation
of French
crews.

My 1102/13. How do matters stand? There have been 4 cases of Beri-Beri among native crew of ESPERANCE. (C.in C. E.I. 1108Z/27).

LEANDER,
PEARLEAF,
COLOMBO

My 0746/26 (1) on completing with fuel on 28/1 LEANDER is to proceed to Colombo so as to arrive 0200/30. LEANDER is to order oiler PEARLEAF to proceed at best speed to Colombo after fuelling LEANDER. On completing with fuel COLOMBO is to proceed to Colombo adjusting speed so as to pass through the Kardiva channel in daylight. (C.in C. E.I., 1120Z/27 to Force V.).

KANIMBLA.

My 1042/22. On arrival position 010° S. 047° E. cruise in vicinity until 0900Z/29 visit Assumption Island if practicable and then proceed at 15 knots to position (B) 022 30' S. 040° and patrol between positions (B) and (a) 030° S. 035°. (C.in C. E.I. to KANIMBLA, 1152Z/27).

Operation
"Breach".
Convoy U.S.9.

My 1844/23 confirmed. Date. (C.in C. E.I., 1226Z/27 to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume. Re watering (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1232Z/27) See Operations Volume.

B.N.
Convoys.

Your 1226Z/21 addressed S.N.O. Red Sea. Confirm cycle of BN convoys from Aden. Your 1316Z/18 para. (2) (a) States BN (8 knot) convoy to leave every four days. (D.T.D., 1306/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Convoy U.S.10.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.).

Convoy U.S.10.

Reply to A.C.N.B. 1137/16 re numbers and shipping. (C.in C. E.I., 1326/27 to A.C.N.B.). See Operations Volume.

Mogadishu,
Kismayu.

Admty. 1946/25. Plans for certain operations. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/27 to Admty.). See Operations Volume.

Search for
raider by
SYDNEY.

My 1212/24 and my 1714/24.

(i) SYDNEY obtained a D/F bearing at 1440Z/24.

(ii) Mauritius took a bearing at 1656/24 of a station tuning on German Series B 010 degs. first class.

(iii) Combinations of bearings gave SYDNEY probable position of raider 006° 50' S. 060° 10' E. at about 1700Z/24.

(iv) SYDNEY searched likely dawn position and to southward on 25/1 and in accordance with my 0710/25 para. 4 on 26/1.

Aircraft were used both days. Nothing confirmed.

(v) My 1218/25. It is not yet known if this (?subsequently) was unconfirmed.

(vi) Seychelles Radio Trincomalee which has call sign G C X B acknowledges receipt of a Merchant Navy Code message at 0555Z/25 and 1330Z/25th. No success. The transmission(s) were designed not to frighten the raider.

(vii) Report from LEANDER and CANBERRA not yet available.

(viii) A station tuning on 13320 Kc/s at 1244Z/26 bore 067° from Mauritius.

(ix) Consider raider may have withdrawn to south eastwards to reappear in Sharks Bay area. (C.in C. E.I. 1850/27, 1852Z/27).

Troop
Movement.

Your 1420/25. No other ships are available at present. DOMINION MONARCH not under my control. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 1932Z/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

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27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-
China
Trade.

My 0946Z/18. Decoux telegraphed entire approval of agreement on 23/1.
(C.in C. China 0225Z/27 to Admty.).

SAGAMI MARU.

No trace in W.D.
Your 1049/21, Bolivian Government states it has not ordered any ammunition by SAGAMI MARU is believed to be bringing cloth for army uniforms. Bolivia has no six inch guns and only twenty millimetre A.A. guns.
(C.O.S. Singapore 1529Z/27 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).

German
Reports,
Japan.

A.3. Report five German raiders accompanied by unprotected submarines are to be operative in north Pacific against British Norwegian and Dutch trade. German naval bureau established at Kobe. Source was advised by informant not to take Dutch ship to Manila this week.

German N.A. endeavouring to purchase sulphuric acid for delivery to Illies and Co. Kobe.

This sort of information may be deliberately put about with object of destroying confidence in allied shipping.

(N.A. Tokyo 1546/27 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

America and West Indies.

BRASIL

Norwegian tanker, 8130 tons. Sailed from Belfast 24/12. Overdue at Port Arthur, Texas, since 16/1. (D.S. 510).

ASAKA.

Special service ship ASAKA of Imperial Japanese Navy formerly merchant ship ASAKA MARU, 7289 tons, left Yokosuka on political mission to Europe 16/1 and is due Panama Canal 7/2 and Lisbon 20/2. (Description).
(Hd. of M., 1349/27, to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P., C.in C. W.A.).

/ TAMERLANE
CARADOC

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

TAMERLANE
CARADOC.

Admty. 1259/27 C.in C. S.A. 1331N/27.
Instruct TAMERLANE to proceed at 15 knots
and escort her to limit of your endurance
or until relieved by CHITRAL then return
Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1641/27, to CARADOC).

See p. 932

VAN KINSBERGEN
Operation
"Bacon."

Cancel my 1102/27 not to N.O.i/c Trinidad.
On completion of refit proceed Trinidad
in readiness to carry out - operation -
"Bacon". S.N.O. Curacao pass to
VAN KINSBERGEN.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1642/27, to VAN KINSBERGEN).

COMORIN.

Bermuda arrived and sailed COMORIN
proceeding through (a) 025° N. 060° W.
(b) 015° N. 058° W. to arrive Trinidad
a.m. 1/2.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1753/27, to N.O.I.C.
Trinidad).

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War Diary.

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Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ERNA OLDENDORFF.

ERNA OLDENDORFF sailed from Vigo last night about midnight.
(Consul, Vigo, 0942/27, to Admty.).

My 0942 ERNA OLDENDORFF reported to have gone ashore this morning on Ons Island Pontevedra Bay, making water astern. (B.2.)
(Consul, Vigo, 1041/27).

My 1041 understand ERNA ^{OLDENDORFF.} is not ashore. She suffered bad leak at Ons Island and is reported to have taken shelter at Marin Pontevedra Bay.
(N.A. Vigo, 1535/27).

MUNSTERLAND

Kobe 26/1 departure MUNSTERLAND.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1607/27, to Admty. etc.).

ARKADIA.

Arrivals. ARKADIA from Burgas. Departure Italian Tanker TOCELLO Batoum in ballast.
(Varna 1835/27).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORTELLAZZO.

Kobe arrival 23/1 CORTELLAZZO.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0749/27).

CONTE VERDE

Trying to arrange for 6 months' fuel maintenance, at Shanghai. (D.S. 510).

TORCELLO

Tanker left Varna for Batoum in ballast
(Varna 1835/27).

DERNA

Arrival ^{BARCELONA?} 27/1 Italian ship DERNA from Genoa. ^{n.}

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY,
escort.

Your 1858Z/26.
No escort available unless N.O.i/c
Simonstown can arrange for armed trawler
two preferably and air (?escort).
Consider this should be sufficient.
(C.in C. S.A. 1113N/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

JEAN L.D.,
cargo.

My 1203/24. Customs have examined ship
and are satisfied that cargo conforms to
manifest and nothing suspicious was found.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1143/27, to Admt.).

MENDOZA.

Reporting Officer Ascension reports
arrival of MENDOZA this morning 27/1.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1845N/27, to Admt.).

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0347. W. of S. Ireland, possibly about 20° W., indefinite position of German U/B. (D.S. 510).
1049. At 1049 by D/F believed Italian U boat bore 290° from Gibraltar 1st class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1217/27 to North Atlantic Stn.).
- Your 1217/27. Request call sign and frequency. (D.D.I.C. 1448/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).
- My 1217. bearing from Lands End 1st Class was 220°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1558/27, to N. Atlantic Stn.).
1155. Following bearings received of an Italian U-Boat at 1155 B.S.T.:--
Scarborough 205/3
Lands End 220/1.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/27 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)
1952. Following has been read:
S.S.S.S. Object resembling submarine seen near Reykjanes at 1952/27.
(Iceland W/T, T.O.R. 2111/27).
2156. 46° N. 10° W. Italian U/B, indefinite positions (D.S. 511).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Information still scanty.

German.

- 1 near 60° N. 27° W. on 24th may have moved N.E. or E.
- 1 about 55° N. 21° W. at 1945/26.
- 1 about 52° N. 20° W. at 0347/27.
- 1 within 60 miles radius of 56° N. 14° W.
- 1 to N.W. or N. or N.E. of Rockall.
- 1 within 100 miles radius of 37° N. 13° W. homeward bound.
- 1 within 100 miles radius of 23° N. 23° W. southbound.

Italian.

- 1 may pass Gibraltar tonight Eastbound.
- 1 within 300 miles W. of Palma Canaries.
- 1 within 100 miles radius of 39° N. 17° W.
- 1 about 46° 30' 8° W. bound for Gironde.
- 2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1328/27.).

War Diary28.1.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsSweep for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU

Early this morning NAIAD was in touch with two unknown ships in 62° 53' N., 16° 40' W., and chased them on course 070°, but lost sight of them shortly afterwards in smoke.

C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH returned to Scapa shortly before midnight today, with RODNEY, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, followed by two destroyers later.

C. in C., H.F. at 1445 today signalled that he was discontinuing the search and intended to return to Scapa Flow a.m./30. Air search today was again blank.

Search for
6 Merchant Ships

Six merchant ships were sighted off Ushant proceeding north at 1248 today. It was expected they would proceed eastward along the French coast. KASHMIR and KIPLING left Plymouth at 1924 to intercept.

A.A. Fire of
Convoy Escorts
in N.W. Approaches

In order to increase the A.A. fire of Convoy escorts in the N.W. Approaches, four more sloops are to be sent to Western Approaches Command from the Rosyth Escort Force.

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather all operations by Bomber Command last night and today were cancelled.

Routine patrols by Coastal Command from stations south of Dyce were not flown today, owing to bad weather.

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
Shipping in
N.W.Approaches

Several attacks were made on shipping in the N.W.Approaches this morning. Convoy O.G. 51 was bombed and SS PANDION and BARON RENFREW were hit. Convoy S.C. 19 was also attacked and SS GRELROSA was hit and abandoned. A ship named SS RASO was also reported being bombed in S.C. 19; there is no ship of this name in Lloyds List, and it is possibly a mistake for SS GRELROSA.

Some German aircraft show markings consisting of a Swastika on a circular white background. This may be mistaken for British markings.

Mining

The Admiralty today informed C. in C., Home Fleet that it is a matter of the first importance to continue with laying mines in the Iceland-Faroes Barrier.

Mines were detonated in the Tay this forenoon and Dundee was closed at 1359.

M.V. TAFELBERG (13640 tons) was mined in the Bristol Channel and was beached in Porth Kerry Bay. Avonmouth, Barry, Cardiff, Newport and Swansea were closed this evening.

Mines are suspected off Aberdeen, but searching has not up to now confirmed this.

Milford Haven was closed tonight.

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28.1.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Two French fighters attacked one of our aircraft 5 miles from Rabat today.

French merchant vessels continue to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar, both east bound and west bound, almost daily. Today, in addition 3 French submarines passed through, westbound, escorted by a M/S sloop.

Mediterranean

Air
Operations

Last night Wellingtons attacked Capo-di-Chino ~~and Catania~~ aerodromes and other targets at Naples.

Catania and Corniso aerodromes were also bombed; the raiders operating at night against Malta are believed to be based at the latter aerodrome.

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CHITRAL.

Adty. 1012/11 paragraph 6 (A) F.O.C.N.P. 1142/18, and F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2244/22. As CHITRAL is in all respects suitable for North Atlantic as now fitted suggest CIRCASSIA or CILICIA be allocated to South Atlantic Station in her place. These ships have large endurance and are suitable for service in hot climate without alteration. (F.O.C.N.P. 1030/28 to Adty.)

W/T. Areas.
on Home
Station.

As from 0001/3/2, the following amended Areas A and B will be introduced on Home Station for W/T purposes. (A.C.N.S.H. 1157/28.) (A.G.M.Home 70 A.Z.) See Summaries Folder.

W.A. Command.
Proposed
division.

into two.

A422 28/1. Adty 0305/26 and 0307/261
1. No difficulties foreseen in division of present Western Approaches Command into 2 Commands so far as they affect air co-operation. 2. Coastal Command Groups 19 (new) 15, 18 boundaries will be as follows.

4. Presumed that C. in C. W.A. will still route and control all outward and homeward bound ocean convoys and be responsible for all measures to combat any attacks on convoys by U-Boats or hostile aircraft. (Air Ministry 1635/28 to Adty.)

N.W. Approaches
4 Sloops
to join
C. in C. W.A.

It is a matter of urgency to increase the A/A fire of convoy escorts in N.W. Approaches. 2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail four sloops to join C. in C. W.A. as soon as relieved in the Rosyth Escort Force by four HUNTS. 3. C. in C. Nore is requested to lend four HUNTS now to C. in C. Rosyth until relieved by four new construction HUNTS. (A.C.N.S.H. 1858/28.)

/Admiralty.....

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

Admiralty 1858/28. Destroyers detailed COTSWOLD, SOUTHDOWN, HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY. COTSWOLD is already lent temporarily to C. in C. Rosyth. HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY, and SOUTHDOWN will be sailed for Rosyth with F.N.95 tomorrow. COTSWOLD has already gone. (C. in C. Nore 2238/28 to Adty.)

HOLDERNESS and PYTCHLEY are to sail for Rosyth with F.N.95 tomorrow Wednesday, To leave Sheerness at 0930 and R/V, with Commodore of convoy in S.S. POZNAN off Nore L.V. WOOLSTON joining about 1200. On arrival at Rosyth HOLDERNESS and PYTCHLEY are to come under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. (C. in C. Nore 2242/28 to D.21.)

M/V's in
Convoy
and
Enemy
A/C.

Many reports from escorts and Commodores have stated that Merchant ships in convoy have failed to open fire on enemy aircraft. The difficulties of keeping their guns manned continuously are appreciated but I am convinced that even though the matter is stressed by N.C.S.O's and Commodores at Convoy Conferences and the serious nature of the air menace is not fully grasped by those concerned. I strongly recommend therefore that selected R.N.R. Officers of experience should be appointed to the staffs of N.C.S.O's at each assembly port whose sole duty would be to visit each ship before sailing to explain to Masters Officers of experience should be appointed to the staffs of N.C.S.O's at each assembly port whose sole duty would be to visit each ship before sailing to explain to Masters Officers and gun crews in their own language the vital importance of opening fire on enemy aircraft and to emphasise to Masters the importance of Flying Kites especially in view of the latter being the most effective deterrent to the low attacks practiced by the enemy. (C. in C. W.A. 1949/28 to Adty.)

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

At 2330/27. (D.C.0010/28.) At 1130/28.
(D.C.1156/28.) At 2330/28. (D.C.2359/28.)

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

Stornoway.
Manning of
4-inch Battery.

A.C.N.S.(H). 1829/28. to A.C.O.S.

Operations.

WIRTA.
WISA

Your 1431/27. S.O.N.T. reports that Finnish ship WIRTA was not intercepted by Northern Patrol Trawler. Finnish ship WISA was intercepted in position 62° 44' N. 015° 48' W., and at 1910/24, NORTHERN GIFT reported that WISA was proceeding to Kirkwall under armed guard. WISA has not yet arrived at Kirkwall. (F.C.C.N.P. 0115/28 to Adty.)

Search for
SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU.

NAIAD chasing two unknown ships approx. course 070° 062° 53'N. 016° 40' W. (C. in C. H.F. 0800/28.)

My position course and speed 63° 40' N. 16° 40' W. 055°. If nothing is sighted (portion missed) 00 (portion missed) 050° 7 miles and held for some time now faded. (? C.S.15 0830/28. to (?) AURORA.)

My 0800/28. NAIAD lost touch at 0715 when one ship was making smoke. Ships believed to have separated. REPULSE and 4 Destroyers proceeding support NAIAD, cruiser searching. (? C. in C. H.F. 0840/28.)

My position course and speed are 063° 10' N. 015° 53' W. 040 degs. 28 knots. Corrupt group. Corrupt group. Intend to fly off aircraft for reconnaissance. (REPULSE 0945/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Proceed to search passage between Q.Z.X. 250 and Iceland. (C. in C. H.F. 1012/28 to AURORA.)

Your 0840/28. Coastal Command have ordered following Air Patrols. (C. in C. Rosyth 1024/28. to C. in C. H.F.)

/C.S.18 in

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Search for
SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU (cont.)

C.S.18 in EDINBURGH take RODNEY, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, PIORUN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT, and KEPPEL under his orders and return to Scapa routed approximately through positions (a) 061° N. 013° W. (b) 059° N. 007° W. proceeding at best speed that weather permits. 2. Intend to operate remaining ships until 30/1 in area centre of which is position 062° N. ($? 021^{\circ}$) $30'$ West close Reykjavik as necessary to fuel destroyers. 3. Failing other developments C.S.18 is to sail the same force to operate in above area leaving Scapa AM/30. Destroyers need not necessarily be same. C.S. 18 acknowledge. (C. in C. H.F. 1047/27 to C.S.18.)

My position course and speed are 063° $08'$ N. 014° $55'$ W. R.17, 055° , 30 knots. ARETHUSA bears 125° 12 miles. (2 C.S. 1055/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

My position course and speed 064° $53'$ N. 013° $20'$ W, X 14,005⁰, 30 knots. Extreme visibility no ship in sight. (AURORA 1401/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

My position course and speed are 063° $54'$ N. 013° $39'$ W. X 10,055⁰ 16 knots. Rejoin me with all convenient despatch now. (C. in C. H.F. 1430/28. to C. S. 15, C.S.2., etc.)

Repeating G.O.C. Iceland Force's (D.D.I.C. 1432/28 to C. in C. H.F.) 1945/27.

Am discontinuing search. Intend returning to Scapa Flow with my force arriving A.M. 30. if no further information is received. (C. in C. H.F. 1445/28. to Adty.)

/6 Enemy.....

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War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

6 Enemy
M/V's

(1) Six merchant ships of 500 to 3,000 tons sighted off Ushant proceeding North at 1248. Estimated speed 8 knots. Expect these craft will proceed eastward along French Coast.

(2) Proceed as requisite to intercept Return to Plymouth by 1000/29. (C. in C., W.A., 1907/28 to KASHMIR, KIPLING)

KASHMIR, KIPLING sailed from Plymouth 1924/28. (C. in C., W.A., 0151/29 to Admty)

Movements

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Your 1828/24. Owing to congestion in Clyde ship must be berthed at Tail of Bank.
2. As many of your demands will be met as possible during the time available.
3. Rating will be provided as requested. (A.C.N.S. H. 0001/28 to FURIOUS)

My 1231/28. Route for FURIOUS and NEPTUNE from R.V. K.

(2) Ships are to proceed at best speed from R.V. K.

(3) NEPTUNE is to be detached in position (b) and proceed to Chatham in accordance with Admty's 1829/18. (C. in C., W.A., 1239/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

J. 3968
(PRINCE OF WALES)

Sailed escorted by HESPERUS, HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER to comply with my 1516/26 amended by my 2016/27. (F.O. Liverpool 1331/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Shall be at least 1 (one) and 1/2 hours late at 1630 rendezvous (O) (PRINCE OF WALES 1453/28 to CURACOA)

Expect A/S/M escort by Ansen aircraft from about 0930/29 until noon, then by Hudson aircraft until dark. (C. in C., Rosyth 1928/28 to PRINCE OF WALES)

Unable to make contact owing to low visibility. My P.C. & S. are 53 54 N., 04 58 W., 356° 15 knots. Intend to make contact at daylight. (JACKAL 1930/28 to PRINCE OF WALES)

/INGLEFIELD....

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

J.3968
(PRINCE OF WALES)
Cont:-

INGLEFIELD, MAORI, NIZAM R/V outside Hoxa 0900 tomorrow with NIGERIA and proceed under his orders to pass through position 000° Cape Wrath 4 thence to R/V with J 3968 in position 260° Cape Wrath 15 at 1600/29. Provide escort to Rosyth.

2. J 3968 proceeding from (? North) Minch is escorted by CURACOA, HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, JACKAL.

3. On relief HAVELOCK, HESPERUS have orders to proceed to Scapa and JACKAL to Clyde. HIGHLANDER and CURACOA will continue escort to May Island. CURACOA then return to Scapa. HIGHLANDER has orders to proceed to Tyne.

4. On completion of escort NIGERIA, INGLEFIELD, MAORI, NIZAM return to Scapa.

(R.A.D. H.F. 2255/28)

BOREAS

Sailed Sheerness 1255/28. Speed 12 knots to Shipwash thence 20 knots, weather and visibility permitting. E.T.A., 0400/30 (C. in C., Nore, 1418/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Northern Patrol

Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1521/28 and 2103/28)

T.L.C. 3
T.L.C. 4

My 1046/28. N.O.I.C. Methil is to arrange sailing of T.L.C. 4 escorted by STOKE CITY for Inverness as soon as weather conditions and forecast allow. N.O.I.C. Methil is also to arrange direct with N.O.I.C. Dundee for T.L.C. 3 now at Montrose to rendezvous as necessary with STOKE CITY and T.L.C. 4 for onward passage to Inverness, both T.L.C.'s proceeding thence via Caledonian Canal to Inverary. (C. in C., Rosyth 1657/28)

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

CACHALOT
THUNDERBOLT

My 1722/27. Amend as follows. Movements.
(F.O.S. 0634/28)

Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1200/28 to R/V with CACHALOT in 315° Cape Wrath 8.5 miles at 0900/29 and escort her to the Clyde. (S.2. 0857/28)

THUNDERBOLT to leave patrol after dark today. Escort, R/V light, and bombing restrictions to-morrow as in my 0949/23. (S. 2. 0944/28)

Bombing
Restrictions
Cancelled

OPS 133. 28/1. Cancel following Bombing Restrictions. (H.Q.C.C. 1203/28)

PORPOISE
with H.X. 105

Proposed movements (F.O.S. 1226/28, C. in C., W.A., 1853/28) See Operations Volume.

Area 24
Bombing
Restriction

Ops/134 28/1. Institute total SBR area 24 from 0400/29 to 1200/29. (H.Q.C.C. 1510/28)

OLYMPUS

Trawler CAMBRIDGESHIRE will be at R/V 180° Saint Catherines 5 miles at 0800/29. Total bombing restrictions arranged in prior sanctuary from 0730 to 1100. All time B.S.T. Following Movements may affect you. (S. 5. 1546/28 to OLYMPUS)

Clyde
Bombing
Restrictions

Ops 135 28/1. Extend total SBR Clyde Sanctuary for additional period 1800/29 to 0800/30. (H.Q.C.C. 1559/28)

Positions.

At 0800/29 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1722/28)

Holyhead
S/M for
Londonderry

C. in C., W.A. 1836/23. Proposal in para 2 approved. Request F.O. (S) will take action accordingly (A.C.N.S. T. 1747/28)

/MINERVE.....

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Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

MINERVE
(Free French)

Intend to sail passing Bell Rock 1800/30
routed as follows. (S. 9. 1807/28 to F.O.S)

*Cancelled - See 30/11
p. 1038.*

Western Channel
Bombing
Restrictions
cancelled.

Cancel total SBR between 03° 30' W.,
and 05° W., North of 49° N., and in
Plymouth sanctuary. (H.Q.C.C. 1827/28)

6 Enemy M/V's
off Ushant

My 1512/28. 2 destroyers have left
vicinity of Start Point South Eastward
to intercept. (F.O.S. 2112/28 to 'OLYMPUS')

British Air Activity

Patrols

Patrols described in my 2258/25 will be
repeated to-day 28th. (C. in C., Rosyth
0006/28 to C.in C., H.F.)

Patrol U.N.S.T. cancelled for today.
Patrol ~~14-30~~ will be flown P.M. (C. in C.,
0945/28 to A.C.O.S.)

885. Your 0840/28.

Coastal Command have ordered A/C on
"Kugle" ~~FUGLE~~ to patrol

62° 42' N., 9° 36' W., 65° N., 12° W.
64° 48' N., 12° 34' W., 62° 50' N., 9° W.

A/C on two cross over patrols to patrol
62° N., 12° 22' W., 63° 16' N., 11° 40' W
63° 16' N., 12° 22' W., 62° N., 11° 38' W &
63° 16' N., 12° 22' W., 64° 30' N., 11° 38' W
64° 30' N., 12° 22' W., 63° 16' N., 11° 40' W
(C. in C., Rosyth 1024/28 to C. in C., H.F)

Patrol S.T. 1 (one) at 0930 and patrol S.T.
2 at 1415 for tomorrow. Also additional
Patrol in accordance with your 1520/25.
(N.A.Station, Stornoway 1056/28 to A.C.O.S)

C. The following patrols are required for
29/1. R1 R2 SA2 SA3. (H.Q.C.C. 1920/28 to
18 Group)

/As only.....

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War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols-Contd.

1. As only one Sunderland available tomorrow the area covered by the two cross-over patrols described in my 2258/25/1 will be flown one circuit only. Fugle will not be flown.

2. Result of patrols today:-
"Fugle" nothing to report, visibility poor.
Cross-over patrols nothing to report.
S.A. 1 A 100% Visibility 25 miles.
(C. in C., Rosyth 2300/28)

804 Squadron
for Yeovilton.

My 1232/19. 804 Squadron should be transferred to Yeovilton as soon as convenient after 31/1. (D.N.A.D. 1328/28)

801 Squadron

A.O.C. 15 group has enquired whether 801 Squadron will be able to operate tomorrow Wednesday. I have replied yes with six aircraft. (St. Merryn 1658/28 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.G. 51
PANDION
damaged
BARON RENFREW
bombed

(British, 1944 tons) Attacked by A/C in 55° 34' N., 10° 22' W. Mate and master seriously injured. Steering gear damaged. (Port Patrick Radio 0910/28)

Fighter assistance requested for convoy "Clasp" in 55° 50' N., 10° 18' W. One enemy aircraft. (LEITH 1008/28)

My 1008- BARON RENFREW hit (LEITH 1033/28)

two aircraft bombing in 55° 50' N., 10° 18' W., (LEITH 1114/28)

O.G. 51 attacked at 1000 in 055° 50' N., 010° 18' W., by Junker F.W. A/C. BARON RENFREW hit (?) in engine room. TOWARD and CANDYTUFT are standing by and will make further report. Am proceeding with convoy. (LEITH 1232/28)

/SS BARON RENFREW...

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TuesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity (continued)O.G. 51-Contd.

SS BARON RENFREW bombed. Captain reports hit in engine room number (?one) and four holds and unexploded bomb in bunker. Expected to remain afloat about six hours. Am standing by in position 055° 50' N., 010° (?15') West. 17 survivors on board, Captain and 14 survivors in SS TOWARD who is joining convoy. (CANDYTUFT 1330/28)

Sailed Tug TENACITY escorted by SHEMARA to assist PANDION. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1353/28)

SS BARON RENFREW shows no sign of sinking. Request tugs. Chief engineer reports steering gear is electric and there is no auxiliary steering. Weather moderated. (CANDYTUFT 1630/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

RASO

Bombed in 55° 12' N., 20° W. (Lyness W/T 0927/28)

Convoy S.C. 19
RUTH ONE

(Norwegian, 3531 tons) Bombed in 55° 55' N 13° 20' W. (Lyness T.O.R. 1026/28)

RUTH ONE now O.K. 0930/28. (Lyness W/T 0949/28)

GRELROSA

In S.C. 19. Bombed, 31 survivors in VOLUNTEER. (DS 513)

Convoy
E.N. Odd

Fighter protection has been despatched to assistance of odd numbered E.N. Convoy (Rosyth W/T 1207/28)

Iceland

O. 522 Cipher 28/1. Reference Iceland one in 25000 66° 03' N., 23° 32' W. Coast waters Flateyri report seeing at 1000/27 small red single engined float biplane flying west 3/4000 feet (? reported) resembled Icelandic Airways float plane but definitely no aircraft except Battles off ground at time. No confirmation other sources. (G.O.C. Iceland 1635/28 to War Office)

/Enemy....

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Enemy A/C
Markings

My 1147/26. It is further reported that some German Aircraft show markings consisting of a Swastika on a circular white background. These may be mistaken for British markings. (D.D.I.C., 1825/28)

Mining

Rosyth Command
Mines washed
ashore.

During the easterly gales from January 19th to 27th 2 German floating mines and 112 British have been washed ashore as follows:-

During the same period 31 mines were sunk by patrols and 5 unidentified explosions at sea were reported. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0940/28)

IMPULSIVE

Sailed 0945/28. (F.O.Humber 0946/28)

Dundee Area
Port Closed

Two more magnetic mines detonated off Buddon Ness lights making three this forenoon. Request port of Dundee may be closed until approaches to channel can be swept which is now impossible due to weather. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1303/28)

Port of Dundee closed due to enemy minelaying. (C. in C., Rosyth 1359/28)

Strongly suspect that the three mines detonated by LL L trawlers in Mouth of Tay were controlled mines from M. 4 loop. Reasons.

Can it be reasonably presumed that these were our own mines, and can port be re-opened. No evidence that hostile aircraft have been over this area for several weeks. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1751/28 to Admty.)

Three detonations caused by LL sweeps occurred today in River Tay off Budden High Light. Port has been closed pending further LL search and investigation of controlled minefield in vicinity. (C. in C., Rosyth 2009/28)

/B.S. 50.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

B.S. 50

Intend TEVIOT BANK and QUORN to sail from Spurn Point at 1500/30 and take departure from 21 C Buoy at 1000/31. Returning to 21 C Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1200/31. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham, 1330/28)

TAFELBERG

(Oil refinery, 13,640 tons) Mined in 51° 21' 48" N., 3° 16' W. Beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1422/28)

My 1422/28 ship has been beached in Porth Kerry Bay and, circumstances permitting will be beached in Whitmore Bay tonight. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1551/28)

Wick Area

335. Two explosions reported apparently mines.

(A) half mile North of Wick

(B) half mile South of Latheronwheel Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1546/28)

Aberdeen

C.A.F.O. 663/40 and 1331/40. A considerable number of German conical anti-mine sweeping explosive containers have been washed up in the Aberdeen sub command. It is considered that probably enemy mines have been in the vicinity, but not confirmed by searching up to now. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1601/28)

F.D. 29
by CACHALOT

My 1303/14 para. 2. Operation successfully completed. (F.O.S., 1617/28)

Minelaying
by Aircraft

AP/797 28/1. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1655/29)

INTREPID

My 1544/27. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Elyth, 1711/28)

Iceland-Faroes
Barrier.

It is now a matter of first importance to press on with laying the mines in Iceland-Faroes Barrier. Request you will arrange the necessary A/S and other escort to enable R.A.M.L. to operate in the immediate future. (1st S.L. 1749/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Firth of Forth.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Firth
of Forth.

Drifter detonated a mine at 1412/27, in 56° 03' 38" N. 02° 59' 00" W. No damage sustained. Area has been LL and S.A. swept today with negative result. (C. in C. Rosyth 1819/28.)

Bristol
Channel.

Minelaying suspected. Ships are not to leave Avonmouth Barry Cardiff, Newport until further orders. Ships may leave Swansea only if bound to westward. Incoming shipping to anchor to westward of Breaksea. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2030/28.)

My 2030/28. No ships are to leave Swansea or Barry Inlet until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2125/28.)

Pentland
to Aberdeen
sweep.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1617/26 and N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1601/28. Request you will concert with A.C.O.S. for maximum sweeping effort between Pentland Firth and Aberdeen on track of ship. (A.C.N.S. H. 2116/28. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Milford
Haven.

Port of Milford Haven is closed owing to suspected mine laying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2157/28.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Unit.

At 0327/28 G.M.T, unknown enemy unit transmitted from position in great circle joining Baldock and Bermuda. A 3rd Class bearing of 340° from Ascension gives a position in approximately 45° 30' N. 38° 0' W. Position probably further to eastward. (D.D.I.C. 0817/28 to C. in C. H.F, VANP, C. in C. A.W.1, F.O.C.N.A, KING GEORGE V.)

At 1109/28 G.M.T. the following D/F bearing of unknown Enemy Unit was obtained. (D.D.I.C. 1257/28. to C. in C. H.F.)

/At 2113/28.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

Enemy Unit.

At 2113/28. B.S.T. unknown Unit bearing as follows. No indication of type of Vessel transmitting. (D.D.I.C. 2230/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Herring fishing fleet may be working off coast laying between Sogne Fiord and Egersund and may be under German Naval protection. Probable methods are (a) Seine net keeping close inshore (b) Trawling along hundred fathom line. (F.O.S. 0957/28 to S/M's Area A.)

A/C reports. At 1248 6 merchant ships 500 to 3000 tons in position $048^{\circ} 23'$ North $004^{\circ} 50'$ West course $360^{\circ} 8$ knots. (F.O.S. 1512/28 to S/M's Area B.)

Requisition
of Danish
Navy.

Information A.I. and N.I.D. Comment. (N.A. Stockholm 1632/25 to D.N.I.)

Enemy
M/V's in Bay
of Biscay.

At 1245/A/C report 3 merchant ships 900 tons in position course and speed 048° North 005° West $160^{\circ} 8$ knots. At 1300 2 Merchant Ships 1000 tons in position $047^{\circ} 35'$ North $004^{\circ} 10'$ West course 270° . At 1555 2 merchant ships 1000 tons in position $047^{\circ} 45'$ North 004° West course 160° . (F.O.S. 2132/28. to S/M's Area B.)

FORMOSA.
Preparations
for invasions
etc.

Report by 2nd. Engineer of RANJA (A.C.O.S.) 2207/28.) (Operation "Rubble" 16/12/40. Danzig December 1940.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Iceland
ASTRID
THORDEN.

IMMO
RAGNAR.

German permission given for Finnish ship ASTRID THORDEN at present in Gothenburg to bring hot water pipes to Reykjavik for town central heating scheme. Icelanders also propose Finnish ship IMMO RAGNAR Gothenburg returning with pipes. Scheme highly important in Icelandic eyes and also to us, hence I consider it desirable to risk some security in order to meet Icelandic Government this project. If scheme authorized I would take special security stops to deal with incoming vessels. (G.O.C. Iceland Force, 0031/28, to W.O.) Recd: from War Office 0203/29.

GLENARTNEY.
CLAN BUCHANAN
STRATHMORE.

Routes and E.T.A. (D.T.D. 1453/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Independent
Ships.

My 1818/27. Existing instructions relating to fast outward-bound independent ships remain unchanged. Viz:- they should be sailed so as to cross the arc of a circle of 150 miles radius from Malin Head at 1800 B.S.T. (D.T.D. 1642/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

SKAANE
(Danish)

— No trace in W.D.
Your 1600/24/10. Engines on SKAANE are urgently required in U.K. We continue to want the Ship but if it is impossible to secure Ship and Engines we should try to find out what chances there are of securing latter alone. Please investigate urgently. (D.T.D. 1824/28 to Consul, Lisbon.)

General.

Positions, convoys and independent ships. (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F. 1149/28.)

Coastal Convoys.
F. S. 97.

Sailed 2300/27. Approx. 17 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0015/28.)

/F.S.96.....

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

- F.S.96. Position at daylight 28/1. 052° 40' N. 002° 10' E. (WOOLSTON, 0106/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- E.N.63. (A) 0400/28, (B) H.M.T.'s SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH. Additional escort JASON. (C) 14 ships, 7 with kites (numbers approximate) (N.C.S.O. Methil 0601/28 to A.C.W.A.)
Sailed - See p 965
- W.N.76.(O) Sailed W.N.76 (O) 1500/27 unescorted. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0907/28. to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.N.91. Arrived 0930/28. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1008/28.)
- F.N.91. Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1014/28.)
- F.N.92. Arrived 0940/28. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/28.)
- VESLEKARI *(attached to R.N. (see that list.))* Norwegian steam vessel VESLEKARI sailed from Aberdeen 1900/27 for Kirkwall routed coastwise to Logie Head thence Clytheness anchors onwards. Arrival not reported. Request enquiry. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1031/28 to A.C.O.S.)
- K.C. My 1325/27 and 1731/27. Detach two destroyers forthwith to Scapa. (C. in C. W. A. 1103/28, to WHITEHALL.)
- F.N.94. 0956/28 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1119/28.)

/F.N.92.....

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Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

- F.N.92. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1132/28.)
- O.B.C.280. (a) 2130/30. (b) Not known. (c) 40. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1210/28.)
- F.N.94. Harwich 28/1. Departure H.M.D. SILVER SEAS at 1231 to join F.N.94 for ~~ROSL~~. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1239/28.)
- W.N.75. Passing through Pentland Firth at 1335. (A.C.O.S., 1352/28.)
- O.B.279. Sailed 1240/28. 13 ships. 9 knots. 2 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1357/28.)
- F.S.97. For F.S. convoy 97.20 from Tyne 11 from Blyth. 12 from Middlesbrough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1405/28 to VIMIERA, VALOROUS.)
- My 1405. Number joining from Tyne Area likely to be considerably reduced. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2118/28, to VIMIERA, VALOROUS.)
- 19 ships joining F.S. Convoy odd numbered 97 at 62D. Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2226/28, to VIMIERA, VALOROUS.)
- F.N.93. For F.N.93, 4 from Blyth 1 from Sunderland 1 from Middlesbrough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1406/28 to VANITY, VERSATILE.)
- F.S.99. Will sail at 1800, not 2300/29. Speed will be adjusted so that Convoy will not be ahead of normal scheduled times off Tyne or at No.5 Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 1513/28 to Admty etc.)

/F.S.94.....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys Contd.

<p>F.S. 94. 95, 96.</p>	<p>F.S. 94, 95 and 96 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1521/28, to N.C.S.O. Methil.)</p>
<p>W.N. 75. E.N. 63. F.N. 93. → F.S. 97.</p>	<p>Movements tonight 28/29. Convoys, W.N. 75, estimated off Noss Head 1630/28, E.N. 63 Buchan Ness 2100/28. F.N. 93, Scarborough 2000/28. F.S. 97, E.T.A, 20 C 2100/28. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1546/28.)</p>
<p>O.B.O. 279.</p>	<p>0300/29/1, escort H.M.T. KING SOL 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1551/28.)</p>
<p>→ W.N. 76.</p>	<p>W.N. 76 route P. E.T.A, Dunnet Head 1000/29, speed of advance 7 knots. (? STELLA CAPELLA, 1709/28 to A.C.O.S.)</p>
<p>F.N. 392.</p>	<p>Arrived except BELGIA. (N.C.S.O. Sunderland, 1710/28.)</p>
<p>F.N. 94.</p>	<p>6 ships from Humber joining at 62 D buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1720/28.)</p>
<p>→ F.S. 97.</p>	<p>19 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1724/28.)</p>
<p>C.W. 24.</p>	<p>Owing to stress of weather only 9 Merchant Ships are available for C.W. 24. (C. in C. Nore, 1736/28 to N.C.S.O. Thames etc.)</p>
<p>→ F.S. 97.</p>	<p>Sailed from Methil 2300/27/1. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/28 to Admty etc.)</p>
<p>W.N. 77.</p>	<p>(A) 0400/31. (B) Nil. (C) Six. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1825/28 to Admty.)</p>
<p>→ W.N. 76.</p>	<p>Loch Ewe section sailed 1800 less SOLSTAD steering gear defective. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1848/28 amended 1459/29.)</p>

/O.B. 279.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

O.B.279.

Escort for O.B. 279. AUBRETIA from Liverpool, ARROW, OURAGAN, MISTRAL, HOLLYHOCK, DANEMAN, from Clyde and KING SOL from Oban. ARROW S.O. MISTRAL is limited to speed of 17 knots owing to engine defect. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1915/28 to C. in C.W.A.) *See also next page*

O.B.A.
(special)

To relieve congestion at west coast ports a special O.B. Convoy comprising not more than 12 ships is to be sailed from Oban and Loch Ewe. The Oban Portion leaving on 30/1. Convoy will be known as O.B.A, code word "~~Robin~~" ~~ROBIN~~ and will be escorted by HAVELOCK and HESPERUS. HAVELOCK is to proceed to Oban for conference, HESPERUS take Loch Ewe portion. (C. in C. W.A., 1937/28 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

→ F.N.94.

6 ships joining F.N.94 at 62 D buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1955/28 to FLEETWOOD, WALLACE.)

E.N.64.
W.N.77.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.64 sailing 0500/30. After passing ~~Duncansby Head~~ proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. to sail FOWEY to join W.N.77 due Duncansby Head 1330/1. Code word for E.N.64 ~~PASSIE~~ and W.N.77 ~~MUSTER~~ "~~Trusty~~". (C. in C. Rosyth, 2000/28, to FOWEY.)

→ F.N.93.
→ F.N.94.
F.S.97.
* E.N.63.
W.N.75.

Rosyth Command State. 28/1:- (C).
Ships. (B) Duty. Destination.
VANITY, VERSATILE. F.N.95. Rosyth 30th.
FLEETWOOD, WALLACE. F.N.94. Rosyth 30th.
VIMIERA, VALOROUS. F.S.97. Sheerness "
* JASON. E.N.63. Rosyth 30th.
WESTON. W.N.75. Rosyth 29th.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 2001/28.)

** See next page*

/H.M.V.'s.....

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

// ~~M.V.~~'s.

Intend sailing at 1700/29 to St. Helen's Roads via St. Catherine's. 11 M/Vs. including 2 Tankers. 4 for onward routing to Shoreham. E.T.A. Nab. 0830/30. Also 1 M/V for Poole. E.T.A. 0830/30. Escorts A/S T'S. ST. CATHAN and CAPE COMORIN. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2056/28.)

F.N.92.

Rosyth 28/1. Arrivals: WESTMINSTER and COTSWOLD with F.N.92.

E.N.63.

Departures: SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH, and JASON. Latter as additional escort to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with E.N.63. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2215/28.)

F.N.95.

Request you will sail SOUTHDOWN to join F.N.95 off Sunk Light Vessel tomorrow Wednesday. SOUTHDOWN is to proceed to Rosyth with Convoy and on arrival is to come under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. WOOLSTON is to be S.O. of Escort notwithstanding that SOUTHDOWN is Senior. (C. in C. Nore, 2240/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

O.B.C.279.

(A) 2145/28/1. (B) ARROW, OURAG^AON, MISTRAL, HOLLYHOCK, DANEMAN.C.(12 ships (5 with kites)(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2310/28 amended 1443/29.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X.103.

H.X.103 not met. Aircraft has not seen convoy. My p.c. and s. 061° 00' N. 014° 30' W. 090°, 8 knots. (Weather) (WHITEHALL, 1000/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

/B.H.X.106.....

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

B.H.X.106.

Departure B.H.X. 106. Ocean Escort MALOJA returning Halifax through 044° 40' N. 60° 00' W. (Com.i/c. Bermuda, 1203/28.)

S.C.19.

My p.c. and s. are 055° 58' North 015° 50' West 080° 12 knots. Request position S.C.19. (HEATHER 1300/28 to ANTELOPE.)

H.X. 101.

On time at R.V. Considerable straggling on account of weather. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1639/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Military Convoys.

~~ALL TALKING~~
~~CONVOYS~~

-
Force Z.
GEORGIC.

Adty. 1655/22. Route for force Z and GEORGIC from Clyde. 2. GEORGIC is to part company at position (iv) and proceed to Bermuda 3. When DORSETSHIRE joins at rendezvous Q, KENYA is to proceed to Plymouth. 4. ASSINIBOINE, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT and JACKAL are detailed as destroyer escort and are to part company so as to join FURIOUS and NEPTUNE at rendezvous K in 053 deg. 15' N, 022 deg. 23' W. at 1200/Z/Z. B.S.T. 5. Inward route for H.M.S. FURIOUS and H.M.S. NEPTUNE will be signalled separately. 6. Force Z is to sail as near 1200/31 as practicable so as to decrease danger of air attack in N.W. Approaches. (C. in C.W.A. 1231/28. to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

WAR PINDARI.

NAPIER with SOMALI provide escort for Oiler WAR PINDARI who is passing Switha 1800 today, proceeding to Skaale Fjord routed in accordance with A.C.O.S. sailing orders. Paragraph two. Await further orders at Skaale Fjord. (R.A.D. H.F. 1525/28 to D.7.)

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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

VERSATILE.

Steering gear failed again. Am anchoring 3 cables 050° 54' E. Buoy. Expect to be about 2 hours. (VERSATILE 0225/28 to VANITY.)

CORHAMPTON.

(British, 2495 Tons) Ashore Haisbro South Middle Shoal. Require immediate assistance. (CORHAMPTON 0226/28.)

Barge Tugs NORMAN~~00~~ and RICHARD LEE BARBER proceeding from Yarmouth to assist. (C. in C. Nore 0247/28.)

S.O.S. ■ CORHAMPTON now cleared. (Humber Radio 0755/28.)

Cancel distress signal reports. Now afloat and proceeding. (CORHAMPTON 0900/28.)

SANDHILL.

(British, 586 Tons) Proceed with despatch to assist in 206° Chicken Rock 12. 5 miles at 2347/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0047/28 to SCHELDE.)

Sailed Tug SCHELDE from Cambeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0355/28.)

My 0047. Proceed to SANDHILL now reported in Dunrum Bay near Roaring Rock 4 miles South of Newcastle. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1442/28 to SCHELDE.)

HOMESIDE.

(British, 4617 Tons.) In 43° 52' N. 18°, 40' W. Leaking heavily in 1 hold. Requires immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio 0923/28.)

Now taking to boats. (Lands End W/T. 0945/28.)

FITZROY.

Sailed 0916/28, in tow of Tug KENIA at 0916 for Sheerness, escorted by H.H. Trawler TOURMALINE and LADY PHILOMENA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0930/28.)

/SANDENBURGH.....

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SANDENBURGH

(Dutch, 944 tons) Ashore near Longscar Seaton. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool, 0950/28)

ST. FRANCIS

Delayed by hull and degaussing defects. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1045/28)

→ PEGASUS

If PEGASUS is not in company with convoy one ship is to be detailed to stand by her. Her position was 055° 32' N., 019° 02' W., at 2000/27, course 080, speed 1 knot. (C. in C., W.A., 1053/28 to ANTELOPE)

Position at 1115/28 was 055° 38' N., 017° 57' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1929/28 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE)

Your 1929. PEGASUS safe in company with Convoy steaming seven knots. (ANTELOPE 2130/28 to C. in C., WA)

→ MACGREGOR LAIRD

Detach one corvette to stand by MACGREGOR LAIRD reported in distress in 054° 03' N., 024° 12' W., at 2000/27 drifting 135° 1.5 knots. Ships detailed to remain until arrival of NORTHERN SPRAY and tugs after which corvette rejoins convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 1059/28 to MALLOW)

→ PEGASUS
→ MACGREGOR LAIRD

ASSURANCE and RESTIVE are after passing through 56° 00' N., 16° W., to proceed to make contact with PEGASUS who will be in approx 55° 38' N., 18° 16' W., at 2000 today steering 080° 1 knot. On making contact RESTIVE is to stand by PEGASUS and ASSURANCE continue in company with NORTHERN SPRAY to assistance of MACGREGOR LAIRD. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1218/28 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE)

FREYA

Your 1055/27 and 0930/28. Tug KENIA on return is to call at Southend and pick up salvage vessel FREYA for towage to Harwich. (C.C.R.T. 1202/28 to C. in C., Nore)

SILVER SEAS

(M/S Drifter) My 1215/27. Returned owing to defect. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1746/28)

/WESTCOTT.....

War Diary28.1.1941.
TuesdayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSWESTCOTT
BLUEBELL

Have been in collision and lost all steam. Request tug. BLUEBELL is standing by. Estimated position 055° 30' N., 012° 15' W. (WESTCOTT 1956/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have been in collision with WESTCOTT. Bow damaged unlikely peak flooded. Can proceed 8 knots. Am standing by WESTCOTT (BLUEBELL 2030/28)

My 1956/28. Am proceeding to North Channel at approximately 4 knots escorted by BLUEBELL who has fore peak flooded and can steam 9 knots. My forward steering gear and degaussing gear broken down, number 3 boiler rooms flooded to waterline. Bulkhead still holding. Have only 90 tons oil fuel remaining. Consider tug still necessary. (WESTCOTT 2241/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

WIRTA

Admiralty 1123/28. Ship reported aground in my 1651/24 and my 1256/25 was Finnish WIRTA 4028 tons. Master (?was) proceeding to Reykjavik for boiler repairs. WIRTA now total loss. (F.O.I.C., Iceland 2130/28)

ALHENA

(Dutch, 4930 tons) Struck South Rock. Asking immediate assistance. Holds 1 and 2 making 15 feet water. Position one mile inside South Rock Light Vessel. (ALHENA 2301/28)

Ship is heavily bumping on rocks. We want immediate tugs. (ALHENA 2331/28)

War Diary.28.1.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.SONTAY.

Following particulars of SONTAY are in addition to my 1200/26. Ship carries some 240 invalids (details). Four French Army Doctors on board. Owing to shortage of oil fuel and fresh water Captain apprehensive of long delay; he states he has about 450 tons possible Contraband. (S.O. Force T. 0808/28 to C. in C. S.A. E.I. etc.).

F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports T.O.O. 2020/27. no advantage in sending SONTAY to Simonstown as ship can only be dealt with by Union Authorities as at any other Union Port. Under war measure No. 9 the cargo etc. are subject to seizure (as in case of JEAN L.D. at Capetown) but powers do not extend to seizing ship itself. Request early information whether instructions in your 1311/6/11 and 1848/22/1 are still to be observed re French ships. Presume Union Govt. would not object to ship being sent on to a British Port if necessary but desirable to remove troops first. (C. in C. S.A. 1403/28 to Admty).

French Warship.

My 1619/27. French 4 funnel\$ Warship had X. 73 on her side. She returned southward convoying French Merchant Vessel. (N.A. Lisbon 1056/28 to Admty).

French Convoys.

Gibraltar 28/1. 1000. French Survey ship ESTAFETTE escorting French S.S. BRESTOIS, AUVERGNE, passed from East to West. 1230 French S/M's AMPHITRITE, LA SIBYLLE, AMAZONE, escorted by French M/S sloop L'IMPETUEUSE passed from West to East. (S.O.I. Gib. 1233/28).

Gibraltar 1630/28 French Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE escorting French Merchant ships VILLE DE ROUEN, CHATEAU-YQUEM, IMERETHIE 2, PESGAGEL passed (? Eastbound). (S.O.I. Gib. 1711/28).

/SENATEUR.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (contd).

SENATEUR DUHAMEL.
JOSEPH DUHAMEL.

My 2116/8 para 1 (a). It was necessary to draw on crews AVANT-GARDE and L'ORAGE to supplement crews of SENATEUR DUHAMEL and JOSEPH DUHAMEL. Following are now required for latter two ships. (F.O.C.N.A. 1852/28 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

NEPTUNE.

Detach NEPTUNE as requisite to arrive Northern entrance 1200/29. (F.O.C.N.A. 0244A/28 to ?SHEFFIELD).

NEPTUNE.
SHEFFIELD.
H.G. 52.

My 1916/27 (Departure NEPTUNE and SHEFFIELD to cover H.G. 52 returning 1200/28 and 1200/30 respectively) for 1200/28 read 1200/29. (S.O.I. Gib., 0910/28, to Admty).

F.A.A. Sqdns.

Your 1231/19/1/41. Re Accommodation. Acting Governor would wish to consult War Office before giving final approval, and considers that Ambassador at Madrid must be consulted before any such increased use is made of the landing ground. (F.O.C.N.A. 0958/28 to Admty).

RENOWN.
ARK ROYAL.

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL proceed to sea P.M./28 returning A.M. and P.M./29 respectively for double purpose of carrying out exercises and creating diversion. (S.O. Force H, 1141/28 to Admty).

Gibraltar 1530/28, departure RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FIREDRAKE, ENCOUNTER, FORESIGHT, JERSEY, and JUPITER, in accordance with S.O. Force H. 1141/28. (S.O.I. Gib, 1552/28).

/S.O.S.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

S.O.S. Report.

Following received on 5400 kc/s at 0945/28 (begins) S.O.S. 43.52 N. 18.40 W. leaking have taken to boats (ends) English plain language. No call sign or signal letters. (FOCNA 1217/28)

STRATHEDEN.
NORTHERN PRINCE.

Routes.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1302/28 to N.A. Station).

800 Sqn.
F.A.A.

Your 1231/19. Favour retention at Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H. 1412/28 to Admty).
See Operations Volume.

Air Report.
F/B attacked
by French
fighters.

Daily summary operations. 1 routine A/S Patrol. 2 convoy escorts westward. 2 searches in area between Casablanca and convoy and 1 patrol off Casablanca as convoy had number of seized French ships. 1 London attacked by 2 French fighters 5 miles from Rabat. Only slight damage to London. No casualties. Area 4° W. to 10° W.
(200 Group 1735/28).

SCHARNHORST.
GNEISENAU.

Adty. 2321/27. The possibility of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU entering the Mediterranean cannot be ruled out.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2035/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

OTUS.

OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2216/28).

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Troopships
Drydocking.

Request early reply to my 0205/23 in light of delay to OTRANTO reported in your 1130/25. Understand from Campbell Capetown that VICEROY OF INDIA and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL were proceeding Capetown direct arriving 27/1 and on assumption that opportunity of drydocking at Durban had thereby been missed he was authorised to retain them until 29/1 to load cargo but was requested to contact with you before doing so. Presume in any case repair work to OTRANTO detailed in Egypt's 1747/13 will be carried out during stay in Durban.
(D.S.T. 0818/28 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA.

American Broadcast reports intercepting signals from EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA saying ship was sinking after being torpedoed and gunned off African coast. Have you any information?
(D.D.I.C. 0953/28 to C. in C. S.A.).

Your 0953/28 EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA is in harbour at Freetown and no raider reported in the vicinity.
(C. in C. S.A. 0955N/28 to Admty).

PETTER.

Overdue shipping. Norwegian PETTER due Capetown 24th from Abadan not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1003B/28 to Admty etc).

DUNEDIN.)
VELOX.)
VIDETTE.)

F.O.C.N.A. 2350/27 and my 1731/27. Route for convoy. (C. in C. S.A. 1005N/28 to DUNEDIN) See Operations Volume.

Suspicious Ship.

United States Ship CHARLES H. CRAMP steering 138° on 14/1 in 000° N. 019° W. sighted ship on starboard bow which closed him passing under stern steering parallel and then resumed original course. Speed throughout about 12 knots. Name not clearly read but might have been British ship SCOTTISH TRADER. (Description).
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1046/28 to Admty etc).

/Coast.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Coast
Defences.

Your 1145/20. This question has received full consideration. In view of (a) general shortage of coast defence equipments, (b) 4.5" equipments having range of 25,000 yards, and (c) provision of up to three Blenheim bombers, it has been decided that defences will be sufficient for present requirements. (D. of L.D. 1119/28 to C. in C. S.A.).

BULOLO.
TAMERLANE.

BULOLO leaves Freetown at 0600/29 to r.v. with TAMERLANE in position 004° 42'N. 031° 50'W. at 1300 G.M.T. 1/2 and escort to Takoradi. BULOLO informed of TAMERLANE'S route as in N.C.S.O. New York's 1048/22. (C. in C. S.A. 1125N/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

MARGALAU.
TREVAYLOR.
INDUS.

Southbound ships crossing 20° N. Speed, Approximate Noon positions, 29/1 and Routes. (D.T.D. 1158/28 to S.A. Stn).

C.S.I. to R.V.
with MENDOZA.

My 1403/27/1 and 1529/25 R.V. with MENDOZA escorted by DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON in position 000° 50'N. 010° 40'W. at 1200 N./30 remain in company until arrival at Freetown directing force as required. It has been reported French warships may endeavour to intercept MENDOZA and though not likely possibility exists. (C. in C. S.A. 1549/28 to C.S.I.).

TAMERLANE.

My 1259/27. In view of possibility of renewed U/B activity suggest TAMERLANE should keep to Southward of 1° 30'N. between 20° W. and 5° W. (D.D.I.C. 1355/28 to C. in C. S.A.).

/MURJEK.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

MURJEK.

Your 2029/21. Owners of MURJEK state Norwegian members of crew landed at Santos and that ship is now proceeding Gothenburg.
(D.E.W.D. 1421/28 to S.O.I. Freetown).

DEVONSHIRE.

Your 0653/27 (calling for 1603/21. No previous trace of receipt in W.R.). Following is repetition of my 1603/21:- Simonstown arrival 21/1 DEVONSHIRE.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1439/28 to Admty).

MOUZINHO.
Censorship
of Mails.
GUINE.
ANGOLA.

Your 1147/27 concur. In view of discrepancy between mail bags actually on board MOUZINHO (2172) and number believed to have been embarked at Lisbon (1146) request report of mails in Portuguese ships GUINE and ANGOLA when they arrive Freetown shortly, showing number of bags for the various destinations embarked at various ports.
(D.E.W.D. 1643/28 to C. in C. S.A).

CAP DES PALMES.
TOUAREG.

Following from Claud Adams. Your 1637/16 para seven CAP DES PALMES lowest temperature obtainable is 50° F. Speed is now about 16½ knots. Your 1457/26 para 4 I consider TOUAREG could make U.K. at about nine knots With three vessels at Duala and three at Pointe Noire have urgent need for adequate financial arrangements.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1905/28 to Admty).

- See ops vol P.36 25.1.41.

Your 1748/25. D. of S.T. 2003/24 states French Brigade is to be sent to Freetown for transhipment to EMPIRE TROOPER. Request information for what ship COMMANDANT DUBOC is required as escort?(C. in C. S.A. 2121/28, to Admty).

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air
Report.
Convoy attacked.
1 M.V. Sunk.

Special Operational Summary.
My "I" 60 27/1. As result of report by Sunderland on anti-convoy patrol, 7 Swordfish 850 Squadron F.A.A. despatched and attacked 3 M/V's 1 of which armed in position 212 Lampedusa 85 miles at 1350 hours 27/1. 2 Fulmars 806 Squadron F.A.A. acted as protective escort. Leading ship 4000 tons acting as escort dive-bomb D.4.250 lbs. bombs near miss by 1 Swordfish. 2nd Ship 6000 tons attacked with Torpedoes by 3 Swordfish possible hit stern last seen clouds of white smoke and down by stern. 3rd ship 4000 tons attacked with torpedoes by 3 Swordfish direct hit amidships broke back and sank crew taking to boats. Slight (corrupt group) from leading ship. All Swordfish and Fulmars returned undamaged.

Naples
attacked,
also,
Capodichino,
Catania,
Comiso.

Part 2, Night 27/28th Jan. Wellingtons attacked Capodichino (Naples) aerodrome Naples central station and junction and marshalling yards Catania and Comiso Aerodromes, from 1930 to 2100 hours. Smoke screen over Naples harbour. Moderate accurate heavy A.A. and some light from 3 ships off Catania and 1 off Augusta. 1 Wellington dropped 2500 lb G.P. and 960 lbs. incendiaries on Comiso aerodrome from 6000 feet. Raiders operating against Malta at night evidently based Comiso. (H. R.A.F, Med, 0815/28).

Warships
for Turkey.

Reply to C. in C. Med. 1157/20 giving dates of completion. Turks are being urged to provide steaming crews for destroyers and submarines. (Contreller 0956/28 to C. in C. Med).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd)..

Enemy
Intelligence.

Report from American N.A. re German aircraft south of line Naples, Bari and in Sicily. Morale of Italian Navy still good but discontented. Only 2 battleships considered fit to fight. (N.A. Madrid to D.N.I. 0917/28).

Mining.

On 25/1 a gale in Adriatic swept many mines on to Dalmatian Coast. The Bench have declared a danger area of 3 miles radius centre position 3'45° from Zembra, Gulf of Tunis (D.S. 512).

Air attack
on enemy
M.V's by
Fulmers and
Swordfish.

TRIPOLI

Six Swordfish escorted by two Fulmars from Malta attacked convoy of three merchant ships escorted by auxiliaries steering 180 degs. in position 34.18 north 11.45 east at 1550B/27. Leading ship 4000 tons dive bombed near miss, second ship 6000 tons possibly hit by one torpedo aft last seen under cloud of smoke down by stern and crew in boats, rear ship German 4000 tons hit amidships and sank. From Y. report one ship concerned was possibly armed merchant ship (corrupt group) CARALIS. (C. in C. Med., 1021/28 to Admtty). My 1021/28. Suggest no communique be issued. (C. in C. Med 1351/28).

German
aircraft
in Sicily.

C. in C. Med 1025/28 See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report.

Apollonia,
Barce,
Benghazi,
Derna.

Operation Summary No. 232 up to 1200 hours 28.1.1941.
Days 26/1, 27/1. Blenheims bombed Apollonia landing ground. R.C. reported no change in shipping Benghazi. Enemy have abandoned 14 unserviceable aircraft on Derna landing ground. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1149/28).

/ILLUSTRIOUS.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Radio Rome Communique of 27/1 states ILLUSTRIOUS lost. Can her arrival at Alexandria be promulgated to press? (N.A. Lisbon, 1203/28 to Admty).

Turkish
War Material
requirements.

N.A. Ankara 1226/28.

Enemy Air
Attacks.

Brief summary of enemy air attacks of Force H. and Med. Fleet. for information. (D.T.S.D. to C. in C's, 1354/28).

JAGUAR.

My 0859/21. I dislike passing ships without bow protection through Narrows, which have already cost us 3 Destroyers, particularly when I cannot provide support in case things should go wrong. If it is decided to send her, JAGUAR would be passed through to Malta and onward probably when next M.W. convoy is sailed. Short though we are of light craft the ship must go if need elsewhere is great enough to justify the passage but otherwise I propose she remains with Med. Fleet. (C. in C. Med. 1327/28 to Admty).

Ammunition.

Your 1401/27. Details on passage. (D.T.S.D. 1401/28 to C. in C. Med). See Med. Vol.

Night Raids
on Malta.

1936 to 2013 2 enemy aircraft circled over Malta probably unable to distinguish Island as no searchlights exposed and possibly relying on flare paths being lit for returning Wellingtons. No bombs dropped. 0518 to 0557 1 enemy aircraft approached Island and flew away re-appearing shortly afterwards, without warning by R.D.F. A.A. engaged. No results. 3 bombs dropped on Luga aerodrome. Some damage and casualties.

Tripoli.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Tripoli.
Recco.

Recco. 0847 to 1108 Glenn Martin photo recco Tripoli, Mallaha, Castel Benito. Tripoli Harbour 2 destroyers 2 large and 1 medium M/V 9 fleet auxiliaries also large quantity barges or fishing smacks. 4 seaplanes sighted 2 large and 6 small M/V (latter possibly auxiliaries) 20 miles W.N.W. of Harbour heading for Harbour. Mellaba and Castel Benito nothing visible. 2 Swordfish effected anti submarine patrol. Nil report. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/28).

Convoy
A.N. 14.

Sailing telegram (1) A.N. 14 (2) 1700/28. (10 Ships) DESTRC for Suda Bay remainder for Piraeus. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1716/28 to Admty).

Egypt
Truck
Ships.

Your 1045/19/12 to N.O. Halifax regarding Indian Cargo on Egypt truck ships. Have advised Montreal no objection Egypt truck ships completing broken stowage with general cargo for India in case of need. In view of economy achieved by this combination Canal dues not important consideration. (D.S.T. 1745/28 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Naval Situation
in Eastern Med.

Review (C. in C. Med 1745/28)
See Mediterranean Volume (Lion Copy only).

S.A. Gear.

A.M. 1818/18. Re despatch of S.A. gear. (D.M.S. 1908/28 to C. in C. Med, etc).

M.T.B's.

Asking Admiralty intentions. (C. in C. Med. 2245/28 to Admty).
See Mediterranean Volume.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Work done at Alexandria to make her seaworthy and requesting instructions. (C. in C. Med. 2255/28 to Admty)
See Mediterranean Vol.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ Troop Movement.

Your 1520/25 (71420/25) DOMINION MONARCH not available. She is full loaded with priority cargo for U.K. and is required for W.S. 8. 2. Your 1404/25 (71424/25) ^{p. 208} CHRISTIAN HUYGENS is also required for W.S. 8. and it is therefore desirable to avoid her use if possible. She is to load cargo in Mombasa for U.K. (D.S.T.0005/28 to C. in C. E.I).

Ammunition reserves.

Your 0450/21 K. class destroyers should adjust to new outfit. Far Eastern reserve can be drawn on if emergency requires but further supplies will take into account impending relief of K. class by Hunt class. (D.A.S. 0105/28 to C. in C. E.I).

Convoy.

Sailing telegram (8 ships for Colombo, etc). (N.D.I.C. Port Sudan 0600/28, 06302/28).

Mogadiscio, Kismayu.

Reply to S.O. Force K. 2159/25. (C. in C. E.I. 0634Z/28) See Operations Vol.

→ Troop Transport.

Your 2247/18 and subsequent signals. Proposals for ORBITA, DOMINION MONARCH, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (C. in C. E.I. to D.S.T. 0710/28). See Operations Vol. *Page 46 28.1.41.*

CAPETOWN.

To join Force K. Route and date. (C. in C. E.I. 0810Z/28) See Operations Vol.

Convoys, Bombay.

Your 1222/26 and my 1232/27. Convoys expected at Bombay and suggested transshipment of U.S. 9 be carried out at Colombo. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0706Z/28 to C. in C. E.I). See Operations Volume.

/Loss.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Loss of
Oil Fuel.
Ceylon.

My 1516/12/12 concerning loss of oil fuel from New China Vadi Fuel Installation. Result of enquiry. Probable that loss occurred through negligence on the part of native employees. (Capt. I/C Ceylon 1152/28 to Admty).

Supply Ship
for Greece.

3263 67.

It is inevitable that a number of ships, especially Greeks and ships bound for Greece, passing through the Red Sea during the next few months, will be of less than 8 knots. In view of the urgency of the Greek supply problem it is important that these ships should not be unduly delayed; request you will give immediate consideration to the best arrangements that can be made for their passage, possibly by reducing the speed of a proportion of B.N. and B.S. Convoys to 7 knots. A case in point is AGHIOS GEORGIOS now Port Said which ship is required South as soon as possible. (D.T.D. 1415/28 to C. in C. E.I.).

Convoy
A.S.13.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said 1636/28 to Admty).

China.

OSCAR GORTHEN.
Raider Report.

Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN broadcast by W/T that she had sighted armed raider painted black with prize in company in approximate position 18° N. 147° E. at 0500 G.M.T. 27/1. (C.O.I.S. Far East 0424Z/28 to Admty etc). (Position near Cadronne Islands).

Please interview Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN on arrival and ascertain course and descriptive details of Raider and prizes she is believed to have sighted. (D.D.I.C. 1916/28 to Consul General Honolulu).

/Indo.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (cont).

Indo-China Trade.

Your 1144/22. Admiral Decoux has informed me through Consul General Singapore that he has no objection to proposed substitution so long as three (corrupt group) Norwegian ships are not available. (C. in C. China, 0529z/28 to Admty).

Shipbuilding.

Capacity on China station for construction of M/S and A/S vessels is not yet being fully employed. Deciding factor is provision of engines and equipment by Adty arrangement. If there is any prospect of larger and more rapid supply of these items recommend building of further hulls locally be authorised. (C. in C. China 0955/28 to Admty).

PIPINA.

Your 0415Z/25. Greek Committee authorise PIPINA proceed Balik Papan. They are investigating further commitments. (D. of S.T. 2141/28 to N.O.I.C. HongKong).

America & West Indies.

Enemy Unit.

D.F. at 0327/28 45.30 N. 38° W. (D.D.I.C. 0817/20) See HOME COMMANDS, Enemy Intelligence

CARADOC.
TAMERLANE.

My 1641/27. Estimate CARADOC can remain with TAMERLANE until 035° W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1031/28 to C. in C. S.A).

COMORIN.

Request reply to my 1242/25 (Re R.A.3. 1756/23, on leaving Trinidad COMORIN will be routed through 9N., 51 W. signal further route). Route given by F.O.C. 3rd B.S. in his 1957/24 is cancelled. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1032/28 to C. in C. S.A).

PRINCE ROBERT.
AWATEA.

N.Z. N.B.'s 0532z/27 and your 1831/26 PRINCE ROBERT can be made available for escort of AWATEA from Suva to Vancouver leaving Suva (date.) If you concur request you will make necessary arrangements. It is not desired to make any further commitments for PRINCE ROBERT at this time. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1035/28 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/MALOJA.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

MALOJA.
B.H.X. 106.

Departure B.H.X. 106. Ocean Escort
MALOJA returning Halifax through $044^{\circ} 40' N.$
 $60^{\circ} 00' W.$
(C. I/C Bermuda 1203/28).

RAMILLIES.
H.X. 106.

Intend sailing RAMILLIES as ocean escort
for H.X. (Group omitted Should be H.X. 106).
leaving convoy in vicinity $27^{\circ} W.$ returning
to Halifax. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1545/28 to Admtly).

LAURENT MEEUS
aground.

Belgian ship LAURENT MEEUS aground entrance
to Kingston Harbour. Expect to refloat
after discharging part of cargo.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1751/28 to Admtly).

Australia.

WESTRALIA.
ADELAIDE.

WESTRALIA escorting ZEALANDIA departed
Brisbane 27/1 for Thursday Island and Darwin.
ADELAIDE arrived Brisbane 27/1.
(A.C.N.B. 1215/28 to Admtly etc).

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War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LIVORNO.
PROCIDA.

Consul Valencia reports 27/1 LIVORNO expected to leave Castellon tonight. PROCIDA expected to leave Burriana tomorrow night both for Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A. 0523/28 to Admty etc).

706 = WADAI.
265 = HAMBURG.

706 (?sailing) and 265 arrived Rabaul 0025 Z/28. (A.C.N.B. 0945Z/28 to Admty).

ERNA. O.
PLUS.

OLDENDORFF.
My 1535/27. ERNA O is reported to be beached at Marin. PLUS is now expected to sail in her place (B.2). (Vigo 1105/28 to D.N.I).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Possibility of interception by French. (C. in C. S.A. 1349/28). See South Atlantic.

Ascension reports departure 0900/28 DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON escorting MENDOZA. (S.O.I. Freetown 1612N/28 to Admty I.C.S.).

Request following information regarding policy to be followed in regard to MENDOZA may be given as early as possible. (A) Will prize proceeding be instituted in respect of ship and/or cargo? (B) Will passengers and/or crew be repatriated under similar arrangements to those in the cases of CUBA and INDOCHINOIS? If so it is desirable that action be initiated as soon as practicable. (C) If ship is seized will crew be sent? (C. in C. S.A. 2217/28 to Admty.).

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TOSCANIA.

Tanker 5904 tons, reported to have raised steam at Tampico on 25/1 and moved up behind the German ORINOCO (D.S. 5/1).

CARALIS.

3510 tons, sent out on S.O.S. at 1420/27 in position 34.30N. 11.50 E. and subsequently made her position off Tripoli at 0300/28. (Possibly hit by bomb in British air attack - see Mediterranean) (D.S. 511).

CAPO VADO
CATALANI
VULCANIA.

}
} Lloyds reports from Split of Lifebuoys recovered.
(D.S. 511).

War Diary.28.1.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.URLA.

British 5198 tons. (Straggler from H.X. 102 Boston for Manchester with steel and lumber) Following received at 'Y' station at 2033 on 500 kcs. X. 529 SSSS URLA torpedoed sinking 54°N. 1920 W. receiver out of action. (Flowerdown W/T, 2042/28).

Detach one ship to assistance of URLA torpedoed in position 054° 00'N. 019° 20'N (? W) at 2030. Ship detailed report name. (C. in C. W.A. 2053/28 to MALLOW).

Submarines Reported.1236.

57° - 59°N., 18° 25° W. say 220'W. of Rockall, indefinite position. (D.S. 512).

2133.

About 51.30 N. 14° W. say 166'W. of Fastnet, indefinite position. (D.S. 512).

1825.

63.04 N., 13.48 W. (See S/M's Attacked).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Positions cannot be reliably estimated.
German.

1 may be eastbound from 60° N. 25° W. present position unknown.

1 within 100 miles radius of 55°N. 21° W.

1 within 100 miles radius of 53°N. 21° W.

1 may be about 53°N. 13°W. southbound.

1 about 200 miles to westward of Rockall.

1 within 100 miles radius of 40° N. 12° W. homeward bound.

1 within 100 miles radius of 20°N. 22° W. southbound.

Italian.

1 within 100 miles radius of 40° N. 15° W. homeward bound.

1 near Canaries.

1 arriving Gironde.

1 about 150 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal outward bound.

2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1423/28).

War Diary.

28.1.194.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (contd.).

Submarines Attacked.

1825.

One submarine submerged bearing 280 degs.
Distance one mile course unknown.
Position 282° Kalso 197.
(KINGSTON ONYX 1825/28 to Scapa W/T).

Had indefinite contact from 1825 for
five minutes (position).
(KINGSTON ONYX 1900/28 to S.O. Trawlers
Northern Patrol).

2220

Have attacked contact in position 323°
Dunnet Head 15.6. SOMALI continue with WAR
PINDARI, NAPIER continue search.
(Capt D.7 2220/28 to A.C.O.S).

D7 repeated A.C.O.S. SOMALI from R.A.(d)
your 2220/28. This is a known non-submarine.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2355/28 to Capt D.7 SOMALI).

988

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Shipping

The Admiralty have decided not to revert at present to 15 knots as the lower limit of speed for independently routed ships. (See 19/1)

It is under consideration to route as many convoys as possible in and out of the N.W. Approaches by a northern route in order to avoid enemy air attack.

Enemy aircraft are reluctant to attack convoys in the N.W. Approaches but stragglers especially when east of 20° W court disaster. Kites are to be flown by day and A/A armament is to be kept continuously manned when east of 20° W.

Search for
SCHARNHORST &
GNEISENAU

The C. in C., H.F. is still at sea, Two more destroyers returned to Scapa this morning. The patrol by Sunderlands was cancelled, none being available. Additional patrols to the enemy coast were, however, flown today.

Sweep for
6 M.V's.

KASHMIR and KIPLING returned to Plymouth this morning without having sighted the 6 merchant vessels sighted by aircraft yesterday off Ushant.

U-Boat^{attack} on
Convoy S.C. 19

Convoy S.C. 19 was attacked last night and early this morning by U-Boat in the N.W. Approaches today. SS URLA, RUSHPOOL WEST WALES, AIKATERINI and tanker W.B. WALKER were torpedoed.

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather all offensive operations by Coastal Command last night were cancelled. Routine patrols today were curtailed and none were flown in the southern North Sea or Channel. Eleven Hudsons patrolled the North Sea to the Coast of Norway, but sighted nothing of importance.

Attempts to reconnoitre Brest were frustrated by low cloud and poor visibility.

No offensive operations were carried out by Bomber Command last night or today, on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the south west coast and in the Bristol Channel.

Milford Haven was opened today subject to local restrictions, except to I.C.E. ships.

Cardiff, Barry and Swansea were reopened this evening, but no ships are to proceed eastward of Cardiff. Newport and Avonmouth are still closed.

SS WESTMORLAND (9496 tons) was mined at 1247 off Liverpool and is to be brought into harbour tomorrow. Dutch Balloon barrage vessel SATURNUS was mined off Liverpool late this afternoon, though her fate is uncertain owing to low visibility.

War Diary29.1.1941.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTNorth Atlantic

NEPTUNE returned to Gibraltar this morning from covering Convoy O.G. 52 since p.m./27 with SHEFFIELD, who is to return tomorrow.

South AtlanticRaider reports

At 2100 G.M.T. today SS EURYLOCHUS reported that she was being gunned by a warship raider in position 8° 15' N., 25° 14' W. There is some evidence that the ADMIRAL SCHEER and an armed merchant raider were the enemy ships concerned. SS AFRIC STAR also reported being gunned by an armed merchant raider, probably in the same position. DEVONSHIRE was despatched to search, and NORFOLK, who was to R.V. with DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON escorting MENDOZA, was ordered to cover the Freetown-Cape Verde trade route. C. in C., S.A. later reported that the position off SS EURYLOCHUS appeared improbable.

Recent W/T traffic has indicated enemy vessels in an area S.W. of the Cape-Freetown Trade route, although nothing has been discovered and there are no other indications of U-Boat or raider activity in the area. C. in C., S.A. considers this may be preliminary to some activity or in furtherance of some plan.

Convoy

W.S. 5b left Freetown this morning for Capetown, escorted by EMERALD, AUSTRALIA, and small craft.

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War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

An enemy merchant vessel while approaching Tripoli in company with 3 others, this morning was seen to strike what appeared to be a mine about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off the harbour. There was a large explosion, and the ship when last seen was down by the bows and surrounded by small craft from the harbour.

Swordfish at Heraklion aerodrome (Crete) were bombed today by 24 enemy aircraft.

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

New "Hunt"
HUNT
Destroyers.
Allocations.

Your 1129/24 and my 1637/26/12/40.
Hunts completing shortly are allocated as follows:-
2. To Rosyth Escort Force: QUANTOCK, WHADDON, BROCKLESBY and LIDDNESDALE.
3. Adty. 1306/19/12/40. AVONVALE, FARNDALE, ERIDGE and HEYTHROP will proceed to the Red Sea when worked up.
(D.O.D. H. 1058/29).

4 Sloops
to join
C.in C. W.A.

Adty's 1858/28.
LONDONDERRY, EGRET, FLEETWOOD, WESTON.
Anticipate ships will sail as follows:-
detailed.
LONDONDERRY. P.M./29.
EGRET. A.M./30.
FLEETWOOD and WESTON. A.M./31.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1100/29 to Adty.).

Four sloops will join my command shortly to afford A/A protection to southern routed mercantile convoys. N.O.I.C. Londonderry to report whether they can be based at Londonderry. Not more than two sloops will be in harbour together.
(C.in C. W.A. 1327/29).

Your 1327/29. These sloops can be accepted with some difficulty at Londonderry now. When new berthing is completed about end of March there will be no difficulty in berthing them.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1831/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

MACKAY.

Urgently required as Leader of 16th Flotilla, the need being even greater in view transfer of 4 destroyers from Nore Command to Rosyth.
(C.in C. Nore 1108/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

New
Recognition
Procedure.

Attention is called to Admiralty M.024063/40 dated 1st January 1941. New recognition procedure will come into force on 1st February. (D.S.D. 1818/29).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Dulage"
BRIDGE.

At 1130/29 (D.C. 1200/29) At 2330/29
(D.C. 2339/29).

PRINCE OF
WALES.

My p.c. and s. at 0900/29 056° 45' N.
070° 10' W., 015°, 15 knots.
(PRINCE OF WALES 0030/29 to JACKAL).

Sailed from Scapa at 0900/29 NIGERIA,
INGLEFIELD, MAORI, NIZAM to R/V with
PRINCE OF WALES (A.C.O.S. 0907/29).

My 1231/28. Delete JACKAL from outward
escort. She may be in time to meet
FURIOUS. (C.in C. W.A. 1705/29 to F.O.I.C.
Greenock).

"Town"
One TOWN
Destroyer
for Torpedo
Trials at
Weymouth.

Request you will detail one "Town" Class
Destroyer to carry out torpedo discharge
trials at Weymouth.
2. Ship detailed should be available at
Devonport 3/2 for modifications and will
sail for Weymouth about 8/2 for one week.
(D.O.D.H. 1241/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 6 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1421/29).

CALIFORNIA.

Clyde 1000/31 (route, speed) to Reykjavik
and N.P.41. Asking C.in C. H.F. to arrange
escort from North End Minch to 15° W. if
available. (F.O.C.N.P. 1536/29).

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for
SCARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

Scapa arrival 2315/28 C.S. 18 in
EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM, RODNEY, and
MAURITIUS. 0010/29 BEAGLE and BRILLIANT.
(A.C.O.S. 0053/29).

Your 1430 just received. Request R/V for
rejoining. My p.c. and s. are 065° N.
013° 20' W., 173°, 20 knots.
(AURORA, 0245/29 to C.in C. H.F.).

Scapa arrivals 0800 PIORUN and KEPPEL.
(A.C.O.S. 0907/29).

My 0.517/26.
Denmark Straits patrolled 1140 to 1430/28
between 65° and 67° N. and 2230 and 28 W.
Nothing significant seen. Fog extended
60 miles radius from 66.10 N. 25.50 W.
(G.O.C. Iceland 1027/29 to War Office).

Your 1047/27. Intend to sail EDINBURGH,
BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, RODNEY at 1130/30.
R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail screen
for RODNEY. (C.S. 18 1816/29 to C.in C.
H.F.).

Cancel my 1816/29.
(18 C.S. 2149/29).

War Diary.

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29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

L.27.

Is to be withdrawn from patrol tonight.
(F.O.S. 0959/29.).

To leave patrol at 0001/30 and proceed to Dartmouth Sanctuary passing through 50° N. 03° W. R/V with escort at 0830/30 in 110° Start Point 3 miles and proceed to Dartmouth. (S.S. 1610/29).

TAKU
TALISMAN
SNAPPER

TAKU is to leave patrol after dark/31⁷ R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE and TALISMAN in 300° Trevoe Head 4 miles at 0830/2. SNAPPER estimated off Bishop Rock 0800/31 through $047^{\circ} 48'$ N. $006^{\circ} 39'$ W. to Bay of Biscay North zone.
(S.2. 1023/29).

SNAPPER
TUNA

0845 sailed LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting SNAPPER and TUNA in accordance with S.2's 1128/27. E.T.A. Bishops Rock 0800/31.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1036/29).

Positions.

At 0800/30 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1718/29).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2300/28 para 1. (Patrol by one Sunderland A/C) Patrol is cancelled as aircraft now unserviceable. (C.in C. Rosyth 0532/29).

Additional patrols being flown today.
S.A. 1 A. S.A. 2. S.A. 3.
All extended to Enemy coast.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0948/29).

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

G.O.C. Iceland 1027/29 See Operations.

Patrol S.T. 2 at 0930 and patrol S.T. 1 at 1400 for 30/1. (N.A.S. Stornoway 1730/29 to A.C.O.S.).

801 Squadron.

801 Squadron of six Skuas now at St. Merryn and six more en route are to be placed under the orders of Coastal Command. (5th S.L. 1351/29 to R.A.N.A.S.).

Newcastle
Defences
Routeing
of
A/C
to avoid.

A.145 29/1 reference my A.207 of 8/10. May Admiralty be asked to confirm if this is necessary. Understand local Naval Authorities support a request for special freedom of defence action to be renewed in Tyneside in view of important target now in that area. (H.Q.F.C. 2155/29 to Air Ministry).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

PANDION
BARON
RENFREW

→ Request you sail ST. OLAVES to assist BARON RENFREW and PANDION in 55° 50' N. 10° 15' W. at 1330/28. Tug TENACITY and A/S escort already despatched. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1227/29 to A.C.O.S.).

Not yet located PANDION(?) (?) searching with escort. (TENACITY 1230/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Approx. position 055° 23' N. 006° 56' W. course and speed 210° 3 knots. Require escort to nearest port. Master dead, mate seriously injured. (PANDION 1235/29).

F.O.I.C. Belfast is providing escort and PANDION is being advised to proceed to Belfast if seaworthy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1635/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1640/29. Have anchored Lough Swilly to put mate ashore. (PANDION 2110/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

→ At 2055 sailed Rescue Tug ST. OLAVES from Aultbea to assist BARON RENFREW. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2142/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

BELGIA
(bombed 26/1).

Fire out ship grounded near High Water mark and secured by anchors. Further survey and report tomorrow. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1700/29).

Types of
Enemy A/C
to be met
West of
Ireland.

X.794. 29/1. Your 2239/25 and 1147/26. Request all concerned be informed that at present only four types of four-engined aircraft are likely to be sighted West of Ireland.

/ They are (a) ...

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Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Types of
Enemy A/C
to be met
West of
Ireland.
(Contd.)

They are (a) German Focke Wulf Condor which is a landplane (b) British Sunderland which is a flying boat (c) American type Liberator which is a landplane (d) American type Boeing 17 which is a landplane. Silhouettes of first three have already been distributed. Silhouettes of Boeing 17 now being circulated. Request characteristics of these types to be brought to notice of all concerned so that quick visual recognition independent of markings can be achieved. (Air Ministry 1845/29).

Mining.

Sweep by
5th M/S F.

Admiralty 2116/28. Commencement of my 2237/16/1 and 1105/23/1 postponed by weather to 0800/29. Anticipate that sweep detailed in para. (1) of my 2237/16/1 will be completed by 1600/29. (C.in C. Rosyth 0017/29 to A.C.O.S.).

Your 0017/29.

Four ships of 1st M/S Flotilla and three trawlers of 44th Group carrying out similar sweeps from Duncansby Head to Westward of dividing line A Z 787. (A.C.O.S. 1126/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).

B.S.50.

Weather permitting three Blenheims from 16 Group on 385 kcs. will escort you from Humber L.V. at 1600/30 until dark. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange air protection on 31/1. (C.in C. Nore 1030/29 to TEVIOT BANK, QUORN).

INTREPID
IMPULSIVE.

Arrived Scapa 1100.
(A.C.O.S. 1203/29).

/ Milford Haven.

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.).

Milford Haven.

Port is open subject to local restrictions except to I.C.E. ships.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/29).

TAFELBERG.

Request immediate report of the circumstances in which TAFELBERG was mined. Was ship in swept water and if so when was it swept.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1244/29 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Your 1244/29. Circumstances of Mining. (Master did not comply with his orders to swing in swept water).
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1852/29 to Adty.).

Liverpool.

Your 7569/40 and my 1024/27. 3 mines detonated 0950/26. Particulars.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1704/29).

Iceland.

Mine discovered ashore in 064° 59' N. 013° 37' W. A.M./26. Painted black and almost certain British. Several unconfirmed reports of mines drifting ashore on North coast of Iceland between Cape Horn and Akureyri. Search proceeding to confirm reports and obtain further details. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1745/29).

Convoy Sweep.

QUEEN OF THANET will be carrying out Convoy Sweep. 31/1.
(Capt. M/S Granton 1745/29).

Iceland/Faroes Barrier.

Adty's 1749/28. R.A. M.L. requested to signal details of next lay.
(ii) F.O.C. 18 C.S. is to detail one ship of 18th C.S. to act as close escort to first M/L.S. and is to cover operations with RODNEY and two cruisers.
(iii) Para. (iii) of my 1047/27 is cancelled. (C.in C. H.F. 1828/29 to R.A.M.L.)

/ Bristol Channel

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Bristol
Channel.

Ships from Cardiff, Barry, and Swansea may sail to the westward, and ships from westward may now enter these ports. No ships are to proceed to the eastward of Cardiff. No ships may sail from Newport or Avonmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1843/29).

WESTMORLAND.

(British 9496 tons). Mined at 1247 in 200° Bar L.V. 3 miles. Ship will be brought into harbour tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2136/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Bearing of unknown enemy units at 1512/29 was as follows.
(D.D.I.C. 1604/29).

Norway,
Intelligence.
A.M.C. S.S. TARONGA
on shipments
etc.

Following concerns Norway.
(a) (? 1703)/21. Now reported TARONGA having L.A. and A.A. guns mounted at Akers. She also has unusually heavy armour cables for degaussing. B.2.
(e) Kirkenes on 10/1 first consignment 3000 tons.
(N.A. Stockholm 1801/29 to D.N.I.).

1001

War Diary.29.1.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys.

- W.N.76. Route P. E.T.A. Dunnet Head 1000/29
speed 7 knots. (A.C.O.S. 0029/29 to JASON).
- O.B.O.279. Sailed 0300/29/1.
Escort H.M.T. KING SOL. 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 0930/29).
- O.B.279.
STANMORE Sailed 0100/29 to join O.B.279 at rendezvous
D.2 British STANMORE for Capetown.
- F.S.97. 22 Ships. (F.O.I.C. 1001/29).
- W.N.80. Request following Norwegian Whalers speed
14 knots may be included in Convoy W.N.80.
G.O.S.4 Destination Gateshead.
K.O.S.7 " Jarrow.
K.O.S.8 " Jarrow.
K.O.S.9 " South Shields.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1012/29).
- F.N.95. My 2242/28.
When WOOLSTON and VIVIEN join F.N.95
HOLDERNESS and FYTCHLEY are to part company
and proceed to Rosyth independently adjusting
speed to arrive destination a.m./30.
(C.in C. Nore 1052/29 to HOLDERNESS
FYTCHLEY.).
- F.S.98 My 1339/24, 1745/27, 1313/28 and 1513/28.
F.N.97 Cancel F.S. 98 and F.N. 97, in consequence,
F.S.99 *sailed - see p. 1004* Escorts for F.S.99 sailing at 1730 from
Methil are WOLFHOUD, WESTMINSTER. Additional
escort for F.S.99 from 20 C buoy FYTCHLEY.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1105/29, to Admty. etc.).
- SHOAL FISHER
DROMUS Commodore WESTERN ISLES is requested to sail
DIANELLA to Oban when ready.
DIANELLA is to escort SHOAL FISHER from Oban
to R/V with tanker DROMUS from Holyhead at
R/V to be arranged by N.O.I.C. Oban.
DIANELLA is then to escort both ships to
arrive 330° Hartland Point 5 miles at 1230.
Relief escort will be at Hartland Point R/V
to bring SHOAL FISHER and DROMUS to Plymouth.
DIANELLA to proceed to Londonderry on relief.
(C.in C. W.A. 1113/29, to Cdre, WESTERN ISLES).

/ F.N.95.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.95. Sailed 0944/29, 18 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1136/29).

C.W.24. Sailed 1130/29 9 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1140/29).

F.S.96. Convoy F.S.96 reported anchored East of
Nore L.V. 28 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames; 1151/29).

3 M.V's. Request you sail 3 M/V's Tug KENIA, with
Salvage Vessel FREYA in tow, for Harwich
as early as practicable A.M./30.
F.O.I.C. Harwich requested to detail a
destroyer from to-night's patrol to proceed
down Barry Deep on completion of patrol
until KENIA is met, returning to Harwich as
escort. Fighter protection asked for.
Code word 'Screw'
(C.in C. Nore 1510/29 to N.C.S.O. Southend
etc.).

Your 1510, EGLINGTON detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1634/29 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth
Area.

Convoy F.N.93 due May Island 1730.
Convoy F.N.94 20 C Buoy 2100.
Convoy F.S.99 sails 1730 adjusting speed
to arrive 20 C Buoy 1600/30.
Convoy W.N.75 Part 1. Arbroath 2000.
Convoy W.N.75 Part 2. Kinnaird Head 2200.
Convoy W.N.76 Kinnaird Head 2000.
Convoy E.N.64 sails 0500/30.
PYTCHLEY to join F.S.99 when met.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1522/29).

11 M.V.
C.W.24.

Portsmouth night movements.
Convoys. 11 merchant vessels escorted by
2 A/S Trawlers ST. CATHAN and CAPE COMORIN
from Dartmouth arrive Nab 0830/30,
C.W.24 approaching from eastward.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1553/29).

TRITON
TURQUOISE
FN. 96.

T.H.V. TRITON escorted by A/S trawler
TURQUOISE sails from Harwich at 1000/30/1
proceeding at 10 knots (route) arriving
B 4 buoy at 1315 working on it for half an
hour, thence to AMETHYST wreck buoy,
arriving 1415 working on it for one hour
arriving Nore L.V. at 1600, thence anchoring
at Southend at 1730. Request fighter
protection and that TURQUOISE may be sailed
with F.N.96 for Harwich on 31/1.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1555/29, to C.in C. Nore.).

War Diary.29.1.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

- E.N.64. (A) 0500/30th.
(B) H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE, MACBETH. Additional escort FOWEY.
(C) 26 ships.
(E) Code Words:-
E.N. 64 ~~MONITOR~~ "Monitor".
E.N.L. Portion. MONITOR. "Monitor".
E.N.O. Portion. ~~MIXTURE~~ "Mixture".
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1603/29).
- W.N.75. Arrived 1612/29/1.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1614/29).
- F.N.95. Harwich 29/1 departure SOUTHDOWN at 1634 to join F.N.95.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1647/29).
- KATLA KATLA (Icelandic). Sailed Halifax 23/1 to Reykjavik via Louisburg. (Route). Due Reykjavik 3/2.
(D.T.D. 1708/29 to V.A.N.P.).
- 10 M.V's "Union"
~~UNION~~ sailed 10 M V/S including three tankers 2 escorts.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1721/29 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
- W.N.76. Am in company with STELLA CAPELLA FANDANGO, Commodore of convoy W.N.76 and three ships. Three more ships are about 15 miles ahead. Presume W.N. - rear portion is astern. In view of bad weather and rather obscure situation request lights all night.
(JASON 1730/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).
- E.N.93. Tyne ships arrived. Non-arrival
WILLIAM ~~Wm.~~ H. DANIELS. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1733/29).
- F.N.93. Arrived 1730/29. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1800/29).
- K.C. Convoy K.C. (a) 1300/30/1 (b) VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER (c) Five ships for Clyde (d) ~~SALE~~ Cape Wrath 1900/30 (e) Code word K.C. ~~SALE~~. Speed 12 knots. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1815/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
- W.N.77 (0) 1430/30 escort H.M. Trawler NOTTS COUNTY, 8 ships routed through Sound of Mull to rendezvous with ~~MONITOR~~ off Ardnamurchan Point at 2330/30.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1821/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.77. 1930/29. H.M. Trawlers ULLSWATER and PAYNTER escorting 11 ships including 2 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1935/29).

F.N.93. Rosyth 29/1. Arrivals. VANITY and VERSATILE with F.N.93 - includes CELIA on passage Humber-Tobermory.

F.S.99. Departures. WOLFHOUND and WESTMINSTER with F.S.99. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2005/29).

F.S.99. Sailed 1800/29 approx. 32 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2011/29).

F.S.96. Arrived. Non arrivals (list) (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2038/29).

W.N. My 1522/29. (Fleet Units estimated off scattered. Noss Head 0200/30). W.N. Convoys very scattered owing to weather and positions uncertain. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2325/29 to PRINCE OF WALES.).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X.105. PORPOISE PORPOISE is to part company with H.X.105 on reaching lat. 60° N. or at Long. 25° W. whichever is reached the earlier and proceed through positions 59° N. 23° W. 59° N. 11° W. and thence to r.v. with escort provided by C.in C. W.A. in position 270° Barra Head 10 miles. PORPOISE is to proceed submerged by day when East of 25° W. and is to adjust speed to arrive at r.v. at daylight. (F.O.(S), 1256/29, to PORPOISE).

H.X.102. Arrived. (List). (N.C.S.O. 1743/29).

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

B.H.X.104.

Tankers INVERILEN, DAVILA and RANELLA due at Milford Haven in Convoy B.H.X.104 are required to proceed as follows to discharge.

INVERILEN and RANELLA to Southampton.
DAVILA to Portsmouth.

It is requested you will sail these ships accordingly, making use of dark hours. A delay of up to three days could be accepted if by so doing escort could be made available.

(D.O.D.(H) 1833/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.104.

50 hours late approximately. (RAJPUTANA to C.in C. W.A. 2047/29.).

S.C.19.

Attacked by U-boat. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

Routes,
N.W. Approaches.

Under consideration to route as many convoys as possible in and out of the N.W. Approaches by a Northern route to avoid enemy air attack.

It will, however, be necessary to continue to route OG and HG (including SLS) convoys farther South because of the low endurance of these ships.

2. Steps are being taken to provide the Southerly convoys with a more adequate A/A escort and ships are being given additional light A/A armament and personnel.

3. Experience shows that the Focke Wolff aircraft are reluctant to attack the convoys and, provided the merchant ships are instantly ready to open fire and with the strengthened A/A escort, they should be given a hot reception if they do so.

4. Stragglers from these convoys are however being sunk. It cannot be too forcibly impressed on Masters:-

(a) That to straggle, especially when East of 20° W., is to court disaster.

(b) That an aircraft in sight must be assumed to be hostile until events prove it to be otherwise. All ships' work should cease when East of 20° W. in order that A/A armament can be kept continuously manned.

(c) That kites are to be flown by day.

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

Routes,
N.W. Approaches.
(contd.)

5. A.N.C.S.O. who allows a ship to sail in one of these convoys without impressing the above facts on the Master may well be contributing to the loss of ships and lives. Most of our losses by air attack in the N.W. Approaches would not have occurred if the above precautions had been taken.
(D.T.D. 1713/29, to N.C.S.O's).

Independent
Ships.

Your 1921/19. The situation as regards independent ships is being carefully watched, but it is not intended to revert to 15 knots as the lower limit of speed for these ships at present.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1919/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Ocean
Route
Positions.

C.in C. S.A. 1841/25 to Admiralty only and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1138/25 repeated C.in C. A. and W.I.
Cancel my 1831/26/9 and 1640/23/1.
All positions on ocean routes are to be reported accurately in degrees and minutes. Positions on ocean routes of vessels routed direct to U.K. are to be reported as far as 7° W.
Attention is directed to my 1722/11/11.
(D.T.D. 1933/29 to A.I.G.48).

Military Convoys.

Force Z.

My 1231/28. R/V. Q should read 035° 40' N.
022° 40' W. 1049/29.

My 1815/27. C.in C. W.A. 1231/28. For ASSINIBOINE read SKEENA. OTTAWA will be S.O. of destroyers detailed from Clyde escort Force. (Capt. D. Greenock 1736/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ PRETORIA CASTLE ...

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29. 1. 1941

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys. (Contd.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

To avoid U/B in 056° N. 015° 23' W.
alter course forthwith to pass through
058° 30' N. 015° 43' W. then 058° 30' N.
011° W. then 055° 35' N. 007° W. then
as in my 1537/27.
(C.in C. W.A. 1229/29 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

W.S.6.

Adty. 2318/21. The following M.T. ships
are expected to complete loading about
1/2.

At Mersey MANCHESTER CITIZEN
LOGICIAN
DALESMAN

At Barrow CITY OF PITTSBURG

2. It is undesirable to hold these ships
fully loaded at these ports and when
ready they should be sailed to the Clyde
whence they will sail with Convoy W.S.6.
If special escort is not available they
should proceed in an O.B. convoy.
(D.O.D.(H) 1858/29).

CITY OF
MARSEILLES.

Speed 12½ knots, should sail from
Liverpool with W.S.6 until A/S Escort
parts company when she should proceed
independently.

2. Adty. will provide route to Capetown.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2110/29).

War Diary.29.1.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.ALHENA.

Cancel my 0047/28 and 1442/28. Proceed forthwith to assist ALHENA. Ashore in 54° 24' 30" N. 5° 24' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0101/29 to SCHELDE).

Ships structure badly damaged Capt. thinks ship will sink if refloated. Nothing tug can do. Instructions requested. (SCHELDE 1040/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Port Patrick radio reports Number 142 holds and engine room flooded. Ship cannot be towed off before discharging cargo. Passengers and Chinese landed by coastal lifeboat Stofkoper. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1327/29.).

MACGREGOR LAIRD

Your 2000/28. Proceed MACGREGOR LAIRD last position 054° 03' N. 024° 12' W. at 2000/27 drifting 135° 1.5 knots. Tug is proceeding. (C.in C. W.A. 0103/29 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

My 1218/28. ASSURANCE and NORTHERN SPRAY to proceed direct to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0119/29).

WESTCOTT,
BLUEBELL,
SALVONIA.

My 1218/28. Proceed direct to WESTCOTT damaged in collision at 2000/28. in 55° 30' N. 12° 15' W. proceeding North Channel at approx. 4 knots. BLUEBELL in company also damaged. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0119/29 to RESTIVE).

Proceed forthwith to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0120/29 to SALVONIA).

Have steering gear defects. Proceeding into Loch Indal to effect repairs. Will leave Loch Indal to intercept WESTCOTT daybreak tomorrow. (SALVONIA 0800/29).

/ My position at

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

WESTCOTT
BLUEBELL
SALVONIA
Cont:

My position at 1000 055° 58' N. 010° 45' W.,
course 105° making good 5 knots. Boiler
priming which may necessitate shutting off
steam. Request tug to stand by.
(WESTCOTT 1145/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

→ Unable to comply with your 0801/29.
Returning to Campbelltown.
(SALVONIA 1525/29 to F.O.I.C. G.)

Am proceeding Londonderry to fuel. BLUEBELL
in company. Boiler room bulkhead still
holding. (WESTCOTT 2124/29).

→ Following received from SALVONIA;
Temporary repairs effected will proceed to
W.B. WALKER when weather moderates.
1745/29 Ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
2156/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

EIBERGEN.

(Dutch, 4801 tons) Sinking off Sunderland.
Grounded. Going in lifeboats.
(Scapa W/T. T.O.R. 0540.).

Now berthed in Sunderland Harbour.
No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland
0840/29).

Grounded on Hendon Rock and is holed in
No. 3. Boiler Room starboard side. Now
berthed alongside Corporation Quay
Sunderland. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1030/29).

KAPITAN
STRATOS

Not yet arrived from Convoy H.G.50.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1040/29).

FITZROY

Arrived Sheerness in tow Tug KENIA at
1027/29.
(C.in C. Nore 1110/29).

MISTRAL

Defect in (?boiler) lubricating system
beyond ships staff to make good has reduced
speed to 10 knots. Am returning to
Greenock. Expect arrive 0830/30.
(MISTRAL 1148/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

- PINTADE (Balloon Barrage Vessel) Sailed from Sheerness 1210/29 in tow of tug DORIA. (Cdre. Sheerness 1231/29).
- SANDHILL (British, 586 tons) Your 1040/29. Proceed to assist SANDHILL in Dundrum Bay near Roaring Rock 4 miles South of Newcastle Ireland. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1350/29 to SCHELDE).
- BREDA My 0941/23. Anticipate repairs to BREDA will take about three weeks. (S.7. 1622/29 to S.O.D.S.).
- SHERWOOD. My 1803/27. Delayed with defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1707/29).
- KENYA Returning to harbour with engine defects. (KENYA 1715/29 to A.C.W.A.).
- KIPLING Cannot sail owing to defects. (C.in C. W.A. 1857/29).
- RESTIVE RESTIVE reports at 1930/29: Returning Campbeltown 8 knots. Two bottom end bearings metal run. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2149/29).
- DAROGAH. (M/S Trawler). Salvage Officer reports no difficulty anticipated in Salvage. (C.in C. Nore 2212/29).
- KIRRIEMOOR F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1743/29/1. Endurance as follows. (KIRRIEMOOR 2255/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SONTAY

HERMES, ENTERPRISE, escorting Vichy French Ship SONTAY arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1002Z/29).

SONTAY, 8917 tons, intercepted 25/1, was bound from Tamatave, Madagascar, to France via French African ports. For personnel on board, see HERMES 1700/30.

Your 1200/26. French ship SONTAY should be sent on to Simonstown.
Report urgently total number of troops on board as it is not clear whether invalids reported in your 0808/28 are additional to troops quoted in your 1200/26. Also state number of women, children, and native troops. Signal brief summary of cargo.
(D.E.W.D. 2256/29) *to Sp. Force T*

ESPERANCE
repatriations.

No trace in W.D.
Your 1108/27. Repatriation of ESPERANCE crew has been linked with (a) release and transfer to British charter of two Greek ships wrongfully detained at Madagascar and (b) suggested supply of medical stores to Madagascar. Question, which is being taken up between Government of Union of South Africa and Governor of Madagascar, is discussed at length in Colonial Office Tel. No. 55 to Aden, which is being repeated to you. (Head of M. 1616/29 to C.in C.E.I.).

CANADA.

It is understood that French Hospital ship CANADA may have left Toulon for Liverpool on 13/1, routed as in my 1913/28/10/40.
(D.O.D.(H) 1950/29 to N.A. Madrid, F.O.C.N.A. etc.).

French
Convoy.

Armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE passed Gibraltar westbound at 0935/29 escorting French M.V's CONGO, 5202 tons, ERIDAN, 9928 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. (D.O.R. 30/1).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

→ NEPTUNE

Gibraltar 29/1, 0845, arrival NEPTUNE.
(S.O.I., Gib., 0920/29).

ARK ROYAL.

My 1903/27. Request two extra screening
destroyers r.v. with me at 1330 in
position 036° 00' N. 004° 44' W.
(ARK ROYAL 0959/29 to S.O. Force H).

Sunderlands.

S. 245 Jan. 29. Ref. my S.244 Jan.28 ,
ref. Admiralty 2321/27 and 2035/28.
V.A.C.N.A. requests Sunderlands P 9603
and P 9605 be routed as follows.
V.A.C.N.A. requests approval to retain
these two aircraft at Gibraltar until
position regarding Battle Cruisers
clarifies.
(200 Group, 1130/29, to H.Q.C.C.).

DUNEDIN)
VELOX)
VIDETTE)
KENYA)
SOBIESKI)
GERANIUM)
JONQUIL)

Route and times of arrival at Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1208/29, 1232/29). See
Operations Volume. See P.47. 29. 1. 41.

Force H.

My 1552/28. (Departure of RENOWN etc.
in accordance with S.O. Force H's 1141/28)
Ships have now returned.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1630/29, to Admty. etc.).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. One routine
A.S. patrol. Two surface Reccos. west.
One' convoy escort from west. Area
covered 5° west to 10° 20' west.
(200 Group, 1740/29).

→ FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Gibraltar departure 1920/29. FURIOUS
NEPTUNE. FURIOUS expected time of arrival
Clyde 0800/4 zone - one.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1932/29).

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War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

NEPTUNE

C.in C. Western Approaches 1239/28
NEPTUNE E.T.A. Scapa 1200/4 for fuel.
Request onward routing instructions
from position (b) to Scapa be signalled
to NEPTUNE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1934/29 to C.in C. H.F.).

DUNEDIN

C.in C. S.A.'s 1005N/28. My position at
2000Z was 017° 46' N. 019° 49' W.
At present speed of advance 9 knots
E.T.A. at R.V. in position (1) is 1400Z - 1,
3/2. (DUNEDIN, 2044Z/29).

South Atlantic.

Transport of
S. African
Troops.

Your 1121/27. Whole question is still
under examination by departments concerned.
Other considerations in addition to
provision of shipping are involved.
Further communication will be sent as soon
as possible.
(D.S.T. 0145/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

BRITISH UNION
(sunk 18/1).

BRITISH UNION was sunk by Armed Merchant
Raider at 2300 G.M.T. 18/1 in 026° 34' N.
030° 58' W. Ship damaged by gun fire,
sunk by torpedo.
Raider only revealed by own searchlight.
Seemed to be ship of passenger type like
modified KULMERLAND or RODA but about
10000 tons. Description.
(C.in C. S.A., 0155N/29, to S.A. Station).

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 2217 and 2257/28 on 8470 kcs.
unknown enemy unit was within 200 miles of
position 28° 30' S. 15° W.
(Bearings). (D.D.I.C. 0314/29 to F.O.C.
N.A., C.in C. S.A. etc.).

/ TRIBESMAN

29.1.1941
Wednesday: 1014

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

TRIBESMAN.

Your 1150/2 (re overdue shipping, enquiring if Freetown has any trace of TRIBESMAN). Lloyds Index of 1/1 states TRIBESMAN sailed Mossel Bay 18/12 Presumably this is not correct. (S.O.I.) Freetown, 0948/29, to S.O.I., Capetown).

SHROPSHIRE
CERES
W.S.5A.

Durban departure SHROPSHIRE and CERES escorting convoy W.S. five A. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1000Z/29, to Admty. etc.).

TAMERLANE.

Route to Takoradi (C.in C. S.A., 1133N/29 to CARADOC) See Operations Volume. C.in C. S.A. 1125/28 and C.in C. A.W.I. 1031/28. Re continuous escort of TAMERLANE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1326/29.) See Operations Volume. *Page 48.*

W.S.5B.

Departure 0830/29 AUSTRALIA and EMERALD escorting Convoy W.S.5B with FAULKNOR, FORESTER, MILFORD, CYCLAMEN, and CLEMATIS as local escort until 1800/1. C.in C. S.A. 1933/27 refers. (S.O.I.) Freetown, 1101N/29, to Admty. etc.)

Analysis
of Enemy
W/T Reports.

Since 20/12 on 9 occasions D/F bearings have indicated positions of enemy U boats, auxiliaries or raiders S.W. of the Cape Freetown trade route but nothing has been discovered and there has been no other indication of raider or U boat activity in this area, except possibly TRIBESMAN. 4. I feel this may be preliminary to some activity or in furtherance of some plan. (C.in C. S.A., 1105N/29, to Admty.).

PETTER

Overdue Shipping. My 1003/28 PETTER arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1110B/29).

BARNEVELD
WANGI WANGI

Overdue shipping. BARNEVELD from Freetown, WANGI WANGI from U.K. both due Capetown 26/1 not arrived. (S.O.I.) Capetown 1117B/29).

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings indicate possible enemy surface units in approx. positions 001° N. 017° W. or 020° S. 011° W. at 1838/28. (C.in C. S.A., 1703N/29 to S.A. Station).

W.S.5B.

Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1801/29, to Admty. etc.) Also 1857N/29 with route amended 1950/29. See Operations Volume.

LAFONIA

Have you any news of LAFONIA due Falkland Islands. (D.T.D. 1828/29 to Consul, Montevideo).

Convoy W.S.5B.

D. of S.T's 1934/27. Submit that another Tanker in addition to Tanker BRITISH TRUST is essential to avoid delay to convoy. (N.O.I.C. Durban 2041B/29, to C.in C. S.A.)

TAMERLANE

Your 1326/29 and my 1733/29. Re A/S escort. (C.in C. S.A., 2117N/29 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume). *Page 4748.*

EURYLOCHUS,
raider
report.

Following has been read. Raider Report. 8. 15 N., 25. 14 W., EURYLOCHUS gunned 2035/29. (Landsend Radio, 2212/29). EURYLOCHUS, British, 5723 tons, ex Convoy O.B.274, to Takoradi from Glasgow. Position about 800' west of Freetown. (D.O.R. 30/1).

Orders to
DEVONSHIRE
NORFOLK
DRAGON

At 2100 G.M.T./29 EURYLOCHUS reported RR RR gunned position $008^{\circ} 15'$ N. $025^{\circ} 14'$ W. AFRIC STAR QQQQ same probable position. DEVONSHIRE proceed best speed through approximate position 001° S. 022° W. then to northward at convenient speed. NORFOLK proceed best speed to cover Freetown Cape Verde trade route passing through about 010° N. 022° W. DRAGON remain with MENDOZA. (C.in C. S.A., 2319N/29, to NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE).

DELHI.

Renewal of boiler tubes - date of arrival Mauritius. (C.in C. S.A. 2359/29) See Operations Volume.

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Wednesday. 1016

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German
Aircraft
at Sicily.

Your 1025/28. Please specify what you have in mind. (1 S.L., 0027/29 to C. in C. Med.) *Reply: C. C. Med., 2007/30. See Med. Volume.*

Greek
Mission.

Chiefs of Staff No. 51. (1 S.L. 0058/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Mine.

A floating mine was sighted 25 miles E.S.E. of Toulon on 29/1. (D.S. 514, 31/1).

Benghazi.

Indicate regiment German flak arrived or about to reach Benghazi. (C. in C. M.E., 0520/29, to W.O.)

Greek
supplies
in NORTHERN
PRINCE.

My 41/74. It is confirmed that powder factory will in a few days be unable to manufacture S.A.A. and latter is of type not procurable elsewhere. If any chance existed of sending immediately even a proportion of brass and nickel cups and tetryl ex NORTHERN PRINCE it will enable Manufacture to be continued for a while. (N.A. Athens, 1125/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Report.

Operational summary No. 233 up to 1200 hours 29/1/1941. (No naval items). (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., 1139/29.)

Italian
U/Boat
Attacked.

Your 0927/26. Greek Ministry of Marine inform me that position not known, but it is believed submarine was completely destroyed. (N.A. Athens, 1258/29 to Admty.)

Ammunition.

Admty. 1154/10. Supply in W.S.6. (D.T.S.D. 1704/29, to Admty.)

/Malta Air Report....

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Wednesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta
Air
Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 29/1. All times G.M.T.

Enemy
Cruiser.

Part 2. Reconnaissances. 0725 to 1300 Sunderland anti-convoy patrol Eastern Tunisian Coast. 0941 one Pola Class Cruiser 3 medium M/V's with Cant Z.501 escorting 21⁰ Lampedusa 81 miles course 190⁰ speed 8 knots. Air alarms Malta delayed despatch of Striking Force until too late to proceed. 0833 to 1013 Glenn Martin photo recco. Tripoli Castel Benito. Tripoli. One destroyer three M/V's 3000 tons one Cant. Z.506 three Cant Z.501's. Four medium M/V's 10 miles east of harbour, one M/V half mile from harbour entrance seen to strike probable Cucumber causing large explosion forward. Many small craft left harbour and went alongside. Photos show her well down by bows and surrounded by boats. 1121 to 1600 Glenn Martin photo recco. Trapani and Palermo. Trapani one large and three small M/V's three submarines. At 1229 position 37. 35' N. 12. 15' E. course 360 degrees speed 10 knots three M/V's unladen 9,000 tons and one destroyer. Palermo. Three cruisers one destroyer, 13 medium M/V's. Photos taken. (H.R. R.A.F. Malta, 1830/29.)

M.V. mined
off Tripoli.

Italy.

State of public opinion and morale, food situation etc. From secret source. (Madrid, 2017/29 to D.N.I.)

Malta
Convoys.

Your Cosup 416 and my 1926/11. Approval has been given for one additional large ship to be allocated for each of next two Malta Convoys subject to confirmation by C. in C. Med. that there is no objection to inclusion of additional ships. (D.S.8. 2323/29, to Govr. Malta.)

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Wednesday.

1018

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop
Transport.

Your 1121/27, re transport of S.African Troops, and M.T. The question of this troop movement is being given urgent consideration. (D.O.D. (F) 0028/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown.)

Shipping
Representations.

A.M.1630/24. Re:- A representative at Aden. Little for him to do. Consider great value would be obtained by the appointment of a representative to Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0516/29 to Admty.)

NYMPHE.

Over-due shipping. Greek NYMPHE due Aden 23rd from Lourenco Marques not arrived. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0610/29.)

SHROPSHIRE
ENTERPRISE.

SHROPSHIRE, epidemic Streptococcus (Sore throat). Medical authorities advise ship should not go to sea but owing to urgency of W.S.5 A, I approved her sailing with convoy A.M./29. Have ordered ENTERPRISE to relieve her as soon as possible. On relief SHROPSHIRE will return to Durban and take ENTERPRISE place in Force T as far as she is able. If necessary CERES will return to Durban Area, KANIMBLA relieving her in convoy escort. (C. in C. E.I., 0638Z/29 to Admty.)

W.S.5A.
Force T.

My 0638/29 (1) on arrival Durban report your expected state of readiness for service. (11) Grateful if S.N.O. Simons-town could make arrangements, temporarily to fill vacancies in complement from ships refitting or Union sources, should this be necessary to keep force I a mobile fighting unit. (C. in C.E.I., 0640/29, to SHROPSHIRE.)

U.S.10.

F.O.C.R.I.N.'s. 1232/27 your 1326/27 to A.C.N.B. Request approximate date of arrival U.S. 10 Ceylon and whether any of these ships can proceed on to Middle East. (P.S.T.O. India 0732/29, to C. in C. E.I.)

/CAPETOWN.....

29. 1. 41. 1019
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

CAPETOWN.

Departure 0700Z/29 CAPETOWN proceeding through position 40 miles N.E. Cape Guardafui to latitude Kismayu. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0735Z/29, to Admty, etc.)

Convoy W.S.5.A.

Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1120 Z/29.)

"Cucumbers".

My 0634/28. Report from N.O.I.C. Kilindini. (C. in C.E.1. 1322Z/29. to S.O. Force K.) See Operations Volume.

FELIX/
ROUSSEL.
EGRA.
EMALDENA.
JALADUTA.
JALAVIHAR.
ESPERANCE.
SANTHIA.
VARELA.

My 1005/10 to C. in C. Following transports sailed Bombay 26/1 January with forces for Suez. (P.S.T.O. India 1204Z/29.)

Operation
"Breach".

C. in C.E.11414Z/29. See Operations Volume.

Convoys
U.S.9.
U.S.8.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 1232/27, and 0708/28.
(i) Transhipment of U.S.9 at Colombo would necessitate troops remaining in transports there for nine days as compared to four days at Bombay and arrival Suez would be five days later with consequent delay to U.S.10. Intend therefore, that U.S.9 should sail as arranged and proceed to Bombay for transhipment. (iii) My 1136 (U.S.8. ships expected to arrive at Bombay from Suez. (date) (C. in C. E.1., 1436Z/29, to A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

/EMPIRE.....

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

EMPIRE
ABILITY.

EMPIRE ABILITY unable to sail with W.S.5A, refrigerator trouble. Should be ready for sea 30/1. Carries military stores for Aden, Port Sudan, Suez and Alexandria and is loaded to discharge in that order. Should she be sailed independently when ready? (N.O.I.C. Durban 1521/29 to C. in C. E.1.) Reply: Yes. (C. in C. E.1. 0736/30.)

Construction
of B.D.V.'s.

Request you will ascertain whether Government of India could undertake construction of Eight Boom Defence Vessels of the BAR Class on Imperial account, and arrange provision of machinery, boilers and main equipment from sources outside U.K. (Particulars.) (Deputy Controller. 2008/29 to FOGGIN.)

China.

OSCAR
GORTHEN.

My 1916/28. A report has been received that Master & Chief Engineer Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN have Nazi sympathies. (D.D.I.C. 1603/29, to Consul-Gen, Honolulu.)

O.B.SORENSEN.

Has Norwegian Tanker O.B.SORENSEN arrived Yokohama? (D.T.D. 1827/29, to Consul General Kobe.)

America & West Indies.

ROZENBURG.

Cancel my 0936/27, ^{N.F. in W.D.} ROZENBURG returned for following reasons:- (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0958/29.)

MONTCLARE.
S. C. 21.

MONTCLARE sailing as ocean escort to S. C. 21, subsequently returning to Halifax. (F.O.3.B.S. 1110/29 to Admty.)

/TAMERLANE.....

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

1021

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

→ TAMERLANE
CARADOC.

My 1641/27 and Admiralty 1326/29. Remain with TAMERLANE until relieved by BULOLO. Use your discretion whether to proceed to Freetown or Trinidad on parting company. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1222/29, to CARADOC.)

PIERRE L.D.
etc.

C. in C. A.W.11233/29, S.A. French Merchant Ships. *Page 1024.*

Your 1222. My longitude 1800 today 050° 15' W. making good 14 knots weather conditions adverse; ship was 11 hours late when originally met. Can only just reach longitude 041° W, and return. Impossible to reach Freetown. (CARADOC, 19150/29 to C. in C A.W.I.)

→ CARADOC.

Comply with C. in C. S.A.'s 1733N/29. (C. in C. A.W.3, 2232/29 to CARADOC.)

LAURENT
MEEUS.

My 1751/28. Ship refloated. No apparent damage. Will be confirmed after examination by Divers. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1513/29 to Admty.)

RAMILLIES.

Intend sailing RAMILLIES as ocean escort for H.X.¹⁰⁶ leaving convoy in vicinity 27° West and returning to Halifax. (R.A.3. B.S. 1545/29 to Admty.)

See p. 983

H
TACHEE.
h

H

My 1903/26 and your 1139/27. Desire to ascertain definitely whether Adty., 1938/10/10 was acted upon and what instructions if any were given to TACHEE who did not sail until early December. (D.T.D. 1602/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

/H.X.106.....

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

1022

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.Contd.

H.X.106.

If necessary to reduce numbers ships should be withdrawn from Convoy in following order. (D.T.D. 1728/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

My 1645/23. Para. 3B. ROYAL SOVEREIGN should leave convoy at dark on 15/2. (D.O.D.(H) 1805/29 to R.A.3, etc.)

COMORIN.

Your 1659/29. Unless COMORIN is urgently required at Freetown on (date) proposed that she should leave Trinidad A.M. on 2/2 February and arrive at Freetown (date) In any case it is extremely doubtful if COMORIN could arrive (on first date.) (C. in C. A.W.I. 2222/29 to C. in C.S.A.)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EMPRESS OF ASIA.

My 1946/17. 2. In view of urgent necessity for vessel to come to U.K. for trooping service it has been proposed to Beatty that white crew be engaged in Vancouver and berthed in passenger accommodation. (D.S.T.2239/29, to N.S.A.Q. Ottawa.)

Australia.

Have you any news of SUVA due Noumea. (D.T.D. 1826/29 to A.C.N.B.)

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

1023

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SALZBURG.

Istanbul departure 28/1, German SALZBURG.
(Galatz, 1326/29.) 0155/30th Jan.

ERNA
OLDENDORF.

Now reported (B.2.) to be beached at
Marin, approx. 10 miles N. of Vigo.
(D.S. 513.)

PLUS.

Expected to sail soon from Vigo. (D.S. 513.)

DITMARK,
or
DITMARSCHEN.

Confirmed by C.B. 1315. 1941 (April)

Report received that ^{DITMARSCHEN.} ~~DITMARK,~~
sister ship of ALTMARK ran aground at
Trondjheim Fiord, 21/1. Beached at
Hopla, 35 kilometres N.E, or N.W. of
Trondjheim. Graded B.2, Vessel may possi-
bly be DITMARSCHEN. (D.D.I.C. 1129/29,
to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.S.) A.C.O.S. etc.)

LISBOA,
BELLONA.

It is stated that LISBOA, BELLONA and
others now on Valencia Marseilles run
will not return here as they are to be
fitted out for troop transports and sent
to Italy. Value of information prob-
lematical as it is cafe gossip of German
sailors. (Gib. 1835/29.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HILDA.
CABOTO.

At Bandar Abbas.) Reported Iranian Govt. con-
At Bandar Shahpur) sidering purchase from
Lloyd Trestino. (DS. 513.)

LIANA.

At Bahia. Reports fermentation of cargo,
damaging hull. Ship deteriorating owing
to long immobility. (D.S. 513.)

BURMA.

Driven ashore during gale on night of
20-21/1, is fast on a sandbank near Santa
Monico. May become total loss. (D.S. 513.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIN.

Saigon arrival 28/1 MIN. (C.O.S.
Singapore, 0702/29.)

PIERRE
L.D. etc.

Intercepted air letter reveals intention
of one ship to leave Marseilles 27/1,
and another on 4/2, both for Martinique
where cargoes for U.S.A. will be
transhipped. (C. in C. A.W.1. 1233/29.)

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

URLA
(Torpedoed 28/1)

Your 2053/28 to MALLOW. Am proceeding to assistance of URLA. My 2040 position 054° 00' N., 023° 40' W., E.T.A. 0830. (ANEMONE 0001/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

(Apparently LURIGETHAN (Bombed 20/1) Torpedoed 26/1)

British 3564 tons. (See Capt. D. Londonderry 1614/29- S/M's Attacked) See Page. 1031.

S.C. 19

Convoy attacked. My P.C. & S at commencement of current watch 056° 00' (? 015°) 55' 082° 6 knots. (ANTELOPE, 0312/29 to C. in C., W.A.) Position about 240' W. by N of Bloody Foreland. (D.S. 512)

→ W.B. WALKER

One ship sunk, tanker still floating. No contact. ANTHONY and ARAB standing by. ANTELOPE and LADY MADELEINE rejoining convoy. My position at 0300 056° 00' N., 015° 23' W., (ANTELOPE, 0452/29 to C. in C., W.A.) Tanker was W.B. WALKER, British, 10,468 tons, from Amba for Avonmouth with oil. (D.S. 512)

KING ROBERT

Another ship attacked have sighted U-Boat in contact. (ANTELOPE, 0545/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
? Presumably KING ROBERT, British, 5886 tons, St. John N.B. to Cardiff with grain. (See 1/2/41 for survivors)

→

W.B. WALKER afloat, crew consider her capable of salvage. ARAB standing by with crew. (ANTHONY, 0628/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

After 1 attack lost contact. Am searching with LADY MADELEINE. (ANTELOPE, 0635/20, to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed as quickly as possible to join ANTELOPE hunting U-Boat in position 056° 00' N., 015° 23' W., at 0300. (C. in C., W.A., 0745/29 to SARDONIX, SCIMITAR.) (Cancelled see 1253/29.)

Expect co-operation of 2 Lerwicks from 1000 approx. (C. in C., W.A., 0757/29 to ANTELOPE)

/My 0119/29.....

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

S.C. 19. cont:

My 0119/29 and 0120/29. WESTCOTT (collision) no longer requiring assistance, proceed forthwith to assistance of tanker (Un-named) torpedoed in position 56° 00' N., 15° 23' W at 0300 today. ANTHONY and ARAB standing by. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1801/29 to SALVONIA, RESTIVE)

D/F of U-Boat at 0505, 056° 30' N., 015° 00' W., unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 0813/29 to ANTELOPE)

S.C. 19
RUSHPOOL

British, 5125 tons, St. John N.B. for Belfast with grain.

WEST WALES

British, 4354 tons, New York for Newport with steel.

AIKATERINI

Greek, 4929 tons, Halifax for Dublin with grain.

Reference 0628 from ANTHONY. RUSHPOOL, WEST WALES and AIKATERINI also sunk. All saved from RUSHPOOL. Still searching area. (ANTELOPE, 0835/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Reference W.A.C.1 (corrupt group) 19. First attack thought to be starboard, escort firing star shells and searched to starboard subsequently. ANTHONY and ARAB picked up survivors. ANTELOPE while looking for convoy sighted 2 rockets, close finishing star shell sighted U-Boat close to torpedoed ship, turned to ram and dropped a pattern on submerged U-Boat. Contact? confused with wreck and soon lost. Sweep organised. Survivors picked up. (f) 0820 since 1900 no zig-zag. (g) Calm dark (? starlight) (H) Consider attack carried out on starboard beam on surface. (ANTELOPE, 0845/29 to C. in C., W.A., Admty.)

RESTIVE

Following has been read. SSSS 55.42 N., 17.41 W., submarine in vicinity (? RESTIVE 1005/29 via Lyness Radio)

Following has been read SSSS Corrected position de GBNS (RESTIVE) 55. 42N., 17.21 W. (Lyness, 1024/29)

/Following.....

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War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd

RESTIVE-contd.
S.C. 19.

Following has been read. SSS Hear^{re} correct position from VAQO GBNS (RESTIVE) position confirmed as 55. 42 N., 17. 41 W. (Lyness 1033/29)

By D/F U-Boat in position 056° 00' N., reliable latitude 012½ degs. to 014 degs. West probably nearer 014° W. at 1011/29. (C. in C., W.A., 1047/29 to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY)

Your 1047. As convoy is in position 056° 14' N., 013° 40' W., am screening it with LADY MADELINE. (ANTELOPE 1230/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 0745. Endeavour to join S.C. 19 before dark today estimated to be in position 056° 06' N., 014° 10' W., at 1200/29, routed through 056° 10' N., 013° 00' W., 055° 50' N., 008° 00' W speed 6 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1253/29 to SARDONYX, SCIMITAR)

Your 0800/29. When repairs have been effected proceed in execution of my 0801/29, name of tanker W.B. WALKER, acknowledge. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1332/29 to SALVONIA)

S.C. 19
Summary of
Situation

S.C. 19 attacked at 0300 and 545. W.B. WALKER afloat ARAB standing by in position 56° 00' N., 15° 23' W., RUSHPOOL, WEST WALES and AIKATERINI sunk. Following D/Fs, 56° 30' N., 15° 00' W., unreliable at 0505. 56° 00' N., reliable latitude 12-1/2° to 14° W., probably nearer 14° W at 1011. RESTIVE proceeding to W.B. WALKER sighted U-Boat in position 55° 42' N., 17° 41' W., at 1015. ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, LADY MADELINE with convoy which includes PEGASUS, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX joining from Londonderry. JACKAL, SCIMITAR and SARDONYX leave convoy at Dawn/30 to join S.L. 62 Route fdlows. (C. in C., W.A. 1335/29 to JACKAL, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX)

1028

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

S.C.19. cont:

Two lifeboats with survivors in position 054° 56' N., 018° 46' W., (PRETORIA CASTLE 1435Z/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

C. in C., W.A., 1253/29, hoping to join S.C. 19 at 1930. If unable to make contact do not intend to break W/T silence to report unless convoy is attacked and shall proceed along convoy track in estimated position of convoy until dawn. If convoy is attacked request you will give me position immediately. (SCIMITAR, 1554/29 to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, JACKAL.)

Keep well to Westwards of U-Boat reported in 55° 42' N., 17° 21' W., by RESTIVE. (C. in C., W.A., 1627/29 to PRETORIA CASTLE)

Two lifeboats with survivors reported in position 054° 56' N., 018° 46' W., at 1435Z. Proceed forthwith to pick them up. (C. in C., W.A., 1757/29 to ANEMONE)

W.B.WALKER back broken at 2145. 2 halves now floating half mile apart in position 55° 59' N., 15° 51' W. Bow half is 25% stern half 50% above water neither showing any sign of sinking consider salvage by tug would be just possible if weather holds. RESTIVE not yet in company. Intend to continue searching vicinity with ARAB until day-break then proceeding to Greenock. Have 72 survivors including 3 seriously injured, ARAB has 27. Request instructions re disposal of WALKER before leaving her. (ANTHONY, 2359/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

1029

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

- 0300. 56.00 N, 15-23, W. (See Ships attached.)
- 0505. 56.30 N, 15.00 W. (C. in C. W.A., 0813/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
- 1005. 55.42, N, 17-41 W. (Lyness, 1005/29, 1024/29, 1033/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
- 1011. 56.00 N., 12½° - 14° W. (C. in C.W.A., 1047/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
- 0352. 53-30 N, 15° - 20° W., indefinite position of Italian U/B. (W.S.512.)
- 0421.) About 55° 30' N, 13° 30' W, indefinite position. (D.S.512.)
- 0455.) 56° - 57° N, 14° - 16° W.
- 1743. 53° to 53-30 N. 16° - 18° W. Station, position indefinite. (D.S. 513.)
- 2215. 46.55 N, 9.15 W. Station, position indefinite. (D.S. 513.)
- 0316. By D/F on 5600 k/cs one enemy unit, probably U-boat, in the vicinity of the Azores at 0316/29. Unreliable fix. (Bearings.) (D.D.I.C. 0845/29 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C. W.A., etc.)
- Non-sub. Prominent non-sub. (As received) in position 058 degs. 53' N, 003 degs. 41' W, reported on 10th and 28th/1/1941. (R.A.D. H.F. 1036/29, to WORTHING.)

/S/M's Reported.....

29. 1. 41.

Wednesday.

1030

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN CONTD.

S/M's
Reported.
2215.

442-3-Submarine Italian - F.X.H.B.0000
- 5025 - 2215.2319/29.)NOTE:- By D/F
on 5025 kc/s at 2215/29. Position of
Italian U/B was approximately 47° N:
9° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C.)

Estimated
U/B dispositions
~~Italian.~~ German.

1 in 63° 04' N. 13° 48' W. at 1825/28.
eastbound.
1 within 100 miles radius of 58° N.20° W
at 1236/28.
1 between 53° 30' N. and 55° 30' N.
20° W. and 21° W.
1 in about 56° N. 15° 23' W. at 0300/29,
moving east.
1 in about 51° 30' N. 14° W. at 2133/28
bound for Lorient.
1 off Finisterre bound for Lorient.
1 near Azores patrolling.
1 near 17° N. 22° W. Southbound.

Italian.
~~Italian.~~

1 about 43° N. 14° W. bound for Gironde.
1 near Canaries. 1 in outer area of
Bay of Biscay. 1 torpedoed URLA at
2030/28 in 54° N. 19° 20' W.
1 in 55° 42' N. 17° 41' W. at 1005/28.
1 in 53° N. to 53° 30' N. 16° W. to
18° W, at 1144/29. (D.D.I.C. 1358/29.)

S/M's
Attacked.
0545.

By ANTELOPE. (ANTELOPE, 0545, 0635/29
0845/29. See Ships. Attacked.

By BUTTERMERE.

Carrying out three attacks in position
four miles East of Butt of Lewis.
Hydrophone effects heard distinctly.
Asdic out of order. (BUTTERMERE, 1515/29,
to A.C.O.S.)

/Depth.....

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

1031

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN CONTD.

sm's attacked.
By BUTTERMERE
cont:-

Depth charged at 50 feet as Submarine was surfacing. Patches of oil remained. Cannot repair asdics. (BUTTERMERE, 1655/29, to A.C.O.S.)

Hunt for submarine reported in BUTTERMERE'S 1655. (A.C.O.S. 1755/29, to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS.)

Your 1754 Submarine sighted at 200 yards on its side and attacked immediately. Charge burst on target. Numerous air bubbles. Position 028° by 4.8 miles. WINDERMERE in company. (BUTTERMERE to A.C.C.S, 1945/29.

BUTTERMERE'S 1655/29. Was submarine actually sighted? (D.C. 1951/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1951 see BUTTERMERE 1945 29th. (A.C.O.S. 2041/29, to Admty.)

My 1755. Are you in touch with BUTTERMERE? Continue hunt and report situation as you see it. (A.C.O.S. 2059/29, to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS.)

By ARABIS,
0114/26.

Whilst ARABIS was standing by burning wreck of S.S. LURIGETHAN in position 53° 50' N. 15° 44' W, a disturbance in water was sighted and also heard in engine-room at 0100/26. Three thousand yards from wreck, at 0111 good A/S contact obtained. At 0113 violent explosion from LURIGETHAN apparently torpedoed. At 0114 (and a half) ARABIS attacked with full pattern. At 0131 carried out 2nd attack in same position passing through heavy oil and wreckage. This was not wreckage of LURIGETHAN. After 2nd attack contact lost. Consider Submarine sighted ARABIS, dived at 0106, fired at wreck and was then attacked by ARABIS. No report was made as W/T was out of action. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1614/29.)

1032

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU

C.S. 15 and cruisers returned to Scapa this forenoon, C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with REPULSE and destroyers returned this afternoon.

PRINCE OF WALES

Arrived at Rosyth this evening.

Shipping and
Convoys

Small balloons are now being fitted to minesweepers and trials are to be carried out with a destroyer so fitted.

A total of about 77 ships sailed today in Convoy F.S. 99.

Certain procedure for dealing with stragglers from convoys in the Western Approaches is under consideration.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked targets at Wilhelmshaven. Single aircraft attacked Bremerhaven, Emden, and the aerodrome at Borkum.

Bad weather caused flying by Coastal Command aircraft to be severely curtailed today. Trondheim and Stavanger could not be reconnoitred, but the Dutch coast was patrolled from Rotterdam to the Texel.

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS OLYMPIER, which had become separated from Convoy S.L. 62 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches. No details are known. Another ship was bombed in the N.W. Approaches this forenoon but no details are known.

It is reported that fishing trawler CAERPHILLY CASTLE was sunk in the N.W. Approaches on 27/1.

An unknown ship was attacked this forenoon off the Lizard; nothing further is known.

SS GWYNWOOD was slightly damaged by air attack in the Thames on 26/1 and claims to have shot down her attacker.

Mining

German floating mines were sunk by gunfire today between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen. Others self exploded or were dealt with on the coast by Aberdeen and Peterhead.

A large number of German explosive floats were also sighted and are being dealt with. Similar floats (anti-sweeping device) have been recovered unexploded on the coast of the Orkney Is. Others are believed to have been responsible for some of the explosions which have occurred there during the past 48 hours, though full sized mines must have caused certain of the explosions.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool and Plymouth today.

Avonmouth was opened this evening, but Newport and Barry Inlet are closed.

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Suez Canal
Mined

Six German aircraft dropped bombs and parachute mines in the Suez Canal between Suez and Ismailia early this morning. A Canal Company dredger was sunk in Lake Timsah. The southern half of the Canal is closed to shipping owing to mines.

Air Situation
in the Meditn.

C. in C., Med. today refers in his 1907/30 to the air situation in the Mediterranean as altered by the arrival of German aircraft in Sicily and elsewhere.

UPHOLDER sank two merchant ships of 8000 and 5000 tons off the east coast of Tunisia on 28/1 and 30/1. (p. 58, *2/mon*)

Derna was captured today.

America & West Indies

COMORIN intercepted the French CAPITAIN PAUL LEMERLE, Martinique to Casablanca, today, but allowed her to proceed being within the American neutrality zone.

1035

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

READING.

A.M. 1241/29. Torpedo discharge trials.
READING detailed.
(C. in C. W.A. 1626/30).

Small Balloons
in Destroyers.

Reference decision to fit small balloons to minesweepers and destroyers, minesweepers are now being fitted but, before proceeding with destroyers, it is desired to gain experience with one ship. Request you will arrange for one destroyer to be fitted.
(Kite Section 1708/30 to C. in C Portsmouth).

Liverpool.
Diversion
Craft.

Owing to shortage of suitable craft for diversion duties at Liverpool, request consideration to allocation of Dutch T.Bs. Z6, 7, 8, for these duties.
(C. in C. W.A. 1907/30).

4 Sloops
to join
C. in C.W.A.

Cancelled by 1630/6/3 [133]

My 1527/29.
1. Request you will detail two sloops to join (A) each OG convoy (B) each O.B. convoy which meets and S.L. convoy.
2. Routine to begin with O.B. 282.
Routine orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1939/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

"Deluge".
~~Deluge~~.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/30 (D.C. 1151/30). At 2330/30 (D.C. 0005/31).

Stornoway.
Manning of
4-inch Battery.

Your 1829/28. Consider it desirable for naval ratings already enrolled to continue to man guns.
(A.C.O.S. 1659/30).

Invasion.
Recognition
Signals.

Your 0951/30. Admiralty Letter gives special recognition signals for use in the event of invasion. Details will be signalled should the necessity arise.
(D.S.D. 2145/30 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

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War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KIPLING, KASHMIR,
KENYA, KELLY.

Plymouth 29/1. Arrivals 1022 KIPPLING,
KASHMIR, 1802 KENYA. Departures 1605 KELLY,
KASHMIR. 1630 KENYA.
(C. in C. W.A. 0039/30).

KELLY and KIPLING are to R/V with KENYA
2.2. miles 180° Rame Head at 1030/30 and
escort her to longitude (722). Destroyers
are then to return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 0753/30).

Sailed 1012 KENYA escorted by KELLY and
KIPLING. Destroyers leave at Lands End
returning Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 1115/30).

D.7.

Cancel my 1435/29. Remain at Skaale Fiord.
Orders follow.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0945/30).

KING GEORGE V.
ESKIMO.
ECLIPSE.
NAPIER.
SOMALI.

My 1106/27. Route of KING GEORGE V. to
Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1028/30).

ESKIMO with ECLIPSE proceed 0800/1 and
NAPIER with SOMALI leave Skaale Fiord as
necessary to R/V at 1800/2 B.S.T. with
KING GEORGE V in position B. 062° N. 025° W.
Provide escort to Scapa.

KING GEORGE V covering convoy B.H.X. 104
to 025° W. is routed as follows.

KING GEORGE V is requested to detach
NAPIER in the vicinity of Cape Wrath to
proceed independently to Clyde.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2031/30).

R.A. (D) H.F. 2031/30. 22 hours late.
(KING GEORGE V. 2307P/30).

CANADA.

French Hospital Ship CANADA may have left
Toulon 13/1 for Liverpool (route) with
safe conduct from British and German
Governments.
(C. in C. W.A. 1123/30).

/NEPTUNE.....

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

NEPTUNE.

F.O.C.N.A. 1934/29. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. from position (b) proceed through 000° Butt of Lewis 10 miles and thence by searched channel to Scapa.
(C. in C. W.A. 1207/30 to NEPTUNE).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1508/30).

WORCESTERSHIRE.
SALOPIAN.

Your 1833/29. Request WORCESTERSHIRE may be sailed to R/V with SALOPIAN in 70 miles 180° Sanda Island at 1700/5 for onward passage to N.P. 42.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1530/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

PRINCE
OF WALES.

Arrived and secured in No. 1 Dock.
(A.S. Rosyth 1855/30).

Operations.

MINNIE DE
LARRINAGA.

Next suitable date for receiving at Dover is night of 2nd /3rd Feb. Programme. V.A. Dover is requested to arrange for LADY BRASSEY and escort to arrive Southend p.m. Saturday.

F.O.I.C. London is requested to arrange for sailing of MINNIE DE LARRINAGA to Southend on 1/2 to arrive p.m. that day.
(C. in C. Nore 1142/30 to V.A. Dover).

Your 1142/30. Proposed programme.
(F.O.I.C. London 1400/30 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1400/30 Approved.
(C. in C. Nore 2111/30 to F.O.I.C. London).

Operation N.C.

Will be carried out zero hour 2345.
(V.A. Dover 1253/30).

Search for
SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU.

Scapa arrivals 1105 C.S. 15~~th~~ in NAIAD, PHOEBE; 1125 C.S. 2 in GALATEA, ARETHUSA; 1500 C. in C. Home Fleet in NELSON, REPULSE, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, TARTAR, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECHO, PUNJABI.
(A.C.O.S. 1542/30).

1038

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

MINERVE.

Cancel my 1807/28.
(S.9. 1013/30 to F.O.S).

Tay Sanctuary.
Bombing
Restrictions.

OPS/143 30/1. Institute total SBR Tay
Sanctuary from 1200/31 to 1900/31 and
from 0800/1 to 1900/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1530/30).

Positions.

At 0800/31 and movements for following
24 hours (F.O.S. 1603/30).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Additional Patrols being flown today.
One special R/C Trondheim. One special
R/C Stavanger.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1100/30 to C. in C. H.F).

Air patrol for 31/1. Dawn to dusk
patrol will be provided for co-operation
with anti-submarine ship unless cancelled.
S.T. to patrol at 1000.
(N.A. Station, Stornoway 1610/30 to A.C.O.S).

Result of Air R/C today of Trondjhem and
Stavanger negative. Owing to lack of
cloud cover A/C were unable to approach
objectives.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1952/30).

Tyne Balloon
Barrage.

Balloon barrage cover for Vickers Naval
Yard not adequate. Request two more sites
be demanded from Air Ministry immediately.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1226/30).

F.O.I.C. Tyne has asked that immediate
steps be taken to provide more adequate
Balloon Barrage cover for Vickers Naval Yard.
If additional balloons can not be provided
request immediate re-siting of barrage to
give added protection to the yard in
question.

(D. of L.D. 1707/30 to Air Ministry).

/Own.....

1039

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Own A/C
Reported
Fired on.

887 30/1. Hampden aircraft returning from operational flight 12/1/41 was fired upon at 2015 hours by A.A. defences Plymouth. H.Q.F.C. having investigated the incident report that aircraft was apparently engaged by Naval Pom-pom site at Penlee Point. Request submission of a report giving circumstances under which fire was opened.
(Air Ministry F.O. 6 1640/30 to Adty).

C.H.L. Station,
May Island.

My 1829/8/1. On three recent occasions aircraft have approached the Firth of Forth from the Eastward, carried out an extensive reconnaissance of the Firth of Forth including the Dockyard, and have not been intercepted by our own fighters, at 1402/24, at 1258/25, and at 1535/27. On each occasion the first indication of the presence of hostile aircraft was received from a ship. It would appear therefore that there is a lane of approach through which aircraft can arrive off May Island undetected by C.H.L. Stations. In Rosyth submission No. 4732/001559 of 28/11/40 the recommendation of A.O.C. 13th Group to instal C.H.L. station at May Island was strongly supported. Submitted that in view of growing importance of Rosyth Dockyard greater cover from C.H.L. stations is necessary and the setting up of a C.H.L. station at May Island is strongly recommended.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1547/30 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

PANDION.

Intercept at 0518 G.M.T. Off Dunree Head, Louh Swilly. Have dragged anchor making water, endeavouring proceed to sea, or further up harbour.
(Port Patrick Radio 0528/30).

Intercept at 0535 G.M.T. Ship now completely disabled.
(C.G. Port Patrick 0535/30).

/Cancel.....

1040

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd.).

Cancel all previous instructions. Proceed forthwith to assist PANDION in distress at entrance to Lough Foyle. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0747/30 to SALVONIA).

My 0747/30. For ~~Lough Foyle~~ ^{Lough Foyle} read ~~Lough Swilly~~ ^{Lough Swilly}. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0925/30 to SALVONIA).

S.S. PANDION anchored Lough Swilly dragged and grounded on Swilly Rock. Master is dead. First mate and remainder of crew 5 in number landed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1703/30).

My 1623/30. SALVONIA reports at 1630 PANDION aground Swilly Rocks. Unable to board her, heavy swell and darkness. Anchoring at Lenan Bay until daylight when will investigate further. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2044/30 to C. in C. W.A).

OLYMPIER.

(Belgian, 5266 Tons) Attacked by A/C in 54° 7'N. 16° 11'W. (Plymouth W/T 1002 /30).

CAERPHILLY CASTLE.

(Swansea Trawler). Trawler WILLIAM BUNCE reports sinking of CAERPHILLY CASTLE 1130/27 by 4 engined aeroplane in 52° 35'N. 12°W. Attack lasted one hour. Nine bombs dropped. Three drowned. Eight survivors brought into Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1106/30).

Unknown Ships attacked.

Being attacked off Lizard by enemy aircraft. (Lands End Radio 1123/30).

/AUSTVARD.....

1041

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

AUSTVARD.
(Notw. 3677
tons.)

If fuel permits proceed to assist. Unknown Ship bombed in 054° 15' N. 014° W. at 1110/30.
(C. in C. W.A. 1153/30 to ANTHONY)

Note. Evidently AUSTVARD. Sunk. 5 direct hits. 5 killed 8 survivors landed Dingle Peninsula, 2 d. Rest of crew on rafts missing. See A.M.S.E. No. 103.

Sortie from Brest. Unusual distance.

Aircraft on daily sortie from Brest, usually to 48° N. 10° W. flew as far S.W. as 45° N. 11° W. on 30/1.
(D.D.I.C. 1446/30 F.O.C. North Atlantic).

Dover U.P. Batteries.

Dover U.P. batteries fired 120 rounds at low flying aircraft between 1454 and 1525 today. Low clouds prevented observation of any results.
(V.A. Dover 1708/30).

BEEMSTERDIJK.
(mined 26/1).

Has since sunk (D.S. 514).

Mining.

Operation S.N.7.

Propose to carry out as follows.
(R.A.M.L. 0021/30). See Operations Volume.

Following are passed for information.
One. CHITRAL leaves Reykjavik to pass through position A. 1000/1 thence through position B. and Minches to Clyde. Speed 13½ knots. Would be grateful if your destroyers could provide escort from A to Minches. My 1004/21. Both ships delayed by repairs but anticipate being able to sail BRIGHTON and LANCASTER 3/2. R.A.D. H.F. 1030/2 7 to R.A.M.L.)

/Two.....

1042

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Two. Your 1030/27. ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON will be detailed for this duty provided there is no possibility of cover and escort for a further S.N. operation before 4/1.
(R.A.M.L. 1001/28 to R.A.D.H.F).

Three. Your 1001/28. Confirmed no Home Fleet Destroyers available until BRIGHTON and LANCASTER are sailed.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1105/29 to R.A.M.L).

Four. C. in C. H.F. 1828/29. As ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON are lent to you in accordance with your 1030/27 can four destroyers be provided by you as A/S escort for next lay.
(R.A.M.L. 2342/29 to R.A.D.H.F.).

Five. Your .2342/29. See my 1105/29 and 1030/27 para 2 which is confirmed.
1035/30. (R.A.D. 1035/30 to R.A.M.L).
(R.A.M.L. 1453/30 to Adty).

R.A.D. 1035/30. Date of sailing for S.N. 7. will therefore be P.M./4.
(R.A.M.L. 1456/30).

B.S. 50.

Operation postponed on account of weather.
(S.O. Minelayers, Immingham)1140/30).

My 1140/30:- Weather is impracticable for operation B.S. 50. and further outlook indicates no improvement for a considerable period. Request instructions for QUORN.
(TEVIOTBANK 1145/30).

TEVIOTBANK'S 1145/30. Request QUORN be sailed to R.V. with F.S. 99 and act as additional escort to Harwich.
(C. in C. Nore 1820/30 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

B.S. 50 is postponed owing to weather QUORN is required at Harwich. Another Destroyer will be sent to Humber when weather shows signs of moderating.
(C. in C. Nore 1955/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/Aberdeen.....

1043

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Aberdeen
Area.

Report from 12th M.S. Group. Following three German Mines sunk by gunfire between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen on 29/1. Also sighted following German explosion floats 3 colour red 2 colour grey 2 colour black. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1246/30).

My 1216/26/1. Details of mines self exploded, rendered safe etc., Aberdeen and Peterhead. The large number of German explosive floats are being dealt with. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2001/30).

Liverpool.

At 1615/25. Mine exploded by S.A. gear Midway between Q.2. and B.1 buoys. Second mine not previously reported at 1005/26. N.E. Bar L.V.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1315/30).

SATURNUS.

(Dutch Balloon barrage vessel) Mined at 1820/29 in 132° Bar L.V. 2 miles. Vessel had just let anchor go. Suspected 2 mines detonated. Fate of vessel is uncertain owing to visibility. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1754/30).

Bristol
Channel.

Ships may now enter and leave Avonmouth but are not to enter or leave Newport. Ships should not leave Barry Inlet until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1842/30).

Plymouth.

One red mine detonated 1430 today 252° Breakwater Lighthouse 4 point 2 cables. (C. in C. W.A.1900/30).

Orkneys
Explosions
on Coast.

During the past 48 hours a number of explosions have occurred on the coast of the Orkneys Islands. Some explosions are believed to be caused by a German conic-shaped anti-sweeping device since unexploded ones have been recovered near by, whilst others must have been caused by full sized mines. (A.C.O.S. 1943/30).

1044

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.
BREMEN.
EUROPA.

PRU Sortie at 1320/29 shows TIRPITZ in Wilhelmshaven but moved from Bauhafen to southern entrance to Scheerhafen probably at Fuel Depot. Funnel fitted with pronounced cinder screen, no rake to stem, and tall pole mast abaft funnel. In Bremerhaven BREMEN and EUROPA still present at previously reported berths. (PRU Benson -815/30 to N.I.D.).

Baltic.

Ice Report, 30/1.
(N.A. Stockholm 1711/30).

Navigation
Lights near
Bud.

CACHALOT reports all lights near BUD (063° 54 'N. 006° 54'E) appear to be working normally.
(F.O.S. 2131/30).

Miscellaneous.

Ships not
receiving
Signals.

Please see HAVELOCK 0201/30 and HESPERUS 0250/30. In an endeavour to get these 2 ships who were in the vicinity Cape Wrath to Hydra the U-boats attacked BUTTERMERE at 1515 I made my 1755/29 which was repeated to you and 3 other signals which were broadcasting as follows. It appears that HESPERUS and HAVELOCK did not receive these signals although they were in area A. This resulted in a delay of about 12 hours in getting any destroyers on the scene of action.
(A.C.O.S. 1514/30 to C. in C. W.A).

1045

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

- E.N. 64. (A) 0500/30 (B) H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE, MACBETH. Additional escort FOWEY.
(C) 20 ships. 6 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0531/30).
- W.N. 75. My 1614/29 and 1804/29. W.N. 75. Part 1 arrived 0200/30.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0630/30).
- F.N. 95. 16 ships and 16 trawlers from Humber joining 62 D. buoy all for North of Blyth excepting 5 ships.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0708/30 to WOOLSTON, VIVIEN, SOUTHDOWN).
- O.B. 279. Sailed O.B. 279 - 0650/30 - 10 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0900/30).
- F.N. 94. Arrived 0900/30.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0944/30).
- E.N. 65.
WESTON. Act as additional A.A. escort to E.N. 65. Sailing at 2200/31 as far as Dunnet Head then proceed independently to Londonderry adjusting speed so as to arrive in daylight 3/2. If heavy weather is encountered speed is to be reduced as necessary to avoid damage. Code word for E.N. 65 ~~MEIGHT~~ "Might".
(C. in C. Rosyth 1026/30 to WESTON).
- W.N. 78.
HASTINGS. Proceed at 1300/1 independently and adjust speed so as to meet at Dunnet Head W.N. 78 due Duncansby Head 1230/2. Act as additional A/A escort to W.N. 78, code word ~~CHIPPY~~ "Chitty".
(C. in C. Rosyth 1029/30 to HASTINGS amended 1233/31).
- F.N. 93. Wash Ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1144/30).
- W.N. 76.
→ W.N. 75. Part company from W.N. 76 at 1400/30 and proceed Northwards to meet ST. APOLLO with rear portion of W.N. 75 due off Aberdeen about 1600/30 act as additional A.A. escort to these ships to Methil.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1144/30 to JASON).

/C.W.....

1046

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

C.W. 24. Your 2124/25 (sailing of C.W. 24) all arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1234/30).

K.C. My 1951/29. Route for ^{sailed} ~~set~~ (KC convoy and escort). Amend route to read West Ray Firth G. and J.
(A.C.O.S. 1325/30 to Admty etc).

F.S. 99. My 2011/29. F.S. 99. 36 ships sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/30).

F.S. 99 sailed 1500.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1504/30).

Ships for Turkey.

Your 1014/29. These ships should be sailed for the Clyde where other Turkish ferry boats are awaiting arrangements for onward passage.
(D.T.D. 1530/30 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

OBA.

Sailed OBA 1400/30/1. Escort HAVELOCK. 4 ships. 3 ships carried kites.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1539/30).

W.N. 76.

Arrived 1500/30.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1544/30).

F.S. 97.

Four ships only for convoy F.S. 97 reported in Barrow Deep at 1500, of these 3 are for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1546/30).

F.N. and F.S. escorts.

Cancel my 1720/25 and 1617/27. Additional escorts detailed as follows:-

<u>F.N.</u>	<u>F.S.</u>
96 (396)	100 (400) PUFFIN
-	1 (401) SHELDRAKE
98 (398)	2 (402) LE TIGER, GREENFLY.
99 (399)	3 (403) SNAPDRAGON.

SHELDRAKE to anchor in Yarmouth Roads night of Saturday 1/2. SNAPDRAGON enter Humber for night of Tuesday 4/2.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1546/30).

30.1.1941.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

- O.B.O. 280. 0600/31/1. Escort CAMELLIA 3 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/30).
- F.S. 99. Sailed 1500/30/1. Estimated number of ships
77.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1641/30).
- W.N. 77. My 1935/29 amend number of ships to read
(8). Ten ships sailed only two now
returned Clyde, three ships with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1641/30 to C. in C. W.A).
- F.S. 99. 12 Ships from Humber joining at Outer
Dowsing.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1706/30).
- W.N. 77 (0) Sailed W.N. 77 (0) 1500/30. Escort
H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY. 8 ships (2 Kites).
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1726/30).

SCILLONIAN.

Detail one town class Destroyer to escort
SCILLONIAN as follows (programme between
Newlyn and Scilly 1/2 to 3/2). Destroyer
to anchor for the nights at Scilly. If
desired a second Towns Class Destroyer
can take over the escort at 1430/2.
(C. in C. W.A. 1745/30 to D. Plymouth).

K.C. N.C.S.O. Kirkwall reports convoy K.C.
sailed 1300 as in my 1325/30.
(A.C.O.S. 1748/30 to Admtly etc).

8.M.V.'s. Sailed eight M.V's escorted by two A/S
Trawlers for Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/30 to N.O.I.C.
Dartmouth).

/F.S. 99.....

1048

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 99.
QUORN.

TEVIOT BANK's 1145/30. Request QUORN be sailed to rendezvous with F.S. 99 and act as additional escort to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1820/30).

E.N. 65.
E.N. 66.

Owing to late arrival of ST APOLLO at Methil, Trawler escorts are rearranged as follows.

E.N. 65 BERKSHIRE, FANDANGO.

E.N. 66 STELLA CAPELLA, ST APOLLO.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1855/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Belfast).

W.N. 77.

Your 1101. Estimate W.N. 77 ten miles N.W. of Oban R/V at 2000. Endeavour to rejoin.

(C. in C. W.A. 1943/30 to ULLSWATER).

O.B. 281.

(a) 0530/2/2/41.

(b) Unescorted.

(c) Two, Polish WISLA, Swedish PACIFIC, Kites, nil.

(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2000/30).

W.N. 75.
F.N. 94.
W.N. 76.
E.N. 64.

Rosyth 30/1. Arrivals. Additional to my 1449/30, WESTON, BERKSHIRE with portion of W.N. 75. FLEETWOOD, WALLACE with F.N. 94. STELLA CAPELLA, FANDANGO and JASON with W.N. 76.

(C. in C. Rosyth 2031/30).

S.M.V.'s.

Intend sailing 1630/31 eight merchant ships for Hartland Gap. Escort LORD ESSENDON and CORNELIAN.

(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2219/30).

OBC 280.

(A) 0135/31. (B) ARBUTUS (C) 16 ships 2 with kites.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2358 /30).

1049

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.19.

Re. C. in C. W.A. 2359/29 S.C.19 not met. My p.c. and s. are $055^{\circ} 38' 013^{\circ} 13' 255^{\circ} 20'$. Searching from 1600 expect to join you by 1830.
(SARDONYX 1000/30 to MALLOW).

S.L. 62.

3 hours early (MALLOW, 1150/30) See ships attacked (URLA) U-Boat campaign.

O.G. and S.L.

My 1327/29. Request two sloops to join each O.G. Convoy and each O.B. Convoy which meets an S.L. Convoy. Routine to begin with O.B. 282. Instructions. First duty of sloops is A/A protection.
(C. in C. W.A. 1939/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

H.X. 104.

Meet.
(C. in C. W.A. 2009/30 to ARROW. OURAGAN. CHURCHILL. HEARTSEASE. HOLLYHOCK. AUBRETIA. KING SOL).

H.X. 103.
W.N. 77.

H.X. 103 and W.N. 77 will not have individual A/S air escort tomorrow but Minches will be patrolled by Ansons throughout daylight.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2040/30 to WHITEHALL. WICHELSEA. VERBENA. GENTIAN. ULLSWATER. PAYNTER).

Transport of Aircraft.
Destinations.

Ships carrying aircraft have frequently been sailed for destinations where the aircraft could not be handled. Aircraft must be removed from ships immediately on arrival in U.K. Bombers can be unloaded only at Liverpool but other types of aircraft at all usual ports. You are requested to observe following procedure. All ships if carrying bombers must be sailed for Liverpool irrespective of destination declared or sailing destination received from Adty. If carrying other type of aircraft ships bound for East Coast U.K. must be sailed for Clyde. Ships carrying aircraft which are not bombers if bound for West Coast U.K. may be sailed direct to destination.
(D.T.D. 1827/30 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Cancelled. STD. 1722A/31/10/41 substituted.

1050

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

Procedure
for Stragglers.

Following procedure for dealing with Stragglers from Convoys is under consideration. 2. Ships from homeward bound Convoys routed North of Rockall which straggle west of 22° 30 W. should proceed to Hvalfjord or Reykjavik to await onward escort. 3. Ships from any outward bound Convoys which straggle East of 10° W. should return to U.K. 4. The Advantages of the above appear to be:- (a) Probable reduction of losses from U-boat and air attack. (b) Impressing on the minds of Masters the seriousness with which straggling is viewed by Naval Authorities. 5. The Disadvantages are:- (a) Additional escorts required. (b) Loss of time to Shipping. 6. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1832/30 to C. in C. W.A.).

Military Convoys.

Force Z.
GEORGIC.

C. in C. W.A. 1231/28. GEORGIC cannot sail from Liverpool until 1430/31.

Request you will sail Force Z to R/V with GEORGIC at 0830/1 in 236° Skerryvore 17 miles.

(F.O. Liverpool 1211/30 to F.O. Greenock).

W.S.6.

All messages referring to Convoy W.S. 6 are to be in Cypher even if sent by T/P.
(D.N.I. 1924/30).

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War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

SANDHILL.

South Easterly gale and poor visibility prevent our approaching SANDHILL position. Am sheltering until weather moderated. (SCHELDE 0850/30)

Your 1350/29. SCHELDE not arrived. Request she may be hastened if vessel is to survive. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 1205/30. Tug is conforming to your 1350/29 but unable to approach in present weather. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1240/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WESTCOTT.
BLUEBELL.

Request weather forecast for next 36 hours for WESTCOTT proceeding to Liverpool from Londonderry with damaged bulkhead and flooded boiler room. (WESTCOTT 1257/30 to Adty).

Arrived Londonderry 30/1.
(Capt D. Londonderry 1723/30).

RESTIVE.

(Rescue Tug). Your 1230/30. Engineer reports imperative reach Port. Engine in very bad state and liable to break down completely. (RESTIVE 1535/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 1535/30. Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/30 to RESTIVE).

FAME.

F.O.i/c Tyne 1509/10. It is considered essential that a maintenance party should be carried on board.

2. Towage is being arranged by Adty. and D. of S.T.
(D.O.D. H. 1335/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/OURAGAN.....

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War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

OURAGAN.

One of my condensers is leaking badly. Maximum speed 12 knots. Returning Greenock. E.T.A. 1500/31. (OURAGAN 1700/30 to ARROW).

WISA.

My 1601/30. Arrived Kirkwall at 1500 today. (F.O.C.N.P. 1723/30).

MACGREGOR.
LAIRD.

In company with MACGREGOR LAIRD 50° 49'N. 22° 2'W. She has effected temporary repairs. She requests proceed to Azores to complete and for KINGCUP to stand by. Proceeding 199° 8 knots awaiting orders. My Lubricating oil remaining for 6 days. (KINGCUP 1740/30 and 2000/30 to C. in C.W.A).

STANMORE.

(British, 4976 Tons) Returned Belfast Lough. Failed meet O.B. 279 at R/V. Grounded on way back off Port Patrick in thick weather. Not making water. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1915/30).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

North
Atlantic.

EURYLOCHUS reported being gunned on 29/1
700 miles west of Freetown. AFRIC STAR
also reported raider probably in same
position. Raider may be one which attacked
BRITISH UNION.

South
Atlantic.

Considerable number of D/F fixes indicate
at least two units in area 0° to 20°S., 0° to
20° W.

Southern
Ocean.

Whale oil factory ship. See Lloyd's.
Norwegian Whaler PELAGOS feared captured
on or after 15/1, 100 miles east of OLE
WEGGER's position.

Indian
Ocean.

MANDASOR bombed and probably captured 300
miles East of Seychelles 24/1. May be
raider which was near Kerguelen 12/1.

Pacific.

Doubtful report from Swedish OSCAR GORTHEN
that raider and prize were sighted off
Ladrones 27/1.

German MUNSTERLAND left Kobe 26/1 possibly
to R/V with raiders.
(D.D.I.C. 1848/30 to C.in C's etc.)

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DE
TAMATAVE,
VILLE DU
HAVRE,
FRANCOIS.L.D.

My 1203/25 same source denied.

(1) VILLE DE TAMATAVE was seen at Dakar 10/1.

(2) VILLE DU HAVRE after being repaired at Dakar sailed 10/1, for Madagascar.

(3) ^{L.D.}FRANCOIS left from Marseilles 29/11 as second ship of regular sailings referred to in my 1135/24.

(S.O.(I) Capetown 1303/30 to Admty etc.)

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN)
KENYA)
SOBIESKI)
etc.)

Amending his 1232/29 and 1208/29.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1056/30 to ROCHESTER, DUNEDIN).
See Operations Volume. *Page 50. 30.1.41.*

Force H,
information
re Air
Attacks.

Grateful if S.O. Force "H" can be included in address of messages reporting operations in Eastern Mediterranean which may affect Western Med. and in particular those referring to Air Attacks by enemy Aircraft. Re Air Attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS, request following information concerning.
(S.O. Force H, 1118/30 to C.in C. Med.)

BATORY.

Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1136/30).

Force H.
Destroyers.

Admty's 2035/28. (SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU) Can any degree of probability be now assessed? S.O. Force H represents that in view of forthcoming operation it is not desirable to maintain destroyer patrol tonight in order that they may have night in harbour for rest and to afford opportunity for discussion with C.O.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/30 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

SKAANE
(Danish)

Your 1824/28. Master of SKAANE has been instructed by his owners not to leave Lisbon. Proposals.
(Consul-General Lisbon, 1510/30 to Admty).

Force H
Destroyers.

Your 1154/30. Probability is not now considered sufficient to justify destroyers taking part in forthcoming operation being maintained on patrol tonight.
(D.O.D.(F) 1557/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OTUS.

OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1220/30).

Air
Report.

Daily Summary Operations.
Routine A.S. patrols. 3 Surface Reccos.
Area covered 3' 50" W. to 11° W.
(200 Group 1725/30).

RESOLUTION.

Your 1919/27. Endurance figures and anticipation date of sailing.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1758/30 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

Equipment.

C.in C. Med. 1257/24. Re shipment of U.P. projectors.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1924/30 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Convoy
S.L.64.
and
S.L.S.64

Departures 0830/30 ARAWA as ocean escort to convoy S.L.64 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1341/29/1. Local A/S escort ASPHODEL, CALENDULA, Trawler, TURCOMAN until dusk 2/2. Also sailed S.L.S.64 with local A/S escort trawlers SPANIARD and PICT.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0959/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

EURYLOCHUS
(Gunned
29/1).

EURYLOCHUS raider report. Position appears improbable, request route of EURYLOCHUS. (C.in C. S.A. 1001/30 to Admty).

BULOLO.

My 1723/29. Position of CARADOC and TAMERLANE. Date to make contact. (C.in C. S.A. 1037/30 to BULOLO) See Operations Volume. *Page 50. 30.1.41.*

Suspicious Ship.

S.O.(I) Capetown's 1046/28. Request British ship SCOTTISH TRADER be questioned on arrival in U.K. whether ship sighted U.S. ship CHARLES C. CRAMP. (C.in C. S.A. 1108/30 to Admty).

Force Z.
GEORGIC.

Admty. 1655/22 and C.in C. W.A. 1229/28. Route from R/V "Q". (C.in C. S.A. 1131N/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock C.in C. W.A. repeated KENYA, DORSETSHIRE). See Operations Volume. *Page 50. 30.1.41.*

LA FONIA.

Your 1828/29 LA FONIA arrived Port Stanley 16/1 and sailed for Punta Arenas 29/1. (N.C.S.O. Montevideo, 1141/30 to Admty).

VICEROY
OF
INDIA.

H.M. Transport VICEROY OF INDIA sailed 29/1 with R.A.F. details Cargo space available. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1228/30 to Admty).

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

Your 2121/26. COMMANDANT DUBOC is intended for escort of FORT BINGER, para 6 of D. of S.T. 2003/24 refers. (D.O.D.(F) 1336/30 to C.in C. S.A.)

Whale
Catchers.

Your 1357/29. My 1931/19 was passed to South Georgia by my 2133/19 prefixed immediate. further by G.B.M.S. broadcast my 0015/20. South Georgia plain language broadcast to ships intercepted at 0158Z/20 and 0211Z/20. Further plain language broadcast has been made my 1045/30, (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1506Z/30 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Brazilian
Neutrality
Laws.

The following Brazilian decree laws implementing recommendations of Inter-American Neutrality commission have recently become effective.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1602/30).

Coast
Defences.

A.M. 2306/29/12. Loan to Union Government of two six-inch mark XI guns as suggested in your 1927/18/12 is now approved subject to concurrence of C.in C. S.A. Union Government should be requested to provide a P.W.S.S. and an Examination Service.
(Hd. of M. 1617/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

T.C.9.

NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE to R/V. (date and position). (D.O.D.(H) 1907/30 to C.in C. S.A.)
See Operations Volume.

Coast
Defence.

Your 1617/29. My proposal was that these guns should go to Takoradi but as this has not been approved have no objection to them going to Walvis Bay.
(C.in C. S.A. 1847/30 to Admty).

AUTOLYCUS.

Route.
(D.T.D. 1917/30 to G.B.M.S. area 1).

Convoy
W.S.5.B.

According to Naval advices MONARCH OF BERMUDA also in convoy. Telegraph destination and details.
(Movements Durban, 2000/30 to W.C).

Uruguay
Neutral
Zone.

As aftermath to MENDOZA incident Uruguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs has again submitted to inter American neutrality committee proposal for extension of territorial waters from three to twenty-five miles. This proposal was previously put forward by Uruguay at Havana conference.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2120Z/20 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

HERMES
ENTERPRISE.

Suggest that it would be more convenient for HERMES and ENTERPRISE to continue to be administered by me while operating in Cape Durban Area.

(C.in C. S.A. 2351N/30, to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Destroyers
JAGUAR.

Your 1327/28.
Arrangements for gradually increasing your Destroyer strength will be signalled shortly. JAGUAR will remain in Eastern Mediterranean.

(1st S.L. 1057/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Suez
Canal
Mined.

About 6 enemy planes dropped bombs and parachute mines between Suez and Ismailia 0415 - 0640/30. One Canal Company Dredger sunk in Lake Timsah. Unexpected magnetic mines seen at Kilos 83 Deversoir Kilos 139 Kilos 141. Presence of others suspected. Traffic suspended pending sweeping and disposal.

(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1117/30 to Admty etc.)

Air
Report,
Crete
Air
Raid.

Night 29/30 Jan. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs along Suez Canal including vicinity Shallufa aerodrome no R.A.F. damage no casualties.

(2) Greece. 4 enemy aircraft reconnoitred Crete bombing 6 Swordfish at Heraklion. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1133/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mining
of Suez
Canal.
(Contd.)

It is likely that the southern half of Suez Canal will be closed to shipping for at least a further 36 hours owing to mines.

(S.B.N.O. Suez 1225/30 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

Greek
Submarine
PROTEUS.

Cancel my 1258/29. Copies of S.P. 2339 and S.P. 02340 were board Greek S/M PROTEUS sunk on 29/12. Italian communique claims she was (rescued) by TBD and afterwards depth charged position not yet known. It is believed that no prisoners were taken as interrogation of Italians here show no indication of Greek Naval Prisoners. (N.A.Athens, 1230/30 to Admty).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Destination.
(1st S.L. 1332/30 to C.in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Crews
for
Turkish
Destroyers
and S/M's
completing
in England.

A.N.A. Angora 1710/30.

Reinforce-
ments,
M.T.B's
etc.
Air
Strength.

My 1039/12. Programme for T.L.C. M.L.C. A.L.C. S.L.C. Eureka's, and M.T.B's. (D.D.T.S.D. 1820/30 amended 1229/31 to C.in C. Med.) See Med. Vol. Reply to Admty. 0027/29. (C.in C. Med. 1901/30, 1907/30, 1933/30, 1941/30, 1959/30 2007/30). See Med. Volume.

Success
of Air
Attack on
Convoy on
27/1.

Your 1021/28. The combined R.A.F. and Naval Aircraft operation which resulted in the successful attack on the convoy at a distance of 165 miles from Malta was well planned and executed. Those concerned are to be congratulated. This provides an excellent illustration of the correct employment of Air search and striking forces. (5.S.L. 2000/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Mischievous
statement
by B.B.C. re
Air attacks on
Egypt.

Protest. (C.in C. Med. 2231/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force K.

Re forthcoming operations.
(S.O. Force K, 0627Z/30 to C.in C. E.I. and
reply by C.in C. E.I. 1932Z/30). See Opera-
tions Vol.

Convoys.

Admty. 1415/28. Trial arrangements will
be made to sail slow ships in advance of the
main convoy. This will entail slight
additional risk for individual ships but I
am reluctant to reduce the limiting speed
of the whole convoy. Loaded tanker
cannot zigzag in safety at less than 8 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0734Z/30 to Admty).

EMPIRE
ABILITY.

Your 1521/29. (Independent sailing of
EMPIRE ABILITY). Yes.
(C.in C. E.I. 0736/30 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

ENTERPRISE
SHROPSHIRE.

My 0816/23. ENTERPRISE has replaced
SHROPSHIRE in convoy escort and SHROPSHIRE is
returning to Durban. ENTERPRISE is to
proceed to Aden for fuel and rejoin convoy
as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.
(C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/30 to S.N.O. Red Sea,
KANIMBLA, SHROPSHIRE, ENTERPRISE, HERMES, CERES,
CAPETOWN.)

SHROPSHIRE
epidemic.

My 1630/28 and your 0640Z/29. Present
total of cases 83. All being discharged
hospital and ship disinfected. Ship is
fit for service now in emergency at 70%
normal efficiency.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1000Z/30 to C.in C. E.I).

LEANDER.

LEANDER is to sail 0330Z/31 and proceed
to patrol between position 004° N., 077° E.
and 004° N., 083° E. commencing at Westward
position. Speed on patrol 12 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 1032Z/30 to LEANDER).

HECTOR.

My 1208/21 and S.N.O. Red Sea 0928/29 to
HECTOR (A.M.C.) only. On relief of
KINGSTON, HECTOR (A.M.C) is to proceed at
best speed to Aden and complete fuel.
(C.in C. E.I. 1202Z/30 to HECTOR).

KINGSTON.

Departure 1410Z/30 KINGSTON for B.N.F.1.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1412Z/30).

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ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Troop
Transport

Re DOMINION MONARCH, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, WINDSOR CASTLE, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, ORMONDE (D.S.T., 1808/30 to C. in C's E.I. and S.A.) (See Operations Volume. *Page 52.*
30.1.41.)

B.S.F. 1.
Suez Canal
closed

S.B.N.O. Suez. Canal Area's 1255/30. Closing of canal will prevent CHRISTIAN HUYGENS and probably DOMINION MONARCH joining B.S.F. one, former will sail in S.U. one also latter if unable to catch B.S.F. one. (S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1923/30 to C. in C., E.I.)

ChinaRaider

F.E.W. 15

No Pacific Raider information except that Swedish ship OSCAR GORTON reported sighting armed raider with prizes in 18° N 147° E., at 0300/27. Believed bogus report designed to scare Allied shipping. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0215Z/30)

Thailand and
Indo-China
dispute

C. in C., China, 0943Z/30, to Admiralty.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

A.S. Singapore's 0346/22. QUEEN ELIZABETH should be sailed for Sydney on completion of trials. (D. of S.T. 1049/30 to R.A. Malaya)

America & West IndiesBunkering
of Oil-Fired
Ships

Why have naval authorities instructed oil-burning merchant ships bound through Panama Canal to bunker at Canal ports instead of at Curacao as formerly, observing that Curacao affords more economical facilities. (D.T.D. 1056/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.,)

U.S. Navy

Request for information. (S.N.O. Curacao to C. in C., A.W.I., 1305/30) See Operations Volume.

/Submarine.....

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd,

Submarine for
A/S training

Earnestly request reconsideration my 1023/20/11. If impossible to spare submarine 015 is there any possibility of an older submarine being detached from R.N. for this purpose?. This summer we must train crews of over 140 new construction A/S fitted vessels. Without a submarine the training is severely handicapped. (C.N.S., Canada, 1141/30 to Admty.)

ASAKA

Instructions in Admty 1349/27 are provisional pending further consideration by F.O. and receipt of assurances from Japanese. (Head of M. 1417/30 to N.A. Tokyo)

^H
TACHEE
^

Your 1602/29. Admiralty's 1938/10/10 was not acted on as signal letters arrived Sydney reading VWBJ, Master was given "orders" or "instructions" in accordance with Admiralty's 1741/29/11 to C.O.A.C. Halifax repeated N.C.S.O. Sydney, Cape Breton. (1506/30)

HIROKAWAMARU

Additional to my 1634/29/1. HIROKAWAMARU taken over by Japanese Government A.1. other Japanese Lines report similar conditions existing in all Japanese Lines, sailings are being cancelled and Government is Commandeering ships B. 2. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1516/30)

Comment by N.I.D. The only explanation of this action that can be suggested is that Japan is preparing for some abnormal movement or enterprise.

SS HIE
(Japanese)

My 1306/26 Meier is merchant officer ex German ship PRIWALL (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1722/30 to Admty., etc.,)

N.Z. Transports
Escorts

N.Z.N.B. 05122/29 being passed to you. If it is decided cover for these ships is necessary, estimated that escort should be provided for whole of passage.

/Before....

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

N.Z.
Transports,
Escorts.
(Contd.)

Before I ask for Admty decision please remark on following proposal - ought PRINCE HENRY and PRINCE ROBERT based at Esquimalt to undertake escort from Suva to Vancouver or commence with PRINCE HENRY for Aorbagi trip in April. This will involve abandonment of West Coast of South America patrol except for occasional visit of a ship from Caribbean.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1821/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

LETITIA.

LETITIA sailing Halifax Nova Scotia 31/1. January. (Route)ETA Hamper Halifax 5/2. (F.O. Iceland 1833/30 to Admty).

SAGAMI
MARU,
suspicious
arms
cargo.

Japanese SAGAMI MARU reported to be carrying 6" shell and other ammunition consigned to Bolivia. As it is believed that Bolivia has ordered no ammunition this cargo may be destined for German Merchant vessels on West Coast of S. America. This ship should be carefully watched and anything suspicious reported.
(D.D.I.C. 1850/30 to N.A. Santiago, Chile).

Examination
Service.

Your 1012/25.
Examination of passengers is a function of the Contraband Control Service and full control should therefore be in your hands. Full reply to your 1012/25 will be made shortly.
(D.E.W.D. 1945/30 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE departed Brisbane 0732Z/29 for Nauru and Ocean Islands.
(A.C.N.B. 0445Z/30 to Admty, etc.)

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

U.S.10.

Anticipate U.S.10 will not arrive at Colombo before 5/4/41.
(A.C.N.B. 0550/30, to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

New Zealand.

MONOWAI,
AORANGI.

Departure Auckland 2345Z/1 MONOWAI escorting AORANGI.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0130Z/30 to Admty etc.)

HOBART.

Arrival Wellington 0218Z/30 HOBART wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S.
(N.Z.N.B. 0251/30 to Admty etc.)

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND.

Sailed 0220 G.M.T. 30/1. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 0247/30 to Admty).

BABITONGA,
DRESDEN.

A.3. possibility of German ships sailing from here during week-end.
(N.C.S.O.)(Santos 0943/30 to S.O.(I) Freetown.)

Following received from Santos (A.3.)
Possibility of German ship sailing from Santos during week-end.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 18212/30 to S.A.Division)
May refer to BABITONGA or DRESDEN.
(D.S.514).

NORBURG.

Istanbul 29/1. Departure NORBURG.
(N.C.S.O. Istanbul 1524/30).

Italian Merchant Ships

MAURO
CROCE.

Departure 29/1 MAURO CROCE.
(Barcelona 1615/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY.

Vichy French ship SONTAY has been anchored in Inner Anchorage and Naval armed guard relieved by one supplied by Fortress Commander.

(N.L.O. Durban 1101/30 to Admty etc.)

Your 2256/29 Personnel on board (numbers). All sick are being invalided from Far East. Naval Personnel are all demobilised reservists from Saigon. Nonative troops on board. Brief summary of cargo. Original hostile attitude of Captain and Senior Officers now friendly and helpful but resigned. Medical assistance and stores not required at present. Captain much concerned about quick repatriation of invalided personnel.

(HERMES 1700/30 to Admty).

PIERRE
L.D.

Intercepted air letter. PIERRE L/D will leave Marseilles 1/2. Destination unstated possibly Indo China.

(C.in C. A.W.I. 2223/30 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.30.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.S.C.19
(attacked
29/1).

Arrived 054° 56'N., 018° 46'W at 2300. My 0803. Searched vicinity no reply to rocket. Intend wider search daybreak. If negative intend to proceed 055° 00'N., 017° 00'W. assumed course of boat and commencing southward Search thence with direction of advance 090° .
(ANEMONE. 0100/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.B.
WALKER
(torpedoed
29/1).

W.B.WALKER is not to be sunk.
(C.in C. W.A. 0831/30 to ANTHONY).

Condition of ^{W.B.}WALKER unchanged. Position 056° 00'N., 016° 05'W St. Helena now bearing 155° 4 miles from Bow. Am returning to Greenock at 20 knots ARAB at 10 knots. Lat. 56° 00' Long. 16° 05' (Weather).
(ANTHONY 1000/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

If assistance of both TENACITY and SAINT OLAVES is not required to tow in BARON RENFREW one tug is to be sent to assistance of W.B.WALKER broken in half in position 055° 59' N., 015° 51' W. Both halves salvable. CANDYTUFT to report action taken. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/30 to CANDYTUFT, TENACITY, ST. OLAVES).

Your 115? proceeding to position. E.T.A. 1800.
(ANTHONY 1230/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1930/29. If engines permit you should attempt to salvage Tanker W.D.WALKER broken in halves in position 55° 59'N., 15° 51' W. Both halves salvageable. Report action taken.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/30 to RESTIVE).

Your 1230. Engineer reports imperative reach port. Engine in very bad state, liable to break down completely.
(RESTIVE 1535/30). Your 1535. Return to Campeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to RESTIVE).
(1740/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Ships
Attacked.
(Contd.)

Your 1153/30. Have searched 10 miles to southwards and 10 miles to westwards of position given, visibility very good, have found nothing. In view of fuel situation and injuries to survivors from WALKER am returning to harbour.
(ANTHONY 1920/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

URLA
(torpedoed
29/1.)

Your 1335/29 S.L. 62.3 hours early course and speed 076 degs. 9 knots. SIRIUS picked up boat load of survivors from URLA at 0730. (weather report)
(MALLOW, 1150/30 to C.in C. W.A.)
URLA has sunk.
(D.S.514 31/1).

Submarines
Reported.

0056.

By D/F on 8470 kc/s at 0056/30. U/Boat was in approx. 55° 40'N., 22° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0150/30).

0900.

Submarine sighted 0900/30 ten miles north of St. Miguel Azores. This may be H.M.S. OTUS.
(F.C.C.N.A. 2322/30 to Ships.)

1130.

By D/F on 8500 kc/s. at 1130 B.S.T. position of Italian U/B was approx. 52 N., 17 W. Probably homeward bound. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1233/30).

1257.

By D/F on 12700 kc/s. at 1257 B.S.T. unknown enemy unit, probably U/Boat was in position 56° N., 21° 40'W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1337/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Reported.
(Contd.)

1432. 47° 52'N., 50° 34'W. SHEAR CROWN, submarine sighted suspicious. (Portishead W/T 1432/30).

1918. 54° N., 18° W. indefinite position of German U/B. (D.S.514).

Estimate one German U/Boat North of Faeroes bound for Norway. (F.O.(S) 1539/30 to Subs. on Patrol Area "A".)

0900/30. Unknown submarine 10 miles North of Island of San Miguel Azores (A.1). (N.A. Lisbon 1814/30 to Admty).

Estimated
U/Boat
dispositions.

German.

1 North of Faeroes bound for Norway.
1 within 100 miles radius of 58° N., 20° W.
1 within 30 miles radius of 55° 40'N. 22° W. at 0056/30.
1 within 40 miles radius of 56° N., 13° W.
1 about 49° N., 9° W. bound for Lorient.
1 in Bay of Biscay bound for Lorient from S.W.
1 near Azores patrolling.
Possibly 1 near Cape Verde Islands.

Italian.

Possibly 1 near Canaries.
2 in Bay of Biscay one of them bound for Gironde.
1 within 40 miles radius of 52° N., 17° W. at 1130/30 homeward bound.
2 between 53° N., and 56° N., 16° W. and 19° W. (D.D.I.C. 1321/30).

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Attacked.

Your 1755 (HAVELOCK and HESPERUS to hunt for submarine). Not received. HESPERUS is at present at Loch Ewe.
(HESPERUS to hunt for submarine).
(HESPERUS, 0250/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Request ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON may proceed with despatch to position 4.8 miles Butt of Lewis 028° to hunt submarine reported damaged by BUTTERMERE. Aircraft from Stornoway are co-operating at daylight. Acknowledge.
(A.C.O.S. 0500/30 to R.A.M.L.)

Proceed with despatch to hunt S/M in position 4.8 miles Butt of Lewis 028 degrees reported damaged by BUTTERMERE. Air co-operation is being provided from daylight by Stornoway.
(A.C.O.S. 0750/30 to HESPERUS.)

Your 0750. My E.T.A. in the position indicated 1220.
(HESPERUS 1045/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Buoy position in which submarine was last seen if you have not done so already. When Destroyers ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON arrive give them all the information that you have and then proceed to Stornoway for asdic repairs. WINDERMERE remain with destroyers. Report when you are relieved by Destroyer. ST. ALBANS acknowledge.
(A.C.O.S. 1050/30 to BUTTERMERE).

Departure HESPERUS.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1056/30 to A.C.W.A.)

WAR DIARY.30.1.1941.
Thursday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines
Attacked.

Port Z.A. departures 0945/30 ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTOWN to hunt U/Boat reported by BUTTERMERE then to provide A/S escort for CHITRAL inwards from 15° 20'W.
(R.A.M.L. 1106/30 to Admty).

One Anson from Stornoway co-operating in search taking off 1145 A.C.O.S. pass to BUTTERMERE.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1110/30 to HESPERUS, HAVELOCK, ST. ALBANS, CHARLESTOWN, BUTTERMERE.)

On arrival of BUTTERMERE request you closely question Captain and give me your opinion whether a U/Boat has been sunk, damaged or is a myth. I particularly wish to know how many of crew saw the U/Boat and "what they saw".
(A.C.O.S. 1225/30 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

BUTTERMERE reports last in contact at 1600/29 when submarine appeared to sink on its beam end.
(HESPERUS 1300/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Please see HAVELOCK 0201/30 and HESPERUS 0250/30. In an endeavour to get these 2 ships who were in the vicinity Cape Wrath to Hydra the U/Boats attacked BUTTERMERE at 1515 I made my 1755/29 which was repeated to you and 3 other signals which were broadcasting on H.D. routine at 1628, 1729, 1806, and 1827 B.S.T. with series numbers 295 H.D. 303 H.D. 304 H.D. and 305 H.D. It appears that HESPERUS and HAVELOCK did not receive these signals although they were in area A. This resulted in a delay of about 12 hours in getting any destroyers on to the scene of action.
(A.C.O.S. 1514/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Attacked.

Destroyers are to continue to hunt and if possible identify position of wreck.
(A.C.O.S. 1555/30 to HESPERUS).

I believe there is a very good chance that you destroyed a U/Boat yesterday. Well done in any case.
(A.C.O.S. 2300/30 to BUTTERMERE).

War Diary

31.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

H.M. Tug SALVONIA was prevented by rifle fire from the shore, from boarding SS PANDION (damaged by air attack 28/1) in Lough Swilly this afternoon.

Search for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU

All the forces engaged have now returned to Scapa; and, after considering C.S. 15's report of having sighted an unknown vessel, C. in C., H.F. thinks it unlikely that any enemy ship was seen.

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather Bomber Command carried out no offensive operations last night or today. Operations by Coastal Command were greatly curtailed today.

Enemy Air Activity

The British GRASLIN was attacked in Convoy F.S. 97 off Harwich at 1015 this morning; and at 1425 Convoy F.N. 96 was machine gunned there by A/C which were seen to drop Parachute Mines. But no damage to ships is reported.

At 0920 this morning the Belgian OLYMPIER is reported to have been again attacked by A/C about 100 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland; and a Corvette has been sent to investigate the reported sinking of an unknown ship at 1250 today by A/C about 290 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

Norwegian SS EILHAUG reported that she was attacked early this morning, 5 miles south of Lands End and shot down his attacker.

War Diary31.1.1941.
FridaySITUATION REPORTMining

At Milford Haven two Motor Launches were damaged this morning by the near explosion of an Acoustic Mine; 2 ground mines and 1 Red Mine in all were detonated; and the Port was closed at 1116 probably until next Monday.

In the Thames Estuary and the Harwich Area a number of mines were seen to drop from aircraft at various times during the day, 2 of which detonated on striking the water; a sweep of the area is to be carried out at daylight tomorrow.

2 M/V's from convoy H.X. 103, originally reported torpedoed off North Rona Island, are now believed to have been sunk by mines.

SS BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from Convoy H.X. 105 were reported torpedoed today off North Rona Island, but it was later considered that they were mined *in the Rona minefield.*

Shipping and Convoys

Admiralty have ordered every endeavour to be made to ensure that S.L.S and H.G. portions join during the homeward passage. S.L.S. 61 remained unescorted to its destination although only 30 miles astern of H.G. 50 at position X.

Commenting on Admiralty 1832/30 (procedure for stragglers) C. in C., Western Approaches considers that the principal causes of straggling are beyond the control of masters and engine room personnel. He recommends a larger margin of time allowed for the ocean passage of homeward convoys before arriving at the rendezvous, and deprecates penalising masters for shortcomings they cannot control.

/The firing.....

War Diary

31.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

The firing of rockets by merchant ships to indicate hostile air attack is to be discontinued.

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Force

F.O.C.N.A., draws attention to the scarcity of vessels at Gibraltar during the absence of Force H., and asks for submarines, M.T.B's and other small craft.

Lisbon Patrol

F.O.C.N.A. suggests, while GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are unlocated, withdrawing the Lisbon trawler patrol to supplement that west of Gibraltar, but Admiralty consider this unnecessary.

Mediterranean

Operation "Result"

S.O. Force H (RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar at 1315 today for Operation "Result" (Genoa).

^{British}
~~Dutch~~ tanker DESMOULER^A carrying light oil to Greece was torpedoed at 0400 today, possibly by a destroyer or E-Boat, in position 35° 31' N., 25° 34' E., and was towed to Suda Bay by DAINTY with her cargo undamaged. *Torpedoed by Italian destroyer LUPO BR.1337.*

Air Attack on Tripoli

R.A.F. attacked Tripoli harbour tonight, causing damaged amongst seaplanes and shipping. Two merchant ships were hit and a third was possibly damaged. Damage was also caused to the port installations.

/HUNTLEY.....

War Diary

31.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

HUNTLEY
Sunk

HUNTLEY was sunk this afternoon 30 miles west of Mersa Matruh, possibly by aircraft torpedoes.

Hospital Ship
DORSETSHIRE
Bombed

Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE was bombed this evening in the Gulf of Sollum.

An Egyptian transport from Sollum conveying Italian prisoners was bombed and driven ashore near Sidi Barrani. The prisoners panicked and several are reported to be killed or missing.

America & West Indies

The German ship PORTLAND left Talcahuano today. ? 30th *map* 1865

U-Boat Campaign

BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from convoy H.X. 103 were reported torpedoed off North Rona Island this morning, although C. in C., Western Approaches suggests the damage may be from our own mines.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M/S. Flotilla
Dispositions.

Your M/M/S 023/41. Concur in proposed redispersions, subject to ships of 1st. M/S F having an adequate H.A. Armament, observing air attacks now occur more often than not when these vessels are operating in Harwich area. Vessels of 6th M/S have one and in some cases two Quadruple "9" Type mountings, in addition to their main armament. The departure of HARRIER and GOSSAMER for Scapa immediately 1st. M/S F leaves that port will deplete the number available at Harwich and should a further contact minefield of such dimensions as to impede traffic be laid in this area, it might be necessary for the 1st. M/S.F. to abandon ~~mine~~ operation and proceed to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1130/31 to Adty.)

Wash Patrol.

Your 1425/24. The Wash Patrol has been transferred from King's Lynn to Boston Humber Sub Command, today. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1159/31, to C. in C. Nore.)

Troop
Convoys.

Instructions
for A/S
escorts.

Experience of escorting special troop convoys shows that special instructions are necessary for the conduct of the A/S escort in the event of attack by U-Boat, aircraft or surface raider. Suggested primary object of A/S escort is the protection of the convoy and secondary object the destruction of U-Boats. Propose that S.O. of Destroyers should promulgate instructions for each particular operation informing the ocean escort in case modification is necessary. If you concur request you will promulgate this decision. (A.C.N.S(T) 1355/31, to C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. W.A.

/DELUGE.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

At 1130/31. (D.C. 1159/31.)
At 2330/31. (D.C. 2349/31.)

Defence
of Orkneys
and
Shetlands.

A.L.M. 01108/41 of 22/1/41.
Detailed remarks. (A.C.O.S. 1615/31.)
See Operations Volume.

CORINTHIAN
CAVINA.

Movements

Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N. P.
1816/30/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0517/31.)

CALIFORNIA.

Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.P.
1536/29. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1024/31.)

LETITIA
CHITRAL.

Arrived and fuelled. CHITRAL sailed
0800 G.M.T. in accordance with 1230/24
from F.O.C.N.P. (F.O. Iceland 1100/31.)

FURIOUS.
NEPTUNE.

My 1231/28. Owing to delay in sailing
of Force Z, Ships to proceed from 53°
15' N. 22° 23' W. to 55° N. 21° 30' W.
and thence as in my 1239/28. (C. in C.
W.A. 1325/31.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.
KELLY.
KIPLING.

622. (1) My 1537/27 and my 1225/31 to
Capt. (D)5. PRETORIA CASTLE, KELLY,
KIPLING are to R/V in 300° Trevose
Head 5 miles at 1530/1, and proceed
through following positions, to pass Nab
at 0900/2 unless otherwise ordered by
F.O.C. 1st. B.S. (2) C. in C.
Portsmouth is requested to sail KELLY,
KIPLING for Plymouth at dark/2.
(C. in C. W.A. 1343/31.)

ESKIMO
ECLIPSE
NAPIER.

My 2031/30. ESKIMO and ECLIPSE proceed
at 0800/1. Amend time of R/V as follows
(B) 1600/3. B.S.T. (X) 0730/4. B.S.T.

/if NAPIER.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements., . Contd.

If NAPIER cannot reach Greenock by P.M./6, she is to proceed Londonderry unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. W.A. (R.A.D.H.F. 1447/31.)

Destroyers
off North
Rona.

Two Destroyers sent from Scapa to vicinity of North Rona have been ordered not to enter. Q.Z.X.170. (C. in C. H.F. 1457/31 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

BEAGLE.
KEPPEL.

Return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1539/31.)

JACKAL.

Has been ordered to join you at R/V K. She is to be detached to Londonderry on passing. (C. in C. W.A. 1613/31 to FURIOUS.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines occupied to-night. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1619/31.)

ASSINIBOINE.

Sailed for Cardiff. E.T.A. 1000/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/31.)

F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 0953/31. ASSINIBOINE sailed not in possession of F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1116/31. (Milford Haven Port closed by Mines.) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1703/31 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

KEPPEL.

Proceed passing Switha 0830 tomorrow to R/V with CALIFORNIA in 270° Cape Wrath 19 at 1500/1. (ii) Provide escort to 060° 40' N. 015° W. Thence return to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F. 1846/31 to KEPPEL.)

31. 1. 41.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for
SCHARNHORST,
and GNEISENAU.

Investigation of C.S.15's report of sighting unknown ships produces evidence that is far from conclusive. Snow squall made visibility and R D/F conditions patchy and liable to be misleading. (ii) There is a small possibility that, if a fast enemy vessel was present, she could have worked round to northward and then to westward without being detected. (iii) I consider it unlikely that an enemy ship was present. (C. in C. H.F. 0027/31 to Adty.)

Operation N.C.

Will be carried out zero hour 0015/1. (V.A. Dover 1439/31.)

Ships off
Kinnaird
Head.

Investigate number of ships reported in vicinity of Kinnaird Head at 2130 steering S.E. Do not delay your passage unduly. (C. in C. Rosyth 2154/31 to FLEETWOOD, and 2206/31 to MEYNELL.)

Submarines.Positions.

At 0800/1, and movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.S.1746/31.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Sunderland A/C from Sullom Voe will carry out A/S search of Triangular Area $60^{\circ} 45' N 2^{\circ} 25' E$. $61^{\circ} 13' N$. 1 W. $61^{\circ} 55' N$. $0^{\circ} 12' E$, leaving Firth position at 0845. Patrol ~~0945~~ will not be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 0122/31.)

943. Following additional patrols ordered today ~~0945~~, "Hornet", "I.P.O.P." - a.m. and p.m. (C. in C. Rosyth 0940/31, to C. in C. H.F.)

946. My 0940/31. Patrol ~~HORNET~~ cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1048/31.)

/Own A/C.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Own A/C.
attacked
18/1.

A.104. 31/1. Your 0015/26 re attack on Wellington at Lowestoft Harbour 18/1. Pilots and Routeing Officers are hereby reminded of the necessity for avoiding areas indicated in S.D.158 Part 1 paragraph 34, Sections 1 and 2 but Naval Authorities should be prepared to accept the occasional presence of friendly aircraft in bad weather or under emergency conditions. (Air Ministry F.O. b. 1700/31 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EIKHAUG.

(Norwegian 1436 Tons.) Attacked by aircraft five miles South Lands End. (EIKHAUG 0741/31.)

Master reports when 3 miles S. of Lands End, he was attacked by a Junkers 88. Plane was shot down in flames ahead of ship. Chief Officer wounded and landed in hospital. Not dangerous. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1636/31.)

~~Convoy~~
~~CONVOY~~
E.N. Even.

Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist. (Lyness W/T 0913/31.)

OLYMPIER.

(Belgian, 5266 Tons) Attacked by aircraft in 56° 4' N. 11° W. (Lyness W/T 0922/31.)

BARON
RENFREW.

TENACITY only Tug now searching. Report if contact has been made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1037/31 to CANDYTUPT.)

Located BARON RENFREW 1200 056° 54' N. 012° 38' W. Crew have abandoned BARON RENFREW. Weather unfavourable for boarding yet. Standing by. (TENACITY 1144/31.)

/GRASLIN.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.

~~British~~
Enemy
British Air Activity Contd.

GRASLIN
(Convoy
F.S. 97.)

(British, 2323 Tons.) Attacked aircraft off Sunk Light Vessel, 1013/31. (North Foreland 1140/31.)

Proceed immediately to assist near B 8 Buoy and order her to proceed to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1541/31 to SNAPDRAGON.)

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

Being attacked by aircraft, in 51° 34' N. 1° 8' E. (Nore W/T 1303/31.)

Enemy A/C machine-gunned Convoy and dropped 2 large Cylinders. (VIMIERA 1304/31 to C. in C. Nore.) See Mining.

Convoy
F.N. Even.

Fighters have left for Convoy "Agent". (C. in C. Nore 1456/31 to VIMIERA.)

Restrictions
on
A/A Gun
Attacks
on Enemy A/C.

It is understood that at about 0930/27 under conditions of 10/10 cloud at 1000 ft, an enemy aircraft dropped two heavy H.E. bombs from 500 ft. near VICTORIOUS (Tyne). 2. Report continues that A.A. guns defences had enemy aircraft under aim for at least 15 seconds before bombs were dropped, but fire was not opened as enemy aircraft was not "identified as hostile and had not committed hostile act". 3. Existing orders by A.A. Command under provision of S.D. 158, impose such restrictions on A.A. guns that Authorities responsible for ordering fire will not do so on doubtful targets for fear of endangering friendly aircraft. This must result in enemy aircraft not being engaged and being able to attack without opposition. 4. Until new edition of S.D.158 is published, request consideration be given to implementing the recommendations in decision No. 6 of Inter-Service Recognition Committee 8th meeting held on 10/12/41. (A.C.N.S(H) 1512/31 to Air Ministry.)

0

/Fawley.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy
British Air Activity Contd.

Fawley
Oil-
Depot.

As a result of dive bombing attack at 1510 today, following damage has been sustained at A.G.W.I. oil Depot. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1805/31.)

PANDION.

While preparing Salving PANDION our boarding party met with (heavy opposition) from Ashore. Still anchored Loch Swilly awaiting your instructions. (SALVONIA 1820/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) SALVONIA is to keep clear of PANDION until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 2305/31, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

644. Cancel my 2305. (C. in C.W.A. 2319/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 1820/31. Irish Authorities contacted and salvage can proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2317/31 to SALVONIA.)

Mining.

ST. ALBANS.
(Destroyer.)

A.M. 1209⁷/₇ paragraphs 4 and 5 and C. in C. W. A. 1843/21. In view of A.M. 1749/28 and R.A.D.'s 1035/30 request ST. ALBANS may be retained until relieved by ST. MARYS about the end of February. My 1456/30 not to all addressees was made on the assumption that St. ALBANS will be available. (R.A.M.L. 1042/31 to Adty.)

S. N. 7.

R.A.M.L. 0021/30 and 1456/30 concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1046/31.)

My 0021/30. Particulars of Operation. (R.A.M.L. 1612/31 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.

Milford
Haven.
M.L.165
damaged.
3 Mines
exploded
M.L.162
damaged.

Port closed owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1116/31.)

/M.L.165 has

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41. 1094
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

M.L. 165 has been damaged by acoustic mine in entrance this morning. It is not considered any ship should enter Milford Haven until sweeping can be carried out by trawler with S.A.Gear. This will probably be 3/2. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1117/31.)
Following 2 Casualties in M.L.165. One serious. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1544/31.)

M.L.165 badly damaged by near explosion of acoustic mine. Vessel has been brought up harbour and will be beached at high water. M.L. 162 starboard engine damaged by same mine. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1639/31.) One red mine detonated by single L (FAR) in 180° Great Castle Head Low Light 5.3 cables. Two ground mines detonated in positions. 075° St. Anns Head Light 8.8 cables. 094° St. Anns Head Light 7 cables. These two mines exploded close to M.L.165 and M.L.162 whilst proceeding in company out of harbour. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1740/31.)

Thames
Estuary.

Group Officer reports one red mine detonated by LL.Trawlers, in 210° South Oaze buoy 2½ cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1230/31.)

Enemy aircraft machine gunned convoy dropped 2 large cylinders attached to parachutes close B 4 buoy approximate position 2 cables south and .5 cables West. (VIMIERA 1304/31, to C. in C.Nore)

Convoy ^{"Agent"} ~~Agent~~ being bombed in 51° 42' N. 1° 20' E. (VIMIERA 1425/31.)

Cancel my 1425. Enemy laying mines. (VIMIERA 1434/31.)

/Merchant

31. 1. 41. 1085
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Merchant ship reports enemy aircraft dropping mines near B.5 buoy astern Convoy. (VALOROUS 1448/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

Eighteen Mines observed dropped by aircraft in Barrow Deep and Harwich Area today in following rough positions. Two others dropped in vicinity of B.8. Buoy detonated a few seconds after striking surface. (C. in C. Nore 1717/31.)

ATHELDUKE.
(Mined 17/1.)

My 1159/17. Has now been placed in Avonmouth Docks. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1346/31.)

Harwich
Area Sweep
by GOSSAMER.

Requesting fighter protection for a sweep near B.8 buoy from daylight to 0915/1/2 by GOSSAMER, and TORNADO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1507/31.)

My 1507/31. SUTTON will join GOSSAMER at daylight and act as A/A escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1749/31.)

River Tay
Dundee
open.

L.L. Sweeping in Approaches to River Tay and over Bar completed. Nothing found. Port of Dundee is now open. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1527/31, C. in C. Rosyth 1629/31.)

BOTUSK)
(British,)
3091 Tons.)
EMMA PLEIN)
(Dutch,)
5436 Tons.)

From Convoy H.X.103; reported torpedoed off North Rone Island. WHITEHALL, 1800/31, reports considered sinking caused by mines. (See U-Boat ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Ships Attacked.)

Operation
F.D.29.

Re Extension of northern limit. (F.O.S. 2008(31) See Operations Volume.

/Operation E.A.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

1086

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation
E.A.

By ARETHUSA, AURORA, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, and 2 Destroyers. Intend sail 2/2 and lay about 0200/4. Code word HEAVY. Details. (C. in C. H.F. 2234/31.) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU.

My 1241/25. One heavy ship believed GNEISENAU, escorted by unknown number of Destroyers sighted off Swedish West Coast of Skagerack southbound 24/1. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1226/31 to Adty.) (D.D.I.C. 1745/31 to Ships.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F. at 0327/31 B.S.T. and at 1042/31 B.S.T. suggest enemy unit within 300 miles of 45° N. 28° W. It is possible this is a surface ship. (D.D.I.C. 1248/31.)

Main
Enemy
Units.

My 0847/31. Only 1 SCHLESIEEN Class Battleship present. (D.D.I.C.1505/31.)

Ships off
Kinnaird
Head.

Number of ships reported near Kinnairds Head at 2130/31. Composition and course unknown. (C. in C. Rosyth 2206/31, to MEYNELL.)

Miscellaneous

Rescue Tugs
Crews refuse
duty.

United Towing Company inform me that crews refuse to carry out Rescue Tug duty. No Rescue Tug is therefore available in Humber. (F.C. Humber 1454/31 to Admty.)

Your 1454/31 request further information as to reasons and proposed action. (C. in C. Nore 1705/31 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

/Ships not.....

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41. 1087
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous Contd.

Ships not
receiving
Signals.

Your 1514/30. Explanation. (C. in C.
W.A. 1949/31 to A.C.O.S.)

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

1038

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M.L.1029.

Keep look out for M/L 1029 who sailed Padstow 0800/30 for Fishguard. Last communication at 1140/30. (C. in C. W.A. 0827/31.)

OURAGAN.

Your 1905/30. My condenser is leaking badly. Returning to Liverpool. (OURAGAN 0920/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

SANDHILL.

Standing by SANDHILL abandoned. Crew ashore returning by Newcastle lifeboat. O.K. for towing. (SCHELDE 1025/31 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

If ship is seaworthy she should be towed into Bangor Bay, Belfast, where you will be relieved of tow. On completion return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/31 to SCHELDE).

Am towing ship into Belfast. E.T.A. daylight tomorrow. (SCHELDE 1405/31, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

PASS OF LENY.

Temporary repairs to enable ship to proceed repairs port will be completed to-morrow. Ship has no rudder and main engine can not be used. Request 1 Tug may be arranged earliest possible. (C.S.V.O. Lyness 1220/31 to A.C.O.S.)

RESTIVE.

Arrived Campbeltown Tug RESTIVE with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1233/31.)

Enemy
Pontoon.

Steel Pontoon apparently base of German rescue float found 3/4 mile E. of Selsey Bill, brought to Selsey Lifeboat Slipway 1100/29. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1240/31.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE.

Your 1129/31. Tug will meet you and tow you in.

/GREENFINCH.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GREENFINCH.

(Observation Minelayer) Will be sailed for Southampton a.m. tomorrow for repair of leaks in after peak tank. (VERNON 1700CM/31 to F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

Torpedo
Gear at
Sunderland.

Torpedo tubes and torpedoes at Sunderland badly damaged by heavy weather. Am arranging repairs to tubes locally. New torpedoes will be required. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1728/31.)

VESLEKARI. (attached R.N.
See 7th/41)

(Norwegian) Sheltered Dunnet Bay since 1700/28. Considerable damage due to weather including W/T. Repairing her Kirkwall estimated date of sailing 4/2. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1900/31.)

BELGIA.

Salvage operations on S.S. BELGIA, ashore one mile S.W. Frinton Pier, will commence at 0800 tomorrow. Intend sailing rescue tugs ST. MELLO^NS and KENIA at 1030 so as to arrive and commence towing the ship at about 1330 and arriving Harwich at about 1730. QUEEN EMPRESS detailed to act as A/A escort throughout the operation. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1906/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

MACGREGOR
LAIRD.

Have searched the area 050° 53' N. 022° 46' W, unsuccessfully. Request further instructions. (NORTHERN SPRAY 2000/31.)

SNAR.

(Norwegian, 3176 Tons.) On ground Little Cumbrae. Send assistance as soon as possible. Leak forepeak. (Port Patrick Radio 2143/31.)

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

1090

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.99.

73 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/31.)

O.B.O. 280.

Sailed 0640/31/1 escort CAMELLIA, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1031/31.)

O.B.C. 281.

(A). 2100/1, (B), Not known, (C). 30.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/31.)

W.N.77.

My 1935/29, (ULLSWATER and PAYNTER escorting 11 ships.) and 1641/30, amend number of ships to read 9. Add to my 1659/30, and 1721/30. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1049/31, to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.Routes.

C. in C. W.A. 0250/31/1. Request in future that routes of O.B. Convoys may be repeated to me. (F.O.C.N.P.1101/31, to admty.)

WN.75.

Part 2 arrived 1100/31. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1124/31.)

E.N.64.

058° 43' N. 003° 05' W, at 1110.
(A.C.O.S.1149/31.)

3.M.V.'s.

SNAPDRAGON and 3 M.V.'s left Southend 0900 for Harwich. E.T.A. 1730/31.
(C. in C. Nore, 1200/31.)

F.N.96.

0930/31. 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1217/31.)

O.B.283.
W.S.6.

Owing to sailing date of O.B.283, clashing with W.S.6. and state of tide it will be impracticable to sail both on same day. Request O.B.283 may be deferred one day. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1255/31.)

/E.N.63.....

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War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

HCME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| E.N.63. | All four ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1303/31.) |
| → O.B.280. | O.B.280 sailed 1405/30. 8 ships 7½ knots. 2 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1329/31.) |
| → W.N.77. | Passed 058° N, Speed made good 5.5 knots. E.T.A, Dunnet Head (?) 1000/1, Route P from ULLSWATER. (Escorting Sloop, 1430/31, to A.C.O.S.) |
| → F.S.100. | Sailed 1400/31, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1531/31.) |
| E.N.Code. | A.F.O.S.2/41. Add to list of convoys Loch Ewe portion of E.N convoy, code word SHAW . (D.S.D.1547/31, A.Z. message.) |
| F.S.97. | Arrived except GRASLIN (damaged) and SANFRY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1603/31.) |
| F.N.95. | Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1643/31.) |
| → F.S.100. | 3 Ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/31.) |
| F.N.96. | 3 ships from Humber joining at 62 D buoy all for North of Blyth. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708/31. Amended 0013/1.) |
| → WN.77. | Loch Ewe section sailed 1545/31. 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1710/31.) |
| → O.B.280. | In company with ARBUTUS position 055° 25' N. 006° 02' W, no ships for O.B. 280, sighted. Consider remainder of Clyde ships have returned. Am rejoining you at ARBUTUS best speed 15 knots. Visibility deteriorating. (BEVERLEY, 1730/31, to HARVESTER.) |

/O.B.272.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

1092

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

O.B.272.

My 2150/12 addressed WELLINGTON, ships mentioned have arrived in U.S.A. Was my 2150/12 passed by WELLINGTON to ships concerned in convoy O.B.272?.(D.T.D. 1832/31, to C. in C. W.A.)

F.S.100.

From Tyne Ports Blyth 7, Tyne 7, Sunderland 4, Middlesbrough 2, 3 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2023/31, to VANITY, VORTIGERN.)

→ E.N.65.

(A). 2200/31, (B) H.M.T's BERKSHIRE, FANDANGO, Extra Escort H.M.T.SWORD DANCE, Additional Escort WESTON, (C) 32 ships. 22 with kites.(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2253/31.)

→ F.S.400

Sailed 2300/31. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O, Methil, 2351/31.)

W.N.75.

F.N.95.

F.S.100.

→ E.N.65.

★F.S.1.

Rosyth 31/1/1941. Arrivals: JASON and ST. APOLLO with rear portion of WN 75. WOOLSTON and VIVIEN and SOUTHDOWN with FN 95. Departures: VANITY and VORTIGERN with FS.100. BERKSHIRE, FANDANGO and WESTON - latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth and subsequently to Londonderry - with E.N.65 includes SWORD DANCE and CELIA for Tobermory. HOLDERNESS with F.S.400.(C. in C. Rosyth, 2357/31.)

Ocean Convoys.

B.H.X.104.

24 hours late. (ALAUINIA, 0801/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.20.

S.C.20, 48 hours late. (RANPURA, 1215/31.).

S.C.19.(?)

Leave Convoy 0600/1, and depart from Lough Foyle. You will be required for Escort duty on completion of fuelling. (C. in C.W.A. 1605/31. to JACKAL.)

/S.L.S.63.....

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

S.L.S.63.
H.G.52.

If S.L.S.63 is not met at X, you should leave convoy and proceed at 0900/3, 50 miles in the estimated direction of S.L.S.63 and report the position of H.G.52 by bearing and distance from secret position, speed of advance but not course, to Admiralty repeated F.O.C.N.A. and Commodore S.L.S.63 in KINGSWOOD. Then rejoin H.G. Convoy. Commodore S.L.S.63 has been ordered to report repeating to ROCHESTER his position if behind H.G.52, and he does not anticipate being able to catch up within 48 hours. (D.T.D.1825/31 to ROCHESTER.)

Escort
Groups,
Sea Time,
H.X.
Convoys.

Actual or anticipated absence from base of the escorts of convoys H.X.102, 103 and 104 is 11 days. Time following in harbour is three days only, due to the introduction of convoy B.H.X.104 and the consequent closing of the escort cycle by two days. Probable that during February the average sea-time of escorts of north routed convoys will be 11 days & their harbour time three to five days. This would render proper maintenance and training impossible. Hoped that an extra escort group will be in being by end of February. Meanwhile, proposed that situation should be eased by sailing the North-routed convoys one day later than scheduled, the "Telescope" being abolished on these convoys. (C. in C. W.A., 1843/31, to Admty.)

B.H.X.104.

My 1531/30, B H X 104 24 hours late. (C. in C. W.A. 1909/31 to N.O.i/c, Londonderry.)

S.L.S. and
H.G. Convoys,
importance of
Joining.

Every endeavour must be made to ensure that S.L.S. and H.G. portions join during the homeward passage and that Admiralty have information whether the junction has taken place. S.L.S.61 remained unescorted to its destination although only 30 miles astern of H.G.50 at X. Ref. A.M. 1903/1 and A.M. 1821/7 (A) H.G. escort should make this report in Merchant Navy Code, repeated to S.L.S. Commodore's ship

/giving.....

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

1094

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

giving position of her convoy, by bearing and distance from secret position, also speed of advance, but not course. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange retransmission by G.B.M.S. to S.L.S. Commodore's ship at next routine time. Normally the H.G. escort when leaving convoy to make this report should proceed in the estimated direction of the S.L.S. portion, (B) If S.L.S. portion is astern of H.G. and does not anticipate catching it within 48 hours the Commodore of S.L.S. is to break W/T silence and report to Admiralty repeated to F.O.C.N.A., and H.G. escort giving his position by bearing and distance from lettered position, also speed of advance but not course. (D.T.D. 2026/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

MILITARY
CONVOYS.
Force Z.
GEORGIC.

Intend to sail Force Z escorted by KENYA, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT, and SKEENA, from Lamash 2359/31. S.S. GEORGIC joining convoy 1/2 in accordance with F.O.I/c Liverpool 1222/30. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 0437/31.) 621. My 1231/28. Owing to delay in sailing of Force Z. (i) Rendezvous K is to be amended to 054° N. 021° 40' W, at 1600 B.S.T. on 2/2. (ii) Rendezvous Q is to be reached at 1700 B.S.T. on 5/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1325/31.)

General.
Procedure
for
Stragglers.

Your 1832/30, para. 2. Additional escorts are not available from my Command and no prospect is seen of their being available in the near future. Para. 3. Concur for convoys routed south, but for those routed through the Minches, the longitude should be 08° 00' W. Considered that the principal causes of straggling are factors outside the control of

/masters.....

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

1095

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

masters and engineroom personnel and that many ships are incapable of maintaining the present speed of convoys throughout a long ocean passage. To overcome difficulty, recommend that a larger margin of time be allowed for the ocean passage of homeward bound convoys before their arrival at the R.V. and that it should be impressed on Commodores that the speed of convoys must be adjusted to prevent straggling. It is important that masters and crews should appreciate that any measures instituted are for the purpose of increasing their safety and not to penalise them for shortcomings over which they may have no control. (C. in C. W.A., 1903/31, to Admty.)

Rockets
(Air)
Discontinued.

The firing of rockets by merchant ships to indicate an attack by hostile aircraft is to be discontinued. A.M.S.I.3 and N.C.S.I.2, paragraph (d) are cancelled. (D.T.D. 2012/31, "A" Message.)

31. 1. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OTUS.

OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A, 1158/31.)

Forces
at
Gibraltar.

Shortage during absence of Force H.
Request for submarines and M.T.B.'s.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1258/31 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

Trawlers
Patrol,
Lisbon.

My 1258/31, If GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST
are still not located, for considera-
tion whether the two trawlers of Westn.
Patrol off Lisbon should be withdrawn
to supplement the look out in Western
Approaches to Gibraltar Straits until
Force H returns. Misty weather is
prevalent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1302/31 to
Admty.)

Your 1302/31, In view of A.T.1745/31.
It is not considered necessary to
withdraw Trawlers. (D.O.D.(F) 2208/31,
to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation
"Result".
(Gib.)

Gibraltar 1315/31, departure S.O.Force
H, in RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD,
FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, FORESIGHT, FURY,
FIREDRAKE, JERSEY, JUPITER, ISIS, ENCOUNTER,
DUNCAN for "~~Result~~". (S.O.I., Gib.,
1318/31, to Admty etc.)

Air
Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine
A/S. 2 Surfaces reccos. east. 2 Surface
reccos. west. 1 Escort to H.M. Ships.
Area covered 2° W to 10° W. Flying
curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group,
1700/31.)

/Ammunition.....

1097

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Ammunition.

Re further 15 inch ammunition not included in A.M. 1704/29. (D.T.S.D. 1727/31 to F.O.C.N.A.).

W/T Traffic.

My 1740/31. Gibraltar W/T Station has resumed normal duty. Serious explosion in Army tunnels near underground W/T Station has badly damaged latter. Defect in Power main has been rectified. (F.O.C.N.A. 1926/31 to Admty etc.). (Request for W/T traffic for Force H to be routed through Malta W/T Station).

Enemy Units.

1 Pocket Battleship and 1 Cruiser in position 008° 15'N. 025° 04'W. at 1730 G.M.T. 29/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2130/31 to Ships and Authorities North Atlantic).

South Atlantic.

Whale Catchers.

C. in C. South Atlantic 1301/20/12/40. Intend to sail M/S Group 109 consisting of whale catchers SWONA SKUDD 3, 4 and 5 for Durban a.m./2/2. Endurance of group is approx. 2000 miles at 10 knots. Request information whether arrangements can be made for vessels to top up at Lindi or Dar-es-Salaam and complete with fuel and water at Kilindini. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0717/31 to C. in C.E.I.).

WANGI WANGI.
MUNCASTER
CASTLE.

Overdue shipping. My 1117/29. WANGI WANGI arrived Capetown 1025B/31).

ANTONIS.

Overdue shipping. Greek ANTONIS St. Vincent departure 4/1 due (Charlestown ?) 25/1 has not arrived. (S.O.I). Freetown 1054/31).

COMORIN.

Your 2222/29/1 it is important that COMORIN should arrive at Freetown on 10/2 if possible for convoy sailing on that date or 11/2. (C. in C. S.A. 1101N/31 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

/NORFOLK.....

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NORFOLK.)
DEVONSHIRE.)
S.D. and W.S.5B.)
Convoys.)

Positions and suggested re-routing of S.L. Convoy. (C. in C. S.A. 1611N/31 to Admty). See Operations Volume. *p. 56.*

S.L. 64 and S.L.S. 64.

Absentees (details). My 2047/21/1 does not appear to have been received by Ministry of Shipping. This resulted in several unnecessary signals. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1300/31 to M. of S.).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearing indicates enemy (?surface) unit within 300 miles of 034° S. 006° E. at 2317/3070%. (C. in C. S.A. 1635N/31 to S.A. Stn).

EURYLOCHUS identity of enemy ships.

Your 1200Z/31 confirm that EURYLOCHUS survivors state ship was engaged by Battleship and Cruiser and if considered reliable. (C. in C. S.A. 1647/31 to BULOLO).

EURYLOCHUS BULOLO's report. enemy identity.

BULOLO's 1200/31 (Received corrupt and only partly decyphered) has been decyphered at Freetown as follows (begins). Part one. Survivors of EURYLOCHUS picked up by MONTE TEIDE bound for Buenos Aires state sunk by pocket battleship and cruiser in 008° 15'N. 025° 04'W. at 1730/29. Part 2 follows. BULOLO's 1230/31 states part two cancelled. (C. in C. S.A. 1737N/31 to Admty etc)1

See also next page.

Suspicious Warship.

N.C.S.O. Beira reports British ship sighted small warship at 0700 G.M.T./31 in 022° 40'S. 036° W. steering 180°. Description fits Portuguese sloop PEDRO NUNES. (S.O.I. Capetown 1650/31 to Admty etc).

ASTURIAS. German Ships, Santos.

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1821/30 (Re German Ship sailing from Santos) Should German ships sail, ASTURIAS is to cover coastal route to the north, cruiser will cover remainder. (R.A.S.A.D. 1727Z/31 to S.A. Div).

1099

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

ASTURIAS.
fuelling.

ASTURIAS will be due to fuel about mid-February. Hope MENDOZA incident has not made it undesirable for her to visit Rio de Janeiro for that purpose. (R.A.S.A.D. 1749Z/31 to H.M. Ambr. Rio De Janeiro).

EURYLOCHUS.

Your 1647 N/31 Master states pocket battleship and cruiser but from further interrogation survivors consider it possible enemy ships were an 8" Cruiser since tripod mast seen and an armed merchant raider or supply ship since stern like GLEN line was seen but both ships are stated to have used heavy guns. (BULOLO 1905/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

See previous page.

Troop
Transport.

Your 20⁰³/24. Sailing of EMPIRE TROOPER, embarkation of Senegalese Brigade, and sailing with W.S. 6. (C. in C. S.A. 2153/31 to D. of S.T.). See Operations Vol. (See P. 56. 31. 1. 41.)

Freetown
Bunkers.

Ministry of Shipping state 21 ships at Freetown at present requiring 8000 tons coal bunkers with only 2000 tons available. Colliers TUNISIA and SIR E. CASSELL are due 1/2 and 4/2 respectively with 12000 tons. Request your views whether serious delays in bunkering are anticipated and if so whether it would be advisable to send a few ships to St. Vincent for bunkers and sailed from there to join convoy. (D.T.D. 2027/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

Independent
Sailings.

For N.C.S.O.'s. (Routeing of independent sailing merchant vessels) Cancel para (3) and (4) of my 2231/26/12/40 and para. (2) of my 0009/5/1/41. The instructions contained in above are being promulgated by separate signal. (C. in C. S.A. 2212 /31 to S.O.I.'s amended 0932/3).

W.S.5B.

Convoy W.S.5B sailed A.M. /29 part one for Capetown (list and personnel embarked). Part Two for Durban. (list and personnel embarked). (S.S.T.O. Freetown 2357N/31 to S.S.T.O. Capetown).

/Independent.....

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Independent Sailings.

My 2212/31 Homeward bound independent whips are to be given alternative routes as follows: (1) if bound for west coast ports, to Clyde, Liverpool, Swansea Bay and Barry Roads. (2) If bound for east coast ports, to Oban Lock Ewe and Clyde. (3) If destination is unknown, to all ports in (1) and (2). (4) British Ships require route to Belfast, in addition. (C. in C. S.A. 2357N/31 to S.O.I.'s).

Mediterranean.

GREYHOUND.
GRIFFIN.

My 1213/31. On Arrival of GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN request you will arrange rapid transit Canal and after fuelling Suez sail them for Aden to arrive 4/2. (C. in C. Med. 1215/31 to S.B.N.O. Suez).

Warships for Turkey.

Following from Admiral Kelly. My. 1710/30 Your 0956/28 since received. Minster of Defence in discussing this realised contract provided for delivery but difficulties were recognised and they wish to help. (A.N.A. Angora, 1258/31 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 31/1. All times G.M.T. 0445 to 0906 Sunderland patrolling Eastern Tunisian coast for enemy shipping signalled at 0700 2 M/V's bearing 350° from Zuara Light distance 140 miles course 330° speed 10 knots. 4 Swordfish patrolling same area with torpedoes. informed. These aircraft sighted M/V's but did not attack as M/V's were in territorial waters. 0907 to 1147 Glenn Martin photo recco Tripoli Area. R.C. Tripoli Harbour 5 destroyers 2 M/V's 10,000 tons 2 M/V's 8,000 tons 3 M/V's 6,000 tons 3 M/V's 5,000 3 M/V's 4,000 tons 1 M/V 2,000 tons 1 fleet auxiliary outside Harbour 1 M/V 15,000 tons damaged supported by several small craft see my 1.68 29/1.

Tripoli Recon.

Augusta, Catania Messina Recon.

0705 to 1034 photo recco Syracuse Augusta Catania Messina. In Messina Straits 2 destroyers 1 steering North and 1 South. In position 37.40 N. 15.40 E. 1 M/V 2,000 tons course 300° speed 8 knots. (H.Q. R.A.E. Malta 1725/31).

/Balloon.....

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Balloon
Units.

Your 2301/20. Two balloon units being despatched in W.S.6.
(D. of L.D. 1946/31 to C. in C. Med).

Shipping.

C.O.S. No. 52 to C. in C. M.E. Details of shipping proposed to meet military requirements.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2356/31 to C. in C. Med).
See Med. Vol.

Port and
Transit
Committee.

Your 0929/24 para 3 presume all necessary powers of Port and Transit Committee have been properly delegated to it by competent Egyptian Authority and that that Committee in turn will properly delegate necessary powers to Assistant Director of Ports and Assistant Director of Docks. Request definition of functions of Committee be amplified. Para. 4 presume cost of port Officers and Staffs will be met by Egyptian Government.
(D.S.T. 2102/31 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli
air attack.

Special Intelligence Summary. All times G.M.T.

Results of extensive Photo reccos on 31/1. 6 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched in 2 waves to attack shipping in Tripoli Harbour night 31/1. Over target from 1800 - 1925. Several sticks across dispersed shipping in centre resulting in 1 MV. 8000 tons hit once confirmed and possibly twice. Fire started. 1 M.V. 4000 ton hit confirmed. Another 8000 ton M.V. possibly damaged. Sticks hit and straddled small Southern mole and seaplane hangars. No shipping reported at sea, damaged ship outside harbour was seen to fire light A/A.
(H.Q.Malta 2345/31).

1102

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HERMES.
Aircraft.

Your 1427/27. Nine crated Swordfish are at Trincomalee but no ratings for erection. Intend HERMES shall proceed to Trincomalee on completion of six weeks flying period and re-equipping. Does part one your 1427/27 refer to 180 hours inspections or completed overhaul.
(C. in C. E.I. 0404Z/31 to HERMES).

Owing to present inadequacy of overhaul facilities necessary to hold as many reserve swordfish aircraft as possible to keep HERMES operating efficiently. Request consideration whether the four R.A.F. Swordfish now at Mombasa could on completion of operation be allocated to Trincomalee as A.R. for F.A.A. Your 1726/3/1 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0406Z/31 to Admty).

German U/B's
in Indian
Ocean.

Your 2229/7 and my 0700/6 it has been firmly established that this report is entirely without foundation.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0419Z/31 to Admty).

Force K.
CAPETOWN.

Availability of "C" class cruiser etc.
(C. in C. E.I. 0520Z/31) See Operations. Volume. Cancel my 0810/28. Orders to CAPETOWN.
(C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/31).

RANCHI.

On completion of boiler cleaning RANCHI proceed to Durban to fuel.
(C. in C. E.I. 0742Z/31).

Raider
Report
(false).

17.37 N. 63.32. E. suspected Raider 0934 de MUBO (Secret call sign decodes G.S.B.C).
(WARIALDA 0945/31).

FENRIS in position 017° 37'N. 063° 32'E. at 0934Z/31 made a Q distress signal - chased by raider. She probably sighted ANTENOR - ANTENOR is to report whether or not she was the ship sighted.
(C. in C. E.I. 1046Z/31 to E.I. Sqdn).

/My.....

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

My 1046/31. Ship sighted was ANTENOR.
(C. in C. E.I. 1312Z/31).

DURMITOR.

My 1900/2. Letters postmarked Mogadiscio November 27th have been received from crew of DURMITOR stating that vessel was at Kismayu.
(D.D.I.C. 1545/31 to C.O.I.S. Singapore and S.O.I's).

Force K.

Operation - C. in C. E.I. 1932/30.
(D.O.D.(F) 1710/31) See Operations Volume.

B.N.F.1.

Departure 1914Z/31 HINDUSTAN for B.N.F. one.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1934Z/31 to Admty etc).

China.

DANAE.

Your 2359/29. (re arrival of DELHI at Mauritius). DANAE ditto.
(C. in C. China 0309/31 to C. in C. S.A).

America & West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT.
DIOMEDE.

My 1701/19 and my 1631/20. PRINCE ROBERT will not fuel from SANADOLFO on 10/2. After fuelling on 2/2 DIOMEDE takes SAN ADOLFO under her orders and arranges her future movements until otherwise instructed.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1022/31 to DIOMEDE).

PRINCE ROBERT.

My 1022/31. On being relieved by DIOMEDE proceed by Valparaiso and complete to full storage of fuel. On completion of usual 24 hour visit proceed direct Suva so as to arrive by 28/2. Fuel at Suva (date) as escort for troopship S.S. AWATEA to Vancouver. Unless otherwise informed by N.A. Santiago de Chile notify Chilean Authorities 24 hours in advance that PRINCE ROBERT will arrive Valparaiso.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1551/31 to PRINCE ROBERT).

/U.S.....

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War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

U.S. Navy.

S.N.O. Curacoa's 1406/30 (1305/30 intended?) is being passed to you. Request you will ascertain for Navy Department if possible what orders have been given to U.S. N.A. Caracas and with what object.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1114/31 to N.A. Washington)

COMORIN.

C. in C. S.A. 1101N/31. Fuel without delay and proceed on completion by route ordered in C. in C. S.A. 1659/29 so as to arrive at Freetown as early as possible on 10/2.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1552/31 to COMORIN).

Australia.

SUVA.

Your 1826/29 (Have you any news of Suva due Noumea.) SUVA Arrived Noumea 22/1.
(A.C.N.B. 0233Z/31).

QUEEN MARY.

N.O.i/c Sydney's 0107 /26. Request Dawson be informed of proposal that QUEEN MARY be drydocked at Singapore on arrival in U.S. 9.
(D.S.T. 1927/31 to A.C.N.B).

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31.1.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TURKHEIM.

S.O.S. intercepted at 2139/30. Giving
her position as 58°12', 11°14' E. (D.S. 514).

ANTARKTIS.)
GERDA VITH)
LEESEE.)
MAX ALBRECHT.)

At Vigo on 29/1, Tanker ANTARKTIS was
discharging alongside to oil quay. GERDA
VITH and LEESEE appeared preparing to
sail. 51 tons of lubricating oil were
forwarded to Ferrol, where tanker MAX
ALBRECHT is lying. (D.S. 514).

WOTAN.

Following from Navy Dep. WOTAN believed
to have several German passengers on board
sailed from Balboa Panama for unknown
destination 29/1 without knowledge of
the local authorities.
(N.A. Washington 1240/31 to Admtly).

Santos.

My 1821z/30. Have obtained no further
confirmation of report. Santos will
report immediately any sign of movement.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2144z/31 to S.A. Division.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARNA.
(?DERNA).

Departure 30/1 Italian Ship LARNA (?DERNA)
for Genoa.
(Barcelona, 1254/31) (D.S. 516).

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FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

DESIRADE
met by
DUNEDIN.

At 1220/28/1 in position 12° 55'N. 18° 48'W. DUNEDIN escorting SOBIESKI and KENYA with VELOX and VIDETTE in company on passage to Gibraltar met Vichy merchant DESIRADE proceeding Dakar to Madagascar steering 218° 12 Knots. French aircraft was in sight DUNEDIN allowed ship to proceed. DUNEDIN was 140 miles from Dakar, could not leave convoy, and interception had been reported. I informed her that action was right. (C. in C. S.A. 1017N/31 to Admty).

DESIRADE
intercepted.

DEVONSHIRE proceeding on raider search in accordance with my 2319/29 reports intercepting French ship DESIRADE in position 000° 35'N. 020° 58'W. steering 178° 11 knots, 1500 troops on board, and is shadowing. Captain refuses to proceed to any port except Madagascar. Have told DEVONSHIRE to put armed guard on board and steaming party if necessary and escort to Freetown. Request confirmation that ship is required and more important than other duty (?) DEVONSHIRE should be Freetown to proceed in accordance with you 1907/30 a.m. 3/2. (C. in C. S.A. 1201N/31 to Admty).

Released.

DEVONSHIRE is to release DESIRADE and R/V with NORFOLK in position 004° N. 021° W. DEVONSHIRE to be in position 0800/1. (C. in C. S.A. 1609N/31 to DEVONSHIRE NORFOLK).

CAPITAINE PAUL
LEMERLE.

COMORIN intercepted CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE bound Martinique to Casablanca 30/1 in 016 21'N. 058 15'W. Vessel permitted to proceed being within American neutrality zone. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1703/31 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ALSINA.

C. in C. A. & W.I 1203/29. Meat ship ALSINA reported left Marseilles for Brazil 16/1. Unless considered especially important I do not intend to intercept this ship on outward voyage as she is unlikely to have sufficient fuel to reach British port. Her interception on these waters might lead to further protest without any advantage to us. (R.A.S.A.D. 1717Z/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

/JEAN.....

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War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (contd).

JEAN L.D.

To be sent to Simonstown under armed guard and there detained pending Admiralty instructions for sending her to Freetown. Desired to find out how many extra officers and men will have to be sent from Capetown to form a crew to take JEAN L.D. on from Freetown.
(Head of M. 2047/31 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SONTAY.

In view of last para. of HERMES 1700/30, do you consider it would be safe to sail SONTAY unescorted to Freetown under armed guard, if - (a) Parole is first obtained from Master, ship's Officers and military Officers. (b) All arms are removed except from Officers? 2. If Admiralty decide that parole is to be asked for French would be informed that if it is given their repatriation will proceed smoothly; but that if it is refused it will be necessary to land all fit military personnel at Durban. 3. For your information, the present proposal is to tranship the invalids to hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at Freetown sailing them from there to Casablanca. 4. Possibility also being investigated of landing SONTAY's passengers in S. Africa.
(Head of M. 2103/31 to C. in C. S.A).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is being used to escort SONTAY from Durban to Simonstown. Commandant Free French Naval Forces Africa concurs.
(C. in C. S.A. 2131/31 to Admty).

MENDOZA.

Your 2217/28. Prize proceedings will be instituted in respect of both ship and cargo. Ministry of Shipping will arrange repatriation of passengers and those members of the crew who do not volunteer for the Allied cause. (c) Yes, though since crew requirements will depend on the number of volunteers from the present crew, the latter should be interrogated as soon as possible in accordance with my 1841/15/11/40 and Colonial Office telegram to O.A.G., Sierra Leone, No. 636 of 7/11/40.
(Head of M. 2104/31 to C. in C. S.A).

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31.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

W.B. WALKER.
(torpedoed 29/1)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. W.B. WALKER in position 55° 59'N. 15° 51'W. Ship is broken in halves both halves salvageable.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0200/31 to SALVONIA).

My 0200/31, amend longitude to read 16° 05'W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock No. T.O.O./31).

Following has been read. Probably two submarines have dispersed convoy.
(JORDAENS, 0944/31).

My 0145/31. Proceed to position 56° 00'N. 16° 05'W. to search for two widely separated halves of s.s. W.B. WALKER reported still afloat at 1000/30.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1100/31 to ASSURANCE).

BOTUSK.
EMMAPLEIN.

Following has been read:- SSSS Close off North Rona Island west BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN torpedoed.
(Wick Radio 0952/31 Lyness W/T 1048/31).
BOTUSK British 3091 tons. EMMAPLEIN Dutch 5436 tons, both from Convoy H.X. 103.

Following has been read:- No escort present.
One patrol aircraft.
(JEAN JADOT, 1012/31).

One Sunderland and one Hudson proceeding forthwith to search area of North Rona for two submarines reported to have attacked convoy in that vicinity.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1140/31).

My 1140 one Beaufort aircraft also searching.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1156/31).

Proceed with all despatch to BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN reported by JEAN JADOT torpedoed off North Rona. Damage may be from own mines. Instruct stragglers from H.X. 103 in the vicinity to keep well clear of mine fields.
(C. in C. W.A. 1143/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

/Following.....

War Diary.

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

BOTUSK.
EMMAPLEIN.
(cont.)

Following has been read. S.O.S. Unknown ship sunk 57° north 16° 30'W. (Valentia Radio 1152/31).

I have no tugs available to render assistance to BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN torpedoed off North Rona Island. ST. OLAVES still at sea on rescue work. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1157/31 to A.C.O.S.).

My 1140. Cancel S.T. one and S.T. two patrols and send maximum number of aircraft immediately to thoroughly search area off North Rona for U-Boat. (A.C.O.S. 1210/31 to Naval Air Stations)

My 1140. (A/C searching for 2 U-boats) For Flannin Isles read North Rona. (A.C.O.S. 1212/31).

1 M.V. abandoned 020 Rona 6 4 Boats with survivors - sea rough wind 12 - 204. (A/C Duty C, 1350/31 to 18 Recon. H.Q.).

Following received JEAN JADOT begins (probably) 2 submarines have dispersed convoy 1044 (ends). (C. in C. W.A. 1251/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

BEAGLE with KEPPEL proceed when ready to vicinity of North Rona to assist. BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from convoy H.X. 103 reported torpedoed off North Rona. WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA are proceeding to position also BUTTERMERE, WINDERMERE from Stornoway. Aircraft are co-operating. Attention is drawn to Adty Message Q.Z.X. 170 which you are to keep clear of and stragglers from convoy are to be warned to do likewise. (R.A.D.H.F. 1330/31 to BEAGLE, KEPPEL).

Unknown ship reported sunk at 1252/31 in 057° 00'N. 016° 30'W. Investigate. (C. in C. W.A. 1335/31 to ANEMONE).

/Aircraft.....

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War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

Aircraft reported one merchant ship abandoned 030 deg. Rhona Island 6 miles, 4 boats with survivors. (C. in C. W.A. 1509/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

VERBENA has on board 11 survivors from British BOTUSK, and will proceed to Clyde to land them and refuel. H.M. Cable ship ARIEL has on board complete crew of 34 of Dutch EMMAPLEIN also 23 survivors from BOTUSK and 3 bodies 2 of which are dead, she will land survivors at Scrabster. States: EMMAPLEIN has 4000 tons steel on board and is sinking rapidly. Consider sinking caused by mine. Am proceeding with WINCHELSEA in company to join convoy. (WHITEHALL, 1800 /31 to C. in C. W.A.).

W.B. WALKER.
KING ROBERT.
WEST WALES.
AIKATERINI.

Arrived 1623/31 ANTHONY with following survivors:- 11 from W.B. WALKER, 22 from KING ROBERT, 4 from WEST WALES and 30 from AIKATERINI. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2047/31 to Admty).

RUSHPOOL.
WEST WALES.
(torpedoed
29/1)

Arrived ANTELOPE with 40 survivors from RUSHPOOL 17 from WEST WALES. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2206/31).

Submarines Reported.

0952.

Sailed BUTTERMERE to R.V. with WINDERMERE forthwith. Both proceeding with despatch to hunt submarine which torpedoed 2 ships off Flannin Isles at 0952 today. 700 Squadron providing air co-operation. (A.C.O.S. 1140/31 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

1233

By D/F on 12700 kc/s at 1233/31, a German U-Boat was possibly within 25 miles of 52° N. 17° 30'W. (D.D.I.C. 1332/31).

1111

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Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (contd).

0327.)
1042.) DF's suggest enemy unit within 300 miles of 45° N. 28° W. Possible this is a surface ship (D.D.I.C. 1248/31).
1837. About 52° N. 20°W. say 360°W. of Valentia, indefinite position (D.S. 515).
1455. Submarine sighted 1600 yards bearing 120 fixed defences, Peterhead, dived at 1455.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1500/31 to NO.I.C. Aberdeen).
1550. Am investigating sub. bearing 120 Buchan Ness continuing patrol 1610 hours.
(A/C? 1550/31 to 18 R. Group H.Q).
1400. One submarine reported by Coast Defence 120° Peterhead 1600 yards at 1400/31 steering south. Conning Tower and Periscope showing. Graded B/2.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1610/31 to Ships and Authorities Rosyth North etc).
- My 1610. On interrogation of observer who made the report grading is reduced to C.4.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1814/31).
1645. S/M was reported off Buchan Ness about 1645/31. The hostile identity of any S/M encountered South of latitude 057° N. and West of longitude 000° 30' E. must be definitely established before it is attacked.
(Capt. S.Ø. 1737/31 to Netherlands S/M Q23, French S/M MINERVE).
1345. S/M sighted from American seaplane 40° N. 21.15. W. 1245 G.M.T. /31. (A.1).
(N.A. Lisbon 1847/31 to Admty Gibraltar).
- Your 2000/31 (Area searched unsuccessfully) Return to base.
(C. in C. W.A. 2251/31 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

/Estimated.....

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War Diary.

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Estimated U/B.
dispositions.

German.

One between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound.

One within 100 mile radius of 58° N. 20° W.

One within 25 mile radius of 56° N. $21^{\circ} 40'$ W.
at 1257/30.

One within 25 mile radius of 54° N. 18° W.
at 1918/30.

One may be S. or S.E. of Rockall or may be homeward bound from that area.

Two may arrive Lorient today.

One near Azores.

One possibly near Cape Verde Islands.

Italian.

Two probably to S.W. of Rockall between 53° N. and 56° N.

One near 49° N. 14° W. returning to Gironde.

One nearing Gironde.

One in southern half of Bay of Biscay.

Possibly one near Canary Islands.

(D.D.I.C. 1251/31).