

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.2.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

3 M.L's patrolled to the eastward of Aldeburgh last night.

ARETHUSA returned to Scapa this evening from patrol in the Iceland-Faeroes passage.

British Air Activity

Attacks today were made on Dutch and Belgian ports, ships and barges.

Weather conditions caused routine patrols in the Northern part of the North Sea and in the Shetlands area to be cancelled, and those in the southern part of the North Sea to be curtailed.

Enemy Air Activity

M/S Trawler ORMONDE was bombed and sunk off Cruden Scaurs this evening, whilst searching the war channel with LIGNY and CHRYSOLITE. The latter was also bombed and machine gunned and had 3 light casualties but suffered no damage; she heavily engaged the enemy aircraft, which was last seen in difficulties only 50ft above the sea.

WHITSHED was bombed early this morning N.E. of Cromer but suffered no damage. COTSWOLD was unsuccessfully attacked in the Thames Estuary about noon and GOLDEN EAGLE early this morning.

Damage was caused to No. 9 dock pumping station at Chatham by attack last night.

/Training.....

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

ROYAL ARTHUR

Training establishment ROYAL ARTHUR at Skegness was somewhat extensively damaged by air attack early this morning. There were few casualties.

Mining

EMPIRE OTTER
Sunk

EMPIRE OTTER (Tanker 4626 tons) was mined 25 miles S.W. of Hartland Point shortly after midnight 15/16 and was abandoned, search failed to discover any trace of her.

SOUTHSEA
Sunk

Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA was mined in the Tyne today and was beached. The port was closed.

THOMAS DEAS
Sunk

Fishing trawler THOMAS DEAS was mined and sunk this afternoon off Spurn Point.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0230; Hartlepool was reopened in the evening but Tees remains closed. Sunderland was closed at 0345 and Liverpool from 0355 to 1124.

Aberdeen was reopened early this afternoon, but there is a suspected danger area off Girdleness.

A mine exploded spontaneously in the Medway.

Operation
Z.M.E. 17.

PLOVER last night laid mines off the Bristol Channel.

/Search of....

War Diary16.2.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.Search of
Gap A.

The search of Gap A to locate the source of large numbers of explosive sweep cutters washed ashore on the East Coast was completed today. No mines were swept. Further search is to be made.

North Atlantic & South Atlantic

Consideration is being given to a certain operation. (See Admty. 1934/16, F.O.C.N.A. 1606/17)

Mediterranean

4 Wellingtons bombed Brindisi aerodrome last night.

The arrangements in force for detecting mines laid in the Suez Canal and Lakes are described in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2101/16.

Benghazi was bombed last night. Two mines were dropped in the harbour. Brega was also bombed.

Four Swordfish from Malta last night attacked and sank by torpedo an escorted merchant vessel, probably the Italian JUVENTUS (5000 tons) southbound near Kerkemaf Island. (? Kerkenah)

War Diary16.2.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEast Indies

Troops and supplies are now being moved by sea in connection with the Army advance into Eritrea.

The Chiefs of Staff have explained the importance of the time factor in the liquidation of Italian East Africa (See Admty. 1134/16 to C. in C., Med. and E.I)

ChinaMinefield
off Johore

An area dangerous to navigation was declared today off the S.E. coast of Malaya between the parallels of 2° 44' N., and 1° 35' N., and bounded on the east by the meridian 104° 30' E.

Japanese
Submarines

Indications are that there are at least one and probably two squadrons (18 boats) of Japanese submarines in the Mandated Islands.

Precautions

Precautionary measure which are being taken for the protection of British and Allied shipping are described in Admty. 1528/16.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.C.in C.
New W.A.
Command.
C.in C.
Plymouth.

A.M.111AZ. Admiral Sir Percy Noble will hoist his flag as C.in C. of the New Western Approaches Command at Liverpool at 0900/17. Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar Nasmith will rehoist his flag as C.in C. Plymouth at the same time.
(C.in C. W.A. 1207/16).

Stornoway
Sub-Command.

Admiralty 0030/3. Request information whether Stornoway Sub-Command is to be under direct operational and administrative control of C.in C. W.A. or whether it is intended to be included in Greenock Sub-Command.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1214/16).

Exchange of
A and B
Destroyers.

R.A.D's 1115/15. 4th escort group is at present only short of destroyers. It is most undesirable for ACHATES to be fitted with T.S.D.S. or for ACTIVE to be released without relief. Propose as follows.
(Capt: D. Greenock 1246/16).

Rona
Minefield.

A.C.O.S's. 1125/5 and C.in C. Home Fleet's 1403/6. Accident was caused through Sulisker being mistaken for the Flannan Islands, no matter therefore how the Notice to Mariners was worded, the convoy would have run into the minefield.

Action promulgated in 134 QZH should prevent a repetition.

A.T. 2129/6/2 has been issued as further safeguard.

No amendment will be made to Notice to Mariners 1768 (T) of 1940.
(V.C.N.S. 1335/16).

WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom."Deluge".
~~DEFENCE.~~At 1130/16.
(D.C. 1141/16).
At 2330/16.
(D.C. 2354/16).Scapa.
A/A
Defences.Your 1637/19. Understand from movements
Scottish Command that Second Eight Bofors
(January Production) have now sailed and
should have arrived. Please confirm
arrival.
(Dacoast Four 1845/16 to A.C.O.S.)Movements.AURORA.Sailed Scapa 0038.
(A.C.O.S. 0143/16).EDINBURGH.Sailed from Scapa 0429/16.
(A.C.O.S. 0431/16).BLYSKAWICA.Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0856/16).REPULSE.Your 2309/15. Not possible to receive
REPULSE in basin before 0800/19th.
Arrival of ship at Rosyth on 17/2 or 18/2
would be advantageous for ascertaining
nature of most urgent defects.
(A.S. Rosyth, 1035/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)REPULSE.
(Contd.)

Your 2309/15. Request REPULSE be sailed to anchor in B.6. berth at 1230/17. (C.in C. Rosyth 1137/16 to C.in C. H.F.) REPULSE screened by 3 destroyers is to sail for Rosyth at 2100 today. Speed is to be adjusted to anchor in B.6 berth at 1230/17. (C.in C. H.F. 1714/16).

UNBEATEN.

Your 1441/14. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1050/16.)

BULOLO.

(Freetown Convoy Escort Force). Your 1928/15. This work cannot be done in the time given in your 1625/7. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1145/16).

PANDORA.

Intend to sail PANDORA from Portsmouth at 1830/18 unescorted. Routed as follows. PANDORA enters North Atlantic Station at 1300 B.S.T. 22/2. (S.5. 1215/16).

FURIOUS.

Your 2144/15 and my 1507/14. Completion date is 28/2. Not possible to state yet whether any improvement can be made. If not ship will not be ready to sail before a.m./1/3. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1250/16).

MAIDSTONE.

Is required to sail for Gibraltar about 16/3 (A.C.N.S.(H) 1506/16).

KELLY
KASHMIR
KIPLING.

To proceed Plymouth with all convenient despatch. (C.in C. W.A. 1512/16). *See over.*

MOST SECRET.16.2.1941.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)KELLY
KASHMIR
KIPLING.Sailed 1800. E.T.A. Plymouth 1700/17.
(Capt: D. Londonderry 1844/16).Northern
Patrol.Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1524/16).Submarines.Positions at 0800/17 and movements, for
(F.O.S. 1722/16). following 24 hours.Operations.CACHALOT.CACHALOT is due to arrive off Sullom
Voe on or after 19/2. A trawler will be
sailed so as to arrive Sullom Voe 18/2.
CACHALOT will carry out procedure outlined
in my 1027/24/1 and trawler is to be sailed
accordingly. Name of trawler will be
signalled later.
(A.C.O.S. 1046/16 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).
/ No trace in War Registry).Patrols
sheltering.All patrols sheltering in harbour owing to
weather conditions.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1255/16).Proposed
Operation
of Submarine
with Home
Fleet.One submarine is required if possible to be
ready for an operation with the Home Fleet
from 28/2 .2. An Officer will visit tomorrow, to
give you full information.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1726/16 to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.S.N.7.B.A/S
Air
Escort.

My 1310/15 and 1410/15.
Aircraft delayed owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0816/16 to R.A.M.L.)
My 0816/16. A/S air escort is being
flown now.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1440/16 to R.A.M.L.)

Patrols.

Patrols being flown today.
"Stan" ~~SEAN~~. "Fair"
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0909/16).

"Major" "Sigs"
~~MAJOR~~ and ~~SIGS~~ postponed on account of
weather today.
(C.in C. W.A. 1010/16 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.EAMONT
(Bombed
11/2).

My 0959/13/2 para 1.
Fleetwood Trawler EAMONT FD 293 has now
broken up and is total loss. Unexploded
bomb apparently 250 kgs. not dealt with.
Vessel apparently had no valid permit to
fish in Moray Firth area and was contraven-
ing local and Admiralty Defence Regulations
for fishing vessels after sunset at the
time she was attacked.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1125/16).

Skegness.

Two small bombs dropped by one aircraft
type unknown on Perimeter of establishment
0245/16. No casualties, no damage.
(ROYAL ARTHUR 1245/16).
1st Report. Attacked by low flying Heinkel
with machine guns approximately 15 bombs
dropped. Fairly extensive damage.
Few casualties.
(ROYAL ARTHUR 1326/16).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Thames
Estuary.

At 0052 single aircraft made moonlight attack on GOLDEN EAGLE near North Shingles Buoy and missed her with a single large bomb.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1245/16).

Convoy
F.S.

1 Enemy aircraft shadowing convoy ^{"Mavis"} ~~MARIT~~ height 2000 feet my position 55° 16'N., 1° 19'W.
(VALOROUS 1255/16).
Fighters being sent.
(VALOROUS 1304/16).

Chatham.

After raid report for 15th/16th Feb. Details of damage.
(C.in C. Nore, 1310/16).

SICYON
GLEN MARY.

At 1158/15. Minesweeper Trawler SICYON was attacked by enemy aircraft aircraft with machine gun fire in Westray Firth. At about 1230/15 S.S. GLEN MARY was also attacked with bombs and machine gun fire close off Sarclet Head, Caithness Lat. 58° 22'N., no damage or casualties, in either case.
(A.C.O.S. 1833/16).

Dover
Bombed.

One JU 88 dropped three high explosive bombs at about 1350 today near heavy anti-aircraft gun site above Shakespeare Cliff. Six military seriously and thirteen slightly wounded. Damage to military hutments.
(V.A.Dover, 2010/16).

M02812/41.

ORMONDE
(Bombed and
Sunk).
CHRYSOLITE
Attacked.

(M/S Trawler) Sunk at 1830/16 by direct hits of 2 H.E. bombs from enemy A/C recognised as H.E.111, when 090 degrees Cruden Scaurs, 7 miles. ORMONDE, LIGNY and CHRYSOLITE were searching war channel. CHRYSOLITE also attacked, three bombs, near misses, and machine-gunned. Three

/light

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)ORMONDE
(Bombed
and sunk).
CHRYSOLITE
attacked.
(Contd.)

M02812/41.

light casualties - 2nd., Eng., Signalman and
cook.ORMONDE sank immediately: no survivors
or wreckage seen. LIGNY and ACHROITE
with Peterhead lifeboat searching area.
LIGNY not attacked.CHRYSOLITE has landed casualties at
Aberdeen.Aircraft flying low, attacked from
Eastward flew direct over ORMONDE and
CHRYSOLITE, latter heavily engaged her with
12 Pdr. and machine-gun. Aircraft flew
back from West over CHRYSOLITE firing
machine-gun and last seen heading N.E.
only 50 feet from water, leaving heavy
black smoke trail.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2237/16).WHITSHED.Enemy aircraft bombing. My
position 53° 2'N., 1° 43'E. Course 147
degs. Speed 20 knots.
(WHITSHED 0445/16).
My 0445. No hits.
(WHITSHED 0448/16).
Being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft, course
160° speed 20 knots, position 53° 38'N.,
2° 9'E.
(WHITSHED 0527/16).Convoy
F.S.Odd.1 enemy aircraft 2000 ft. over ^{Booby} ~~BOOBY~~.
My position 51° 33'N., 1° 8'E.
(Convoy 1138/16).
My 1138 2 DO 17's retired to S.W. No
Bombs. My 1105 DO 17 retired to E. No
Bombs.
(Convoy 1147/16).COTSWOLD.2 Bombs dropped. No hits. B.6 buoy.
(COTSWOLD 1200/16).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.EMPIRE OTTER.

(British Tanker, 4626 Tons). Struck mine 25 miles S.W. Hartland Point. (EMPIRE OTTER 0025/16). Mined at 0124/16. Not been reported since. Keep a good look-out and report if seen. (C.in C. W.A. 1228/16 to Ships). Search by surface craft and aircraft on 16th has failed to find any trace of her. (C.in C. W.A. 1904/16 to Admty). Keep look out for ship's life boats of EMPIRE OTTER between Trevoze Head and Pendeen. (C.in C. W.A. 2104/16 to Ships). One boat with 17 survivors landed Perranporth. One boat still adrift. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2252/16).

Tees.
Hartlepool.

Port of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0230/16). Reference my 0230/16. Port of Hartlepool open. Tees remains closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1645/16) (C.in C. Rosyth 1811/16 to HASTINGS, VORTIGERN).

Sunderland.

Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0245/16).

Z.M.E. 17.

Operation completed. (PLOVER 0349/16).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected enemy minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0355/16).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Liverpool.
(Contd.)Port of Liverpool is open.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124/16).P.W.4.Your 2220/15/2. Concur.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1102/16 to C.in C. Nore).Tyne Area.My 0325/16. Tyne Area Port closed.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1129/16 to PELICAN,
VALOROUS, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1137/16.)Z.M.E. 18.Particulars. To be carried out on the
night of 17/2 or as soon after as
practicable.
(V.C.N.S. 1214/16).Aberdeen.Port of Aberdeen now open but dangerous
area suspected with centre 020° 3 1/2 cables
Girdleness Lt. House radius 5 cables.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1237/16).
My 1237. Port of Aberdeen now open to
traffic on North side only of Q.Z.S.161.
Ships are to keep strictly to North side
of Channel. Request dangerous area due
to suspected minelaying in position 020°
3 1/2 ca-bles from Girdleness may be
promulgated.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1521/16). (C.in C. Rosyth 1811/16)
Your 1521/16., and my 1811/16. It is
not intended to ask for dangerous area to
be promulgated, necessary local action is
to be taken to keep shipping to North side
of Q.Z.S.161.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1839/16 to N.O.I.C.
Aberdeen.)Thames
Estuary.At 1915/15 a Mine exploded spontaneously
near No.7 Medway Buoy. No A/C overhead.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1245/16).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)SOUTHSEA.

(Paddle Minesweeper). Mined 240° 5.9
 cables from North Tyne Pier Light.
 Beached on Herd Sands.
 (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1427/16).

Sweep
of
Gap A.

Your 1059/11. 1st M/S Flotilla search
 completed, only three ships sweeping between
 001° 56'W and (2000) 51'W. on sweep to
 East, and between 001° 07'W. and 002° 03'W.
 on sweep to West. My 1247/16. One ship
 reports severed end appears to have been
 cut. One British H. two and four
 unidentified floating mines sighted.

Am proceeding in accordance with your
 1059/11.
 (S.O. 1st M/S F. 2133/16 to C.in C. Rosyth)

THOMAS
DEAS.

(Fishing Trawler) Sunk at about 1400/16,
 by underwater explosion in about 2730 Spurn
 Point Lighthouse 4 miles. No survivors
 reported.
 (F.O. Humber 2200/16).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Movements.

German W/T suggests a movement from Skaggerack or Bight to northwards. This may be in connection with Convoy of 20 M/V's reported by A/C at 1505/15 in 55° 05' N. 6° 50' E. (D.D.I.C. 1133/16).

Unit off Stavanger.

By D/F at 1607/16. Position of unknown enemy unit, probably surface craft, was about 58° 45' N. 4° 30' E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1739/16 to STURGEON).

Danish Navy.

State. (N.A. Stockholm 2125/16).

See over.

541A

SECRET.

MESSAGE 2125/16 February. IN.

From. N.A. Stockholm.

Date. 17.2.41.

Recd. 0644.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER (SPECIAL 11) (BY CABLE).

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed D. N. I.

IMPORTANT.

Danish Navy February 14th.

One (a) Five torpedo boats with German crews now berthed at Nordre Tolbod (Western entrance of Copenhagen harbour) adjacent to Shell tanks, which are empty, and Nordbjerg and Wedell shipyard. They have neither guns nor searchlights or tubes and it would take some weeks to make them serviceable. It is presumed Germans will move them when ice conditions improve though with ice breaker assistance this should be possible now.

(b) Three torpedo boats iced in at Svenborg and one reported at Nyborg.

(c) Remainder of navy including submarines berthed at naval dockyard where there are no Germans.

Two Press report stating seized torpedo boats being taken to Bornholm is discredited apart from Aerodromes only military works on island are gun mountings under construction on south east extremity at Dulodde.

Three Message to Danish Naval Officers passed on 11th and 13th has now been circulated in responsible quarters.

A.2. repeat A.2.

2125/16.

Advance copy sent O.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- Nacal Sec.
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- Ops. (4)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.A.S.W.
- I.P. (3)
- Room 52 Arch Block South.
- W.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Suspect ships. List (my 1648/16) (D.T.D. 1816/16).

Coastal Convoys.

- F.S. 12.412 My 1450/15. Tyne closed (minelaying), no ships from Tyne will join. Ships for Tyne to be diverted to Tees. (C.in C. Rosyth to VIVIEN, VANITY, 0010/16). No ships will join from Blyth. (C.in C. Rosyth to VIVIEN, VANITY, 0025/16). Tees also closed, ships should continue in convoy to Humber (C.in C. Rosyth, 0323/16, to VIVIEN, VANITY). 10 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0957/16). List (0958/16).
- F.S. 13.413 Sailed 2300/15. 18 ships (approx.) (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0113/16) (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1257/16) No ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1655/16).
- F.N. 8.408 Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0956/16) Arrived 1000/16 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/16) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/16) Arrivals. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2355/16.).
- E.N. 73. 0215/17. Escorts. 29 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1010/16) Postponed, weather. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2359/16).
- W.N. 86. List. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1029/16) 0922/16, HORNPIPE escorting 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1051/16) Asking for trawler to replace SPURS (C.in C. W.A. 2230/16 to A.C.O.S.).
- F.S. 11.411 Position, 42 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1112/16) Arrived, exceptions. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1644/16) 3 ships put into Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1730/16) Humber and Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1759/16).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.).Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.O.287. Sailed PERIWINKLE escort. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1117/16) 0600/17, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1730/16).

E.N.71. All 3 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1130/16).

O.B.C.288. 0100/19, escort GEORGETOWN, etc. 30. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1301/16).

E.N. 72. E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion 0000/17 (FOXTROT, 1345/16) Position at 1450. (A.C.O.S. 1647/16).

12 M.V's. Sailing 1630/17, escort RUBY, CORNELIAN (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1515/16).

W.N.U.86. 1630/17, unescorted, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1547/16).

O.B.287. Sailed 1605/16, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1630/16) List (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1925/16).

F.N.9.409 Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/16).

E.N.74. PRIMROSE as additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1900/16).

F.N. and F.S. Additional escorts F.N.10 to 16 and F.S. 14 to 20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1942/16).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean Convoys.

- O.G.C.53. 0030/16, escort GLADIOLUS, 16 (9 kites).
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0050/16) List (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1300/16, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/16).
- H.X.106. My position at 0200. Spoken to all trawlers and tankers. (MALCOLM, 0221/16) Ships not present at R.V.(list) MALCOLM, 1907/16) Escorts detailed for H.X.U.106, H.X.B.106 H.X.B.C. 106 (MALCOLM 1914/16 amended 0952/17).
- O.G.O.53. Sailed 0740/16, escort NORTHERN GEM. 20 ships. (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1020/16) E.T.A. amended. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1729/16).
- H.X.110. Ships carrying munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1147/15). Destinations (D.T.D., 1929/16).
- H.X.107. Not met. Name of ocean escort not known. (ARROW, 1201/16) Destinations. (D.T.D., 1330/16 1331, 16).
- H.X.U.106. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O., Aultbea, 1244/16).
- S.C.21. YORK CITY to meet. (C.in C. W.A., 1348/16).
- O.G.53. Londonderry departures for H.M.S. LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc. (Capt. D., Londonderry 1445/16).

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

CYMBULA.
escort.

Your 2252/15 decyphered 0230/16.
In accordance with the last sentence of
your 1121/11 both ships left CYMBULA at
2300/15. FREESIA now detached should
rejoin CYMBULA by 0900/16 in 046° N.
020° 50' W. LONDONDERRY position 0900/16
046° 35' N. 022° 13' W. 170° to meet
DEPTFORD.
(LONDONDERRY 0400/16 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop
Transports.

Following 7 Troop Transports are due to
arrive in U.K. shortly as follows.
(D. of S.T. 1924/16).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHNAVER

Sailing date (D.O.D.(H) 2258/16)
See Operations Volume. *See Page 90.*

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16. 2. 41.
Sunday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.CORYTON.

(British, 4553 Tons), Anchored in Skate Roads. Require assistance.(CORYTON 0758/16.)

If possible leave Amble and proceed to assist CORYTON. She has been ashore at Longston. (C. in C. Rosyth 1112/16 to C. Guard, Amble for Tug BULLGER.)

Re my 1112/16, Grounded in Budle Bay, Skate Road with 12 feet of water in engine room. BULLGER unable leave EMPIRE BREEZE.R.N.O. Berwick arranging place salvage pump in pilot vessel to send on board CORYTON when weather permits. (C. in C. Rosyth 1620/16.)

ESCAPADE.

Intend sailing ESCAPADE 2000 today. E.T.A. May Island 1000/17. Thence proceeding to Rosyth on one engine approx. speed made good 4 knots. (R.A.D. 1423/16.)

MARAUDER.

(Rescue Tug). Defects. Request permission return harbour forthwith. (MARAUDER 1440/16.)

Your 1440/16. Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1605/16 to MARAUDER.)

WILLIAM
HASTIE.

(Examination vessel). Grounded in Yinstay Bay (Shapinsay Sound) 2100/15th. Salvage operations today unsuccessful. Further attempt being made tomorrow. Salvage Officer and METINDA in attendance. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 1830/16.)

JAMAICA
PLANTER.

It was necessary to beach JAMAICA PLANTER again this forenoon but it is hoped to float her again to-morrow Monday. Request SEINE may remain at Barry to assist. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1845/16.)

/ROBERT.....

16. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

ROBERT
POMEROY.

Twelve miles N.N.W. Whitby Head,
Engines broken down, drifting on to
beach. Light. (ROBERT POMEROY, Recd.
2259/16.)

If possible stand by and assist.
(HASTINGS 2330/16 to VORTIGERN.)

War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Convoys
Gibraltar.

French minesweeper TAPAGEUSE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 0600/14 escorting French M.V's FORT DE DOUAUMONT, 5266 tons, MEDJERDA, 4578 tons, ARCTURUS, 2532 tons and TADORNE, 382 tons (D.O.R 17/2).

French light cruiser LE TERRIBLE passed Gibraltar westbound at 1350/15 escorting French M.V's ASIE, 8561 tons IMERETHIE II, 3713 tons and FELIX HENRI, 2526 tons (D.O.R. 17/2).

North Atlantic.KENYA.
S.L. 67.

Cancelling Admty 2005/14 para 3. Orders to KENYA (D.O.D.(F) 1222/16 to SHEFFIELD C.S.10) See Operations Volume.

RESOLUTION.

My 1018/15. Weather still unsuitable for sailing RESOLUTION.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1036/16).

EMPIRE TROOPER.

My 1800/4. Basin trial not satisfactory. EMPIRE TROOPER will not now be ready to leave for at least a week probably more.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1542/16 to C. in C. S.A. Admty).

Air Report.

No flying. South West gale.
(200 Group 1700/16).

CORINTHIAN.
CAVINA.
DUNEDIN.
KENYA. (s.s.)
SOBIESKI.
PHOEBE.
FREESIA.
CYMBULA.

- (1) CORINTHIAN on patrol 250 miles E.N.E. from Madeira.
- (2) CAVINA on patrol 225 miles East of Madeira.
- (3) DUNEDIN, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE, escorting troopship KENYA and SOBIESKI, p.c. and s. at 1200/16 038° 00'N. 136° 35'W. 308°, 13 knots, routed through 041° 00'N. 019° 30'W.
- (4) PHOEBE E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800/19 course 139° 17 knots.
- (5) FREESIA (?direct with) CYMBULA to Ponta Delgada position at 1200/16, 045° 30' N 021° (correct group) W. speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A.1722/16 to SCARBOROUGH).

/TUNA.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.16.2.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).TUNA,
Azores.TUNA has nothing to report. Submarine reported off Azores on 6/2 and 12/2 was TUNA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1902/16).

S.S. AGIOS GEORGIOS. ⁴²⁴⁸ ~~4248~~ Greek Ship AGIOS GEORGIOS arrived. She received your 1601/4 via Rugby, please confirm she is ship to be (word omitted) to Freetown as there are four ships of that name.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 2215/16). See Page 575.
17.2.41.

South Atlantic.MALAYA.
S.L. 67.
KENYA.
FAULKNER.
FORESTER.

Convoy S.L. 67 to be escorted by MALAYA. Orders for MALAYA, KENYA, FAULKNER, FORESTER (D.O.D.(F) 1727/16 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.). See Operations Volume.

CYMBULA.Your 1951/10. For GIMBULA read CYMBULA. Ship contains water.
(D.T.D. 1816/16 to C. in C. S.A.).Shipping.A.M. 2027/14 applies to ships sailing independently and in convoy.
(D.T.D. 1928/16 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).Proposed
Operations.

(D.O.D.(F) 1954/16 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operations
Against
Italian
East Africa.

Importance of time factor. Chiefs of Staff No. 57. (1 S.L. to C. in C's Med and E.I. 1134/16) See Operations Volume.

Rhodes
bombed.

1. Egypt. Night 14/15. 2 Wellingtons bombed Lindos Harbour, Rhodes starting fires among buildings. 1 missing, weather bad, and aircraft failed to locate primary target Rhodes harbour. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1211/16).

Operations
in Progress
or intended.

C. in C. Med 1228/16. See Mediterranean Volume.

Genoa
bombardment 9/2.

Reports on Genoa confirm success of bombardment. Serious damage to Ansaldo and Sampierdarena district. Troopship hit in dock. Wharves and warehouses Calata San Beningo and near oil storage tanks damaged (B.2). Electrical services interrupted. Railways and trams at standstill. First train to Milan left a.m./10 under steam. Gasometer burnt all day. Foundry and industrial quarter badly damaged (D.2) Attack has made deeper impression on Italy than loss of Benghazi (B.2) (D.N.I. 1326/16 to C. in C. Med).

Mining of
Suez Canal.

What arrangements are now in force for detecting mines laid in Canal and Lakes? (1. S.L. 1643/16 to S.B.N.O. Canal). Admty 1643/16. 204 observation posts along canal manned by British and Egyptian troops. In addition, existing organisation of coastguards and Canal Company watchers continues. Three floating observation posts in Little Bitter Lake and two in buoyed channel of Great Bitter Lake will be in position p.m./17. Watch is kept by ships at Lake Timsah and in terminal port by Egyptian police. 2. A buoyed searched channel has been established between North and South buoys Great Bitter Lake. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2101/16).

/Malta.....

War Diary.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta
Air Raids.

2315/15 1 enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs on land 1 of which unexploded. No service damage or casualties. 0759 2 formations 6 in each Me. 109's flew over at 9000 feet.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1730/16).

S.O.
Aircraft
Carriers.

Capt. D.W.Boyd appointed with rank of acting Rear-Adm. to relieve Rear-Adm. A.L. St. G.Lyster as S.O. Aircraft Carriers Mediterranean Fleet, Flag to be hoisted in EAGLE at 0800/18 and transferred to ILLUSTRIOUS at 0800/19. Flag of Rear-Adm. Lyster to be struck in ILLUSTRIOUS at sunset on 18/2. Comder. G.S. Buck with acting rank of Captain appointed ILLUSTRIOUS in command and as C.S.O. to S.O. Aircraft Carriers vice Boyd to date 18/2.

(C. in C. Med. 1757/16).

Convoy A.N. 15.

My 1703/14. Destination of EOCENE is Suda Bay.

(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1803/16)

Mine
Clearance.

My 1803/10/1. Confirmed by trials that L.L. sweepers will clear Mines A Mark 1 in one operation by following the instructions in C.B. 4063/41 modified as follows.

(D.T.M. 1857/16 to C. in C. Med).

Transports.

Fully requisitioned T.99A store transports sailed U.K. with Army, Navy and R.A.F. stores:-

CEFN-Y-BRYN.

Speed 10 knots sailed 10/2 for Durban for bunkers, Port Said, and Alexandria.

HANNINGTON
COURT.

Speed 10½ knots sailed 10/2 for Capetown for bunkers, Port Said, Alexandria and Haifa.

(D. of S.T. 1942/16 to C. in C!'s etc).

Operation
"Result".

Inquiry re mines dropped at Pisa and Leghorn (1st. S.L. 2319/16 to S.O. Force H)
See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.2.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesGRIMSBY,
SHOREHAM,
INDUS,
HINDUSTAN

Cancel my 1035/15 (Concerning transfer) Matter still under consideration by Gov. of India. Understand Viceroy referring to Sec. of State. (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0514Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

My 2052/15. Cancel transfer of HINDUSTAN and INDUS to Mediterranean for the present in view of F.O.C.R.I.N's 0514/16. (C. in C., E.I., 1126Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

BARPETA

My 1132/7, BARPETA sailed Bombay 14/2 due Aden 21/2. Contents. (S.S.T.O., India, 0605Z/16)

Enemy Vessels
in Yemeni
Waters.

Proposed action against. Remarks on Governor Aden's 93 to Colonial Secretary. (C. in C., E.I., 0614Z/16 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

CARTHAGE

CARTHAGE is to leave Colombo at 1100Z/17 and sweep towards position 003°N.068° 30' E at 15 knots. Object protection of shipping. (C. in C., E.I., 0702Z/16)

Operation
"Canvas"

Special intelligence reports that bomber five landed south of Massawa 12/2 with two officers one rating injured. FORMIDABLE 1614/13/2 (Attack on Massawa by 14 Albacores) refers. (C. in C., E.I., 0804Z/16 to Admty.)

Captured
Italian ShipsProposals for steaming to Bombay or U.K. (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16) See Operations Volume. *Page 91. 16.2.41.*Air Report
Kismayu,
Mogadiscio,
Omo River.Operational summary No 251 up to 1200 hours 16/2/41.
(4) Kenya. Following S.A.A.F. operations support our troops in Italian Somaliland and South West Abyssinia.
13/2. Glenn Martin reconnoitred Kismayu and Mogodiscio and machine-gunned 5 CA 133's on Vittorio landing ground. 1 ship scuttled Kismayu. Coaster beached off Brava. 2 ships anchored off Mogadiscio.
14/2. 3 Hartebeestes bombed enemy positions in Omo River Delta. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1214/16)

/Re East.....

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Re East African Operations

Chiefs of Staff No 57. Importance of time factor. (1st S.L. 1134/16) See Operations Volume.

Escort Vessels

Admty. 0116/15 and my 2052/15. Remarks re further reduction of convoy escorts by transfers to Mediterranean. (C. in C., E.I., 1240/16 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

GLASGOW

Request GLASGOW be sailed for Durban at 20 knots on completing with fuel 18/2. (C. in C., E.I., 1252Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea)

China

Japanese Movements

My 0311/13. Indications that at least one Japanese submarine squadron and probably two (eighteen submarines) are now in Mandated Islands. Other movements of Japanese warships consistent with their present commitments in French Indochina and Thailand. No indications in last 48 hours of any change in situation. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0509Z/16)

Shipping

Japan or Japanese controlled ports. Precautions. (D.T.D. 1528/16) See Operations Volume.

Japanese Troop Convoy

American A.N.A. informs me that Officers of PRESIDENT CLEVELAND which arrived Kobe 12/2 reported sighting on 11/2 convoy of 25 Japanese transports fully loaded with troops escorted by warships between Shimonoseki and Shanghai steering South. (N.A., Tokyo, 1831/16 to Admty.) (Note. Amended 17/2)

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.2.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesNEW NORTHLAND

Your 1930/15. Ship is to be sailed for Freetown as soon as essential repairs are completed. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0932/16 to N.O.I.C., Trinidad)

T.C. 9.

Admty. 1832/6 and 1932/7. T.C.9. expected to sail 1800Z/17. Route. Request relief for ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (Date and position) (R.A. 3 B.S. 1625/16) See Operations Volume

ASCANIA
S.C. 23.

Intend sailing ASCANIA as ocean escort S.C. 23 subsequently returning to Halifax (F.O. 3 B.S. 1626/16 to Admty.)

LACONIA
SAN AMADO

Have only sufficient fuel and am returning to base. At 1200/16 Tanker SAN AMADO p.c. and s 060° 22' N., 024° 46' W., 064° eight knots, (route) (LACONIA, 2000/16 to C. inc., W.A.)

War Diary

16.2.1941.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARISSA

Istanbul departure 15/2 LARISSA. (Galata, 1024/16)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CESCO intended.
COSCO

See Mediterranean p. 517.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

My 0236/15.* Ex Italian Ship LEONARDO DA VINCI has also arrived Mombassa. (C. in C., E.I., 0402Z/16 to Admty.)
*(Operation "Canvas")
Proposals for steaming captured ships to Bombay (C. in C., E.I., 1136Z/16) See Operations Volume. (Page 9/16.2.41.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.2.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedUnknown Ship
Attacked
0240/14)

Your 2148/15. My noon position 056° 40' N., 009° W., Searching in company with SALVONIA. Oil fuel remaining 100 tons. (SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1025/16 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
 Endeavour to pass current recognition signals for periods after 2359/16 to SOUTHERN PRIDE by V/S. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1819/16 to SALVONIA)

W. B. WALKER
(Torpedoed 29/1)

-Your 2330/15. Continue search in vicinity St. Kilda. Air search will be carried out today. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0113/16 to St. OLAVES, MARAUDER)
 If contact has not been made with unknown ship SOUTHERN PRIDE and SALVONIA are to rendezvous with ST OLAVES in 230° 5 miles from Flannan Light at 0800/17 and search for Stern half of W.B. WALKER. ST OLAVES is to be in this position by 0800.
 W.B. WALKER was last reported in 58° 15' N., 09° 01' W., at 1445/13. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1707/16)
 Position Boreray 098° 6 Miles. Acknowledge your 1707/16. (ST OLAVES 2050/16 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
 Your 1707. Acknowledged. Cannot arrive? Rendezvous? Before 1400/17. (SALVONIA 2100/16 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
 My 1707/16. SALVONIA cannot reach R.V. until 1400/17. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2237/16 to ST OLAVES)

Submarines Reported

There may be a U-Boat in your vicinity. (A.C.O.S., 1249/16 to ROMNEY)
 Get in sweeps. Carry out A/S search up to a distance of 40 miles for a U-Boat located by D/F bearing 041° from Pola. If no contact is obtained by 1600 return to harbour. (A.C.O.S. 1309/16 to ROMNEY)

/Estimated....

MOST SECRETWar Diary16.2.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. Italian.
One off entrance Gironde. (F.O. (S) 1524/16
to TIGRIS)

1337. D/F at 1337/16 indicates U-Boat between 48°
N., and 50° N., longitude unknown but
estimated between 27° W., and 33° W.,
(D.D.I.C., 1649/16)
1816. About 56.30 N., 20° to 22° W., very
indefinite. (D.S. 531)

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.

MOST SECRETWar Diary17.2.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsDivision of
Western Approaches
Command

Admiral Sir Percy Noble hoisted his flag this morning as C. in C., of the new Western Approaches Command. Admiral Sir Martin Dunbar Nasmith rehoisted his flag as C. in C., Plymouth at the same time.

A/S
Operations

It is intended to operate A/S striking forces in cooperation with the R.A.F. against enemy submarines which have appeared in the important area about 60° N., where SS ARTHUR F CORWIN was torpedoed on 13/2.

Enemy Air Operations

Invergordon Oil Fuel Main Depot was bombed this morning by a single aircraft. One oil tank was demolished and two damaged. Fire was not opened and no warning was given. The Admiralty have asked Air Ministry to investigate.

Trawler NANIWA was sunk ^{16/2.} today about 115 miles N.W. of Bull Rock, S.W. Ireland.

Mining

Trawler BEN REIN was mined and sunk off Falmouth today.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool, Campbeltown (port closed again), Milford Haven, in Bristol Channel and mines (including British) were sunk at sea or rendered safe off Aberdeen.

/Operations.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary17.2.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.Operations
S.N. 7 B and
S.N. 68 A

R.A.M.L. This afternoon reported these operations completed (Minelaying south east of Iceland by 1st M.L.S. with A/S screen of 4 destroyers. Close cover - AURORA. Cover - REPULSE)

MediterraneanAir
Operations

Enemy aircraft were over Malta last night until the early hours of this morning, for the eleventh successive night. No bombs were dropped.

Enemy aircraft bombed the Benghazi area last night.

One Wellington out of 4 despatched from Egypt bombed Scarpanto Aerodrome last night.

Military
Assistance
to Greece.

See P.S.T.O. Egypt 1247/17.

Operation
"Blunt"*(Raid on Kasols:
from Crete)*

YORK, BON-AVENTURE and destroyers are supporting this operation until the anticipated time of occupation.

Operations
against
Italian Supply
Ships.

C. in C., Med reports that on 12/2 UTMOST attacked a westbound escorted convoy of 3 ships in 32° 54' N., 12° 9' E., and hit an 8000 ton merchant ship which was seen 4 hours later with stern awash and abandoned by the escort.

See p 517

Information was received today that TRUANT sank a 3500 tons ship in a convoy of two proceeding escorted from Tripoli on the afternoon 11/2. Three Swordfish on patrol attacked an escorted convoy of 4 ships off Kerkenah Island on night 13/14 and believed they sank one ship. At 1130/14 the Italian SS COSCO was heard making S.O.S. off Cape Orzzuto; the ship evidently sank.

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary17.2.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Contd.

Attacks on the Tripoli-Italy route during the last 4 weeks by air and submarines have resulted in 5 ships being sunk for certain and 2 almost certainly. In addition, one was mined off harbour entrance. All these ships were over 3000 tons, except *CITTA DI MESSINA (sunk 15/1 off Misurata, most probably by

** Confirmed from
Italian sources
Sunk by REGENT
G.A.T.
26.11.51.*

East IndiesOperation
"Canvas"

The present position of the 16 ships from Kismayu as far as known to date is as follows:- ADRIA, SAVOIA, ERMINIA MAZELLA, MANON and LEONADO DA VINCI are at Mombasa. ASKARI is aground 7 miles south of Brava, MARGHERA, MONCALIERI (?) and two unknown scuttled in Kismayu. One, probably PENSILVANIA at Mogadishu. UCKERMARK sunk. TANNENFELS escaped. Tug KIONGA whereabouts not known but cannot have gone far. Two ships are unaccounted for.

Mediterranean-Contd.German
Naval
Preparations

-Details are given today by the Reporting Officer, Constantza of German preparations to operate Roumanian naval units with German personnel.

Bucharest broadcast announces an extension of the danger area off Constantza which was declared on 30/5/40.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Destroyers.

R.A.D. 1115/15. In view of serious shortage of destroyers in Western Approaches I most strongly urge that Capt. D. Greenock 1246/16 be complied with.

(C. in C. W.A. 0204/17 to Adty).
Your 0204.

1. This is a matter for arrangement with C. in C. H.F. R.A.(D)'s 1115/15, however, appears equitable.

2. Whilst Western Approaches recently has had an appreciable gain in their number of destroyers, C. in C. H.F. has had no such accretion of strength.

(A.C.N.S(H) 1327/17 to C. in C. W.A).
Captain D. Greenock's 1246/16. Concur in proposals 2 and 3.

With reference to proposal 1 it may not be possible to release BRILLIANT without relief, but she will join your command as early as circumstances permit.

2. Request your remarks on proposals A and C. of R.A.D's 1115/15 in which I concur.

(C. in C. H.F. 1717/17 to C. in C. W.A).
Your 1717/17. Concur in proposals H. and C. of R.A.D's 1115/15. And I am grateful for your concurrence in 2 and 3 of Captain D. Greenock's 1246/16.

My 0204/17 was prompted by the knowledge that Western Approaches Destroyers inevitably constitute the principal reserve from which destroyers are drawn for unexpected commitments. In view of the large number of these undergoing or awaiting repairs and the exceptionally heavy demands which have to be met at the end of the month, I feel bound to press for "B" Class to join at earliest possible moment consistent with Home Fleet requirements.

(C. in C. W.A. 2316/17 to C. in C. H.F).

Anti U-Boat Measures.

Proposed hunting operations. (C. in C. W.A. 0210/17 to C. in C. H.F.).
See U-Boat Campaign.

War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K."Deluge".
DELUGE.At 1130/17 (D.C. 1159/17).
At 2330/17 (D.C. 2345/17).Movements.O.23.If you cannot make Tay Bar proceed into Methil. Proceed on main motor only when west of line joining Elieness and Fidra.
(S.9. 0817/17 to O.23).REPULSE.Owing to weather Dan buoys in QZS 175 are not in position.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0825/17 to REPULSE).
S.E. Gate vessel Inch Keith is riding by stern moorings only and reported dragged in S.W. direction from correct position.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1018/17 to REPULSE).ALCANTARA.Admiralty 2144/15. Ship cannot sail earlier than p.m. 28/2 and bad weather may involve delay beyond that date.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1217/17).RODNEY
A/S screen.C. in C. H.F. 1207/17. MATABELE,
TARTAR, ESKIMO detailed.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1514/17).Northern
Patrol.Trawler Lines tonight. 3 to 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1521/17).CANTON.(Freetown Escort Force) Your 1626/11.
CANTON is to be sailed for Freetown when A/S escort can be provided.
(D.O.D.F. 1532/17 to F.O.C.N.P).CHITRAL.
RESTIGOUCHE.
ASSINIBOINE.Sailed CHITRAL escorted by RESTIGOUCHE in accordance with F.O.C.N.P's 1146/14. ASSINIBOINE will be sailed to overtake when A/S defects have been made good.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/17).S/M's.

Positions at 0800/18 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1744/17).

L.27.By 0905/16. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1804/17).

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Helder.)
Zeebrugge.)
Hellevoetsluis.)
Middleburg.)
Ouddorp.)

During day 16/2 five Blenheims attacked Docks and Sheds; also Ships and Barges south of Ouddorp, where some hits were seen.
(H.Q.B.C. 0153/17 to Air Ministry).

Escorts.

Expect A/S escort 1 Hudson 0930.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0854/17 to REPULSE).

Expect Air escort of one aircraft from 1100 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0938/17 to Capt. D.20).

Patrols.

Following air patrols to-day.
S.T.A.N.
B.E.R.T.
S.T.A.N.D.
U.N.S.T.
Also patrol detailed in my 1310/15.
All the above are in operation now.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0940/17).

Own A/C
fired on,
10/1.

My 0817/15. S.O.T.L.D.F. now reports as follows:- At 0147/10/1 ARISTOCRAT in about 5 cables 240° from Nore L.V. opened fire with Pom Poms on low flying A/C which disappeared to the N.W. after making correct Pyrotechnic recognition signals.
Plane appeared to approach from Southward over Kent Coast and was clearly seen for a few seconds before fire was opened but type could not be distinguished. Adty 1633/14 refers.
(C. in C. Nore, 1035/17).

Enemy M/V's
off Sogne
Fiord.

3 Beauforts armed with torpedoes taking off from Wick now to search for and attack enemy shipping off Sogne Fiord.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1206/17 to C. in C.H.F).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Invergordon
bombed.

M02821/41

Invergordon O.F. Main Depot bombed by single enemy aircraft at 1140. No 13 Tank demolished and railway line flooded with oil fuel now leaking into Firth West of railway station. No fire. Nos. 14, 15 and 17 tanks damaged and leaking. Believe two casualties, men working near 13 Tank. Enemy then machine gunned R.A.F. Camp, a Sunderland aircraft at moorings, and A/P Trawler alongside coal hulk. No warning received and no A.A. fire opened. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1227/17).
My 1227/17 No casualties. Details of damage. Enemy aircraft was Junkers 88 flying at 50 feet over tanks. It entered Cromarty Firth between Sutors flying 100 feet above sea under low cloud. Visibility three miles. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1650/17).

Unknown
Ship.

Attacked one mile off Humber Light. (Humber Radio 1352/17).

ST. VINCENT.
bombed 11/2.

1. Trawler ST. VINCENT Bombed and machine gunned by Dark Green 4 Engined Plane while fishing South of Fastnet 1530 B.S.T. 11/2. Only slight damage and no casualties.

TINA NUTTEN
attacked 10/2.

2. Trawler TINA NUTTEN Machine Gun^{red} by Dornier 215 while fishing 18 miles S.E. Fastnet 1500 B.S.T. 10/2. No hits. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1631/17).

WAZIRISTAN.
(Bombed 2/2).

Extensive damage which cannot be repaired by local resources. Tug will be required to tow ship to repair port. Expect ship ready to leave 26/2. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 2130/17).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.EMPIRE OTTER.
(Mined 16/2).

A good look out is to be kept for survivors. One boat is still missing. (C. in C. Plymouth 0728/17 to Capt. D.5, 1048/17 to Capt D. 20). Life boats from EMPIRE OTTER located in 051° 08'N. 005° 10'W. at 1211/17. Motor Launches from Milford Haven being sent. (C. in C. Plymouth 1350/17). Cancel my 1350. Survivors picked up by CORNELIAN now proceeding to Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth 1836/17). Arrived CORNELIAN with 19 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2045/17).

Liverpool.
(5 Mines
detonated).

Mine report to 1800/16. One detonated by L.L. 200 Bar L.V. 5 cables. 3 self detonated approx. 290° Bar L.V. 16 miles. One self detonated 180° Bar L.V. 4 cables. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0941/17).

P.W.5.

Operation PW.5. should take place within 3 hours of high water. It should therefore be carried out on first night after 19/2 on which weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1148/17).

6th M/S F.

As 1st M.S.F. is delayed by weather, sailing of 6 M.S.F. is to be postponed till 18/2. (C. in C. Nore 1254/17).

Minelaying off
Brest.

A.L. M/OD 2019/41 of 13.2.41 para. 3. Propose to move position of operation A as follows:-
Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S(H) 1349/17).
A.L. M/O.D. 2019/41 of 13/2 and your 1349/17.
Request I may be informed of position and type of mines which I understand are being laid tonight.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1918/17 to Adty).
Your 1349/17. Concur.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1920/17 to Adty).
Your 1918/17. Type A Mark I within the limits of 276 Q Z X.
(D.D.O.D(M) 2305/17 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Operations,
S.N.7B.
S.N. 68 A.Completed.
(R.A.M.L. 1432/17).Campbeltown.Campbeltown again closed. Additional mines suspected. One destroyed this forenoon.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1545/17).Sweeps between
Kinnairds Head
and
Duncansby Head.Commencing at 2100/19 available ships of M.S.F. are to carry out the following searching of sweeps returning afterwards to Aberdeen.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1601/17 to M.S.5.).Milford
Haven.At 1120/17 one Green Mine exploded by Sweeper in 070° St. Ann's Head Light 15.25 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1607/17).BEN REIN.Mined and sunk off Falmouth. Believed five survivors of whom three injured. Two men lost.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1830/17).Bristol
Channel.Red mine detonated by single L 051° 22.1 North 003° 25.5. West.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1846/17).Aberdeen
sub-command.Mines sunk at sea 4: 1 German, 3 unknown. Mines rendered safe 2: 1 British H2 Mark 2, 1 German X. G.E.F. Demolished 10. Cylindrical floats washed shore 6.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1921/17).Sweep of
Gap A.My 1059/11 N.S. one's 1247/16 and 2211/16 and M.S. Five's 0110/17. Intend at favourable opportunity to arrange further search by 5th M.S.F. as follows.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2230/17 to C. in C. H.F).

War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Amstelmeer.)
Hellevoetsluis.)
Veere)
Zeebrugge.)

M/V's and Barges seen on 16/2.
 (H.Q.B.C. 0153/17 to Air Ministry).

Barges
off
Stavanger.

At 0938/17, 17 Transport Barges in 58°
 49'N. 5° 22'E. No set course. A/C report.
 (Bomber Command 0955/17 to 18 Group H.Q).

12 Transport Barges in 59° 27'N. 5° 9'E.
 (Bomber Command 1005/17).

E-Boat.

E boat may possibly be operating within
 60 miles Start Point.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 2208/17).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal
Convoys.

E.N.73. Postponed, weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0009/17).
HOLDERNESS as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1220/17.)
Time, escorts, codes, 21 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1313/17).

W.N.86. FOWEY additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0009/17).
BUTTERMERE and WINDERMERE to meet.
(A.C.O.S. 0015/17).

O.B.C.287. 0125/17, 10 ships,
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0135/17).
List.
(0927/17).
Left, List.
(Berthing off, Greenock T.O.R. 2035/17).

F.S.12. 412. E.T.A. Sheringham.
(VIVIEN, 0256/17).
Position.
(VIVIEN, 1300/17).
Position 6 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1600/17).
Arrived except BUSIRIS.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1907/17).

F.N.10. 410. BASSETT escorting.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0842/17).
Sailed 0842, 34 ships.
(1047/17).
List.
(1316/17).

O.B.288. 0700/19, unescorted. 1.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/17).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

W.N.85. 33 ships, positions.
(A.C.O.S. 0933/17, 1442/17).
E.T.A. (STELLA CAPELLA, 1600/17).

F.S.15.413 16 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0944/17).

E.N.U.72. Arrived 1115/17.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1130/17).

F.S.14. } 414
F.N.13. } 413 Cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1137/17).

W.N.87. ULLSWATER and SALTERELO escorting.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1211/17).
GLEANER and SLEIPNER additional escorts.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1343/17).

O.B.O.287. Sailed 0740/17. escort PERIWINKLE,
3 ships. (list).
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0835/17).

C.W.26. Time table. Escorts. 7 ships.
(C.in C. Nore, 1130/17).

E.N.74. PRIMROSE additional escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1317/17). GLEANER and
SLEIPNER additional escorts.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1343/17).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

- O.B.287. Sailed WITCH to overtake.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1320/17).
- E.N.72. Arrived less CORTES.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1648/17).
- F.N.9.409 Arrived 1615/17.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1654/17).
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2355/17).
- O.B.288. Oversea ships of E.N.73 to sail to Loch
Ewe to join O.B.288 at 1600/20.
(C.in C. W.A. 1725/17).
PICOTEE sailed to join.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1837/17).
- F.N. and
F.S. Forecast of sailings.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1745/17).
- W.N.U.86. 1930/17 unescorted, 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2119/17).
List.
(2141/17).
- F.N.86. FOWEY left to meet.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2355/17).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.

- H.Q.53. May have been reported by U/Boat, which may lead to Air Attack.
(D.D.I.C. 0933/17 to DEPTFORD).
- H.X.B.106. My 1914/16. For SARDONYX read BURNHAM.
(MALCOLM, 0952/17).
- S.C.21. My 1348/16. Estimate 4 hours early at R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1043/17).
- B.H.X.111. List.
(Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/17).
- H.X.U.106. Arrived. 1130/17 less CLEA.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1410/17).
- H.X.108. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D. 1613/17).
- H.G.53. Meet. List.
(C.in C. W.A. 1915/17 to LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc.)
- H.X.106. My 1914/16. If 2 Stragglers reported not far astern of H.X.106 16/2 are not found by 1900/17 propose KINGCUP leave vicinity of Butt of Lewis and return to Londonderry. No information of other Stragglers being near convoy 16/2.
(MALCOLM, 0721/17).
No stragglers found. Am proceeding through Minches at 0930. If sighted will endeavour to obtain information from aircraft.
(KINGCUP 0800/17 to MALCOLM).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.17.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Military
Convoys.STRATHNAVER.Probably sailing 28/2. Particulars.
(D.S.T. 0116/17).
See Operations Volume.BATORY.Probably sailing 28/2. Particulars.
(D.S.T. 0116/17).
See Operations Volume.

T.C.9.

My 1635/13/1 and 1932/7. Cruiser
detailed to relieve ROYAL SOVEREIGN
should accompany Convoy to Clyde Area.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1338/17).

W.S.6.B.

Sailed HESPERUS and HURRICANE escorting
Liverpool portion of W.S.6.B.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/17).

War Diary17.2.1941.
MondayCASUALTIES & DEFECTSEMPIRE KNOLL

(British, 2823 tons) Ashore North Tynemouth Pier. (Lyness W/T 0148/17)
Crew 32 in all - rescued by life saving apparatus. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 0607/17)

ROBERT POMEROY

^w
Anchored about 055° 34' N., 00° 33' W.,
Repairs to main engine are proceeding and she can now go slow speed. (VALOROUS 0206/17)
Cannot locate ROBERT ^wPOMEROY. Am re-joining convoy. (VORTIGERN, 0302/17 to HASTINGS)

CASAMANCE

(British, 5817 tons) Ashore 1-1/2 miles South of Skinningrove. 37 of crew landed in own boats. 10 still on board. Rescue being attempted by breeches buoy and life boat. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool, 1253/17)
Ashore at Hummersea near Redcar from F.S. 13. 37 of crew have been landed remaining 10 being taken off by lifeboat. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1301/17)

FORTH

Admiralty 2249/15. Full speed is 16 knots because of time out of dock. (FORTH 0757/17)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.H.G. 53.
Survivors
from Air
Attack 9/2.

Survivors from following ships attacked by aircraft on 9/2, in Convoy H.G. 53, have been landed at Gibraltar, BRITANNIC, 2490 tons, 3 (1 injured) JURA, 1759 tons, 10 (2 injured), TEJO (Norwegian) 967 tons, 11 (2 injured), DAGMAR 1, 2471 tons, 1 believed more survivors may be in other ships. (D.S. 531).

Sunderland.

My 2230/15. Lisbon now reports Sunderland force landed near Setubal and that crew are safe. (F.O.C.N.A., 0016/17, to Admty). See 1720/17.

SHEFFIELD.
S.L. 65.
escort.Arrived Gibraltar 0800/17 (S.O.I. Gib., 0900/17).
Admty 2005/14 para 2 and 1755/15.
SHEFFIELD sails 0900/18, to relieve KENYA. Request you instruct SHEFFIELD when to part company from S.L. and S.L.S. 65, and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1708/17 to Admty).RESOLUTION.My 1036/16. Weather not yet suitable (for sailing). (F.O.C.N.A., 0948/17, to C. in C. W.A). *See also next page*Raider
Attack on
S.L.S. 64
12/2. ships
sunk. *

M03371/41

My 1644/14. It now appears fairly certain that British ships WARLABY, LORNASTON, OSWESTRY GRANGE, SHREWSBURY, WESTBURY, DERRYNANE, Norwegian ship BORGESTAD and Greek ship PERSEUS were sunk. British ships NAILSEA LASS and EMPIRE TRACEY (?EMPIRE ENERGY) Norwegian Ships VARANGBERG and BUR and Greek ship KALLIOPI, were separated from convoy and may be safe. *
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1217/17 to Admty).
(W.D. Note:- LORNASTON in above list of ships lost subsequently arrived at Azores, reducing total of ships lost from 8 to 7.

Further interviews with survivors in boats and on rafts indicate that raider

/was.....

MOST SECRET.17. 2. 1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

was camouflaged. Also confirms second turret aft. Two officers of watch think in retrospect that they heard drone of aeroplane about 2300 - 2315/11. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1747/17.)

TUNA.

Admty. 1214/15. Instructions to TUNA. (F.O.(S) to F.O.C.N.A, 1243/17.)

MALAYA. *(to search w.3.6.)*

Your 0115/15 not received by me or MALAYA until 1130/17, when a copy was received from SHEFFIELD. Nevertheless MALAYA can comply. (F.O.C.N.A, 1251/17, to Admty.)

Proposed Operation.

Reply to Admty. 1934/16. (F.O.C.N.A., 1606/17.) See Operations Volume.

DUNEDIN.

If present fine weather continues E.T.A. at rendezvous, about 6 hours late making good $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Submit position of R.V. be altered to southwards to ensure meeting in daylight on 20/2. (DUNEDIN, 17182/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

Air Report.

No flying. Weather. My A.489 15/2, Sunderland force-landed in Portugal 1230/15. (200 Group, 1720/17.)

RESOLUTION.

My 0948/17, and Admty. 0115/15 just received. Other destroyer commitments now necessitate postponement RESOLUTION sailing for several days. (F.O.C.N.A., 1800/17, to C. in C. W.A.)

AGIOS GEORGIOS.

Your 2215/16, confirm AGIOS GEORGIOS, 4248 gross tons, is now for Freetown. (D.T.D. 1836/17 to Consul, St. Vincent, C.V.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.French
Seaplane.

Your 1122/12 (C.in C. A. and W.I. message, French Naval seaplane to join Free French). Seaplane and three airmen proceeding to Africa in NEW NORTHLAND see S. of S's telegram 15/2 to Trinidad Governor and you. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1023/17, to Admty.).

NORTHERN
PRINCE.

Overdue shipping, NORTHERN PRINCE due Capetown about 14/2 from Gibraltar not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1121/17).

SCOTTISH
TRADER
"Q" Report.

Your 1108/30/1 and S.O.I. Capetown's 1046/28/1 Master's report. (D.T.D. 1150/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

EMPIRE
TROOPER.

F.O.C.N.A. 1542/16. Arrival with W.S.6. improbable. Suggesting DOMINION MONARCH be used instead. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty. 1233/17).

COMORIN
S.L.66.

COMORIN to escort S.L.66 till (date) then proceed Greenock in accordance my 1905/8/2. (C.in C. S.A., 1329/17).

CALLIOPE

Panamanian CALLIOPE which left Magallanes 4/2 for Buenos Aires has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1800/17).

DRAGON

Sailed 1800/17th. (Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, 1830/17).

Convoy.

Pointe Noire advises convoy cannot sail from there until 21/2 earliest. CAPO OLMO broke down. Freetown pass to DRAGON (ship ?) has sailed from Lagos. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1830/17).

/ BULOLO, ...
ballast

War Diary.

17.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BULOLO,
ballast

Your 1145/16. Can wood Ballast be removed and steel drums mentioned in (ii) of Admty. 1928/15 be re-stowed in eight days? If not request time to complete. (C. in C. S.A. 2145N/17, to N.O.I.C.Glasgow).

CORFU

My 1133/17/1. Owing to repairs found necessary at Lagos etc., arrival of CORFU at Calcutta will be delayed. (Probable date) (C.in C. S.A., 2235N/17 to C.in C. E.I.).

DELHI

My 1709/13. Refit at Singapore cancelled. To be retained in Cape Area. (V.C.N.S. 2350/17 to C.in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume.

Suspicious ship
sighted off Table
Bay.

Not seen by air search 16/2, 17/2 (Note Simonstown 1640B/17)

Mediterranean.

Constanza,
Mine Zone.

Bucharest broadcast announces danger zone off Constanza (details). Extension 5 miles eastward of an area declared on 30/6/40. (D.S. 531).

W.S.5A.
B.N.15.

Convoy W.S.5A arrived Suez 16/2.
Convoy B.N.15 less CITY OF ROUBAIX arrived Suez 16/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0937/17, to Admty.etc.)

/ German naval
preparations
in Rumania.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)German
naval
preparations
in Rumania.

Following from Reporting Officer Constantza now here

- (a) German Naval personnel in plain clothes housed on two floors of Palace Hotel Constantza.
- (b) Every indication Germans will take over submarine DELFINO also new GALATZ submarines of which first nearing completion and probably other Roumanian fleet units.
- (c) Depot ship at Constantza expected to proceed to Sulina shortly to await first Galatz Submarine. Depot ship has embarked three 4.7 guns.
- (d) Destroyer KING FERDINAND has had her 4.7 armament and torpedo tubes replaced by German. MARASTI and MARASESTI believed guns also replaced.
- (e) 250 German torpedoes reported arrived and stored in naval store on East breakwater.
- (f) No confirmation of reports from our and Polish secret sources of presence of German Vedettes at Constantza. Possibly some on Danube. (Wolffson, Beyoglu 1200/17).

Italian M.V's
sunk by
Swordfish,
UTMOST,
REGENT.* Confirmed from
Italian source
Sunk by REGENT.
C.A.T.
26.11.51.

V.A. Malta reports four Swordfish attacked an escorted merchant vessel southbound near Kerkemaf (? Karkenah) Island on night of 15/16. Ship probably Italian JUVENTUS, 5,000 tons, was sunk by torpedo.

2. On 12/2 UTMOST attacked a westbound escorted convoy 3 ships in 032° 54' N., 012° 09' E. One hit obtained on 8,000 tons merchant ship. Heavy counter attack with bombs and depth charges. Ship still afloat 4 hours later but stern awash and deserted by escort.

3. Now fairly certain it was REGENT who sank CITTA DI MESSINA of Misurata on 15/1.

4. Attacks on Tripoli - Italy route in last 4 weeks by air and submarines have resulted in 5 ships being sunk for certain, 2 almost certainly. In addition one struck a mine off harbour entrance. All ships over 3,000 tons except CITTA DI MESSINA.
(C.in C. Med., 1215/17, to Admty.).Military
Convoy.For Greece. Proposals. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1247/17 to D. of S.T., C.in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

/ COLD HARBOR

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)COLD HARBOR
(U.S. Red
Cross Ship).

COLD HARBOR is making additional call at Seville, Spain, and is unlikely to arrive at Marseilles before about 12/3.
(Air Ministry 1440/17 to A.O.C. in C. M.E. etc.).

Minesweepers
Required.

Small craft suitable for magnetic mine-sweeping are hard to find in Eastern Mediterranean, but search continuing.
Proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1535/17, to Admty.)
Vessels suitable for equipping with Mark 5 LL sweep urgently required in Eastern Meditn. Request report if any can be made available.
(C.in C. Med., 1721/17 to N.O.I.C. Durban.).

Combined services Report Malta up to 1700 hours. 17/2. All times G.M.T.
Eleventh successive night this island raided until early hours of the morning. About 12 raiders carried out individual flights over Malta. No bombs dropped.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1715/17).

Mine
Explosions
and Sweeping.

My 0123/15 and 2234/15 Mine No. 1 B exploded one cable to Westwards of position given. Mine exploded about one cable astern of a Skid towed by drifter at time drifter was firing a burst of Lewis gun into water. Mine might have been acoustic or red magnetic with fine setting.
Unconfirmed report of a second mine in Grand Harbour entrance.
Am handicapped in sweeping operations by (reasons). Request cables for Skids lighters be sent in a warship during operation M.C.8 or in escort for convoy M.W.6. Propose two D.W.1 Wellingtons be flown to Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1910/17 to C.in C.Med.).

LIVERPOOL

Question of her repairs. (V.C.N.S. 2349/17 to C.in C. Med.). See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.CAPETOWN

To boiler clean on arrival at Mombasa using shore assistance if necessary so that work is completed by 23/2.
(C.in C. E.I., 0750Z/17, to Force T.).

Convoy
B.N.F.2.

Sailed 0400Z/17, 5 ships (2 Port Sudan, 3 Suez). (N.C.S.O. Aden 0850/17, 0852Z/17.

Convoy
B.N.16.

Sailed 0500Z/17, 22 ships (3 Port Sudan, 19 Suez). (N.C.S.O. Aden 0910/17).

GRIMSBY
B.N.
Convoy.

Departure GRIMSBY 0910Z/17 for B N (corrupt group) 2.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0918Z/17 to Admty., etc.).

Operation
"Canvas"
Kismayu,
enemy
shipping.

Mo 12941/41

Present position of 16 ships ex Kismayu as far as known to date. ADRIA, SAVOIA, ERMINIA MAZELLA, MANON, LEONARDO DA VINCI, in Mombasa. ASKARI aground seven miles south Brava. MARGHERRA, MONCALIERI (?) and two unknown scuttled in Kismayu. One probably PENSILVANIA at Mogadishu. UCKERMARK sunk. TANNENFELS escaped. KIONGA is only a tug and may (? words omitted) Mogadiscio but cannot have gone far. Two ships are unaccounted for.
(C.in C. E.I., 1026Z/17, to Admty.).

SHOREHAM

Your 1456/15 minesweeping outfit for SHOREHAM is not at Bombay.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 1129Z/17).

HILDA MOLLER

My 0722/13. HILDA MOLLER arrived Colombo 17/2. Master reported Chinese seriously disaffected, and intending to change them at Hong Kong. (C.in C. E.I. 1208Z/17 to Admty.).

/ KANIMBLA ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary..17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)KANIMBLA

My 1118/8. KANIMBLA is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban A.M./20. (C.in C. E.I., 1414Z/17, to KANIMBLA).

CARTHAGE.

Cancel my 0702/16. CARTHAGE proceed now direct to Aden so as to arrive a.m./23. (C.in C. E.I., 1424Z/17).

FORMIDABLE

Proposed operation. (C.in C. E.I. 1758Z/17 to Admty.). See Operations Volume. *p. 95.*

Convoy
B.S.16.

1500 G.M.T./17 11 ships (list).
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1633/17).

Convoy
B.S.F.2.

1100 G.M.T./17. 1⁸ ships (list),
10 with prisoners of war.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1733/17).

MANDALAY
chased by
enemy ship.

British ship ? MANDALAY made a (1) distress message at 1330Z/16 in position 001° 09' N. 048° 25' E. (2) She made an amplifying report at 0440 G.M.T./17 stating she had been chased by a German type ship. (3) HERMES and HAWKINS have been searching vicinity since daylight today. (C.in C. E.I., 2046/17, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

17.2.1941.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Japanese
Transport
Convoy.

B.N.A. Tokyo's 1831/16 (Report of sighting of convoy of Japanese transports). American A.N.A. Shanghai stated he has been informed from same source that 25 vessels only were sighted including destroyer escort. No information whether transports were loaded or not. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 0435/17 to Admty.).

Japanese
Convoy.

My 0311/15.

(i) Convoy of 25 escorted transports sighted 11/2 W. of Sasebo, course S.

(ii) No evidence in Tokyo suggesting preparations for immediate attack on British territory.

(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0716Z/17).

VERA

Overdue shipping, Norwegian tanker VERA due Singapore 14/2 from San Francisco not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0759Z/17 to Admty.).

Mined Area
Malaya.

All areas bounded by the following are dangerous to navigation.

(1) On the north by the parallel 02° 44' N.

(2) On the east by the meridian 104° 30' E.

(3) On the south by the parallel 01° 35' N.

(4) On the west by coast of Malaya.

Mines will be laid in the above area without further notice and vessels wishing to pass through area must apply to British naval authorities for a route. Vessels disregarding these instructions will do so at their risk and peril.

(R.A., Malaya, 0900Z/17 to China Station).

SCOTIA

Understood that Norwegian tanker SCOTIA now at Nagasaki has been ordered by naval authorities to proceed to Hong Kong for orders. Subject to your concurrence it would be preferred that she should complete discharging and then proceed on her voyage to California as previously arranged. (D.T.D., 1854/17 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Ice Report.

Field of ice dangerous to navigation reported between 048° 00' N. 048° 43' W. and 047° 42' N. 047° 57' W.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1037/17, to N.A. Escort Force).

Refitting
of Ships
in U.S.A.

If Lend-Lease Bill becomes law next month and our ships are refitted in U.S.A., Navy Department considers representatives of D.N.C., D.N.O., E. in C. and D.E.E. should be sent to Washington; also suggest necessary to have Liaison Officers at U.S. Navy Yards. Any advance information as to scope of work which may be required to be undertaken would be acceptable.
(N.A., Washington, 1140/17, to Admty.).

B.H.X.110.

Departure B.H.X.110, Ocean escort ALAUNIA returning to Halifax through 44.20 N 60 W. (Com. i/c Bermuda, 1243/17, to Admty. etc.) List of ships without (10) and (11).
(N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1221/17).

HERMION
(Independ-
ently routed.

1628/23/1 HERMION leaves Melbourne 22/2 for M.E. (A.C.N.B. 1249Z/17).

T.C.9.

Halifax departure 17/2 ROYAL SOVEREIGN, T.C.9. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1450/17).

Convoy
Routes.

Your 1236/16. A.M. 1803/21/10/40 refers to indicating Noon position when called for by Commodore. Any other position should also be indicated by this method. Risk suggested must be accepted but it is advisable not to follow the convoy route too closely in allocating secret positions.
(D.T.D., 1535/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.110
RAMILLIES.

Your 2249/15. Suggesting amended R.V. (R.A.3., 1705/17 to Admty. etc.).

/ Camouflage of
ships at night ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17. 2. 1941
MondayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)Camouflage
of ships
at night.

A scheme has been devised in Canada whereby a ship may be rendered nearly invisible at night. Description of scheme and tests carried out. Earnestly request matter may receive T.L.'s consideration and early opportunity demonstrate scheme. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1721/17).

SEVERN

F.O.S.1938/15. (Presumably 1938/15 from C.in C. W.A. intended.) Inform Adty. of return route SEVERN has been ordered to follow after parting company from S.C.22. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1752/17 to R.A.3.).

NEWARK
WELLS

Arrived here 2030 today. Minor engine defects may delay departure. (N.O.I.C., St. John's N.F. 2011/17 to F.O. 3 B.S.).

Australia.Suspicious
Vessels.

When in 009° 48' S. 153° 15' E. at approx. 0200Z/16 R.A.A.F. Flying boat sighted 2 unidentified vessels steering 180° on parallel track about 6 miles apart. (Particulars). Search by three aircraft commencing dawn/17 failed to locate either vessel. (A.C.N.B., 1200Z/17.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.At Kismayu.Present position. (C.in C. E.I.,
1026Z/17) See East Indies.SPEZIAArrivals 19/2 SPEZIA Gandia.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2000/17.).ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.At Kismayu.Present position.
(C.in C. E.I., 1026Z/17) See East Indies.

MOST SECRET.17.2.41.
Monday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

ARTHUR F. CORWIN
(torpedoed 13/2).
A/S operations in
co-operation with
R.A.F. to be
undertaken.

Your 1154/14. Not considered that A/S sweeps can be a really effective counter to the U-Boat menace though well worth carrying out under the conditions envisaged. To be really effective it is considered that an A/S Striking Force must work in the closest co-operation with the R.A.F. and it is intended to employ such forces as soon as the necessary training in A.S.V. and intercommunication has been carried out. If state of escorts permits hope to be able to initiate this type of operation during the next month.

It may well prove possible on occasions to co-ordinate the movements of H.F. Destroyers with these hunting operations and any such collaboration should prove most valuable.

(C.in C. W.A. 0210/17 to C.in C. H.F.).

W.B. WALKER
(torpedoed 29/1).

Abandon search. SOUTHERN PRIDE return to Belfast, ST.OLAVES to Loch Ewe, SALVONIA to Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1652/17).

SHAFTESBURY
(?)

British 4284 tons. Following has been read. SSSS
From SALVONIA at 1930 G.M.T., heard SSSS 59.53 N., 12.13 W., QRJ SHAFTESBURY torpedoed. (Lyness, 1940/17).

SIAMESE PRINCE.

British, 8456 tons, (sailing independently New York to Liverpool). Have intercepted mutilated W/T signal (begins) Torpedoed 059° 51' N. 012° 13' W. (Ends). My position 060° 54' N. 012° 44' W. Am proceeding towards position indicated. E.T.A. 0200/18. Awaiting your instructions.
(VISENDA, 2050/17, to S.O.N.T.) (D.S., 532).
Detach 1 trawler to assistance of ship torpedoed in 059° 53 (sic.) N. 012° 13' W. at 2030/17. Ship detached report name at first available opportunity.
SALVONIA tug also ordered to proceed.
(C.in C. W.A., 2111/17, to ARROW).

/ My 2111/17. ...

MOST SECRET.17. 2. 1941.
Monday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)SIAMESE PRINCE.
(Contd.)

My 2111/17. SALVONIA not proceeding.
(C.in C. W.A., 2203/17, to ARROW).
Following has been read.
SSSS 59.51 N., 12.13 W., SIAMESE PRINCE
torpedoed 1932/17 de Zuwe 2152/17.
(Lyness, T.O.R. 2257/17).
Proceed to assistance of steamship
torpedoed 059° 53' (sic) N. 012° 13' W.
at 1940/17. 1 trawler has been detached
by ARROW to assist.
(C.in C. W.A., 2303/17 to MISTRAL).
My 1652. SOUTHERN PRIDE and ST. OLAVES
proceed as ordered. SALVONIA proceed
when weather moderates to assistance of
SIAMESE PRINCE torpedoed in position
59° 52' (sic) N. 12° 13' W. at 2032 today.
Trawler has been detached to this position.
Report when you proceed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2333/17, to SALVONIA).

Submarines Reported.

1127. D.F., Italian S/M in 046° 30' N., 004° W.
Good Fix. (F.O.(S) 1206/17, to RIGRIS).

0009. About 48.30 N., 20° - 22° W., very
indefinite. (D.S., 531).

1157. About 56° N., 21.30 W. (German)
indefinite. (D.S. 532).

1757. About 56° N., 20° W. (German)
indefinite. (D.S. 532).

1945. About 50° N., 8.30 W. (German)
indefinite. (D.S. 532).

/ Estimated U/B
dispositions.

War Diary.17.2.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)Estimated U/B
dispositions.German.

One 60° N. - 61° N. 18° W. - 23° W.

One 60 miles of 58° N. 22° 30' W.

One 40 miles of 56° N. 23° 30' W.

One 48° 30' N. 20° W. 0009/17 may be
outward bound from Finisterre.

Possibly one 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 21° W.

Possibly one 90 miles of 53° N. 25° W.

One 48° N. - 50° N. 30° W. - 33° W.

One 90 miles of 37° N. 20° W.

Italian.

One 46° 30' N. 4° W. probably patrolling.

No information of others.

(D.D.I.C. 1335/17).

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.2.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsADMIRAL HIPPER
(Cruiser) at
Brest.Photographs taken today show the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER
~~class~~ (cruiser) in dock at Brest.Sweep for
CruiserEDINBURGH and NIGERIA returned to Scapa
this evening from patrol of the Iceland-
Faeroes passage.U-Boats on
Northern
Approach route.Two more ships have been torpedoed on the
Northern Approach route; SS SIAMESE PRINCE
at 1932/17 in 59° 51' N., 12° 13' W., and
SS BLACK OSPREY at 0231/18 in approx. 61°
13' N., 18° 10' W., SS SEAFORTH was
torpedoed this evening in 58° 48' N., 18°
17' W.E-Boats.E-Boats were suspected in the Thames
Approaches tonight.Enemy
MovementsSTURGEON on patrol has been informed that
W/T intelligence suggests convoy movements
and naval activity between the Skagerrak
and Bergen in the near future.

possibly

British Air ActivityIn order to obtain the maximum information
of day movement of enemy shipping an air
patrol is to be carried out twice daily
between Ushant and Guernsey when weather
conditions give sufficient protection from
enemy fighters.

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.2.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Yarmouth was bombed again early this morning and the Naval Base was damaged. The Admiralty are concerned at the number of attacks by single aircraft on Lowestoft and Yarmouth. The safety of shipping using the East Coast Channel is dependent on the efficiency of mine sweeping and A.A. craft based on these harbours, and they have asked the C. in C., Home Forces to take action. *There are no AA defences of any sort ashore at Yarmouth.*

A.P. Trawler SARONTA was attacked and damaged off Lowestoft this evening.

M/S Trawler STELLA RIGEL reports having shot down an enemy A/C at 0400 today off Felixtowe. A large red flash as if an aircraft exploded was seen by numerous observers at the time.

SS TARIA was bombed and machine gunned this morning in the N.W. Approaches and was damaged. *She had become separated from HX107 and was 250 miles off her route.*

Convoy F.S. was attacked east of Felixtowe but no damage is reported.

R.V. Yard Deptford suffered slight damage from incendiary bombs last night.

War Diary18.2.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTMining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between the North Foreland and Harwich, in the Bristol Channel and Liverpool Bay. Estimated 100 aircraft engaged.

Mines were exploded today off the Humber. A parachute mine^s reported on the beach at Naze at low water.

Tyne was not opened until 1627, owing to minesweepers being unable to operate this forenoon.

Barry Roads East was reopened at 1214, and Campbeltown Loch at 1040.

Attack on Convoy S.L.S. 64 by Raider

Out of 19 ships in Convoy S.L.S. 64 it now appears fairly certain that 7 were sunk in the attack 12/2. Six have arrived at Funchal, one at Gibraltar and two at the Azores, and 3 which were separated from the convoy are not accounted for.

Operations Against Vichy French

SS FORT
RICHEPANSE,
P.L.M. 13
and LORIENT
Intercepted.

REGISTAN boarded Vichy French SS FORT RICHEPANSE at noon today in 30° 47' N., 18° 59' W., and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard. MARSDALE intercepted SS P.L.M. 13 at 2000 and SS LORIENT at 2359 in 28° 12' N., 12° 23' W., and is bringing them to Gibraltar. P.L.M. 13 made S.O.S. and MARSDALE reported that both ships intended to scuttle.

MOST SECRETWar Diary18.2.1941.
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanSuez Canal
Closed

Parachute mines were dropped last night in the outer channel of the Canal at Port Said. There were 9 explosions near Fayid.

25 objects, of which 10 are believed to be mines and the remainder probably mine covers or unexploded bombs were dropped in the Suez Canal this morning. The Canal will probably have to be closed for 7 days. Trawling and sweeping are to begin tomorrow.

It is reported from a source considered reliable, that two convoys of German ships escorted by German aircraft passed Tunis on 15/2 proceeding towards Tripoli (Africa)

Air
Operations

A single Wellington dropped 2760 lbs of bombs on Rhodes harbour last night.

Enemy aircraft made two minelaying attacks on Benghazi harbour today and suffered losses in so doing, from Australian Hurricanes and from A.A.Fire.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K."Deluge"
DELUGE:At 1130/18 (D.C. 1159/18) At 2330/18
(D.C. 2350/18).Sheerness,
Yarmouth
and Lowestoft
A/A Defences.

N.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1110/18. Feared that German Air Force will now look on ROYAL ARTHUR, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft as soft spots by reason of their very weak A/A defence. In that event continued bombing must be expected. Yarmouth and Lowestoft are of high importance because neither warships nor convoys can move on the east coast unless sweepers from those ports continue to operate efficiently and without interruption, vide Nore Letter 683/169F/40 of 12/2/41. Request serious consideration to the early improvement of A/A defences at these places.
(C. in C. Nore 1746/18).

0.3339 18/2. Following from Adty:-
Adty are concerned regarding number of attacks by single aircraft on Lowestoft and Yarmouth.

(2) Safety of shipping using East Coast Channels is dependent on efficiency of minesweeping and auxiliary patrol craft based on these harbours.

(3) Request practicability of ~~CIRCUS~~ "Circus" paying a visit may be examined. Ends.
In addition to the one troop which has been at Lowestoft for the last fortnight please consider giving protection Yarmouth.
(Hofo 1908/18 to Eastco).

Aultbea.
Guard
Loop laid.LINNET reports outer guard loop laid.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1900/18).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.SOKOL.Sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR as by S.3's
1209/14.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0930/18).SURCOUF.
THUNDERBOLT.Intend to sail SURCOUF and THUNDERBOLT
escorted by WESTON at 1600/19 to 57° 30'N.
10° 00'W. E.T.A. 1930/20. Thence WESTON
to Londonderry, Submarines to Northwestwards
as routed by F.O.S. 1549/14 and C. in C. W.A
1938/15.
(S.2. 1013/18).QUEEN ELIZABETH.
DIDO.
SOMALI.QUEEN ELIZABETH will sail from Rosyth
for Scapa p.m./20.
A.A. escort DIDO, A/S screen SOMALI and
2 destroyers detailed by V.A.(D) H.F.
SOMALI is at Rosyth. Remaining ships
are to proceed under orders of DIDO to
arrive at Rosyth a.m./20.
(C. in C. H.F. 1039/18).MAIDSTONE.Adty 1506/16. Following received from
MAIDSTONE. Anticipate MAIDSTONE can
sail for Clyde 48 hours after arrival
of TYNE. Estimate ten days in hand required.
(F.O.S. 1102/18 to Adty).
Reference Admiralty 1506/16. No labour
is available at present to undertake defects
covering ten days.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1504/18 to F.O.S).
Adty 1506/16. Request very early decision.
(R.A.D. 1512/18 to Adty).PANDORA.My 1215/16. Sailing of PANDORA postponed
at least 24 hours.
(S.5. 1115/18).COTTESMORE.Sail COTTESMORE for Sheerness forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 1234/18 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

/KELLY.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18;2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (contd).KELLY.
KASHMIR.
KIPLING.

Arrived Plymouth 1005. (C. in C. Plymouth 1348/18).

INTREPID.
IMPULSIVE.
ICARUS.Arrived 1020.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1355/18).ALCANTARA.My 1615/7 and my 2258/16, F.O.I.C. Southampton's 1217/17 and F.O.C.N.P.'s 2214/17. Unless ALCANTARA can arrive Clyde in time to carry out the firings ordered in para. 3 of my 1615/7 and be ready to sail p.m./2/3, her sailing from the Clyde must be deferred. It cannot be accepted that she should proceed abroad without having carried out any practice firing.
(A.C.N.S.F. 1402/18).Northern
Patrol.Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1541/18).S/M's.Positions at 0800/19 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1707/18).PRIMROSE.My 1600/18. Add PRIMROSE left Tyne 1745 for Methil. E.T.A. about 0100/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1752/18).REPULSE.A.S. Rosyth's 1929/17. Item (ii), embark such boiler tubes as will enable this item to be completed elsewhere; also any spare gear necessary to complete other important defects.
(C. in C. H.F. 2154/18 to REPULSE).CACHALOT.Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1000/19 to R/V with CACHALOT in 315° Cape Wrath 8 miles at 0800/20 and escort her to the Clyde.
(S.2. 2352/18).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Hook of
Holland
and Gap E.
Sweeps by
M.T.B's.

Weather permitting three Motor Torpedo Boats are to proceed to charted position Maas Light Vessel and then close Hook on silent engine.

If nothing is found M.T.Bs. should then sweep to eastwards if endurance permits. Any ship met east of 002° 20' East may be attacked without challenging.

(C. in C. Nore 1146/18 to BEEHIVE).

My 1146/18. After "weather permitting" add "tonight 18th".

In addition two M.T.B's will carry out sweep from inner Gabbard through Gap E to Brown Ridge and back by same route.

All M.T.B's sail about 1800/18 returning daylight/19.

(C. in C. Nore 1508/18 to BEEHIVE, and 1742/18 to VANESSA, GARTH).

Sailed WIDGEON, M.T.Bs. 32, 34, 31, 42 and 43 at 1818.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1846/18).

Patrol of
Iceland-Faroes
Passage.

Scapa arrivals EDINBURGH 1617 NIGERIA 1619.

(A.C.O.S. 1629/18).

British Air Activity.Search for
Mines.

Cancel my 2230/17. One Sunderland from Sullom Voe to vicinity 61° 15'N. 18° 10'W. E.T.A. 1100/18 to search for about 3 hours. (C. in C. Rosyth 0458/18).

Nord Fjord.

Three Beaufort Aircraft leave Wick about 1200 to attack any enemy vessels near Nord Fjord.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1134/18).

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (contd).Patrols.

One Whitley A/C will fly coastwise from St. Abbs to Flamborough Head. Expect depart 1430. E.T.A. about 1515.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1358/18).

Enemy shipping along Northern French Coast appears to move by day.

2. It is intended to obtain the maximum information of day movement.
3. One Blenheim to carry out patrol BUST twice daily between Ushant and Guernsey when in the opinion of the pilot existing weather conditions give sufficient protection from enemy fighters.
4. The times and direction of the patrol must be kept as irregular as possible to increase security but, subject to weather, the patrols should normally be flown as nearly as possible to dawn and dusk having regard to the need for irregularity.
(N.W.D. H.Q. 19 Group 1757/18 to St. Eval).

Escorts.

No fighter escort tonight. Keep kites flying.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1630/18 to FOWEY, HORNPIPE).

Expect Air escort throughout daylight tomorrow Wednesday from 0815 by one Whitley relieved by one Sunderland.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1816/18 to WANDERER, WITCH, MONTGOMERY, NASTURTIUM).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C
believed
exploded
off Aldeburgh.
STELLA RIGEL.

Coast Guard Aldeburgh reports at 0404, 155° from lookout and 135° from Orfordness C.G. lookout a large red flash in sky believed to be aircraft exploded. Sparks seen as object appeared to fall. Heavy explosion also heard. Also reported by Orfordness H.S. and H.U. Patrol and SHELDRAKE. At 0418 D.O. Walton reports red glow just above surface bearing 125° distant followed by heavy explosion. Also reported by SHELDRAKE, Coast Guard Clacton, Patrols H.Q. and H.L.2. and Capt D 16.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0520/18).

/My.....

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Enemy A/C
believed
exploded
off Aldeburgh.
STELLA RIGEL.
(contd).

My 0520 STELLA RIGEL reports ~~having~~ definitely shot down an enemy plane with her oerlikon gun at 0400 to-day in approximate position 51° 57'N. 01° 35'E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044/18).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Air raid damage Yarmouth 0400/18. Direct hit WATCHFUL. Building demolished, not repairable. Other minor damages to Admiralty properties estimated £28. (Works, Shotley 1205/18). Naval Base damaged by bomb. Staff evacuated into dug-out. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1723/18) During final raid of night by 2 planes at 0545/18 a direct hit was registered on Naval base demolishing the top floors and necessitating evacuation of building. Casualties nil. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1810/18).

TARIA.

M03087/41.

(Dutch Tanker, 10,354 Tons) Bombed in 55° 4'N. 16° 12'W. (Valentia Radio 1023/18). TARIA machine-gunned. (Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 1142/18). Detach 1 Corvette to assist if necessary. (C. in C. W.A. 1225/18 to LEAMINGTON.). S.O.S. from TARIA now ended. (Port Patrick Radio 1232/18). Sailed ASSURANCE and SEAMAN from Campbeltown to assist. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1405/18). Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1624/18 to ASSURANCE, SEAMAN). Your 1225/18 and N.O.i/c Greenock 1405/18. Am escorting TARIA whose compasses are out of action and making water slowly. My position course and speed are 055° 12'N. 015° W. 080° 7. Master states tug not required. (SABRE 1801/18 to C. in C. W.A).

Convoy
F.S. Odd.

Convoy ^{"Booby"} BOOBY being shadowed by one aircraft 1000 ft. in 52° 1'N. 1° 45'E. (VALOROUS 1028/18) (HURRICANE 1030/18). Convoy being attacked in 52° N. 1° 45'E. (PELICAN 1041/18).

/R.V. Yard.....

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

R.V. Yard
Deptford
bombed 17/2.

A number of incendiary bombs fell on this yard last night. 2 small fires started in Block 17 but quickly overcome by yard personnel and R.M. Police. Some damage to stock, chiefly towels. Some local records damaged by fire and water. (Supt R.V.Y. Deptford 1030/18).

Bawdsey
Area.

Following received from R.A.F. Bawdsey begins:- Enemy aircraft flying in area covered by joining following points. Numerous aircraft flying at 5000 feet and less operated in this area throughout the night. Ends 0950. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1035/18).

Shetlands
on 17/2.

Following received from N.O.i/c., Lerwick. Begins:- One Dornier flying pencil appeared over Lerwick at 1220 and dropped two bombs on shore of north harbour. 2 more bombs dropped near Greenhead and two on Bressay Island near A/A guns. These latter have not yet exploded. A/C then machine-gunned A/P trawler LORD BEACONSFIELD off the south entrance and then made off to the eastward. Fighters failed to intercept. 3 military personnel received slight cuts and two of crew of LORD BEACONSFIELD grazed by splinters. Damage entirely superficial but trawlers D. G. wires cut in several places. T.O.O. 1616/17 ends. (A.C.O.S. 1105/18).

SARONTA.
(A/P Trawler)
damaged.

At 1640 off Lowestoft SARONTA was attacked by Dornier and received damaged by two near misses. Now returned to harbour. Fire consequently opened by ships in harbour, and enemy possibly hit. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1920/18).

Attack on
Invergordon
17/2.
Request for
Investigation.

F.O.I.C. Invergordon, reports that at 1140 17/2 E.A. recognised as JU 88 entered Cromarty Firth between Sutors at 100 ft, attacked oil tanks with bombs at 50 ft, then with M.G. R.A.F. camp, a Sunderland aircraft at moorings and A/P trawler. No fire was opened and no warning given; 2. No casualties to Naval personnel. One oil tank demolished, two damaged. Loss of oil estimated at at least, 2000 tons. 3. Request matter may be investigated and Admiralty informed of measures which it is proposed to take to reduce risk of repetition of such incidents. (D. of L.D. 2022/18 to Air Ministry).

War Diary.

18.2. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Campbeltown.

Campbeltown Loch now open. Ships should not exceed 6 knots entering harbour. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1040/18).

ZME. 18.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1715 to-day to lay at 2330 returning on completion about 0530/19. (PLOVER 1042/18).

Sweep of Gap A.

Following received from M.S.5. in amplification of his 0110/17. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/18).

Tyne.

Tyne remains closed. Minesweepers unable to operate. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1137/18).
Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1627/18).

Barry Roads.

My 1404/10. Ships may now anchor in Barry Roads East of 3° 16' West. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1214/18).

JAMAICA PLANTER. (mined 22/1).

My 1720/22/1. M.V. JAMAICA PLANTER has now been placed in the Barry Dock. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1258/18).

Walton.

C.G. Walton reports 1 parachute mine on beach at Naze at low water mark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1340/18 1945/18).

Minelaying off Brest.

(Operation "A")

Admiralty letter M/O.D. 2017/41 on 13/2/41. Intend carrying out operation A as amended by Admiralty Message 1349/17 between 0030 and 0130/20. Request H.Q.B.C. may carry out a diversionary bombing attack on Brest during lay and for as long as possible up to three hours before 0030/20. (ii) KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING will cover 20. D.F. (C. in C. Plymouth 1344/18).

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Minelaying
off Brest.
(contd).

7 destroyers proceed southward from position 180⁰, The Lizard five at 1930/19 and leave vicinity Ushant about 0200/20 direct Plymouth.

Request PANDORA may keep clear.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1822/18 to F.O.S).

C. in C. Plymouth 1344/18.

1. Three destroyers from Plymouth will be carrying out a minelaying operation off Brest between 0030 and 0130/20.

2. Request diversionary bombing attack on Brest from as soon after 2130/19 as possible until 0130/20.

3. It is not intended that this diversion should take precedence over major object of air attack on the harbour and gardening in the approaches to Brest.

(A.C.N.S(H) 2234/18). *Operation completed (p. 664)*

Humber mines.

The following three mines exploded to-day. Particulars.

(F.O.Humber 1835/18).

S.N. 7B.
S.N. 68 A.

Scapa arrival 1914 AURORA.

(A.C.O.S. 1921/18).

Arrival Port ZA 2155/18 SOUTHERN PRINCE, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, CHARLESTOWN.

(TRELAWNEY 2157/18).

Scapa departure 2200 ARETHUSA.

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

At 1345 sighted small M.Y. of about 30 T. Flying I.F.S. colours in $56^{\circ} 14' N.$ $8^{\circ} 4' W.$ CO 132^o SP 8 Knots a somewhat suspicious circumstance in the navigators view. A/C report. (Aldergrove 1545/18).

2 Vessels
off Fair
Isle.

Following have not been identified One small slow vessel bearing 332^o, distance 4 miles Course 190^o at 0230/17. One small slow vessel bearing 325^o distance 8 miles Course 060^o at 0730/17. Both from Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S. 1803/18).

E.Boat.

Suspect E boat between 56 and 57 buoy at 2035. (C. in C. Nore 2103/18).

Skagerrack
to Bergen.

W/T Intelligence suggest convoy movements and naval activity between Skagerrack and Bergen possibly in the near future. (D.D.I.C. 1910/18) (F.O.S. 2253/18 to STURGEON).

Miscellaneous.

Iceland.
Uncharted
rock.

Uncharted rock discovered in $064^{\circ} 11' 22'' N.$ $021^{\circ} 52' 50'' W$ depth $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms at low water. Position marked by Dan buoy. (F.O. Iceland 1237/18).

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Turkish
Ferry Boats.

Seven Turkish Ferry Boats waiting in Clyde are urgently required in Turkey. Request you co-ordinate arrangements to sail them with special escort at first favourable opportunity. Escort is required to vicinity of 25° W. whence they should proceed independently to Madeira for onward routeing via the Cape. (D.T.D. 1157/18 to C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock).

W/T
Oscillation.

Admty. 1906/29/10. Arrangements have now been made with Ministry of Shipping for W/T surveyors to ascertain what foreign merchant ships assembling for convoy have W/T apparatus liable to oscillate badly, and report cases not remedied. N.C.S.O.'s at U.K. Ports where W/T surveyors are acting should establish necessary liaison with these Officers. (D.T.D. 1301/18 to A.I.G. 47).

A.M.S.I. 170.

Attention of Masters to be called to A.M.S.I. 170 compliance with which is considered to be of great importance. (D.T.D. 2013/18 to A.I.G. 47).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 73.

0315/18. Escorts. 22 Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 0337/18) List 0748/18). Deletion (N.C.S.O Methil 1452/18) TENNESSEE to join (N.S.S.O. Aberdeen 1541/18). Absentees and addition (C. in C. Rosyth 1633/18) Position (ELLESMERE 1940/18).

F.N. 11. 4"

Sailed 0855, 38 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1101/18) List (1214/18) 2 ships sailed. (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1531/18) Ships joining Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1719/18).

/O.B.U. 287.....

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

O.B.U. 287. Delayed sailing pending WANDERER's arrival at Loch Ewe. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0840/18). 1700/18, escort ROMSEY, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1830/18) List (1910/18).

8 M.V's To sail 1630/18. Escorts (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0846/18) Sailed (1640/18, 1648/18)

O.B.C. 289; 0230/21. 7 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0911/18).

F.N. and F.S. Cancelling 1942/16. Additional escorts F.N. 11-16 and F.S. 16-20. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1058/18, 1020/20)

F.S. 12. 412 My 1907/17. BUSIRIS arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1132/18).

F.S. 16. 416 A/S trawlers to join. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1204/18) Sailed 1400/18. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1445/18) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1547/18) Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18)

E.N.U. 73. 0700/20, unescorted, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1247/18).

E.N. 74. 0715/19, escorts, 15 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1247/18) SLEIPNER sailing cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 2145/18).

2 M.V's. Admty 1145/10. A/S escort (C. in C. Plymouth 1316/18).

F.S. 13. 413 Position, 8 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1359/18) Arrived (1907/18).

O.B.O. 288. 0700/19, escort SNOWDROP, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/18).

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 85. Arrived 1515/18. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1604/18) (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18).

F.S. 16.416 Tug ST. MELLONS, to join (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1700/18) No ships from Tyne area. (C. in C. Rosyth 1709/18) 3 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1724/18).

E.N. 75. SNAPDRAGON as additional close escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 1717/18).

F.N. 10.410 Diversions from Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Blyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1807/18).

13 M.V.'s To sail 1830/19. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1814/18).

W.N. 87. 2146/18. Escorts. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2221/18).

F.S. 17.417 Left. Escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 2356/18).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C. 21. Arrived with VOLUNTEER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0725/18) Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1016/18, 1025/18, N.C.S.O. Mersey 1720/18, N.C.S.O. Belfast 1725/18).

S.L.S. 64. Asking when ships now at Funchal will be ready to sail. (D.T.D. 1239/18 to Consul Funchal). Your 1239/18. BLAIR ATHOLL ready for sea, original destination Middlesbrough. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1941/18 - circulated under T.O.O. 1941/17) For Ships lost from S.L.S. 64, see North Atlantic.

S.L. 66. Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1200/18).

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

- H.X. 106. Clyde arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0845/18) TORBORG arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1505/18) Mersey arrivals (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1730/18).
- H.G. 54. Postponed 24 hours, weather (F.O.C.N.A 0944/18).
- H.G. 55. 27 hours late (C. in C. W.A. 1018/18 to LEAMINGTON, SABRE, etc).
- H.X. 107. Deletions (D.T.D. 1158/18) LEEDS UNITED to meet (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1842/18).
- H.X. 108. Not met, position (RODNEY, 1400Z/18) Cancel my 1400. Located in 56.13 N., 35.17 W (RODNEY , 1755Z/18).
- O.B. 288. List, destinations and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1615/18) Sailed 1625/18, 9 ships (1659/18).
- S.L. 64. My 1808/13. Final destinations (D.T.D. 1717/18, 1718/18).
- H.X. 111. Destinations (D.T.D. 1723/18).
- S.C. 23. Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1423/18).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

FORTH
BATORY.

Your 2249/15. A/S escort for FORTH and BATORY will be provided. (C. in C. W.A. 2051/18).

War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.BOY ALAN.

(L.L. Sweeper) Wreck raised and now beached 060° 1½ cables from Southend pierhead. Operations proceeding. (N.C.S.O. Thames 0853/18).

CORYTON.
(Grounded
16/2)
EMPIRE BREEZE.

My 1112 and 1620/16. Position of CORYTON precarious. All crew safely landed except master who remained on board and was subsequently washed overboard and drowned before lifeboat could be sent. Salvage vessel BULLER has been directed to proceed from Amble to CORYTON after Salvage of EMPIRE BREEZE is completed. EMPIRE BREEZE is ready for refloating when weather moderates. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/18).

ELECTRA.

A/S directing gear out of action. Request repair yard may be allocated and the following defects made good. (R.A.D. 1415/18).

Lifeboat
and 2 Bodies.

NORTHERN SUN reports sighting waterlogged metal lifeboat in 59° 51'N, 12° 13'W. at 1300/18. Continuing search. (S.O. Northern Trawlers 1447/18). My 1300. Recovered 2 unidentified bodies both in officers uniform. Request instructions. (NORTHERN SUN 1830/18 to S.O. N. Trawlers.).

BARRHEAD
(Grounded
29/12)

My 1151/14/1. Am making further attempt at salvage with local resources. Slight chance the ship may be got off at next spring tide, or one after. (F.O. Iceland 1737/18).

Wrecks.

182 Q.Z.H. Stornoway Area. Dangerous wreck reported in 58° 17' N. 07° 28'W. (Hydrographer 1830/18).

184 Q.Z.H. Yarmouth area. Wreck with Spar showing 3 ft. at low water, reported in 52° 47' 45" N. 01° 44' 30" E. (Hydrographer 2206/18).

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

FORT
RICHEPANSE

Boarded French ship FORT RICHEPANSE in position 030° 47' N. 018° 59' W. at 1200 B.S.T. Ship steering 076° speed 8 knots, one engine out of order, salvaged two bags confidential Vichy mail. Sending into Gibraltar with armed guard and accompanying ship until further orders. (REGISTAN, 1230/18, to Admty.).

North Atlantic.

S.L.S.64
attacked by
raider 12/2.

Following 7 ships are now believed to have been sunk -
WARLABY 4876 tons. Oil cake.
SHREWSBURY 4542 tons. Wheat.
WESTBURY 4712 tons. Cotton seed, oil cake.
OSWESTRY GRANGE 4684 tons. General.
DERRYNANE 4896 tons. Iron ore.
PERSEUS (Greek) 5172 tons. General.
BORGESTAD (Nor.) 3924 tons. Cotton.
The Norwegian BUR and British LORNASTON have arrived St. Miguel, Azores, and it is hoped that four other ships separated from the convoy may be safe, which with the ships already known to have arrived, would make a total of 12 ships saved and 7 probably sunk. (D.S. 532, 18/2).
Subsequent to above summary:-

VARANGBERG

(Norwegian) Arrived Gibraltar 17/2 (F.O.C.N.A., 1103/18). This left 3 ships unaccounted for - NAILSEA LASS, EMPIRE ENERGY, and Greek KALLIOPI.

SHEFFIELD

Gibraltar 18/2 0900 departure SHEFFIELD E.T.A. position 030° 46' N. 022° 03' W. 1200 zone minus one 20/2 in accordance with Admty. 1755/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/18, to Admty. etc.).

/ Your 1708/17. ...

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SHEFFIELD
(Contd.)

Your 1708/17. SHEFFIELD is to return to Gibraltar on reaching 50° N. or earlier if fuel necessitates, in accordance with A.T. 2005/14 para. 2. (D.O.D.(F) 1622/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Air Report.

Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group, 1700/18).

ARK ROYAL

My 2319/16, report what bombs, etc. were used by ARK ROYAL's aircraft on these occasions, and whether correct tests and drills were carried out. (D.N.A.D. 1738/18, to S.O. Force H).

P.L.M.13
(French)
Distress
Message.

Following has been received. S.O.S. de CNM (Casa Blanca) Position 28.12 N., 12.25 W. (Portishead Radio, 1745/18). DE EABX RAMON ALONSO begins S.O.S. from P.L.M. - 13/ - F.O.S.D. Position 28.12 N. 12.25 W. J1745 G.M.T. Comandante Bergoin. (Valentia Radio, 1918/18). RAMON ALONSO R., Spanish. P.L.M. 13 was reported passing Gibraltar on 12/2. (D.S. 533).
Following picked up by amateur at 2020 G.M.T. between 75 and 85 Mtrs. S.O.S. R.M.M. 13 position A 28.12 North 12.25 West - 1744 G.M.T. (Portishead Radio, T.H.I. 2338/18).

War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.NORTHERN
PRINCE.Overdue shipping, Cancel my 1121/17.
NORTHERN PRINCE arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1007B/18).*N.T. in W.D.*TOUAREG
CAPO OLMO
CAP DES
PALMES
DRAGONYour 1045/16 Request you will retain
TOUAREG at Pointe Noire until CAPO OLMO or
CAP DES PALMES is ready to sail and then
sail both ships in company to rendezvous
with DRAGON in position previously arranged
for 19/2 at 0800/25. Request confirmation
that TOUAREG has not already sailed.
(C.in C. S.A., 1016/18 to S.N.O. Pointe
Noire). *See also next page.*CLAN
MACTAVISHOverdue shipping. CLAN MACTAVISH due
Capetown 14/2 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1115B/18).LANCINGYour 1847/15 (Norwegian whaling factory
LANCING to proceed Falkland Islands).
Ship sailed p.m./17 and is due Port Stanley
26/2. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro
1128/18 to Admty.).Cable
Repairs.LADY DENISON PENDER now at Freetown
proceeds A.M./19 for important repair
Freetown-Ascension cable in position 008°
19' N. 014° 03' W. time required 7 days
maximum probably less. Further signal will
be made ref. your 1934/16. *See Ops Vol. Page 90.*
(C.in C. S.A., 1325N/18, to Admty.).*N.T. in W.D.*PHILOMELYour 1912Z/12. Every effort is to be made to
hasten date of A.S.I.S. PHILOMEL release
which should not be later than 1/6.
(D.T.S.D. 1737/18 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).AFRIC STAROverdue at Cape Verde from Montevideo since
31/1 (raider signal on 29/1), now presumed
lost. (D.S. 533).

/ CALLIOPE ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CALLIOPE

Overdue shipping, Panama CALLIOPE has arrived Campana. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2147Z/18).

Proposed
Operations.

Reply to Admty. 1934/16. (C.in C. S.A. 2215N/18) See Operation Volume.

COMORIN
S.L.66.

Departure 1331/18 COMORIN as Ocean escort to Convoy SL 66 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C.in C. S.A.'s 1329/17. Local A/S escort SURPRISE, CLEMATIS, PICT, KELT. (S.O.I. Freetown 2327/18 to Admty.).

CAP DES
PALMES
FORT DE
TROYON
TOUAREG
CAPO OLMO
TOMBOCTOU
CUBA
INDOCHINOIS
CHATEAU ROUX

Condition of Free French Merchant Ships in West African area.

For decision whether these ships before being sailed for U.K. if required

(A) In Convoy

(B) Independently

should be degaussed have gun fitted and ammunition supplied and be docked and repaired as necessary. Consider no ship should be sailed independently without degaussing and arming and preferable all should be so fitted. Degaussing and L.A. armament can be fitted in union ports. CHATEAU ROUX is loaded and at Freetown as reported in N.C.S.O. Freetown's? 1404/13. (C.in C. S.A. 2357/18 to Adty.).

See previous page.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

18.2.1941.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta
a/c raid,
Minelaying,
14/2.Valetta harbour and approaches.
2030/14.

About 10 enemy aircraft believed J U 88 made coast at 10000 feet and then glided along it to heights varying between 300 and 2000 feet. Mines released over land and drifted to seaward. Mines rather scattered. Other aircraft bombed using flares illumination. Two landed in Senglea just missing dockyard and one landed in Valetta. Damage considerable.
(V.A. Malta, 0920/18).

DELPHINIUM,
PRIMULA, ERICA,
SNAPDRAGON.

C.in C. W.A. 1204/16. In view of pressing need for these vessels in Mediterranean, request fitting of awning and tropical gear may be deferred until arrival Alexandria, necessary gear being forwarded by freight.
(C.in C. Med. 1018/18).

TETRARCH
ROVER

After passing 033° 25', 025° 00' TETRARCH is proceeding through 033° 00', 028° 25' thence direct to arrive Sanctuary 0500/20. ROVER arrives Alexandria 1000/19. ILEX and HASTY arrive Alexandria A.M./19 from 034° 00', N. 026° 00'. E.
(Capt. S.1, 1201/18, to TETRARCH, ROVER).

Benghazi,
enemy air
raids and
mining.Operational summary 0.253 up to 1200 hours
18/2/41.1. Egypt. Night 15/16. Enemy bombed Benghazi, 2 mines in Harbour, 1 exploded.

Night 16/17. Enemy bombed Benghazi area. 1 mine dropped in Harbour exploded.

Suez Canal
mining.

Night 17/18. Enemy dropped parachute mines in the outer channel Suez Canal Port Said. 9 explosions near Fayid. Canal navigation temporarily suspended. No casualties reported.

(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1211/18.).

/ Enemy Convoy.

War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- Enemy Convoy. Following from secret source considered reliable. Two convoys of German ships escorted by J.U. 87 passed Tunis on 15/2 proceeding towards Tripoli (Africa). (S.O.I.? Malta, 1230/18, to Admty.).
- UPRIGHT patrol. Cancel my 1305/17. On completion of exercise p.m./19 proceed through 035° 34' 014° 10' and 034° 35' 012° 06' to carry out offensive patrol in area G 034° 10' 010° 40' - 000° - 50 - 70. (S.O.(S), Malta, 1647/18, to UPRIGHT).
- Five Ships. My 1503/30/11/40. Requesting information re certain vessels. (C.in C. Med. 1658/18 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.
- Suez Canal mining. Considered that all objects dropped from attacking planes this morning have been plotted with fair accuracy. Impossible to ascertain in all cases whether objects were mines, mine covers or unexploded bombs. Out of 25 objects reported 10 are probably mines. Considered canal will probably be closed to traffic for 7 days. Trawling and sweeping will be in operation 19/2. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1845/18).
- Military Convoy. Your 1247 (See Mediterranean Volume). In view of shortage of tonnage, my 2128/31 refers, urge that fewer ships be used for vehicles and stores for advance party. Number and size appear excessive for amount to be lifted. Also that personnel are carried on H.M. Ships. (D. of S.T. 2007/18 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.).
- Minesweeping Whalers. C.in C. Med. 1721/17. Following coal burning whalers are believed to be at Durban, not employed, (list of 10). Request report which are suitable for early naval service. (D.M.S. 2021/18 to N.O.I.C. Durban). Reply: 1130/20.

/ Your 1535/17,

War Diary.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Minesweeping
Whalers.

Your 1535/17, regret not possible for drifters to make the passage to Eastern Mediterranean. N.O.i/c Durban is being told to survey and select 6 whalers to be fitted locally as far as possible. (D.M.S. 2025/18, to C.in C. Med.).

Suez Canal
Watching.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to C.in C., M.E. Re watching Canal to locate any mines. Whatever the number required there should be no difficulty in providing them from troops who have not yet been provided with full equipment. (W.O., 2100/18, to C.in C. M.E.).

East Indies.

French
Flying
Boat.

My 1432/12. Following intercepted by SAGITTA 0600Z/10 (begins) Massawa W/T station from FARAP. Position FARAP 15° 30' N., 40° 07' 50" E. (C.in C. E.I., 0650/18, to Admty.).

BARJORA

Your 2130/4. BARJORA replaces SUISANG, my 0740/4 refers. BARJORA now arrived Colombo is unarmed and not degaussed. Should work be done here estimated time 14 days. (C.in C. E.I., 1010Z/18, to C.in C. Med.).

MANDASOR

Overdue at Durban from Calcutta since 4/2, (report of bombing 24/1). Now presumed lost. (D.S. 533).

War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.CUNENE

Portuguese ship CUNENE shortly sailing New York to Lisbon. Master believed pro-Nazi, said to have twelve homing pigeons on board.
(D.N.I., 1028/18, to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A.).

German ships.

A.N.A. Santiago de Chile 1131/18 see German Merchant ships.

VAN KINSBERGEN.

My 0952/12. Leave Paramaribo a.m./21 and proceed to Trinidad so as to arrive p.m./23. Complete with fuel and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1152/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

S.S.EXCALIBUR suspect mission of John Cudahy.

Charge D'Affaires John Cudahy, ex Ambassador to Belgium, travelling in S.S. EXCALIBUR due Lisbon about 25/2 to interview Nazi leaders with view to pro-German propaganda etc. It would appear only action feasible to prevent is by U.S. State Dept. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1203/18, to Admty.).

S.C.23.

Departure Halifax 18/2 COLLINGWOOD, local escort, ASCANIA, ocean escort, S.C.23, CALIFORNIA for Bermuda. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1446/18).

T.C.10.

Numbers of troops and prospective date (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1601/18 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

FORTH

F.O. 3 B.S. 1705/17. Date FORTH can be ready. (S.2, to F.O.(S), 2254/18).

Australia.WAIRUNA TULAGI

Have you any news of WAIRUNA and TULAGI? (D.T.D., 1740/18, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.18.2.1941.
Tuesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Yesterday Minister for Foreign Affairs definitely informed British Ambassador that orders had been issued to prevent German ship from sailing.
(A.N.A. Santiago de Chile 1131/18.).

CORDELIA
DELOS
ARKADIA

Arrival CORDELIA in Ballast, DELOS with Cargo of oats from Russia, ARKADIA with Cargo of putrefying figs from Turkey for Germany. Departures CORDELIA for Russia with cargo of 3,000 empty iron drums.
(Vice Consul, Varna, 1705/18).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCA
FASSIO

Enquiry received concerning this ship, reported by N.A. Madrid on 13/10 torpedoed off Savona with loss of nearly all on board. Have you any information re (1) Sinking (2) Rescue of five survivors stated landed by Submarine at Barcelona on 16/10 (3) Polish Nationals on board?
(Head of M. 1350/18 to C.in C. Med.).

CONTE
BIANCAMANO

New York Press reports negotiations to purchase 27 Italian ships in U.S.A. harbours, including CONTE BIANCAMANO. (D.S. 533).

Kismayu.

Summary of 16 ships at Kismayu as at 17/2.
(D.S. 533).

JUVENTUS.

Probably sunk by torpedo in air attack by 4 Swordfish a/c near Kerkenah Island 15-16/2. Ship made S.O.S. to Tripoli during night of 15-16/2. (~~D.S. 533~~) See *the Italian* 17/2.

CITTA DI
MESSINA

Believed sunk off Misurata on 15/1 by REGENT.
(~~D.S. 533~~) See *the Italian* 17/2.

18. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.
SIAMESE PRINCE.
(torpedoed 17/2.)

Request VISENDA may stand by torpedoed ship until arrival of MISTRAL - trawler detached from 061° 15' N, 015° 30' W, at 2200/17. (C. in C. W.A., 0021/18 to S.O.N.T.)

SIAMESE PRINCE, independently routed New York to Liverpool, was torpedoed when 80' off her route. (D.O.R. 18/2.)

2 Destroyers proceed best speed to assistance of SIAMESE PRINCE torpedoed 059° 51' N, 012° 13' W, at 1932/17. When survivors have been recovered carry out A/S search on normal convoy routes between 061° N, 017° W, and 059° N, 008° W, approx. Convoy H.X.107, is scattered in this area. (C. in C. H.F., 0215/18, to R.A.D.H.F.)

MAORI with ZULU proceed at best speed to assistance of S.S. SIAMESE PRINCE (position). When survivors recovered carry out an A/S search, as in former signal (R.A.D.0315/18, to MAORI, ZULU.)

My 2333/17, report if you have proceeded. Name of torpedoed ship now believed to be SIAMESE PRINCE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235/18, to SALVONIA.)

SALVONIA proceeding to arrive at given position of SIAMESE PRINCE at daybreak tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1600/18 to Admty Rescue Tugs.)

Sunderland a/c will leave Sullom Voe at daylight to search vicinity 59° 50' N. 12° 00' W. for any trace of SIAMESE PRINCE. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1902/18.)

Arrived position 059° 53' N, 012° 13' W, at 1730. Passing through quantity of wreckage and some bodies. Searched well to Leeward and found 2 capsized boats and rafts. Consider unlikely any survivors in present sea but until relieved by trawler continuing search. MAORI and ZULU proceed 2000 to position (corrupt group) BLACK OSPREY. (MAORI, 1953z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Sunderland.....

18. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Ships Attacked.
SIAMESE PRINCE
 (torpedoed 17/2.)
Contd.

Sunderland aircraft searching for SIAMESE PRINCE made contact with MISTRAL at 1005/18. One upturned lifeboat sighted in 59° 47' N, 11° 58' W. Visibility 5 miles to nil in showers. MISTRAL reported sighting nothing. (C. in C. Rosyth 2102/18, to MAORI, ZULU, etc.)

BLACK OSPREY.

British 5589 tons (straggler from H.X.107.) Following has been read, SSSS. Position Approx. 61. 13 N. 18. 10 W, BLACK OSPREY torpedoed. (MAUDIE.S.(Brit) T.O.R.0231/18, BLACK OSPREY 0232/18.)

BLACK OSPREY torpedoed 061° 13' N, 018° 10' W, at 0232/18, render assistance. (C. in C. W.A, 0257/18, to ARROW.)

If not in touch with SIAMESE PRINCE proceed forthwith to assistance of BLACK OSPREY torpedoed in 061° 30' (Sic.) N. 018° 10' W. at 0232/18. (C. in C. W.A.1820/18 to MISTRAL.)

Have searched down wind as far as 058° 47' N, 013° 00' W, and sighted much wreckage. Am now proceeding as ordered in your 1820/18. As fuel will not permit returning to Loch Ewe after this operation intend to proceed to Reykjavik. (Weather report). (MISTRAL, 1900Z/18 to C. in C.W.A.)

SEAFORTH.

British, 5459 tons, bound independently from Monrovia, Liberia, to Liverpool. Following has been read. S.S.S.S. Attack by submarine 58. 48 N, 18. 17, SEAFORTH Torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 2040/18.)

Request you instruct MAORI or ZULU to proceed to assistance of s.s. SEAFORTH torpedoed in position 58° 48' N 18° 17' W, at 2042/18 B.S.T. No Western Approaches escort vessels are anywhere in the vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 2120/18, to C. in C. H.F.)

/ZULU.....

18. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

→ Ships attacked.
SEAFORTH.
(contd.)

ZULU and MAORI proceed to assistance of SEAFORTH torpedoed in position 58° 48' N, 18° 17' W, at 2042/18. (C. in C. H.F., 2253/18, to ZULU, MAORI.)

C. in C. W. A. 2120/18. Have detached ZULU to proceed to (group missing) of SEAFORTH. (MAORI, 2320/18 to C. in C.H.F.)

S/M's Reported.

One German U-Boat in 048° 30' N, 020° W, at 0009/17 now estimated homeward bound may be about 047° 30' N, 012° 30' W. (F.O.(S) 1407/18, to TIGRIS.)

1300.

Civilian reports submarine surfaced at 1300/18, off Shader West Coast of Lewis proceeding toward Butt of Lewis, seen clearly. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1544/18 to A.C.O.S. etc.)

2041.

Message AF position 58° 48' N. 18° 17' W. at 1941/18/2. G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2124/18.)

→ U-Boat torpedoed S.S. SEAFORTH in position 58° 48' N: 18° 17' W. at 1941/18 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2150/18, to C. in C. Plymouth, etc.)

Estimated
U/B.
dispositions.

German.
1 40 miles of 59° 53' N. 12° 13' W.
1 40 miles of 61° 13' N. 18° 10' W.
1 60 miles of 57° 30' N. 23° W.
1 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 20° 30' W.
1 in 48° 30' N. 20° W. at 0009/17, now estimated homeward bound, may be about 47° 30' N. 12° 30' W.
1 90 miles of 49° N. 32° W.
1 30 miles of 51° 30' N. 11° 30' W.
Northbound.
1 100 miles of 37° N. 19° W.

Italian - No information.
(D.D.I.C. 1308/18.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTHome CommandsSweep off
Maas & Hook

Three M.T.B's last night carried out a sweep off the Maas and Hook.

Sweep to
Brown Ridge

Two M.T.B's last night swept from the Inner Gabbard through Gap E to Brown Ridge.

F.N. 11.
Attacked
by E-Boats.

M02999/41

Convoy F.N. 11 was extremely spread out last night due it is reported to bad visibility, ships being found up to 30 miles ahead of the Commodore, with stragglers astern. Two ships are reported torpedoed, by E-Boat close to Sheringham buoy, 3 ships aground off Haisborough last night.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused routine patrols to be cancelled and convoy escorts to be severely curtailed. Bomber Command operations last night were cancelled.

Enemy Air Activity

M03026/41.

PUFFIN escorting T.H.V. TRITON was attacked in the Thames Estuary this afternoon, but was not damaged. It is believed she severely damaged her attacker.

SS GRACIA and HOUSATONIC in Convoy O.B. 287 were bombed 90 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath this evening. GRACIA was sunk and HOUSATONIC was last seen settling with a broken back.

/SS GARLINGE...

War Diary19.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS GARLINGE in Convoy F.N. 11 was attacked twice this afternoon off Flamborough Head but no damage is reported. Low visibility prevented fighters from taking off to assist her.

SS ATHELSULTAN in Convoy E.N. 74 was bombed and damaged this morning off Firth of Forth.

SS KARANAN (Dutch 395 tons) is reported by Lloyds to have arrived at Falmouth today in tow of **Norwegian.* SS SVINT with her engines disabled by air attack. (D.S. 534).

Lowestoft was attacked again today. No damage was caused.

Plymouth was attacked this evening and some casualties were caused at the R.N. Hospital.

MiningOperation
Z.M.E. 18

. PLOVER laid mines in St. Georges Channel last night.

PELICAN was mined in the Thames Approaches today and was towed to Sheerness.

SS FULHAM II in Convoy F.N. 10 was mined off the mouth of the Tyne today.

War Diary

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

C. in C., S.A. today proposed some amendments to the instructions for conduct of naval units when French submarines are encountered.

Mediterranean

Operation
M.C. 8.

M 012558/41.

The operation of passing two battalions to Malta in GLOUCESTER, ORION and AJAX and the passage of BRECONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULAY from Malta to Alexandria began today. The operation serves to cover convoy A.S. 15.

Force A. (BARHAM, VALIANT and EAGLE) left Alexandria p.m. today to be about 180 miles north of Benghazi at daylight/21 to meet and cover the passage of BRECONSHIRE and CLAN MACAULAY which leaves Malta p.m/20 escorted by HAVOCK and HOTSPUR.

COVENTRY to join if weather permits in her temporarily repaired condition.

Force B (GLOUCESTER, AJAX, ^{ORION} ~~ORION~~; NUBIAN, MOHAWK, DIAMOND) are due at Malta a.m/21 and to leave p.m/21 for Alexandria after disembarking troops, leaving DIAMOND to refit.

Battleship
docking

A battleship docking programme is to be started during the coming dark night period, commencing with WARSPITE on 21/2.

F.A.A.
Policy

C. in C., Med. reports that the present strategical situation in the Mediterranean calls for an organisation similar to the Coastal Command in Home Waters.

19. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Destroyers
for W.A.

BEAGLE and BULLDOG are to be transferred to Western Approaches Command. C. in C. H.F. 2137/19 to R.A.D.)

Command.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".

At 1130/19. (D.C. 1208/19). At 2330/19. (D.C. 2334/19.)

Movements.

BRADFORD
JEANNIE
DEANS.

Your estimated position at 0405 201^o. Dungeness 13 miles. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0412/19 to BRADFORD, J.DEANS.)

Ref. 0550 from JEANNIE DEANS. Last available estimates of position 5 miles 174^o from Dungeness at 0510. (N.O.I.C. Dover 0629/19, to ? BRADFORD.)

CORINTHIAN.

CORINTHIAN'S 1500/17. In view of convoy situation for escort to U.K. intend CORINTHIAN to arrive Gibraltar 0800/26. (F.O.C.N.P. 1016/19.)

NAUTILUS.

To be sailed for Southend as soon as convenient for onward routing and passage to Humber with first available F.N. Convoy. Mines are not repetition not to be embarked before sailing. (C. in C. Nore 1042/19.)

SANDHURST.

In tow of WATERMEYER sailed Methil for Londonderry 0730/today, in E.N.74. (C. in C. Rosyth 1055/19.)

CASTLETON.

My 0813/15, CASTLETON delayed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1253/19.)

/ALCANTARA.....

War Diary.

19. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

ALCANTARA.

N.O. i/c Southampton 1217/17. Adty., 1402/18. It has now been found possible to amend programme of ALCANTARA so that ship sails from Portsmouth P.M./27, arriving Clyde A.M./1/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/19.)

Northern Patrol.

4 Trawlers on N.P. Line tonight (names) (A.C.O.S. 1534/19.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Taking DIDO, BEDOUIN, SOMALI, and NAPIER under her orders, QUEEN ELIZABETH is to sail from Rosyth in company at 1500/20, and proceed to Scapa, carry out power trials and arrive Hoxa Boom at 0730/21. (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/19.)

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/20 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S) 1621/19.)

102 R.M. Bde.
KENYA
SOBIESKI

F.O.C.N.A. 1958/14, Following arrangements are to be made for disposal of Naval Personnel 102 R.M. Brigade and landing craft in KENYA and SOBIESKI on arrival at Clyde.(D.O.D.(H)1727/19.)

THUNDERBOLT.
SURCOUF.

Sailed escorted by SUNFLOWER in accordance with F.O.(S)' 1129/15.(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1810/19.)

Four Corvettes required for escort for convoys.

Your 2248/10. PIMPERNEL and COREOPSIS will sail with O.G.54. Propose sailing the fourth Corvette for Gibraltar with O.G.55. (C. in C. W.A. 2024/19 to Adty.)

/ELECTRA.....

19. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

ELECTRA
to refit.

Adty. 1917/19. Proceed to Humber
forthwith. (R.A.(D) H.F. 2210/19 to
ELECTRA.

ORDUNA.

A.M.1413/19, Lord Willingdon, staff
and part of mission are on board
ORDUNA. Request you will arrange
A/S and A/C protection so far as
possible. (D.T.D. 2218/19, to C. in
C. W.A.)

War Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations2 ships
torpedoed
by E-Boats

2 heavy explosions heard and possible fast hydrophone effect, investigated as far as possible and can find nothing damaged, but visibility is very poor. My position 57 C Buoy. (VIVIEN 0255/19) SS SPARTA reports that two unknown ships were torpedoed by E-Boats at 0300 today off Sheringham Bell Buoy. (F.O. Humber 1846/19)

M.T.B.
Sweeps

Harwich 19/2 arrival M.T.B. 31 and 32 at 0935 WIDGEON at 0805. M.T.B. 42 and 43 at 1115. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1116/19) My 1146/18 operation carried out in poor visibility. Report blank. (C. in C., Nore 1135/19)

Patrol

WIVERN, VANSITTART, leave Needles 1830/19 to patrol Southward of Group of 15 Merchant vessels which leaves Dartmouth 1820/19. Arrives Needles 0800/20. Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1307/19)

P.Y.C.

My 1430/19, Operation P.Y.C. cancelled. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1937/19)

British Air ActivityConvoy
Escorts

One Anson A/C dor O.B. 287 and one Anson A/C for E.N. 73 should arrive with their convoys approximately 1200/19. No other A/C from 18 group able to operate owing to weather conditions. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1104/19)

Lorient

As reconnaissance of Lorient shows that 10 U-Boats were present on 15/2 and that there was more railway activity near the U-Boat berths than had previously been observed, request that Bomber Command may be asked to attack Lorient at first opportunity. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1318/19)

War Diary

19.2.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Lowestoft
bombed

Lowestoft bombed at 1205. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft, 1225/19)

ATHELSULTAN

(British Tanker, 8822 tons) Attacked by J.U. 88 in convoy E.N. 74 in 120° 2.1/4 miles from May Island at 1025 today Two very heavy delay action bombs missed by 10 feet. No other ships attacked in convoy. Plane dived to 150 feet before attacking. Ship holed in two places above waterline and underwater damage considered certain. Considerable superficial and internal damage including compasses but engines intact. No casualties. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1643/19)

Convoy
E.N. Odd

Fighter aircraft have been despatched to assist. (Lyness 1312/19)

Convoy
F.N. Even

Request fighter assistance. Enemy aircraft Bombing. 51° 59' N., 1° 44' E. (VALOROUS 1425/19) *see also next page*
Convoy ~~AGENT~~. 2 Enemy Aircraft. Position 51° 55' N., 1° 27' E. (EGLINTON 1548/19)

GRACIA
Sunk
HOUSATONIC
Bombed

GRACIA sunk by enemy aircraft. HOUSATONIC bombed still afloat but settling - with back broken - position 059° 39' N., 007° 24' W., Consider salvage impossible. Shall I sink her. Have 80 survivors. Where will I land them. Some injured, one critically. (PERIWINKLE 1500/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1500/19. Do not sink. Stand by her. Tug SALVONIA should arrive in the morning. Survivors will be landed at Thurso. (C. in C., W.A., 1906/19 to PERIWINKLE)
Your 1340/19. Proceed to assist HOUSATONIC as soon as possible. PERIWINKLE is standing by her. Report when you can proceed. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1930/19 to SALVONIA)

/Hasten.....

War Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityGRACIA
Sunk
HOUSTATONIC
Bombed - Contd.Hasten reply to my 1930/19.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2340/19 to SALVONIA)GARLINGE(British, 2012 tons) 5 miles off
Flamborough Head GARLINGE attacked by
bomber. (Portishead Radio 1510/19)
GARLINGE still being attacked by Bomber
off Flamborough Head. (Lyness W/T 1552/19)TRITON (T.H.V.)
PUFFIN2 Enemy aircraft Convoy ^{"Alpha"}~~ALPHA~~. Position
51° 33' N., 1° 33' E., (PUFFIN 1542/19)
Convoy ~~Alpha~~ requests fighter assistance
(PUFFIN 1610/19)
Fighter aircraft despatched. (Nore W/T
1625/19)
No damage. One Junkers 88 believed
severely damaged, both engines smoking
and faltering. (PUFFIN 1645/19)Convoy
F.N. EvenOne enemy aircraft height 2000 ft.
shadowing convoy in 52° 13' N., 1; 56' E.,
(VALOROUS 1655/19) *See also previous page*
A/C reports at 1415 in about 52° 45' N.,
1° E., E/A dropped 2 bombs or possibly
mines from about 3000 ft. These fell
about 2-3 miles ahead of convoy and E/A
made off in an easterly direction.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1907/19)Lowestoft.
Yarmouth.
Skegness.
A/A Defences.Your 1746/18. Requirement of Lowestoft
and Yarmouth fully appreciated but heavy
gun defences could only be provided at
present by removing them from some other
vital area. It is undesirable and
tactically unsound continuously to move
mobile units of A.A. Command from the
defence of one vital area solely because
the enemy is attacking another.
Home Forces have, however, been asked
to move further light A.A. into area and
major question of permanent provision of
heavy A.A. defences will be discussed
by C.O.S. (A.A.) Sub Committee. System
outlined in Admty 1953/19 will, however,
increase defence value of existing A.A.
guns including those of ships in harbour.

/2.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityLowestoft
Yarmouth
Skegness
A/A Defences-
Contd.

2. As regards ROYAL ARTHUR, existing resources do not permit of A.A. gun defences being provided for personnel establishments. Neither is it policy so to do. (D. of L.D., 1958/19 to C. in C., Nore.)

Enemy A/C
Report~~Counterfeit~~
~~COUNTERFEIT~~ (N.I.D. 10 1958/19 to Ships Area B.)Plymouth
R.N. Hospital
Bombed

Raid 1911/19. One 50 K.G.H.E. hit "K" block R.N. Hospital. One rating killed 5 slightly wounded. (C. in C., Plymouth 2320/19)

MiningZ.M.E. 18

Operation completed (PLOVER 0522/19)

Thames
EstuaryTwo red mines detonated by LL gear.
A. At 1905/18 in 250° Knob Bell buoy 7 cables.
B. At 1950/18 in 038° N., Shingles buoy 3 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1000/19)PELICAN

(Sloop) Damaged by Mine in the Thames Estuary at 1200/19 (D.S. 534)

LL Trawler detonated one red mine at 2135/18 in 224° B. 7 buoy 1 mile. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1107/19)

Falmouth

Port of Falmouth now open to Diesel Engine Ships. (F.O.I.C., Falmouth 1133/19)

FULHAM II

(British, 1596 tons) Mined East of Tyne. Not in immediate danger of sinking. Anchored south of Tyne - Tugs proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1201/19)

/Spurn Point.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMining-Contd.Spurn Point

Mine exploded at 1151/19 in 280° Spurn Point 4.1 miles. (F.O.Humber, 1840/19)

Minelaying
off Brest

Sailed 1545 KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPPLING, 1635 INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS. (C. in C., Plymouth 1906/19)

Aberdeen

Port closed, due to suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 2012/19)

Enemy IntelligenceBrestR/C at 1120. ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER (Cruiser) in Dock. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1235/19 P.R.U. St. Eval, 1500/19)DEUTSCHLAND
SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU
Also Movement
to Northern
Norway.

New edition of Almanacco Navale shows ships described as follows. Photographs are undated. Two There has been recent evidence of conveyance by sea of military stores to north Norway greatly in excess of normal requirements. (D. 2.) Three, German Admiral commanding coast of Norway has just visited region having travelled from Oslo by train via Sweden (A.1.) (N.A. Stockholm 1720/19)

MiscellaneousFlashes off
Bexhill

Investigating three flashes 120° 4 miles from Bexhill seen by local C.G. Bexhill and C.G. St. Leonards. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 0815/19)

Red Flare
seen.

Red flare showing at 0130 G.M.T. 19th in 061° 08' N., 019° W. (SAN EMILIANO 0835/19)

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysMovements
Forecast

My 1628/23/1. Signals should be prefixed "SPECIAL MOVEMENTS FORECAST" instead of "Admiralty's 1628/23/1". These forecasts should include, immediately after each ship's name, an indication of the importance of her contents (either personnel or supplies) so that Naval Authorities concerned may determine the appropriate action for her safety. (D.T.D. 1211/19 to C. in C's etc.)

Precautions
in event of
Invasion.

In order to ensure that necessary measures to be taken with merchant shipping in the event of invasion are understood by all concerned F.O.I.C's are requested to hold meetings to discuss these with the various organisations in the Ports representing the Ministry of Shipping together with other representative officials concerned.

2. Memorandum of 12/2 from Ministry of Shipping gives notes for guidance. Important these should be co-ordinated with Admiralty instructions, notably my 2109/6/7 and A.L. M/TD 02010/41 of 6/2.

3. Para 3a of Ministry of Shipping Memorandum refers to ports of refuge nominated by F.O i/c. Such ports would be nominated by Admiralty and would be the emergency anchorages mentioned in A.L. M/TD 210/40.

4. Most desirable that Allied ships and crews should be treated in a similar manner to British except where inadvisable for security reasons.
(D.T.D. 1247/19)

Expediting
Movements

Movements of merchant shipping must be hastened. One cause of delay is frequent omission of N.C.S.O. from addresses of messages relating to movements. Request following instructions be rigorously enforced.
(D.T.D. 1813/19 to C. in C's etc.)

/Submarine....

War Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys-Contd.Submarine
Escorts

Western Approaches convoy instructions section I part two Cancel first para and substitute. At all times when a close escort is present with a convoy the submarine is to be stationed 3 cables on port beam of commodore, adjacent to column being opened out accordingly. In the event of attack by U-Boat by day or night the submarine is to endeavour to maintain this position and is also to switch on navigation lights to establish her identity if she considers herself endangered by one of our own ships. Message 25 N. (C. in C., W.A., 2006/19)

Coastal Convoys

F.S. 17 417

Sailed 2300/18. 14 ships (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0015/19) List (1122/19) List and destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1524/19) Ships joining Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1714/19)

12 M.V's.

Night movements, Channel. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0114/19)

F.N. 14. 411

E.T.A. (VIVIEN, 0200/19, to N.O.I.C. Humber) Spread out due to bad visibility (VIVIEN, 1415/19) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1729/19)

O.B.C. 288

0304/19. Escorts GEORGETOWN, etc. 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0403/19) List (1225/19) Left (A.B.O., Greenock, 2115/19)

O.B.O. 288

0745/19. Escort SNOWDROP, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0800/19)

F.N. 12 412

Left with ATHENIAN (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0835/19). 0850/19, 17 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0947/19). List 1017/19) VICEROY to join as escort. (C. in C., Rosyth 1443/19) Joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1716/19) Position, snowstorm (VICEROY, 1950/19)

/E.N. 74½....

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & ConvoysCoastal Convoys-Contd.

E.N. 74. 0715/19. Escorts 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0759/19) List (1000/19) Commodore (1705/19) Position (S.O. of Escort, 2230/19)

W.N. 87. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0931/19) Left (A.B.O., Greenock, 2115/19)

F.N. 10. 410 Arrived 0945/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0954/19) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1808/19)

E.N. 75. Fast ships given alternative routes to Oban to connect O.B. 290. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1207/19) JASON, A/A escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1615/19)

C.W. 26. 1155/19, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1216/19) List (1231/19) E.T.A. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/19) Dover escorts (V.A. Dover 1759/19) Passed Dover (V.A., Dover 2101/19)

13 M.V'S. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/19) (C. in C., Portsmouth 1352/19)

W.N. 87 (0) Sailed 1430/19, escort ~~SALTEREL~~ (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1446/19) Destinations (1501/9)

F.S. 16. 416 Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber 1502/19)

F.S. 17. } 417
E.N. 74. }
F.N. 11. } 411
F.N. 12. } 412

W.N. 88. JASON additional A/A escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1615/19)

F.N. 412.A. My 1745/17) (Forecast) for F.N. 13 read F.N. 12 A (C. in C., Rosyth 1907/19)

/Ocean Convoys....

MOST SECRETWar Diary19.2.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys-Contd.Ocean Convoys

S.C. 21. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0930/19)
(N.O.I.C., Barry 1645/19) (N.C.S.O.,
Swansea, 1710/19) (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1850/19
2027/19)

O.B. 288. 1000/19, unescorted, 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast
1030/19, 1530/19) Name (1200/19)

O.B. 289. Escort MALCOLM etc. (Capt. D. Londonderry
1101/19)

H.G. 53. Destinations (D.T.D., 1141/19)

O.B. 287 3 ships returned, weather (N.C.S.O.
Aultbea, 1255/19)

H.G. 54. Delayed another 24 hours, weather.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1312/19)

H.X. 110 Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1508/19)
Ships with munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax
1538/19)

H.X. 111 1 ship with explosives. (C.O.A.C. Halifax
1511/19)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.JESSMORE.

(British 4099 tons). In collision with another ship of O.G.53 in 054° N., 016° 56' W. at 0400/19. Holed and making water unable to go ahead request tugs. SCIMITAR standing by and attempting towing. (SCIMITAR 0611/19). Proceed with all despatch. Tugs are to keep in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0856/19 to ASSURANCE, SUPERMAN). Sailed ASSURANCE and SUPERMAN from Campbeltown at 0945. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1016/19). JESSMORE in tow. p.c. and s. 053° 47'N., 016° 54'W. 100° 2 knots. DIANELLA in company. (SCIMITAR 1156/19). My 0856. P.C. and S. of S.S. JESSMORE in tow of SCIMITAR 053° 47'N., 076° 54'W. 100° 2 knots at 1156 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/19 to ASSURANCE).

? *No trace in Lloyd's.*
LAFFORD.

My 1442/18. Departure tug FOREMOST 22 towing LAFFORD. (V.A. Dover, 0720/19).

F.S. MARIE ELLENA.

^{L.L.}
(~~H.M.~~ Drifter) Has been ordered to return to Tilbury owing to machinery defects. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1008/19, F.O.I.C. London 1011/19).

JERNLAND.

(Norwegian 1289 tons). Tug SEA GIANT sailed 1042 to tow JERNLAND broken down off Blyth to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1117/19). My 1117/19. SEA GIANT returned to Tyne. Unable to contact JERNLAND owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1837/19).

MAIDSTONE.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1504/18. It was understood that eight to ten days would be available. This period is desirable to

/make

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)MAIDSTONE.
(Contd.)make good outstanding items in view of future service of ship.
(R.A.D. 1145/19).SALVONIA.Have engine defect. Proceeding into West Loch Tarbet Harris to effect temporary repairs.
(SALVONIA, 1340/19).Motor Boat and Wreckage.Today, Minesweeping trawler reports picking up small motor boat close to 57 C Buoy marked KOBENHAVN EBRO, also much floating wreckage in vicinity.
(F.O. Humber, 1610/19).LORD
PLENDER.
TRITON.Trawler LORD PLENDER and T.H.V. TRITON were in collision 11/2.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1748/19).MIDDLETON.Wreckage washed ashore near Larne, includes one small Chock with S.S. MIDDLETON painted on, and cases of medical comforts and surgical instruments. Has not been in water long. Request information.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1820/19).BOWNET
PUNNET.My 1358/19. BOWNET has engine defects which are being repaired. B.D.V. PUNNET has arrived with injured seaman and smashed lifeboat. It is intended to sail both vessels p.m. Friday.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1825/19).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.PLM.13,
LORIENT,
intercepted.

Two French ships PLM.13, and LORIENT Casablanca to Dakar 028° 12'N., 012° 23'W., 2000/18, and 2359/18, sent to Gibraltar. E.T.A. noon/23, speed 7 knots. Routed 035° 50'N., 011° 00'W. Suggest I R/V with FORT-RICHE/PANSE 033° 23'N., 011° 30'W. 1600/20. These two ships intended to scuttle. Am short handed. Should come to Gibraltar to collect my guard. Request further instructions.
(?N.P.) CHATEAU YQUEM probably leaving Casablanca tomorrow for Nantes, German mail and cargo.
(MARSDALE, 1100/19 to V.A.N.P.)

FORT RICHEPANSE

Request you will take such action as you consider necessary on REGISTAN'S 1230/18 and MARSDALE'S 1100/19.
(D.C.D.(F) 2310/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Treatment
of
French
Submarines.

1. Instructions about submarines of neutral countries including France are that when outside territorial waters unless escorted by surface warships they are to be treated as hostile.
2. Also Vichy French Merchant Ships when escorted by warships are not to be interfered with except by order of Admiralty. French submarines have recently been reported at Conakry; possible they will be employed in escorting merchant ships without surface warships.
3. With submarines at Conakry, quite likely they will be met with unescorted at sea by aircraft outside territorial limits but inside 20 miles from the coast, inside which British warships have been instructed not to approach without special orders. This is of special importance now that a French squadron may be at Freetown.
4. These points are brought up in view of emphasis placed on avoiding any incident with Vichy French in Admiralty 2206/8/1.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)Treatment
of French
Submarines.
(Contd.)

5. Propose in view of above that for the present:- (a) if the identity of French submarines accompanying French Merchant ships is established though with no surface warship escort neither the French Submarine nor the merchant ships will be interfered with. (b) That if submarines at any time are clearly established to be French no further hostile action shall be taken unless they dive and there is at the same time possibility of attack on any of our ships or unless they are in the immediate neighbourhood of our own Free French Coasts. (k) Hostile action by aircraft against submarines shall not be taken within 20 miles of Vichy French Ports unless the submarine is thought to be an enemy or comes under the last part of (b). (C.in C. S.A. 1421N/19 to Admty).

North Atlantic.BELGIQUE.

Your 1951/15. (Re Belgian S.S. BELGIQUE). Crew willing to proceed to port. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/19 to Admty).

VELOX
WRESTLER.

Your 1923/5, and my 2316/13. VELOX and WRESTLER are more suitable ships for service on South Atlantic Station and it is intended that these ships relieve WISHART and VIDETTE when available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1218/19 to C.in C. S.A.)

RESOLUTION.

My 1800/17. Anticipate sailing RESOLUTION p.m./23 escorted by JUPITER, JERSEY, to U.K. and two additional destroyers as far as R/V position. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/19 to A.C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ ISIS
ENCOUNTER.A.M.0138/2. Anticipate sailing ISIS,
ENCOUNTER for Freetown 24/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1222/19 to C.in C. S.A.)BLAIR ATHOLL
and ships of
S.L.S.64
attacked by
raider 12/2.Your 1941/17. Request you will report
estimated ready to sail dates of remaining
ships.
(D.T.D. 1244/19 to Consul-Funchal).
Your 1246/19. All remaining ships except
Greek ship POLYKTOR short of life-boats.
British ships MARGOT, VOLTURNO and Greek ship
ANNA MAZARAKI all have no M.V. Confidential
Books vide my 1815/19.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 1917/19).
For Greek ANNA MAZARAKI. Repair or replace
lifeboats, consult British Consul, haste
essential, LYKIARDOPULO.
(D.T.D. 1954/19 to Consul, Funchal).M/Ls.Admty. 1959/5. Request information
when and how third M.L. flotilla are expected
to leave U.K.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1256/19 to R.A.C.F. Portland).MALAYA.My 1930/17. At 1600/18. MALAYA had been
delayed three hours by weather. MALAYA
expects to make up time to reach R/V
position at 1000/21 but if unable intends
to intercept convoy later in the day. MALAYA
passed above information to me via local
escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1616/19 to S.O.Force H.)→ ISIS.
O.G.52.Gibraltar 19/2 1640 departure ISIS to
R/V with O.G.52 20/2.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1650/19).Suspicious
Ship.Passengers from American liner EXETER report
suspicious vessel closed latter at more
than 16 knots south of Azores a.m./16 and then
made off. (Description).
(N.A. Lisbon, 1658/19).Air Report.Flying curtailed by weather.
(200 Group 1700/19).

WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)ASAKA MARU.

Japanese ship will be in position 38° 30'N., 20° W., at 2000 G.M.T./19 steering 090° direct to Lisbon at 15.3 knots. Ensign at gaff will be illuminated. Ship is not to be interfered with.
(D.O.D.(F) 1913/19 to N.A.Station).
(See also China).

CAMPOS
intercepted
by MARON.

Am following ship giving name Brazilian CAMPOS Pernambuco for Lisbon, cannot identify, intend boarding at daylight, my p.c. and s. are at or about 2100 G.M.T. 032° 23'N., 012° 44'W. 023° 11½ knots, request information.
(MARON 2100/19 to Admty, F.O.C.N.P. F.O.C.N.A)

South Atlantic.Suspect
Ships.

Your 1818/16. Presume this suspect list has no connection with category B, and therefore does not involve exclusion from convoy. Dutch ship HOOGERK sailed in S.L.66.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0955/19 to Admty).

S.L.
and
S.L.S.66.

List of Absentees and reasons.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1127/19).

SAVORGNAN
DE
BRAZZA.

Simonstown arrival 19/2 to embark rangefinders stores and carry out minor repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202Z/19 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CHARLES H.
CRAMP,
SCOTTISH
TRADER.
"Q" report.

Your 1150/17 description fits U.S. CHARLES H. CRAMP and no doubt now exists that this ship and SCOTTISH TRADER were the ships concerned in my 1046/28/1 (S.O.(I) Capetown 1526B /19).

CHRISTIAN
HUYGENS,
DORSETSHIRE.

F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports naval draft of approx. 600 officers and ratings embarked in CHRISTIAN HUYGENS from Port Said to U.K. Appears no prospect of redistributing this draft on other transports without considerable delay. Should ship be sailed from Cape to Freetown without escort? DORSETSHIRE should be at Simonstown about (date) and any period in harbour for self refit and dockyard help would be of value. My 2017/2 refers. For consideration that DORSETSHIRE should wait at Simonstown and escort CHRISTIAN HUYGENS to Freetown or on to U.K. (C.in C. S.A. 2307/19 to Admty).

Mediterranean.Benghazi.Only limited use of harbour possible without extensive salvage and repairs.
(D.O.R. 19/2).Rhodes
bombed
Benghazi
A/C
mining.Operational summary No. 254 up to 1200 hours 19/2/1941.
Night 17/18 Feb. One Wellington dropped 2760 lbs. of bombs on Rhodes Harbour near seaplane hangar and one South side of Commercial Harbour starting fires. Day 18/2 Enemy made two mine-laying attacks on Benghazi Harbour. 5 Australian Hurricanes intercepted first raid shooting down 1 enemy aircraft probably destroying two more and damaging a further 4. A.A. shot down one JU.87.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1136/19).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Boom
Defences.Deficiencies in ⁵stores in BENALDER.
(B.D.O. Beyoglu, 1214/19 to Admty).Guns.Following shipments of guns have been made.
(D.D.A.S.(L) 1758/19 to C.in C. Med.)"Albacores".Following is shipment programme for
Middle East.
(D.N.A.D. 1800/19 to C.in C. Med.)Signal
Procedure.My 1736/19. In view of position of Greek
and other possible Allies in Mediterranean
request your views regarding introduction
of this procedure on Mediterranean Station.
(D.S.D. 1814/19 to C.in C. Med.)A.N.15.A.N.15 arrived (February 18?).
(Cairo 1852/19 to Admty).Mines
Exploded,
Malta.My 1910/17. Two mines in southern side
entrance to Marsamxett Harbour, one mine in
entrance Grand Harbour and one mine close
inshore off Ricasoli exploded almost
simultaneously at 1123A/19. The first
three were in positions marked down after
raid. No sweeping was in progress and no
ships or boats were near. Suggested cause
for explosions is mines were all acoustic
and that vibrations of correct frequencies
were thrown off breakwater by beat of sea or
that there was an earth tremor. The
bottom is rocky and Malta has some strata of
rock which appears to conduct vibration very
efficiently. Request Admiralty's remarks.
Believe Harbour entrances are now clear of
mines but am continuing sweeping with Skid
and Kango hammer in case all were not
observed by look-out.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2208/19 to C.in C. Med.
Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Egypt
P. and T.C.

D. of S.T's 2102/31/1.

1. Main functions of Port and Transit Committee:-
(C.in C. Med., 2340/19 to D. of S.T. etc.)

Air Require-
ments
and Policy.(C.in C. Med., 2345/19 to Admty).
See Mediterranean Volume.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.JÆCTUNFJELL.

Due to sail from Bahrein about Mid-February for Beira or Lourenco Marques with diesel, fuel, and gasoline. Evidence indicates use of (? Lourenco Marques) as transshipping port for enemy trade and suggest possibility of this fuel being chief enemy use. (Capt O.S. Singapore 0723Z/19 to C. in C.E.I) Your 0723/19. Am passing this signal to Consular Shipping Adviser Lourenco Marques for his comments. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1703/19).

KANDAHAR.
EMERALD.
W.S.5B.X.

My 1141/6 para. 4.
KANDAHAR is to rendezvous with EMERALD and W.S.5.B.X. in position 004° 08' S. 040° 08' East at 0400Z/22 and is to remain with convoy, cruising as arranged by EMERALD until EMERALD rejoins after refuelling. After EMERALD rejoins KANDAHAR is to proceed Aden in accordance with my 0752/17. (C. in C. E.I. 0800Z/19 to EMERALD, KANDAHAR).

→ HERMES,
HAWKINS.

Mombasa arrived 19/2 0625 G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. East Africa 0910Z/19).

BARJORA.

Your 2130/14. BARJORA replaces SUISANG.
(S.S.T.O. India 1117Z/19 to Admty).

RANCHI.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1450Z/19).

Force W.
Force T.

H.M. Ships taking part in Italian Somaliland operations are to be known as Force W.
(ii) HERMES and ENTERPRISE when acting as a (? unit) are to be known as Force T.
(iii) Above to come into force 0001 G.M.T/22.
(C. in C. E.I. 1500Z/19 to E.I. Sqdn).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.SCOTIA.

Your 1854/17 (SCOTIA ordered by naval authorities to Hong Kong from Nagasaki) SCOTIA now has orders to complete discharge before sailing for San Pedro.
(C. in C. China 0301Z/19 to Admty).

Free French.

From Baron to Gen. de Gaulle, No 51 dated 18/2. Instructions contained in your 8/2 have been carried out.
(C. in C. China 0957Z/19 to Admty).

ASAKA.

My 1751/22/1. Ministry of Marine informs me special service ship ASAKA will be in 38° 30' N. 20° W. at 200 G.M.T/19 steering 090° direct to Lisbon at 15.5 knots. Ensign at Gaff will be illuminated.
(N.A., Tokyo, 1141/19 to Admty) (See also North Atlantic).

D'ARTAGNAN.

Shanghai Telegrams No. 1138 of 27/12/40 and 122 of 8/2 have been passed to you. It would seem undesirable to risk D'ARTAGNAN being immobilized at Shanghai through recruitment of members of the crew there for Free French Forces. Request your comments.
(D.T.D. 1246/19 to C. in C. China).

U.S. Navy
Co-operation.

My 1721/15. Following are distribution details of books referred to in para. one of my 1908/11.
(D.N.I. 1547/19 to C. in C. China).

Flying Boats.

Re bases. (Air Ministry 1720/19 to Easfar, Singapore) See Operations Volume.

Air Sqdns.

Preparations, ground organisation, etc, for possible removal from Malaya to Burma. Cannot reply on sea communications to move ground organisation in time of war. (C. in C. Far East to W.O. and Air Min., 1818/19).

War Diary.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TARIA
(bombed 18/2,
Home Commands)

German radio report states S.S. TARIA sunk. Oil Company anxious for information and if authentic list of survivors. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1311/19 to Admty).

RAMILLIES.
BATORY.
FORTH.

Your 1705/17. Concur R.V. (position and date) (D.O.D.H. 1728/19 to R.A. J.B.S. C. in C. W.A. RAMILLIES) (See Operations Volume). *Page 97*

SURCOUF to be
informed of
movements of our
own and enemy forces.

Request you will comply with F.O.(S)'s 1549/14 para. 3. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1633/19 to B.S.3).

Japanese
Buying
Charts.

Following from San Pedro:- Local Chart Depot reports extraordinary demand for Charts by Japanese Masters particularly those of South and Central America and Western Pacific. Also reporting that ships are keeping to minimum 500 tons bunkers. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1649/19 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

Australia.

Mines.

Following have been swept to date - off Adelaide, 2; Melbourne, 18; between Sydney and Newcastle, 3; off Hobart, 1. Six drifting mines have been destroyed at various places and one has been washed ashore and dismantled. (D.S. 533).

ACHILLES.
CALIFORNIA STAR.

ACHILLES left Sydney 0850Z/18 for Auckland is escorting CALIFORNIA STAR bound for New Plymouth. (A.C.N.B. 0352Z/19 to Admty etc).

U.S. 10.

Australian requirements. Proposals. (A.C.N.B. 1207Z/19) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.→ NORDERNEY.

Following from S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica Begins. My 1655/11 Curacao passed report from Governor of Surinam that NORDERNEY ready to sail 15/2 for Japan cargo rubber oil skins. 1118/18. (Ends).
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0108/19 to R.A.S.A.D.)

→ NORDERNEY,
→ BABITONGA,
DRESDEN,
WINDHUK.

My 1216/5 present visible activity Axial^s ships Brazil limited to the following:

NORDERNEY at Para keeping steam cargo incomplete but agents paying abnormal prices for rubber and other commodities.

BABITONGA at Santos completed loading 986 tons diesel in drums 18/2.

Ambassador has made formal approach to Brazilian Government endeavouring to secure internment.

BABITONGA and DRESDEN can sail with little warning.

WINDHUK under embargo being watched closely by Brazilian authorities.

CONTE GRANDE at Santos endeavouring to obtain 1,000 tons fuel oil but still being rationed to 300 tons per month.

SAINT DOMINIQUE arrived from Martinique 19/2 endeavour to detain.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1801/19).

TRAPANI.

Arrived 18/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

SPEZIA.

Arrived 19/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

SAVONA.

Left 18/2 for Burriana. (Valencia 2010/19).

→ BABITONGA.
→ NORDERNEY.

My 1424/13. Santos reports that BABITONGA has completed loading oil and is remoored

/in

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)BABITONGA
NORDERNEY.
(Contd.)in river.
My 1454/14. Para reports that NORDERNEY has
drawn fires.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2031Z/19 to Admty).ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.CONTE GRANDE(N.A. Rio 1801/19). See German Merchant
Ships.LUIGI.

Arrived 18/2. (Valencia 2010/19).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.BENTY.Following from Navy Office from Dakar 17/2
depart BENTY for French Guiana.
(N.A.Washington, 1330/19 to Admty).SAINT
DOMINIQUE.

) SAINT DOMINIQUE.

(N.A.Rio 1801/19) See German Merchant
Ships.SAINT DOMINIQUE arrived unescorted today
19/2 from Martinique.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2024Z/19). *See Page 647.*L'ORAGE,
AVANT
GARDE,
OCTANE,
SURCOT,
CHANTILLY,
CANTAL,
URANIA,
ROSE
SCHIAFFINO,
FORT
RICHEPANSE.Your 1850/15. (re ships for service).
Following French shipping totalling some
21500 tons is available at Gibraltar the
reference after the ships is the signal
requesting crews. L'ORAGE, and AVANT GARDE
2112/8/1 and 1852/28/1, OCTANE and SURCOT
1250/16/1, CHANTILLY, CANTAL, and URANIA,
1702/22/1, ROSE SCHIAFFINO 1244/2/2. No crews
have yet arrived all local resources have
been exhausted by sailing to U.K. CHARLES
PLUMIER, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SENATEUR
DUHAMEL. My 1842/22/1 refers. Crew may
also be required for FORT RICHEPANSE now
being sent in to Gibraltar under armed
guard.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1829/19 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.SIAMESE
PRINCE.
(Torpedoed
17/2).

Return to Campbeltown acknowledge.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0143/19 to SALVONIA).
Proceed to position 059° 51 N., 012° 13'W
and R/V with DANEMAN searching for survivors
of SIAMESE PRINCE. If no further signs of
survivors rejoin H.X.107.
(C.in C. W.A. 1035/19 to ARROW).
If contact with ARROW has not been made
return to base along probable route of H.X.
107.
(C.in C. W.A. 2224/19 to DANEMAN, ARROW).

SEAFORTH
(torpedoed
18/2).

SEAFORTH sailed 3/2. What speed did
Master declare?
(D.T.D. 1817/19 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).
Have searched an area S.E. from SEAFORTH
position to depth 40 miles width 30 miles.
Some wreckage seen but not identified as
from SEAFORTH. Have not sighted MAORI
since being (?forcibly) separated at 2300/18.
Myp.c. and s. at 2000/19 058° 35'N., 018°
11'W., 030° 13 knots. Intend to carry
A/S search as ordered in your 0215/18.
(Search for survivors of SIAMESE PRINCE. A/S
search afterwards).
(ZULU, 2115/19 to C.in C. H.F.)
(Note:-) Following made. For SEAFORTH only
(on 14/2:-) My 1627/10 move position X
018° 36 miles and position Y 019° 40 miles.
From Q proceed through these new positions
and then as ordered.
(D.T.D. 1952/14).

BLACK
OSPREY.
(Torpedoed
18/2).

Your 1820/18. Searched 85 miles to leeward
of Birkenhead Osprey ?(BLACK OSPREY)
position. Acres of wreckage found 060° 45'N.
018° 55'W. including lifebuoys and empty
rafts. Upturned boats as in my 1215.
Search abandoned due to fuel and steering
breakdown. Require on arrival at
Reykjavik assistance.
(MISTRAL 1915Z/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)Submarines
Reported.0720
by
STARSTONE.

Following has been read.
SSSS 55.22 N., 33.35 W. STARSTONE,
submarine sighted.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 0720/19).
Admiralty message A.F. position 55° 22'N.,
33° 35'W. at 0625/19/2 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0749/19).
U/Boat reported by S.S. STARSTONE in 55° 22'N
33° 35'W. at 0625/19 G.M.T. may be SEVERN
escorting S.C.22.
(D.D.I.C. 0821/19).

16/2.

Submarine sighted on 16/2 south of Island
of Terceira, Azores. A.O.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1232/19 to Admty).

0010/16.

- No trace in logs.
Norwegian Vessel HOSDA reports sighting
submarine on surface at 0010/16 in
position 57° 58'N., 9° 10'W.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1743/19).

Recent indications suggest possibility that
more than one Italian U/B may be on anti-
submarine patrol in Bay of Biscay.
Impossible to estimate patrol zones.
(D.D.I.C. 1923/19 to TIGRIS).

2040.

By D/F at 2040/19 position of probable U/Boat
was approx. 51° 30'N., 19°-21° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2302/19).

Estimated
U/Boat
dispositions.GERMAN.

One in 58°48'N., 18° 17'W. at 2041/18 may be
the one in 59° 53'N., 12° 13'W. at 1946/17.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.19.2.1941.
Wednesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.
(Contd.)GERMAN.

One 60° 30'N., - 61° 30'N., 15° W. - 18° W.
Two 55° 30'N., - 58° 30'N., 20° W. - 24° W.
One 100 miles of 49° N., 30° W.
Possibly one 60 miles of 55° N., 12° 30'W.
One 60 miles of 47° 30'N., 9° W.
One 100 miles of 40° N., 15° W. homeward
bound.

ITALIAN.

There are indications that 6 or 7 may be at
sea, whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1331/19).

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

QUEEN ELIZABETH, escorted by DIDO and 3 destroyers, left Rosyth at 1520 today for Scapa and is to carry out Power Trials on passage. Oropesa Searches of the War Channel from the Firth of Forth to Duncansby Head are expected to be completed by 1800 accordingly.

With the object of destroying Enemy Aircraft PEGASUS is to sail with Convoy O.B. 291 and is to return to the Clyde with convoy S.L. 65.

F.O.I.C., Yarmouth points out that Trawlers off that port have been bombed throughout today and has requested that as there are now no A/A shore defences there of any sort, some Mobile Balloons and light A/A Guns may be sent there soon.

An unprecedented fall of snow in the Newcastle area yesterday and today will cause the dates of completion of all ships under repair in the area to be affected.

British Air Activity

Operations of Coastal Command were greatly hampered today by bad weather. Blenheims attacked Brest last night. Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today, on account of bad weather.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

The attacks on Plymouth (see 19/1) by 50 to 75 aircraft continued till 0600 this morning, causing considerable damage to the R.N. Hospital there. At Falmouth last night night 2 H.E. Bombs in the Dockyard badly damaged the plate-fitting ship, but caused no damage to ships and no casualties; and at Swansea the tug QUEEN IX was sunk and some slight damage done to the Docks.

M03333/41 Convoy F.S. 16 was attacked at 1102 this morning off Harwich without result, the two bombs dropped failing to explode. Convoy O.B. 287 was attacked this morning to the S.W. of the Faeroes, in 12° W., SS St. ROSARIO and ROSENBERG were damaged and returned to the Clyde: tanker D.L. HARPER was also damaged but continued her voyage. The attack was made by an aircraft believed to be operating from Stavanger.

The SS GREENLAND, 1281 tons, was attacked at 1145 today when 80 miles 308° from the Butt of Lewis, suffering 4 casualties but no damage to the ship.

M02879/41 SS RIGMOR was bombed this evening off Falmouth and is reported to be sinking, but BRITISH SPLENDOUR (Tanker) also bombed off Falmouth was not damaged.

seriously

At 1930 when 9 miles N.W. by W. of St. Ives the Norwegian SS HILL, 496 tons, was also attacked by A/C which she engaged and claims to have damaged.

No report of damage has been received in respect of SS MERCHANT PRINCE attacked this morning in Convoy F.N. 12 off the Humber.

/The minesweeper...

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity-Contd.

M03277/41?

The Minesweeper BRAMBLE was damaged this morning by a near miss off Harwich, but shot down one of the attacking aircraft which exploded under water.

It is reported that Wolf Rock Light has been put out of action by machine gun fire.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperation A.

The minelaying off Brest was completed without incident last night by 20th D.F. covered by 4 destroyers, with diversionary bombing attack during lay and as long as possible up to 3 hours before the operation commenced.

The Tyne was closed at 1014 this morning after the mining of an LL Trawler off the entrance; precautions owing to minelaying are necessary in the use of Barry; and at 2209 this evening it was ordered that no Ships are to leave or enter Swansea Bay until further orders. At 1131 the port of Aberdeen was re-opened, though with restrictions as to its approach.

Three Mines were exploded by Sweepers today off Spurn Point, one off Clacton, and one in the Thames Estuary.

SS FORT MEDINE was mined and sunk at 0630 today while at anchor off the Mumbles (Swansea)

LL Trawler MARJORIE A^(?M)HASTIE was mined off the Tyne a.m. today.

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdaySITUATION REPORTRaider Situation

The raider situation is summarised by the Admiralty in a signal today.

Mediterranean

The Admiralty today promulgated a danger area in the Central Mediterranean with Malta as centre and extending to the Adriatic on the east and including Sardinia on the west.

C. in C., Med. reports today that H.M.Trawler OUSE has been sunk by a mine whilst sweeping in Mersa Tobruk harbour.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.GLIMMAREN.

Your 1832/10. Swedish Ship GLIMMAREN intercepted in Skopen Fiord. Result of examination will be reported. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1058/20 to Adty.).
Your 1058/20. If examination satisfactory GLIMMAREN is to be routed through the following positions, and thence through British declared channel to Swedish territorial waters.

2. GLIMMAREN should not be allowed to submit to German contraband control during this voyage.
3. Ship is not to be sailed before 1200/21/2. (D.O.D.H. 2254/20 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
GLIMMAREN sailing shortly from Skopen Fiord to Gothenburg has been routed through the following positions. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D.H. 2255/20).

Proposed
Rescue-Tug
at Leith.

Request consideration may be given to a Rescue Tug being stationed at Leith instead of Dundee. Reasons. (C.in C. Rosyth 1305/20).
Your 1305/20. Concur in proposals. Change should be made on completion of duties outlined in Admiralty 1159/19. (C.C.R.T. 1712/20 to C.in C. Rosyth).

ANJA

(Finnish, 4836 tons). Have intercepted Ship in 064° 23' N. 029° W. Weather too rough to board. Am escorting her towards Reykjavik. Request rendezvous with escort ship from Reykjavik if available. (SALOPIAN 1826/20).

War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Parachute
Stores
picked up.

R.N.O. Burnham reports at 1114/19 that the following has been picked up in South Minister Marshes - green canvas bag containing stores with smaller bags of sand total weight 30 pounds. These were attached to a parachute about four feet in diameter which was in turn attached to a smaller parachute these articles are in the hands of the police.
(C.in C. Nore 0021/20).

"Deluge".

At 1130 /20. (D.C. 1159/20). At 2330/20
(D.C. 0024/21).

Orkneys
A/A Guns.

Confirmed that these guns have arrived.
(A.C.O.S. 1147/20 to Dacoast Four).

Yarmouth
A/A Defences.

Following received from F.O.I.C. Yarmouth begins:- Admiralty 1958/19 mentions that Home Forces have been asked to move further light A/A into area. There are no A/A defences of any sort ashore at Yarmouth though there are four Bofors guns at Lowestoft. The difficulty of removing heavy gun defences from other vital areas is appreciated, and was not expected, but it is hoped light A/A may be sent here soon. Trawlers both close inshore and further out have been attacked and bombed off and on all day. 1750/20 ends.
(C.in C. Nore 2230/20 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.QUEEN
ELIZABETH
DIDO
NAPIER
BEDOUIINArrived Rosyth DIDO, NAPIER, BEDOUIN.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1105/20).
Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH, DIDO, NAPIER, BEDOUIN,
SOMALI. In accordance with my 1600/19.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1520/20).
My 1600/19. Amend E.T.A. to read fifty
minutes later. (C.in C. Rosyth 1825/20
to A.C.O.S.).Northern
Patrol.Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1526/30).S/M's.Positions at 0800/21 and movements for
following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1721/20).PEGASUS.PEGASUS is to be sailed in time to act in
co-operation with convoy O.B.291. She is to
return to Clyde with convoy S.L.65. Object
is destruction of enemy A/C. Instructions.
(C.in C. W.A. 1815/20).EDINBURGH.

Scapa departure 1900. (A.C.O.S. 1923/20).

PANDORA.Intend sailing PANDORA at 1830/21 as by
my 1215/16 with 72 hours added to all times.
(S.5. 2315/20).Operations.Channel
Patrol.WIVERN, BERKELEY, leave Needles 1845/20 to
patrol southward of a group of 12 Merchant
Vessels escorted by MAID MARION and VICTRIX
due Dartmouth 0800/21.
Destroyers return to Needles at 0745/21.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1303/20.).Nore
Patrols.Owing to weather conditions all patrols
sheltering in harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1730/20).

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following patrols will be flown today.
Fair, Minches. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/20).

Air search by Hudson A/C being carried out over position 59° 40' N. 7° 28' W. until dusk. (C.in C. Rosyth 1626/20).

Yarmouth and Lowestoft Mobile Balloons requested.

In view of present enemy aircraft activity round Yarmouth and Lowestoft, request the use of 8 to 12 Mobile Balloons may be loaned from Felixstowe for use at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1802/20 to C.in C. Nore.).

Enemy Air Activity.

HOUSATONIC (Bombed 19/2).

Will proceed at 0700 arriving given position approx. (1600) ? today.
(SALVONIA 0230/20).

My 1500/19. Proceeding Oban with 80 survivors, one critical cot case.

E.T.A. 1200/20. (PERIWINKLE 0300/20).

Your 1906/19. Lost touch with HOUSATONIC in snow storm. In view of absence of orders and urgent need of medical attention have proceeded for Oban.

(PERIWINKLE 0430/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 0735/20. PERIWINKLE arrived with survivors. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1245/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1530/20. PERIWINKLE has returned to harbour. HOUSATONIC reported still afloat in 59° 39' N. 07° 24' W. at 2029/19.

Aircraft will assist you in search tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2125/20 to SALVONIA).

Plymouth attacked.

Situation report 1800/19 to 0600/20.

Part 1. Between 50 and 75 hostile aircraft passed over area on northerly course from 1911 for about 2 hours in waves of between 6 and 12 aircraft at a time. One U.X.B. on Admiralty property. Damage and casualties on Adty. property subject to separate report to Adty. (Group Controller, Plymouth 0600/20).

/ Air raid during

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Plymouth
attacked.
(Contd.)

Air raid during evening of 19/2 caused damage at R.N. Hospital Plymouth as follows. There are still two U.X. B. in the hospital grounds. (S.C.E. Devonport 1800/20).

MERCHANT
PRINCE.

(British, 5229 tons). Attacked by bomber 1 mile off Humber Light vessel. (Rosyth W/T 1035/20).

Falmouth
bombed.

Two H.E.'s dropped in Dockyard last night. Extensive damage to plate fitting shop. Other damage to road and railways and roof of fitting shop. No casualties. No damage to ships. Hope machines will be 50% working in a week 100% in a fortnight. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1057/20).

Convoy
F.S.16. 416

Enemy bombing Convoy ^{"Avena"} ~~XXXXX~~. My position 51° 56' N. 1° 40' E. (WALLACE 1102/20). My 1103. No hits. (PYTCHLEY 1105/20). My 1120. Two bombs no hits. Bombs failed to explode. (PYTCHLEY 1125/20).

Convoy
O.E. 287.

Enemy bombing convoy ^{"Curly"} ~~XXXXX~~ in 59° N. 12° W. (? Origin) (1130/20).

TARIA.

Arrived SABRE escorting TARIA with 3 dead and 4 injured. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1507/20). Your 1311/19. Ship arrived. Casualties 3 killed 3 injured. (D.T.D. 1547/20 to S.N.O. Curacao).

BRAMBLE
(1st M/S F.)

SEAGULL reports that BRAMBLE shot down a Messerschmitt and also that she has an U.X.B. on board. Both ships now in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1525/20). BRAMBLE now berthed alongside Parkeston Quay. Bomb has been removed and disposed of. Ship holed port side aft on water line. Ship can steam but will require docking after passage repairs completed. No casualties.

/ Two German twin ...

War Diary.

20.2.1941.

Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BRAMBLE
(1st. M/S.F.)
(contd.)

Two German twin engined aircraft attacked ship simultaneously at deck level with machine guns dropping two bombs, one in sea, the other on board unexploded. One aircraft shot down into sea exploding under water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1929/20).

WINDSOR
CASTLE.

(British, 19,141 tons). Attacked one mile South of Black Head.
(WINDSOR CASTLE 1809/20).

BRITISH
SPLENDOUR.

(British Tanker, 7138 tons) Attacked 1 mile South Black Head.
(BRITISH SPLENDOUR 1820/20).

Swansea
bombed.
QUEEN IV
sunk.

Air Raid Swansea night 19/20.
Damage to docks slight.
Tug QUEEN IV sunk. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/20).

BARON RENFREW
(Bombed 28/1).

Salvage Company anticipate BARON RENFREW ready for towing Saturday.
(SCHELDE 2118/18).

RIGMOR.

M02879/41

(British 1278 tons). CLARE reports S.S. RIGMOR bombed in 049° 54' N. 004° 51' W. at 1930/20. Burning and sinking rapidly. All crew picked up proceeding Milford Haven. (C.in C. Plymouth 2256/20).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.MARJORIE
M. HASTIE.M/S
(~~M/S~~ Trawler). Mined off Tyne.
Drifting to south of entrance.
Examination vessel and lifeboat standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/20).Tyne.Port of Tyne is closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne
1014/20).Z.M.E.19.Particulars. To be carried out on night
of 21/2 or as soon after as practicable.
(V.C.N.S. 1018/20).Search of
War Channel.My 1600/19. Subject to weather, Oropesa
searches between May Island and Duncansby
Head between One and Two miles east of
following Dividing Line will be completed
by 1800 today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1025/20).Barry.Restrictions and precautions. Owing to
suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff
1043/20).FORT/MEDINE.(British, 5261 tons) Mined and sunk in
51° 33'.5" N. 3° 56'.5" W.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1047/20).Off Clacton.Mine exploded by 'L L' Trawler at 1505/19 in
about 51° 39' 50" N. 01° 15' 24" E.
No other vessels in vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1118/20).Aberdeen.Port open using North side of Q.Z.S. 161.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1131/20).Operation A.(minelaying
off coast)My 1344/18. ^(p. 600, 601) Operation completed according
to plan and without incident.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1256/20).
Arrived 1005: KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL,
INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1526/20.)./ INTREPID
IMPULSIVE
ICARUS

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

INTREPID
IMPULSIVE
ICARUS

91. Intend sailing for Portsmouth at 1900 today to arrive off Nab at 0800/21. (ii) Request INTREPID and IMPULSIVE may be sailed to Dartmouth by night after reloading. (C.in C. Plymouth 1302/20 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

S.N.68 B.

Your 1726/15. Cover and escort for this operation will probably not be available before 4/3. (C.in C. H.F. 1457/20 to R.A.M.L.).

Thames
Estuary.

Red mine detonated at 2035/19 225° B.4 Buoy 2.1 miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1500/20 and 1924/20).

PELICAN
(mined 19/2).

My 1130/20. Request tugs may be at Sheerness by 1200 tomorrow to tow PELICAN. (C.in C. Nore 1730/20).

Spurn Point.

The following three mines were exploded today. Particulars. (F.O. Humber 1822/20).

Admiralty 1708/20 para. 2 (a) concur. Request you will comply with para. 2 (b). (C.in C. H.F. 1859/20 to R.A.M.L.).

Admiralty's 1708/20. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER will be available at midnight 20/21 February. Request your requirements. (R.A.M.L. 1939/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

See p. 667.

Swansea Bay.

Owing to minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Swansea Bay until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2209/20).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.OCEANA

Following intercept on 500 Kc/s.:
 58° 30' N. 21° 20' E. ~~LIEGEN STILL~~ *Liegen still.*
 ("Lying still") OCEANA.
 (Scapa W/T. T.O.R. 0644/20).

New Type
U-Boat.
Kiel Canal.

1. There have been four unconnected reports from seamen during last two months of a small type of U boat apparently twenty metres in length, no guns, crew of seven reported from Pillau, Kiel, Danzig, and now Rotterdam.
3. My 1848/19 for "obstruction" read "ice". Note paragraph 1 D 2. Paragraph 2, A2. (N.A. Stockholm 1555/20).

MARIE LEONHARDT. (German, 2594 tons). Has message been received time of receipt 1855 made in German from MARIE LEONHARDT on 500 kc/s. Ship transmitting appears to be close. My position 1900/20 was 055° 52' N. 008° 08' W. (HARVESTER 1930/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.

O.G.M.) Alternative routes. My 1937/24/1 cancelled.
O.E.M.) My 1737/18/1 remains in force.
C.in C. Plymouth, 1034/20).

Stragglers.

My 2137/21/1 and your 1123/14 also report on Convoy SC 20 by RANPURA. Suggest reintroduction of D/F straggler procedure up to 035° West be seriously considered. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 1217/20.).

ORDUNA

With Willington Mission. 2 destroyers from R.A.M.L. to meet. (D.O.D.H., 1708/20). BRIGHTON and LANCASTER available (R.A.M.L. 1939/20). Route. (C.in C. W.A. 2327/20).

O.B. and
O.G.

My 1739/10. Order of sailing of escort groups amended. (C.in C. W.A. 1914/20). Amended programme of sailings. (C.in C. W.A., 2247/20).

Finnish Ships.

Consul Petsamo reports practice of British patrols in removing Navicerts from eastbound ships (special mention being made of vessels FRITZ and CAROLINA THORDEN) is causing difficulty in checking cargoes on their arrival. (N.A. Stockholm 1541/20 to Admty.).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.74. My 1552/19. Amend position (C.in C. Rosyth 0006/20) Position (A.C.O.S. 0849/20).

E.N.U.73. 0100/20, unescorted, 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0224/20).

W.N.U.75. Destinations (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0225/20).

F.N.12. 412 E.T.A. (VALOROUS, 0742/20) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1059/20) Tyne and Tees ships to be sent Hartlepool. (C.in C. Rosyth 1153/20). Absentees. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 2216/20).

F.S.17. 417 No ships from Middlesbrough (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0947/20) 15 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0948/20) 3 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1102/20).

W.N.86. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/20).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys. (Contd.).

→ F.S.16. 416 Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1018/20) Position, 5 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1414/20) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1916/20).

W.N.U.73. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1120/20).

E.N.75. 0630/21. Escorts. 14 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1136/20).

12 M.V's. E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1223/20) (C.in C., Portsmouth, 1437/20).

W.N.U.87. 1430/20 unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1224/20). 1500/20 unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1550/20) List (1600/20).

W.N.87. 1 ship Methil for Leith. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1435/20) Position (ULLSWATER, 1820/20).

W.N.88. Cancel my 1457/19 (sailing orders). (F.O.I.C. Clyde 1614/20) List (1716/20).

E.N.75. Sails 0630/21)

→ F.S.17A. 417A Sails 2300/20) (C.in C. Rosyth 1558/20).
See next page

F.N.18. 412 Due 1830/20)

→ F.S.17A.) 417A
F.S.18) 418
→ F.S.16) 416 Amend my 1745/17 (escorts). (C.in C. Rosyth 1623/20).

C.E.26. Sailing 23/2. (C.in C. Nore 1740/20).

C.W.26. All arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1746/20).

/ F.N. 11.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

- F.N.H. 411 Arrived 1800/20. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1826/20) (C.in C. Rosyth 2355/20).
- O.B.U.289. 1030/22 unescorted, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1840/20).
- O.B.U.288. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1911/20).
- 10 M.V's. Sailing 1630/21. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2143/20).
- F.S.17A.4174 Sailed 2300/20. 31 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2355/20) (C.in C. Rosyth 2355/20).

Ocean Convoys.

4 Corvettes required for convoy escorts.

Adty. 2248/10 and my 2024/19. Following corvettes detailed. GENTIAN sailed with O.G.52. COREOPSIS sailing with O.G.54. FLEUR DE LYS, AZALEA, sailing with O.G.55. (ii) Allocation of PIMPERNEL is cancelled. (iii) F.O.C.N.A. is requested sail VERBENA for U.K. with next H.G. convoy after arrival of AZALEA. (C.in C. W.A. 1732/20). *See also next page*

Arrivals for Convoys.

N.C.S.O. Halifax 2210/20.

S.C.21.

1 arrival. (N.O.I.C. Barry 0116/20).

H.X.108.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 0209/20 to WANDERER, WITCH, etc.). 12 hours late. (MALOJA, 1028/20) WANDERER etc. to join (C.in C. W.A., 2231/20) PERIWINKLE to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2311/20). *See also next page*

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

- O.B.287. Report p.c. and s. (C.in C. W.A., 1011/20
H.X.108. to WANDERER) Remain with O.B.287 till
further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 1357/20 to
WANDERER etc.) Remain as long as fuel
endurance and join H.X.108, 22/2
(C.in C. W.A., 2231/20).
- O.G.53. Sailing telegram (C.in C. W.A., 1457/20).
- O.B.289. Sailed 1715/20, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey
1716/20) List and destinations. (1717/20).
- O.G.52. GENTIAN sailed with. (C.in C. W.A. 1732/20).
- O.G.54. COREOPSIS " " " "
- O.G.55. FLEUR DE LYS, AZALEA sailing with
(C.in C. W.A. 1732/20). *See previous page.*
- O.B.291. PEGASUS to co-operate. Instructions.
(C.in C. W.A., 1815/20).
- H.X.U.107. BOULDERPOOL arrived (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1909/20).

Military Convoys.

- W.S.6B. A.T. 1335/11 (See Operations Volume). *Page 78*
Delete S.S. BURMA from para. 3. Para. 6,
MAURITIUS is carrying out this duty and
will accompany convoy W.S.6B.
(D.O.D.(F) 1619/20 to C.in C. W.A., H.F.,
S.A., etc.).
- T.C.9. B.S.3 1652/16. A/S escort for T.C.9 from
position A. OTTAWA. S.O., RESTIGOUCHE,
ASSINBOINE, HAVELOCK, CHURCHILL, LEOPARD.
(C.in C. W.A. 1058/20 to 18 C.S.).

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

AFON GWILI. (British, 874 tons) Reports having been in collision with unknown ship. Making water amidships but is maintaining course and speed of Convoy. I am standing by her. (PYTCHLEY 0430/20).

M.A/S B.73. My 0931/20. M.A/S B.73 has returned to Douglas with engine failure. (N.O.I.C. Isel of Man 1148/20).

LINGFIELD. (British, 1002 tons). From F.N.11. Holed in stokehold, rudder post believed fractured, now being beached Yarmouth for pumping operations and subsequent entry to harbour. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 1155/20). Arrived with tugs KROOMAN and RICHARD LEE BARBIER at 1810. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1845/20).

War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raider Situation.North Atlantic.

1. SLS. 64 was probably attacked by ADMIRAL HIPPER which has returned to Brest.

2. Suspicious ship sighted by U.S. liner EXETER on 16/2 south of Azores and vague D/F indications on 18/2 suggest unit in this area.

3. D/F indications of unit in Pernambuco-Freetown area on 19/2.

South Atlantic.

D/F shows unit still south of St. Helena on 19/2.

Southern Ocean.

No information.

Indian Ocean.

SPEYBANK and KETTY BROVING overdue and probably attacked 31/1 and 2/2 west of Seychelles respectively. D/F in this area on 4/2 probably same raider. D/F on 15/2 indicated raider had moved to Saya de Malha-Chagos area.

Pacific Ocean.

Suspicious ship and tanker sighted by R.A.A.F on 16/2 between New Guinea and Solomons, course south, not located 17/2. Possibly MANYO MARU, which bombarded Nauru on 26/12/40 and prize OLE JACOB ex Kobe 5/12/40. (D.D.I.C. 2302/20 to C. in C's etc).

Operations Against Vichy French.FORT RICHEPANSE
PLM 13.
LORIENT.
(intercepted
18/2).My 1230/18. Position 0001/20 033° 24N
013° 13'W. Route 035° 00'N. 010° 00'W.
Speed 11 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500/21.
Fuel remaining 290 tons.
(REGISTAN 0001/20 to Admty).
MARSDALE's 1100/19. Unless otherwise
ordered, MARSDALE rendezvous with FORT
RICHEPANSE and escort Gibraltar. REGISTAN
on relief by MARSDALE (? to join) patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0020/20 to MARSDALE, REGISTAN).
Your 1100/19. French ship PLM 13 sent out
S.O.S. 1745 G.M.T./18 which was answered
by Casablanca asking reason for call.
Nothing further heard.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1042/20 to MARSDALE).

/Rendezvous.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.FORT RICHEPANSE.
PLM 13.
LORIENT.
(intercepted
18/2).

Rendezvous with me 033° 38'N. 011° 20'W.
1700 today.
(MARSDALE 1200/20 to REGISTAN).
F.O.C.N.A.'s 0020/20. FORT RICHEPANSE
reports only two days supply of water
and stores. Sick child on board.
Escorting him direct to Gibraltar. E.T.A.
1600/21.
(REGISTAN, 1310/20 to Admty).
Your 1200/20. Unable to rendezvous. See
my 1310/20.
(REGISTAN 1500/20 to MARSDALE).
Your 1310/20 not received. My position
1800, 033° 43'N. 011° 12'W. steering 110°
8 knots.
(MARSDALE, 1730/20 to REGISTAN, F.O.C.N.A.).

Suspicious
Cruiser.

Unknown cruiser bearing 300 distance
14 miles course 200 going away fast, 033°
07' N. 011° 28' W. my course and speed
010° 10 knots, from MARSDALE.
(Block 1, 1515/20 to Admty F.O.C.N.A).
Your 1515/20. Probably H.M.S. PHOEBE,
Vide my 1706/19.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1605/20 to MARSDALE Block 1,
to Adty, F.O.C.N.A.).

North Atlantic.KALLIOPI.
(ex S.L.S. 64).

Greek, 4965 tons has arrived Gibraltar
with slight damage from raider attack
on S.L. S. 64 on 12/2. Result of the
attack is now:- Safe, 10 ships certain,
2 probably; Sunk, 5 ships certain, 2
probably. (D.O.R. 20/2).

MARON
suspected
ship.

Your 2100/19. (MARON reporting following
CAMPOS). Brazilian CAMPOS ex ASUNCION
4663 G.T. belonging to Lloyds Brazilgire
line.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0120/20 to MARON).
Your 2100/19 Lloyds report CAMPOS 4663
tons arrived Paranagua 7/2 from Bahia
Blanca. No later information.
(D.C. 0212/20 to MARON-).
My 0120/20. In all probability SIQUEIRA CAMPOS,
6456 Gross, which left Pernambuco 6/2 for
Lisbon.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1212/20 to MARON).

/Suspicious.....

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious Ship, 16/2.

American S.S. EXETER on arrival Lisbon reports closed by suspicious ship south of Azores a.m./16 which then made off. (Description). (F.O.C.N.A. 0843/20 to N.A. Stn).

Force H. Escort.

M03379 | 41

Intend to sail FORESIGHTS.O. of Destroyers, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIRE DRAKE, to pass through 035° 10'N. 011° 20'W. at 0900 minus one February 23 (?steering 260°) to R/V with you and escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304/20 to S.O. Force H).

H.G. 54. Escort.

Gibraltar departures 1500/20 LEITH, TUNA, FURY, FEARLESS, GERANIUM, JONQUIL, escorting H.G. 54 in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 2334/17 amended 1312/19. (S.O.I. Gib., 1546/20).

Air Operations

20/2. 2 Routine A.S. patrols. One convoy escort from west. One convoy escort to East. Area covered 4° 30'W. to 8° 40'W. (200 Group 1700/20 to Air Ministry).

ASAKA MARU.

Japanese transport arrival a.m. today. (N.A. Lisbon 1704/20 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 1917Z/19 indicate enemy surface unit within 100 miles of 011°N. 018°W. (C. in C. S.A. 0011/20 to COMORIN, WISHART).

Minesweeping Whalers for Mediterranean.

Your 2021/18. Propose to take in hand forthwith for conversion at Durban NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND, JOHN WILLIAMSON. Earliest possible date of completion 3/5. FAIR MAGDA, SILESIA, and ODD are in bad condition. Possibility of reconditioning. SIR LIEGE, ETOILE, and EDDA cannot be made serviceable. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1130/20 to Admty).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.20.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).Enemy
Unit.

D/F bearings indicated enemy unit probably surface within 80 miles of 031° S. 004° W. at 1917Z/19. Reliability 85%.
(C. in C. S.A. 1347N/20 to S.A. Station).

WANDERER. (S.S.)

Overdue shipping cancel my 1034/14 (1035/14 intended) WANDERER arrived Walvis Bay.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1527B/20).

CYCLAMEN.
CUBA.

H.M.S. CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA arrived Lagos 1100/20. Maximum speed is 9½ knots. (Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos 1530/20 to C. in C. S.A).

DOMINION
MONARCH.

Due Capetown 22/2 probable date of sailing 23rd for U.K. independently.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1601B/20).

S/M Report.

Brazilian Naval Authorities have had report (C.5) from Civilian prefect that unknown submarine was 2 km. off shore at Saquirema, 22° 56' S. 42° 26' W. at 1630/18. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1801/20).

CHATEAUROUX.
BENVENUE.

Your 1404/13. CHATEAUROUX loaded by Free French with French owned cargo and before disposal their approval must be obtained in London. Report when BENVENUE (British) will be ready for sea and cause of delay. If delay due to faulty degaussing she should be sailed for Glasgow undegaussed.
(D.T.D. 1929/20 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Ship sighted
off Table
Bay 16/2.

N.O.i/c Simonstown 2305/16 and 1640/17. Captain (Lieut R.N.V.R) of patrol vessel saw distantly three-funnelled ship approaching from N. which turned away to northwards and was lost in the fading light. Might be warship or similar to EMPRESS boat. No British warship or innocent merchant ship should be there. Mirage, unlikely.
(ii) Air R.C. showed nothing. (iii) Dassen Island lighthouse saw nothing. (iv) French ship ERIDAN believed left (?Dakar) 7/2 for Madagascar. Captain patrol vessel does not consider this was ship sighted but not absolutely certain. (v) Drifting mines found and sunk by gunfire in position 240 degs. 11½ miles from Dassen to-day 20th Q G A 47 refers. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1720/20).

War Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanParachute
Mines

Your 1845/18. A.L. T.O. 7279/40 of 14th/8 1940 paras 45-53 and Diagram 4 explain action and appearance of parachute mine. As far as is known German aircraft do not lay any mine without a parachute. (D.M.S., 0027/20 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal)

CHRISTIAN
HUYGENS

N. T. in W. D.
C, in C., E.I. 1136Z/16. Draft in CHRISTIAN HUYGENS is composed of men three to four years abroad and selected for some reason or another to go to U.K. I strongly deprecate the use of these men as suggested. (C. in C., Med. 0846/20 to Admty.)

Destroyers'
Guns

Further to A.M. 1417/17/1, and C. in C. Med's 1405/20/1 Arrangements for N Class destroyers to be fitted with 4" gun in place of after torpedo tubes. (D.T.S.D. 1056/20 to C. in C., Med.)

Minesweeping

Your 1845/11. Owing to amount of material involved, length of time elapsing before gear could operate, and doubtful efficacy through changes made in enemy mines, the fixed loop system cannot be produced without detriment to production of minesweepers. (D.T.M. 1057/20 to C. in C., Med.)

Sfax
Tunisia

Information received Italians very rarely use Sfax Roads. (Cdr. (S) 1, 1129/20 to UPRIGHT)

UPHOLDER

Leave area p.m./21 through 033° 00' 012° 10' 033° 50' 011° 58' 035° 32' 014° 12' Make E.T.A. when safe to do so and if you cannot arrive Marsamxett before 2200/23 remain in sanctuary and proceed so as to arrive 0630/24. (Comdr (S) 1 1143/20 to UPHOLDER)

/Aircraft....

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Aircraft
required at
Malta

Request you instruct 200 Group to comply with my A 169 11/2. Glenn Martin urgently required at Malta. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1538/20 to Air Min.)

Taranto
Reconnaissance

Air reconnaissance 20/2. Taranto. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1715/20 V.A. Malta 1811/20)

Air
Squadrons

My 1732/14/1. Request details regarding 885 and 805 Squadrons. (D.N.A.D., 1853/20 to C. in C., Med.)

Air Forces

Reply to C. in C., Med. 2007/30/1. (D.N.A.D., 1854/20) See Mediterranean Volume

Engaging
Unseen Air
Targets

Following sent to A.O.C., in C., M.E. by Air Ministry "Experience of enemy night T/B and low level bombing attacks in Mediterranean and possibility of similar attacks elsewhere necessitates establishment of rules for engaging unseen targets by H.M. ships. Following rule proposed"(quoted)

Request information if this rule will meet your general requirements for A.A. fire at unseen targets. (D.T.S.D., 1855/20 to C. in C., Med.)

Danger Area
for Shipping

In Central Mediterranean. Navigational warning to be issued at 1200/22 to shipping. Instructions for attack on shipping at sight. (Hd. of M., 2021/20 to C. in C., Med., etc.) Original in Lion copy only.

OUSE

OUSE was sunk by a mine while sweeping with S.A. gear in Mersa Tobruk Harbour. Further details and casualties will be forwarded later. (C. in C., Med., 1906/20)

TO: Commander in Chief, Mediterranean 495.
 Flag Officer Commanding, North Atlantic 746.
 Vice Admiral, Malta. 416
 S.O Force (H) 294.
 Reptd. Air Ministry.

Date. 20.2.41

NAVAL CYPHER D.

From Admiralty.
 IMPORTANT.

Danger Area, Central Med.

A navigational warning is being issued at 1200 G.M.T. on 22nd February declaring dangerous to shipping an area in the Mediterranean enclosed by the lines joining the following positions:

From Cape Sta. Maria di Leuca in Italy ^{169° (amended) 1240/21/2} Lat. 39 deg. 48' N. long 18 deg 22' E. (approx) in a ~~162~~ deg direction to Benghazi thence westward along the north African shore to the Tunisian - Tripoli frontier thence along the limits of French territorial waters to a position 3 miles northward of Cape Bon in Lat. 37 deg 08' N. long 11 deg 04' E. (approx) thence in a 304 deg direction to a position 30 miles 180 deg from Cape Spartivento in Sardinia thence at a distance of 30 miles from the west coast of Sardinia to the parallel 41 deg 18' N. thence eastward along this parallel to Paola Fuora point thence southward and eastward along the coast of Italy to Cape Sta. Maria di Leuca.

2. Within this area surface vessels, submarines and aircraft may attack any vessels at sight but French coastal traffic including traffic to islands off the Tunisian coast should not be interfered with.
3. In the Adriatic all vessels navigating within 30 miles of Italian and Italian occupied territory may be attacked without warning; to avoid infringing Yugo-Slav territorial waters, northern limit of 30 mile zone off coast of Albania is to be latitude 42 deg north. Certain Yugo-Slav ships may occasionally be allowed to enter and leave Adriatic on approved voyages. In these cases C. in C. Mediterranean will be informed by consul granting navicert and should instruct patrols accordingly. Assume local naval authorities will inform C. in C. Mediterranean if Yugo-Slav ship is permitted to sail from Egyptian or Palestine port to Adriatic.
4. Elsewhere in the Mediterranean German and Italian vessels may be attacked without warning anywhere within 30 miles of Italian territory and also south of Lat. 35 deg 46' N. in Tunisian territorial waters in accordance with my 0202/5.
5. The necessity of discouraging trade between Spanish and Italian ports was referred to in my 1229/15/1. In view of the difficulty of maintaining patrols within 30 miles of the Italian coast particularly off Genoa, and in order to discourage trade between Spain and Italy there is no objection to occasional attacks without warning being carried out against definitely identifiable enemy merchant ships outside 30 miles of Italian territory.

677^B

6. Request you will arrange for navigational warning contained in paragraph 1 to be broadcast not before 1200 G.M.T. on 22nd February.

2021/20
for Hd. of M. (808)
Approved by War Cabinet. *(amended)*

1st Lord
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T)
C.S.O to 1st S.L
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P (3)
D.N.I (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
O.D. (5)
Ops (4)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D.9
D.A/S.W.
D.H.A.D.

Hydrographer
D.E.W.D. (3)
D. of L.D. (2)
D.C.O
M. (12) and for F.O. M.E.W.
D.D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
I.P. (3)
W.D.

War Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesKismayu

My 1026/17. (Position of ships ex Kismayu)
One of the three ships in Southern Anchorage Kismayu is still afloat. W/T Station apparatus and electric power station in Kismayu completely smashed. (C. in C., E.I., 0528Z/20, to Admty.)

KINGSTON
FORT LAMY
PASHA
ARENA

Expect to arrive 1600Z/20 with FORT LAMY. Will send PASHA ahead to save daylight. ARENA sent on last night has not yet been overtaken and may arrive independently. Re lights. (KINGSTON, 0606Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan)

Red Sea
Convoys

My 1226/21/1 and 1316/18/1. Consequent on reduction in Red Sea Escort Force intend to introduce following Red Sea convoy programme forthwith. (C. in C., E.I., 0700Z/20 to S.N.O., Red Sea etc.) See Operations Volume.

PARRAMATTA
B.S.F. 2.

Departure 0400Z/20 to join B.S.F. 2. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 0922Z/20) Sailing telegram B.S.F. 2 (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 0924Z/20)

Convoy
B.N.F. 2.

Port Sudan portion arrived 20/2 EMPIRE ABILITY, BAARN. (N.O.i/c Port Sudan 0923Z/20)

Convoy
B.N. 16

Port Sudan portion arrived, ARENA, FORT LAMY. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan 1737Z/20)

Convoy
W.S.5 B

List. (S.T.O., Durban, 1905B/20, to D. of S.T.)

Merchant
Ship Lights

My 1854/17/1 and your 0658/3 para 3, request information as to navigation lights being exhibited by merchant vessels in your command. (D.T.D., 1931/20 to C. in C., E.I.)

/Troop.....

War Diary20.1.1941.
ThursdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Troop
Transport

Your 0632/8. Suggestion appreciated but owing to changed circumstances first employment of whatever vessel is released will be voyage from Durban to Egypt with W.S. 6.

INDRAPOERA will not be withdrawn to U.K. until this voyage has been completed unless you can release her concurrently. Presume NEURALIA will be ordered to proceed to India.

(D.S.T., 2342/20 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)

Your 1633/13. Personnel Ships of W.S. 5 A. may be required at Durban for onward conveyance of personnel ex refrigerated ships in W.S. 6. Disposal of W.S. 5 B. ships will be signalled.

(D.S.T., 2351/20 to P.S.T.O. Egypt)

ChinaConference

At Singapore. Request for information re distribution. (C. in C., China, 0209Z/20 to Admty.)

VARDAAS

Request permission Norwegian tanker VARDAAS now at Tarakan discharge Shanghai cargo at Singapore. (S.O.I., Singapore 0255Z/20)

D'ARTAGNAN

Your 1246/19. Fully concur in action taken by British Embassy Shanghai. Risk of immobilising of these ships at Shanghai under present conditions cannot be accepted. (C. in C., China 0309Z/20 to Admty.)

Aviation
Spirit at
Hong Kong

Arrangements being made for A.P.C. to hold reserve of 500 tons aviation spirit. DTD 224 in drums on ~~Hong~~ Hong Kong Island for use by M.T.B's. (Admty., 1614/20)

Hong Kong

Precautions (Hd. of M., 1751/20 to C. in C., China)

War Diary

20.2.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Contraband
Gold

Intercepted air letter from Banque De L'Afrique Occidentale Marseilles to M. Morin representative of Banque De L'Indo-Chine care of French American Banking Corporation New York states that best way of forwarding the gold would be by air to Algiers and Casablanca thence by sea and air to New York via Guadeloupe. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0953/20 to Admty.)

TOEI MARU
Hurriedly
loading petrol

Following from C.S.A. San Francisco (Begins) - Japanese Tanker TOEI MARU arriving San Francisco late this week to load aviation base petrol. Petrol so urgently required that it is being loaded in dirty tanker normally carrying Bladd oil which is unprecedented. Known fact. (Ends) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1517/20 to Capt. O.S.Singapore)

War Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdayITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSDERNADeparted 18/2 for Genoa. (Barcelona 1237/
19)METEORItalian tanker, 1700 tons reported left
Cagliari for Tripoli yesterday. Ship
believed loaded with aviation spirit.
(V.A. Malta 1435/20 to REGENT, URSULA)PASUBIOArrived Susak 19/2 from Trapani, Sicily.
(Susak, T.H.I. 1930/19)FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPSSAINT DOMINGUEMy 1801/19. Cancel words "endeavoring
to detain". Reliable French source
regraded A. 1. informs this ship's mission
solely to carry food to Cayenne by
arrangement with Port Para Company which
is Government controlled. She expects
to sail 21/2. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro,
1235/20 to Admty.)CHATEAUROUX

(D.T.D., 1939/20) See South Atlantic. Page 675.

War Diary20.2.1941.
ThursdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedBLACK OSPREY
(Torpedoed 18/2)

No trace of vessel found except much wreckage. Search has been abandoned. (D.O.R., 20/2)
Your 1900/18 if nothing found proceed to Reykjavik to fuel. Report anticipated time you will be ready to leave Reykjavik. (C. in C., W.A., 1258/20 to MISTRAL)

SIAMESE PRINCE
(Torpedoed 17/2)

Your 1349/20. From ARROW. Your 1035/19 searched till dark nothing but wreckage seen. Met 4 ships of H.X. 107 intend to rejoin them off Butt of Lewis about noon, tomorrow. (C. in C., W.A., 2010/20 to Admty.)

Submarines ReportedSouth Atlantic1630/18

22.56 S., 42.26 W. (N.A. Rio, 1801/20)
See FOREIGN STATIONS, South Atlantic)

Off Azores
16/2.

Report graded A. states Submarine sighted south Terceira Island Azores on 16/2. (F.O.C.N.A., 0446/20 to North Atlantic Station)

D/F Position
19/2

My 2302/19 for 2040/19 read 2140/19.
(D.D.I.C., 0357/20)

0930

Following has been read from Lyness W/T. SSSS S/M Raider signal heard at 0930 G.M.T. SSSS 59 R 53 N., /2R13 west (SHAFTESBURY 1220/20)

Estimated
Dispositions

German: 1 60 miles of 60° 30' N., 16° W
1 in 58° 48' N., 18° 17' W., at 2041/18 may be moving West.
1 90 miles of 56° 30' N., 22° 30' W.
1 90 miles of 53° 30' N., 18° W.,
1 30 miles of 51° 30' N., 20° W.,
1 approaching Lorient
1 60 miles of 43° 30' N., 13° W., homeward bound.
Italian: Possibly one in Azores area re-reported South of Terceira 16th.
6 or 7 may be at sea. (D.D.I.C., 1243/20, F.O.(S) 1438/20 to SURCOUF, THUNDERBOLT)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Shipping
in Channel.

In order to reduce danger of air attacks C.in C. Plymouth has issued to Officers concerned, in his command, routing orders which will reduce shipping at sea in the Channel to a minimum during daylight.

British Air Activity.

A Hudson of Coastal Command attacked a merchant vessel of about 4000 tons off Egersund today and secured two direct hits.

Most of the morning patrols in the North Sea were cancelled today, but the weather improved in the afternoon and enabled the patrols to be carried out. Convoys were escorted in the N.W. Approaches and Blenheims maintained a fighter patrol all day in the North Channel and Minches.

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy air attacks are being carried out in bad weather on ships and ports on the East Coast with comparative immunity owing to the inability of our aircraft to take off to counter them. C.in C. Rosyth urges that the enemy bases on the Coast of Norway should be bombed. A Blenheim is to patrol over Stavanger Aerodrome nightly from 23/2 in order to endeavour to keep F.W.A/C from taking off during dark hours.

/Convoy

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATIONS REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy O.B.287 was attacked this morning for the third day in succession in the N.W. Approaches in 59° 31'N., 16° 30'W., S.S. SCOTTISH STANDARD, ST. ROSARIO and D.L. HARPER are reported to have been damaged in the attacks today and yesterday. All attacks were made on the flanks or stragglers by single aircraft appearing suddenly from clouds or snowstorms. The escort was quite unable to cover the entire convoy and WANDERER reports that continual escort (air) during daylight is essential if similar cases are to be avoided. It had been suggested that A.S.V. transmissions might assist enemy aircraft to find convoy, and these were stopped after the dawn attacks this morning with subsequent immunity.

Some damage was caused by attack on Chatham dockyard last night.

Two aircraft attacked oiler WAR PINDARI, tanker THORSHAVEN, and A/S Trawler LINCOLN CITY in Skaale Fiord, Faroes today. The A/S trawler was sunk, but the other two ships escaped damage. One enemy aircraft was brought down by combined machine gun fire of ^{A/S} S.S. LEICESTER CITY and the military. A/A guns are being sent for defence.

It is reported that S.S. HILL yesterday evening damaged an enemy aircraft which attacked her off St. Ives.

Mining.

Minelaying enemy aircraft early this morning was suspected off the Lizard, Lands End, and in the Thames Estuary.

/mines

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (Contd.)

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off the Mumbles (Swansea).

The Tees was opened at 1600. Tyne remains closed until a sweeper fitted with S.A. gear is available.

Operations Against Vichy French.

S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE arrived at Gibraltar this afternoon, escorted by REGISTAN, ~~also~~ who has defects which will require 7 days to make good. S.S. ^{Fort} RICHEPANSE and her cargo are to be seized in prize. Aircraft patrolled off Casablanca to prevent interception of incoming ^{Fort} RICHEPANSE.

South Atlantic.

A German drifting mine in absolutely new condition has been destroyed 11½ miles S.S.W. of Dassen Island in the north part of Table Bay. A prohibited area has been established. A vessel was recently reported near the position.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

6 Wellingtons attacked aerodromes in Sicily last night. 3 Bombs were dropped on Benghazi after dusk today.

Operation
M.C.8.

M012558 | 41

V.A. Malta reports that operation M.C.8. (passage of troops and stores to Malta) was successfully completed at Malta (see 19/2).

Force B (Cruisers and Destroyers) after disembarking troops this morning sailed this afternoon according to plan for Alexandria. Large numbers of German aircraft operated round Malta about 1130 but no attacks developed on Force B.

East Indies.German
Battle
Cruiser
attacks
S.S.
CANADIAN
CRUISER.

S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER reported at 1608Z today being chased by a battle cruiser in 6° 36'S., 47° 18'E, approx., midway between Zanzibar and Seychelles, though CANADIAN CRUISER may have reported her longitude incorrectly. GLASGOW, EMERALD, CAPETOWN and HERMES are to form Force V to search for the raider. GLASGOW, which was in the neighbourhood of the raider went to investigate immediately. EMERALD is escorting Convoy W.S.5.B.X, which has been ordered into Mombasa. Convoy W.S.5.B, escorted by HAWKINS and AUSTRALIA is about 50 miles to the Eastward of W.S.5.B.X. proceeding towards Aden. ENTERPRISE, 300 miles to the northward, is proceeding towards the area at 20 knots.

/ of the Convoy,

/150'

/150'

WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies. (Contd.)Naval
Aircraft
attack on
Massawa.A0726/41
A0696/41
A01197/41

7 Albacores from FORMIDABLE (Force K) carried out a dawn attack on Massawa today. It is hoped that 3 destroyers and possibly a submarine were hit. Over 35 merchant ships were counted in the harbour.

R.A.F. operated against targets in the neighbourhood today.

America and West Indies.

It is reported that the Chilean authorities have given orders to prevent the German ships refuging in Chilean ports from sailing.

The Admiralty today replied to C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/4, outlining their proposals for protection of New Zealand Air Force personnel between Auckland and Vancouver.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Enemy
Air
Bases.
Proposal
to Attack.

Enemy air attacks are being carried out in bad weather on ships and ports on this coast with comparative impunity owing to the inability of our aircraft to take off to counter them. It is undesirable that these attacks should be allowed to continue.

I would suggest again as in my 1749/12/11 that heavy scale bombing should be carried out on enemy bases on the Norwegian coast.

It is realised that 18 Group of Coastal Command have neither suitable or sufficient aircraft for such bombing and it is for consideration that these attacks should be carried out by forces of the Bomber Command. (C.in C. Rosyth 1100/21).

GLIMMAREN.

Swedish ship GLIMMAREN sailed for Goteborg at 1400 routed in accordance with your 2255/20. Master instructed not to submit to German Contraband control during this voyage. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1402/21 to Admty).

Administration
of Western
Patrol.

A.T.1011/11/1, para.E cancel and substitute:

E. That the Western Patrol should be carried out by ten O.B.V's who will be administered by F.O.C.N.P. and based normally on the Clyde.

Operational control will be as follows:-

By F.O.C.N.P. Whilst outside the North Atlantic Station whether on passage or on patrol. F.O.C.N.P. in consultation with the Admiralty is to decide which areas are to be patrolled and the dates of commencing and leaving patrol.

By F.O.C.N.A. Whilst within the North Atlantic Station.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1823/21).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Faroes.

N.O.I.C. Faroos 1715/21. I wish to keep an oiler in Faroos but it will not be practicable if attacks continue. Can reply be given to my 2327/7. (C.in C. H.F. 2331/21).

Defence of United Kingdom."Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/21. (D.C.1137/21).
At 2330/21. (D.C.2339/21).

Blockship
at
Folkstone.

Your 1834/21/1. There is little likelihood of a suitable vessel becoming available in near future. (A.C.N.S. H. 1447/21 to V.A. Dover).

Faroos
A/A
Defences.

Reference attack on Faroos today intend sending four 2 pounder Vickers guns which have been released from Scapa by Bofors guns to Faroos, p.m. tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 2359/21).

Movements.H.43.

Intend sailing submarine H.43 at 2100/22 with convoy W.N.89 to Methil C.in C. Rosyth is requested to include her in first F.S. convoy for Southend after her arrival at Methil and C.in C. Nore to provide onward escort Southend to Sheerness. (S.7. 1059/21).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.Sunk
Light
Vessel.

T.H.V. PATRICIA escorted by A/S trawler SAPPHIRE sails at 0800/22 arriving Sunk Light Vessel at 0915, placing buoy, and leaving with L.V. in tow at 1230 for Harwich. E.T.A. 1400. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1105/21).

WARDOUR)
VALEROUS)
ALERT.)

S.A. Sweeper WARDOUR is to be sailed to make contact with VALEROUS and T.H.V. ALERT anchored in Q.Z.S. 181 off East Knock John Buoy by daylight tomorrow. WARDOUR is to sweep ^{of} these ships while working in Q.Z.S. 159, anchor with them on Saturday night and sweeping them back to B.2. Buoy on Sunday, thence returning to Sheerness independently. Fighter escort has been asked for on Saturday and fighter protection on Sunday.
(C.in C. Nore, 1128/21).

OLYMPUS.

My 0931/20. Intend to sail OLYMPUS from Portsmouth unescorted 1700/22 via Needles Channel to R/V with 2 ~~ships~~ ^{M.L.'s} 110° Berry Head 3 miles at 0900/23.
(S.5. 1130/21).

ARAWA.

C.in C. S.A. 1341/29/1 and Admty's 2104/13/2. ARAWA will be ready to leave Clyde p.m./24. Request escort may be provided.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1150/21).

STURGEON.

Port of Blyth closed. Proceed to Methil until further orders.
(S.6. 1444/21 to STURGEON).
My 1444/21. Anchor within 2 cables of position 110° Methil fixed red light 18 cables. Proceed on main motor after passing May Island.
(S.6. 2314/21 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)Northern
Patrol.Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1504/21 and 1957/21).CANTON
CHURCHILL
LEOPARD.Sailed CANTON with CHURCHILL to R/V with
LEOPARD in accordance with C.in C. W.A.
1449/19/2 and F.O.C. N.P. 2100/20/2.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1800/21).TAKU
TALISMAN.Your 1803/15 Part 1. Admty 1214/15 Capt:
(S) 2 1008/21. TAKU, TALISMAN are to be
routed as follows to Halifax.
(C.in C. W.A. 1805/21 and 1808/21).A.M.C's
for
Iceland.My 1504/11. A.M.C's are expected to
arrive Iceland as follows RANPURA 4/3
AURANIA 8/3, MONTCLARE 14/3, ALAUNIA 18/3,
RAJPUTANA, 24/3, LACONIA 28/3 March.
(F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1813/21).Submarines.Positions at 0800/22 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1844/21).PANDORA.Leaving Portsmouth 1830/21 for Gibraltar
diving by day to position C routed as
follows.
(S.5. 1900/21 to TIGRIS).
S.5./1215/6D. PANDORA sailed. E.T.A. 3400
Cape Spartel 12' 1600/27.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/21).SKEENA
ST. LAURENT.Capt: D Greenock's 1305/16. Intend sailing
SKEENA and ST. LAURENT to Halifax for refit
p.m./23.
(C.in C. W.A. 1911/21).JACKAL
KIPLING.Sailed 1915.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2030/21).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operations.

^{"Obstacle"}
~~OPERATION~~ is cancelled for today Friday.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 0826/21 to H.Q.F.C.)

VESLEKARI.
HONNINGSVAAG.
(Jan Mayen).

Report instructions given to VESLEKARI to Admty and C.in C. H.F. forthwith. (A.C.N.S. H. 1131/21 to F.O. Iceland). Your 1131/21. Instructions VESLEKARI were given by Captain Ullring personally. She sailed in company with HONNINGSVAAG at 1620 G.M.T./19 for North Coast of Iceland by West Coast route. When off entrance of Eyjafjord (066° 10'N., 018° 30'W) VESLEKARI will be detached to proceed to Jan Mayen. Captain Ullring in HONNINGSVAAG proceed Apureyri to pick up remaining R.N. Expedition and then leave for Jan Mayen Island to R/V with VESLEKARI en route.

Time of sailing of HONNINGSVAAG from Apureyri will be reported.
(F.O. Iceland 1229/21 to Admty).

Operation "Pageant". X.499 21/2. ^{"Pageant?"}
~~PAGEANT.~~

Reference ~~PAGEANT~~. Understood Captain Ship has arranged following supply from own sources. Confirm.
(Air Ministry 1735/21 to R.A.F. EO Glasgow).
Movement Order No.363. (Air Ministry E.11 1730/21).

British Air Activity.

Lowestoft
Own A/C
attacked
16/2.

Following from Air Ministry begins:-
"Blenheim V.54600 139 Squadron returning from Operational mission 1119/16 was engaged by heavy and light A.A. from ground defences. Aircraft was on Northerly course near Lowestoft. Tracer just missed. IFF was on and Fighter Command had been warned on identification. Correct colour of day fired.

This is fourth occasion that friendly bombers have been engaged by A.A. guns in Lowestoft area since a Blenheim was shot down on 22/1. Request occurrence be investigated urgently and Air Ministry informed of result. Urge that all A.A.

/defences

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Lowestoft
Own A/C
attacked
16/2.
(Contd.)

defences be impressed of importance of strict fire discipline based on full knowledge of rules for opening fire on aircraft and thorough training in aircraft recognition. Ends."

2. Request this matter may be immediately and fully investigated and if it is found that naval units were concerned that instant action may be taken to ensure that the agreed rules for opening fire by ships in harbour are complied with. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1047/21 to C.in C. Nore). A.245. 21/2.

To avoid continuance of mistaken engagements of friendly aircraft in Lowestoft - Yarmouth area, Naval Authorities desire to establish local equivalent of A.G.O.R. Class C to which it is proposed plots and identification should be passed. Request you arrange representative to report F.O.I.C. Yarmouth at Naval Base Yarmouth at 1100/22/2 for conference to decide details with Air Ministry Naval and local A.A. Command representatives. (H.Q.F.C. 1530/21 to 12 Group).

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"stand"} ~~STAND~~ now in operation. Also 3 Elenheims on special patrols from Shetlands 1200 to 1700 one from Out Skerries 045° to depth 90 miles, one from Watness 225° to depth 70 miles, one from Sumburgh 180° to depth 80 miles. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1240/21).

Search
for
U/Boat.

One Whitley A/C from Wick to search for U/Boat in 60° 15'N., 6° 10'W. E.T.A. 1930/21 remaining about 4 hours if nothing located. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1756/21).

/Escort

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (cont'd)Escort
for
RODNEY.

Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft throughout daylight/22. Second aircraft should relieve first aircraft about 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2052/21 to RODNEY).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
O.B. 287
SCOTTISH
STANDARD
hit.
ST ROSARIO ?
D.L. HARPER
damaged.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ^{"Curly"} ~~convoy~~ in 59° 31'N., 16° 30'W. (WANDERER 0925/21). Convoy attacked by Heinkel. SCOTTISH STANDARD hit, badly damaged. MONTGOMERY standing by. Air escort essential. (WANDERER 0953/21). Tanker SCOTTISH STANDARD engine room wrecked, on fire aft. Salvage considered possible if tug can reach her before after fuel tank gets alight. All pumps wrecked. Master and 40 men taken off, five in serious condition, three left dead. Position 059° 18'N., 16° 12'W. at 0830Z. Am standing by. (MONTGOMERY, 1330/21). Tugs cannot arrive in under 36 hours. Report immediately whether conditions make it worth while sending them. (C.in C. W.A. 1816/21 to MONTGOMERY). Detach NORTHERN SPRAY to R/V with tugs ST. OLAVES and THAMES in 058° 10'N., 006° 00'W. at 0800 tomorrow. She will be required to escort tugs proceeding to SCOTTISH STANDARD bombed in 059° 18'N., 016° 12'W. 0930/21. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/21 to MALCOLM). SCOTTISH STANDARD unable to steam or steer. Conditions good. Heavy towing. Ship likely to remain afloat indefinitely. Orders for MONTGOMERY requested. (MONTGOMERY, 1940/21). Casualties from air attack during 20/2 and 21/2. ST. ROSARIO damaged by near miss and returning to harbour. D.L. HARPER similarly damaged and proceeding to Halifax for repairs along the same route as Commodore. SCOTTISH STANDARD direct hit aft. All attacks low altitude made on flanks or stragglers by single Heinkel appearing suddenly from clouds or snowstorms. Escort quite unable to cover whole convoy consider continual air escort during daylight essential if similar cases are to be

/avoided

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy O.B. 287
Cont:-

avoided. It has been suggested that A.S.V. transmission may assist aircraft to find convoy and these were stopped after dawn attacks this morning with subsequent immunity.
(WANDERER 1945/21).

Your 1940/21. Stand by SCOTTISH STANDARD until arrival of tugs ST. OLAVES and THAMES sailing from Stornoway daylight 22nd escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY.
(C.in C. W.A. 2231/21 to MONTGOMERY).

Shetlands.

My 1105/18. N.O.I.C. Lerwick now reports that the two so-called bombs dropped on Bressay near A.A. Battery were in fact two auxiliary petrol tanks. R.A.F. are investigating fragments and a sample of the fuel contents.
(A.C.O.S. 1046/21).

Invergordon.

My 1650/17/2. Recovery of oil fuel progressing satisfactorily. Estimate probable 2500 tons recoverable at decreasing rate.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1107/21).

Convoy
W.N. Odd.

Air raid imminent, on Odd numbered W.N. convoy.
(Lyness W/T 1200/21).
Fighter escort despatched to assist.
(Lyness W/T 1203/21).

GREENLAND.

(British 1281 tons). Arrived Stornoway a.m. 21st. Reports attack by aircraft 80 miles 308° Butt of Lewis at 1145/20. 4 casualties landed. Ship undamaged.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1301/21).

Chatham
Area.

During night 20/21. Bombs were dropped as follows in Chatham Area:-
(S.C.E. Chatham, 1540/21).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Chatham
Area.
(Contd.)Report for night 20/21.
Damage at Dockyard by Air Raid.
(C.in C. Nore, 2120/21).TARIA.
(Bombed
18/2).Your 1311/19. Further to my 1547/20.
Killed 5th Engineer and 2 Chinese Ratings.
Injured 3rd Officer and 3 Chinese Ratings.
(D.T.D. 1659/21).Faroes
Attacked.
LINCOLN
CITY,
sunk.My 1533 to A.C.O.S. only. Bombing attack
by two aircraft presumed Heinkel 111.
Targets were oiler WAR PINDARI in Skaale
Fiord undamaged, oil tanker THORSHAVEN
undamaged, and LINCOLN CITY sunk.
Approximately 8 ratings and no officers
lost.One enemy aircraft brought down by combined
machine gun fire of ^{NAVY} LEICESTER CITY and
military. 4 Prisoners taken.
(N.O.I.C. Faroos, 1715/21 to A.C.O.S.)HILL.
(Norwegian
496 tons).At 1930/20 attacked by enemy aircraft.
Engaged enemy and damaged tail of machine.
Position 9 miles N.W. by W. from St. Ives.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 1736/21).Mining.Z.M.E.19.Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 today
for operation Z.M.E. 19, to lay at 2230,
returning on completion about 0315/22.
(PLOVER 1018/21).

2.

Example No. 2 TRAVEL NO. 5 BURSTER.

(a) 54 degs 10' N 00 degs 20' E
(b) 54 " 00' N 00 " 15' E.
(c) 53 " 54' N 00 " 18 E.

(V.C.N.S. 1312/21)

~~for D.S.D. (151).~~

Approved by V.C.N.S.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
Naval Sec.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
C.S.O. to st S.L.
Ops (4).
O.D.(5).
D.T.D.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
M. (2).
O.I.C.
Hydrog. (3).
D. of N.
O.C.S.C.
I.P.(3).
D.M.S.

D.M.S. Basement.
D.S.D. 9. (M/S 062/41) (2).
D.D.O.D. (M).
Room 52 Arch Block S.
D.A/S.W.
D.D.T.M.
D.S.O. (2).
A.C.R.
A.G.R.M.
W/T. (2).
D. of L.D. (2).
D. of P. (3).
W.D.

HOME COMMANDS

21. 2. 41.

Mg

Mining

Friday

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1312/21st Feb.

OUT.

To: 'A' Message Home 125 AZ.

DATE: 21.2.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (A. one).

PERMANENT.

From Admiralty.

NOT W/T.

1. In the event of Invasion QZY and QZS messages will cease. This will be indicated by the Admiralty in a general Message. (Home) "NO QUIZ" made in plain language.

2. From the time of receipt of this message reports of mines are to be made from ships at sea by W/T in plain language as follows:-

- A. By any Warship cutting a mine with their sweep or paravane - SWEEPER.
- B. By any Warship striking a moored mine - BURSTER.
- C. By any Warship observing the dropping of Parachute mines - PARA.
- D. By any Warship actually mined by a ground mine. - SITTER.

3. Ground mines exploded at a distance are NOT to be reported.

4. These words are to be followed by a position in lat. and long. and time of origin (and prefixed IMMEDIATE). If made on a Port Wave these messages are to be passed by Port authorities to the Admiralty.

5. The Admiralty will promulgate such of the above messages which they consider necessary in the same form as received. Each category A, B, C and D. being given their own serial number:-

Example; No. 5 BURSTER 5405 N 0020 E. 1435.

6. These messages will be made on B.N. and H.D. local authorities being responsible for re-broadcast on their Port waves if considered necessary.

7. In addition Admiralty may promulgate the emergency laying of own mines dangerous to surface craft by the code word CRACKER, followed by the position using lettered co-ordinates or plain language at originator's discretion.

Example: No. 3 CRACKER 2 miles of 50 01 N 04 10 W 1027.

8. To promulgate a clear water passage in a mined area, this information will be transmitted as a further message using indicating word TRAVEL.

..... Example.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)BORDE,
QUEENWORTH
CORBRAE
CORFIELD.

Are to operate as part of the Sheerness minesweeping force.

It is not considered that vessels of this size should normally operate at night in the Estuary. Their sweeping should therefore usually be done by day.

Fighter cover being asked for.

It is desirable that when practicable these vessels should not operate in depths of less than eight fathoms.

Vessels are to fly mark VI balloons when operating.

(C.in C. Nore 1032/21).

Tyne.

Port will have to remain closed till sweeper fitted with S.A. Gear A Type Mark 2 is ready for service.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1033/21).

Thames
Estuary.One red mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers at 2140/20 in 143° B.5 buoy 3 cables.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 1120/21).Mine
Messages
in case of
Invasion.Code words and instructions.
(V.C.N.S. 1312/21).See Summaries Folder, *copy opposite.*Mine detonated by S.A. Gear at 1215/21 in 249° Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 1530/21).PELICAN
(Mined 19/2).Sheerness departure 1405. PELICAN in tow of tugs SUN ~~10~~ and FOREMOST 22 for Blackwall.

(Cmdre, Sheerness 1422/21).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Tees.

My 1645/16. Port of Tees opened.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1600/21).
My 1427/21. Tees now open.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1911/21 to WALLACE,
PYTCHLEY).

Aberdeen.

Port of Aberdeen will be closed between
0600 and 1200 on the 22nd during special
search by S/A trawler.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1736/21).

Swansea.

One red mine detonated by S.A. Gear at
1430/21 in 116° 2.45 miles from Mumbles
Light House.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1740/21).
At 0945/21. One Mine detonated by S.A.
Gear in 132° 1.5 miles from Mumbles
Lighthouse.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1750/21).

MOST SECRET.21. 2. 41.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.MARIE
LEONHARDT.

HARVESTER's 1930/20 is passed to you for information. Port Patric Radio and Malin Head Radio report that they did not intercept this transmission. (C. in C. W.A. 0025/21.)

ADMIRAL HIPPER-~~class~~
(Cruiser)
at Brest.

Preliminary report of photographic reconnaissance 21/2/41 shows the HIPPER class (cruiser) is dry dock at Brest. The dock is dry. (D.D.I.C. 1438/21, and 1654/21.) (St. Eval 1445/21, to H.Q.C.C.)

Miscellaneous.Icefield.

Between (a) $066^{\circ} 15' N, 031^{\circ} 20' W$, and (b) $066^{\circ} 40' N, 027^{\circ} 10' W$. Details. (WORCESTERSHIRE 1101/20.)

Object
off Mull.

S/S EMPIRE FUSILIER reports 1400/20 object on surface in $56^{\circ} 15' N, 06^{\circ} 07' W$, approx. Suggested may be aircraft sinking as smoke was observed on surface afterwards. R.A.F. made reconnaissance at 1545/20 and reported sighting large patch of fresh oil in position $56^{\circ} 13' N, 06^{\circ} 20' W$. NOTTS COUNTY despatched to investigate and reported no trace of anything either surmerged or floating in area 6 miles E.S. and S.W. of position. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1300/21.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary21.2.1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSShipping & ConvoysGeneralORDUNA

(With Willingdon Mission) BRIGHTON and LANCASTER left 1400/21 for R.V. (TRELAWNEY, 1401/21)

Route for
Petsamo-bound
ships.

(1) In consequence of Petsamo - bound vessels being constantly intercepted by German patrols and taken into Vardo certain masters have suggested a route taking them further to northward in order eventually to make a land - fall further East without the chance of German interception.

(2) In view of new mined area described in my 1117/15 to D.N.I. and nature of Arctic Coast do you contemplate any change of route.

(N.A. Stockholm 1736/21 to Admty.)

Shipping in
Channel

To reduce danger of air attacks, shipping at sea in Channel is to be reduced to a minimum during daylight.

2. Ships are to be routed to arrive at following points at sunrise. Destination Plymouth - 180 Rame Head 2 point 2 miles Destination Falmouth or Dartmouth - Outer end of swept channel.

3. Ships are to be sailed from these points half an hour after sunset.

4. Eastbound ships are not to pass Lands End before dark, and are to be routed to Falmouth unless they can reach Plymouth or Dartmouth in accordance with para 2.

Westbound ships are to be routed to Falmouth unless they can pass Lands End before sunrise.

5. Ships between Plymouth and Falmouth routed by inner channel may proceed in Daylight.

6. C. in C., W.A. 1248/4/12/40 is cancelled. (C. in C., Plymouth 1836/21)

/Coastal Convoys...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 75.

0630/21. Escorts. 14 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 0650/21) List (1124/21, 1700/21) LACENNIA M/S trawler did not sail (C. in C. Rosyth 1255/21) off Buchan Ness (STELLA CAPELLA 2330/21).

E.N.(O) 74.

E.T.A. (CAPE MARIATO, 0800/21).

→ F.N. 12. 412

NAUTILUS sailed to Humber (N.C.S.O. Thames 0830/21) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 1040/21) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1148/21, C. in C. Rosyth 2340/21).

E.N.U. 74.

Arrived 0800/21, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1025/21).

W.N.U. 88.

2300/21, unescorted, 3 ships. All with kites N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1026/21, 2345/21).

F.S. 13. 413

Non-arrivals (N.C.S.O. Humber 1038/21).

F.S. 17. 417

Position, 13 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1100/21) Arrived except 2 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1829/21, 2134/21).

→ F.N. 12A. 412A

0830/21. 45 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1101/21) Escorts and time. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Thames 1324/21).

All ships in F.N. 12A bound north of Humber except those for Methil should be diverted to Humber.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1427/21).

328. Your 1710/21. See my 1427/21 and my 1911/21. No northbound ships except those bound for Tees can be accepted in F.N. 12A.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1919/21 to N.C.S.O. Humber).

Note. Both these last 2 messages were cancelled by C. in C. Rosyth 2223/21.

Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1710/21) Cancel my 1427/21 and my 1919 21st neither to all addressees. Following will join F.N. No. 12A from Humber 5 for Tyne and 1 for Blyth which should be diverted to Tees 4 for Tees 8 for Methil. Ships already

in convoy for Seaham and Sunderland should be Tynemouth to Tees and those for Tyne and Blyth should be diverted to Humber.

(C. in C. Rosyth 2223/21).

War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.N. 14. 414 Sails Southend 0830/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) Code "Prize" (C. in C. Rosyth 1547/21).

F.S. 17A. 419A Due Flamborough 0330/22. (C. in C. Nore 1200/21) List of ships & destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1559/21) Sailed from Methil 2300/20. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1602/21) Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1712/21 C. in C. Rosyth 1921/21).

E.N. 76. Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 76
W.N. 89. with HORNPIPE, PENTLAND FIRTH, sailing 1630/23. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join W.N. 89 with HUGH WALPOLE, INDIAN STAR due Duncansby Head 1300/25. Code word for E.N. 76 ~~Prize~~ and for W.N. 89 MUSTER. "Muster".
(C. in C. Rosyth 1810/21 to FOWEY).

E.N. 73. Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Oban 1058/21).

Various M.V's. Escorted and independent (C. in C. Plymouth 1358/21).

W.N. 88 (0) Sailed Escort NOTTS COUNTY, SOUTHERN STAR, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1517/21).

W.N. 87. E.T.A. Kinnaird Hd. Please arrange light. (ULLSWATER 1550/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

F.S. 419, 420. Escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1745/17 1624/21).

"Warrant" Sailed less one ship. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1637/21).

F.S, F.N. Forecast of sailings and escorts (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/21, F.O.I.C. Harwich no T.O.O. Rec. 2002/21).

/W.N.U 87.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N.U. 87. Sailed with one addition (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1747/21).

3 M.V's. Sailing 1830/22 (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2104/21 amended 1853/22).

Ocean Convoys.Revised scheme
of convoy
sailings.

Your 1917/20 the wastefulness in local escorts of the time table in A.M. 0054/20 is fully appreciated. A revised scheme for future convoy sailings is being prepared not only to obviate this but also to produce a more steady flow of shipping in and out of U.K. Ports. Proposals will be forwarded for your remarks as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1558/21 to C. in C. W.A).

S.L. 64. P.L.M. 17 arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0905/21). Following ships not present. (C. in C. W.A. 0008/21) Following arrived (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/21).

O.B. 289. 0630/21. Unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/21).

O.B.C. 289. 0530/21, 10 ships, escort MALLOW (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0355/21) List of ships & destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/21, 2327/21) ships which did not sail (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/21).

O.B.C. 290. 2030/21, 21 ships, escort not known. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0955/21).

S.L. 65. CAVINA to join (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/21).

/H.X. 110.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

H.X. 110. STAD HAARLEM returned for repairs, EMPIRE METEOR returned unable to maintain convoy speed (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1101/21).

S.C. 23. BRAVE COEUR *intended.*
BRAVE GOER returned due to weather (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1101/21).

O.G. 53. SCIMITAR rejoins (C. in C; W.A. 1403/21).

O.B. 288. EMPIRE STEELHEAD returned with engine trouble (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1603/21).

H.X. 111. AURANIA to be ocean escort. Arrangements. (B.S. 3 1645/21).

S.C. 22. Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1718/21 to GEORGETOWN etc).

H.X. 109. Sailing tel. as amended by Adty (D.T.D. 1820/21).

O.B. 295. My 1914/20. 12th Escort group sailing with O.B. 295 has no convoy to meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/21).

MILITARY CONVOYS.STRATHNAVER.

My 0116/17. Sailing date of STRATHNAVER now 2nd or 3rd March.

2. Embarkation will take place on 1.3.
3. Numbers to embark now as follows. (D. of S.T. 2017/21).

W.S. 6.
W.S.6.B.

List of ships and contents. (D.O.D.(F) 1339/21).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.CLARE.

Have been in collision with motor vessel PETERTOWN in 50° 47' N. 04° 50' W. who is proceeding undamaged. CLARE has suffered structural damage above water line and degaussing is broken. Am returning to Plymouth pending further instructions. (CLARE 0245/21).
Your 0428/21. E.T.A. 1600, Request Fighter escort.
(CLARE 1530/21 to C. in C. Plymouth).

YORK CITY.

Arrived. W/T broken down. Requires Marconi wireless engineer.
(Holyhead 0930/21).

SOLARIUM.

Returned from B.H.X. 107 for repairs to steering engine.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0934/21).

EMPIRE TARPON.

Ex E.N. 73 delayed with engine trouble will not sail in O.B. 289. Ship's staff can repair in 48 hours and ship will sail in next convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1128/21).

JESSMORE.
(Collision
19/2).

JESSMORE has sunk. I am returning ^{London} for fuel with 40 survivors.
(SCIMITAR 1150/21).

VENOMOUS

My 1028/21. F.L. pump of starboard dynamo engine failed during trials, new pump has to be obtained and fitted. Approx. time required 3 days.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1153/21).

HADIOTIS.

(Greek, 4386 Tons) Attempts to float HADIOTIS aground Leixoes have so far failed. Position serious but not hopeless. Request Ministry of Shipping may be informed.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1202/21).

CAMELIA.

(Corvette) Arrived with defective D.G.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/21).

/CORBIS.....

War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).CORBIS.Returned from BHX 109 for repairs to windlass.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1211/20).DANEMAN.

(A/S Trawler) Arrived with engine room defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/21).

JERNLAND.Bound Blyth in ballast. Lost propeller at 1530 and is anchored 20 S. buoy.
(COTSWOLD 1545/21).Wreck off
Sheringham.Wreck showing mast above high water reported in 055° 06' 30" N. 001° 18' 04"E.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1633/21 to VERSATILE etc).
(Hydrographer 1841/21).Wreckage.Investigating presumed wreckage of submarine 3050. Cape Wrath 180 miles.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 1925/21).
Your 2045. Do not sink pending further orders. Stand by till daylight.
(S.O. Trawlers, N.P. 2140/21 to NORTHERN CHIEF).
Object remaining afloat. Your 2140 understood (NORTHERN CHIEF 2220/21 to S.O.N.P. Trawlers)
My 2140/21. Make close examination in daylight and report area(s). Await further instructions.
(S.O. N.P.T. 2254/21 to NORTHERN CHIEF).
My 1925/21. Consider U-Boat bottom up. Endeavouring to sink by gunfire. My position is 060° 14' N. 009° 57' W. Standing by until daylight. Do you concur.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 2045/21 to S.O.N.P. Trawlers)
Object hit with 4 H.E. Shells. Still floating. Request instructions.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 2145/21).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.FORT
RICHEPANSE

Gibraltar arrival 21/2, 1640 REGISTAN escorting French S.S. FORT RICHEPANSE. (S.O.I., Gib., 1704/21).
REGISTAN 1230/18/2. French RICHEPANSE from Martineaux to Casablanca cargo 1100 tons bananas which have been on board 18 days. 83 passengers including women and children. 43 crew, latter appear chiefly Vichy. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1915/21 to Admty.).

North Atlantic.FENRIS

Overdue shipping. Norwegian FENRIS due Capetown 17/2 from Basra not arrived. (S.O(I) Capetown, 1001/21).

LORNASTON
BUR
(ex S.L.S.64)

British Ship LORNASTON 8 knots and Norwegian BUR 7½ knots now at Ponta Delgada ready to sail 22/2. Request instructions whether to be sailed independently having regard to route of S.L.65. (F.O.C.N.A. 1012/21 to Admty.).

Cable
repairs.

My 1606/17. Intend sailing MIRROR p.m./21 to carry out four repairs to cable near Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/21, to Admty.).

Situation.
TUNA
H.G.54.

1100/21. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/21)
TUNA with convoy H.G.54.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1156/21).

RENOWN
defects.

My 1924/11. Details of defects. Request RENOWN may be docked for temporary repairs on arrival. Estimated time 4 days. (S.O. Force H 1229/21, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MARGUERITE

Lying off Ponta Delgada awaiting vacant berth inside harbour.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1528/21 to Admty.).

/ Air Report

War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Air Report.

One patrol off Casablanca to prevent interception of incoming captured French ships. London K5263 - force landed 1715/20 and sank 0100/21 after being four hours in tow by destroyer. Crew safe. (200 Group, 1700/21).

DAGMAR I

Your 1152/11. Have you any news of DAGMAR I ? (D.T.D. 1824/21 to F.O.C.N.A.). (Refers to air attack on H.G.53 on 9/2).

Ships of S.L.S.64.

Your 1917/19, can you advise probable delay in providing lifeboats. If considerable other arrangements will require to be considered. (D.T.D., 1940/21, to Consul, Funchal). Your 1917/19. Try secure small craft as lifeboats. Ministry will pay alternative rafts. Avoidance delay first consideration. (D. of S.T. 2125/21 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).

RUBENS

H.M. Trawler RUBENS did not arrive Gibraltar with O.G.52. Request her wireless call sign. (F.O.C.N.A. 2005/21 to Admty.). Your 2005/21 Signal letters of RUBENS are GQWQ. (D.S.O. 2216/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.Enemy Units.

Signals indicated enemy surface units assembling 200 miles 031° S. 011° (? W.) at 1727/20 reliability 80%. (C.in C. S.A., 0105/21, to S.A. Squadron.). Your 0105/21. Adty. experience suggests that signal at 1727/20 G.M.T. was in the nature of an activity report and was intended primarily for reception by control. It does not appear to have been inter-communication or of an operational nature. (D.D.I.C. 1252/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CORNWALL.

My 1430Z/11. Will be ready to sail P.M./28 on completion of exercise programme and embarking fuel and ammunition. Request route. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0743Z/21, to C.in C. S.A.).

Your 1430/11, provided no unforeseen circumstances arise two days can be allowed, (exercise programme).
(C.in C. S.A., 2053N/21, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.6.
escort.

Local escort sails to rendezvous as follows, FORESIGHT (Capt. (D)8) and FORESTER in position 017° 20' N. 027° 45' W. at 0800 N./25. MILFORD in position 013° 40' N. 026° 30' W. at 1000/26, WISHART, VIDETTE in position 012° 20' N. 023° 15' W. at 0800/27.
(C.in C. S.A., 1213/21 to MALAYA, BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE, SURPRISE).

HAMLA

Broke away from S.L.64 and arrived 4 days before remainder of convoy. Master states could not keep up. Request reasons for sailing HAMLA in fast portion and Master's declared speed. Last sailing from Freetown was in SLS.53.
(D.T.D. 1559/21 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

German mine
in Table Bay.

My 2305/16 and 1640/17 and S.O.(I)'s 1720/20 a drifting mine has now been destroyed by S.D.G. in 240° 1½ miles from Dassen Island Lighthouse. Mine German Type X painted pale red lead in absolutely new condition no barnacles. No explosion on being sunk. Prohibited area being established though D. of S.D. is inclined to think this mine has come from the south on the strong northerly set I find it difficult to disassociate it from the vessel reported near the position.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1215/21).

/ S.L. and S.L.S.
Convoys, escort.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

S.L. and S.L.S. Convoys, escort. Arrangements made for two local escorts to meet combined S.L. and S.L.S. convoys. Future convoys should be so arranged that faster ships can part company as a formed body when ocean escort leaves. Commodores of Convoy S.L.65 and S.L.66 are being instructed through ocean escorts to reform their convoys at sea accordingly. (D.T.D. 1603/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

STRATHALLAN, "Q" report. Request Master of STRATHALLAN may be asked whether his ship was near position 19° 40' N. 18° 25' W. at 0740Z on 16/2. Dutch ship FRIESLAND has reported suspicious ship there at time in question and description might fit STRATHALLAN. (C.in C. S.A., 1801/21, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Unit. D/F Bearings at 1717Z/21 indicate surface unit within 80 miles of 832° S 008° W. Reliability 60%, within 200 miles reliability 85%. (C.in C. S.A., 1959/21, to S.A. Sqdn.).

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. DORSETSHIRE. My 2307/19 F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1237/21 and N.O.I.C. Durban 1045/20. If CHRISTIAN HUYGENS docks Durban she will not arrive Capetown until about 14/3. DORSETSHIRE will now arrive Simonstown 25/2. (C.in C. S.A., 2055/21, to Admty.).

Troop Movements. Your 1233/17 and F.O.C.N.A. 1010/19. EMPIRE TROOPER may be available. DOMINION MONARCH must not be used. Proposals for French Brigade, and reallocation of troops. (S.S.T., 2259/21 to C.in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume. See Page 100.

War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Catania,
Comiso
bombed.

Four Wellingtons attacked Catania and two attacked Comiso Aerodromes last night. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0745/21 N.O.I.C. Malta, 1115/21 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Report.1. Egypt. 20/2. Number of unidentified enemy aircraft bombed and machine gunned Benghazi at dawn slightly damaging main road south of town. No casualties. A.A. defences destroyed 1 in flames. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1126/21, to Air Min.).ILLUSTRIOUS.

Admty. 1332/30/1. Lieut. Reid has made his report. Consider repairs would be expedited if he proceeds to refitting Port. (C.in C. Med., 1139/21, to Admty.).

Danger Area,
Central Med.

My 2021/20. In para 1 for "in a 162° direction to Benghazi" read "in a 169° direction to Benghazi". (Head of M. 1240/21 to C.in C. Med., etc.).

Operation
M.C.8.

Operation M.C.8 successfully completed at Malta. Force B sailed in accordance with V.A.L.F.'s 1207/21. Large number of M.E.109 operating round Island about 1130 and one other enemy aircraft crossed later, all at high altitude. This and some cloud cover quite possibly prevented cruiser from being observed. (N.A., Malta, 2111/21 to C.in C. Med.).

FRANCA FASSIO. Re sinking (C.in C. Med. 2215/21) See ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Kismayu,
enemy
intelligence.

Examination of prisoners Mombasa and Materiel at Kismayu produces following:-
 (i) Enemy Intelligence in Somaliland excellent. Kismayu evacuated in 2 panic stages. First coincided with (corrupt group) initiation of "Breach". Second with arrival H.M. Ships and three service conference at Mombasa 10/2.
 (ii) Inevitable conclusion enemy terrified of sea and air bombardment especially of aircraft carriers.
 (S.O.II) Kilindini, 0620Z/21, to Admty.).

J/OTUNFJELL

Capt. O.S. Singapore 0723/19. Ship sailed from Bahrein 14/2 with following cargo for Beira and/or Lourenco Marques (S.O.I) Bahrein, 0717Z/21, to C.in C. E.I.).

CITY OF ROUBAIX
fire.

Reported fire No. 3 Hold at at 1020Z/12 later spreading to Number 2. Arrived Port Sudan 14/2 where fire extinguished. Not possible to determine whether fire due to spontaneous combustion or sabotage. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0842Z/21.).

Convoy
B.S.16.
Port Sudan
portion.

Sailing telegram.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0851Z/21).

Massawa
bombed.

A 011 97/41

Dive bomb attack on Massawa dawn 21/2 by 7 Albacore. Two attacked destroyers in Southern Anchorage one probably hit, one observed near miss. Four aircraft attacked destroyers main quay, reasonable chance of hits two destroyers. One aircraft bombed submarine in Northern Anchorage from one thousand feet better reasonable chance of hits. All aircraft returned. One aircraft reports over 30 Merchant ships in Southern Anchorage and five including two twin passenger ships in Ghubbet Soghra.
(S.O. Force K 0918Z/21, to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Ships at Kismayu.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Ships at
Kismayu.

My 0528/20. Ship still afloat is Jugo Slav DURMITOR believed to have been brought in by German prize crew. MARGHERA and CARSO scuttled but other scuttled ship not yet identified. (INTEGRITAS, see 22/2) Page 754.
(C.in C. E.I. 1148Z/21).

CANADIAN
CRUISER
raider report.
Dispositions.

(Common desin,
page 749)

British CANADIAN CRUISER (7178 tons) in 006° 36' S. 047° 18' E. at 1608Z/21 made an R distress signal and reported being chased by Battle Cruiser. Following is position H.M. Ships in vicinity at 1600Z/21 (a) Convoy W.S.5B in position 004° S. 043° 05' E escorted by HAWKINS and AUSTRALIA. Speed 13 knots (b) GLASGOW in the vicinity reports investigating. (c) ENTERPRISE in position 001° 30' S. 042° 40' E proceeding towards area at 20 knots (d) Convoy W.S.5.B.X. in position 004° 30' S. 042° 10' E escorted by EMERALD. Speed about 12 knots bound for vicinity of Mombasa. CANADIAN CRUISER is due during the night Durban 26/2 routed through 003° S. 047° speed 10 knots. She may have reported her longitude incorrectly. (C.in C. E.I. 1746Z/21 to E.I. Sqdn.).

Force V.

M04197/42.

My 1746/21. GLASGOW, EMERALD, HERMES and CAPETOWN are to form Force V. Ships will be ordered by me to search for raider reported in my 1746/21.

EMERALD is to report on arrival Mombasa when she will be ready for sea.

KANDAHAR

KANDAHAR is to rendezvous with W.S.5 B.X. in accordance with my 0800/19 and escort it into harbour.

SHROPSHIRE

(v) SHROPSHIRE is to act in accordance with her 1306/21 (C.in C. East Indies only) reporting when bombardment is completed. (C.in C. E.I., 2102Z/21, to E.I. Sqdn.).

Operation
"Canvas".

Situation and programme. (C.in C. E.I., 2142Z/21) See Operations Volume.

U.S.10.

Summary of commitments. (D.S.T., 2300/21 to P.S.T.O. Bombay) See Operations Volume.

Massawa.

20/2. 4 South African Hurricanes machine gunned (Massawa?) Aerodrome. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., No T.O.O./21).

War Diary.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore
Conference.

Your 0209/20. Reply. (1 S.L., 0209/21)
See Operations Volume.

Troop-
Carrying
Aircraft.

Reinforce 3 Valentias 31 Squadron arrived
Kallang 0505 G.M.T.
(A.H.Q., Far East 1150/21).

Indo-China
Agreement.

Your 0427Z/15. Following from Foreign Office.
We agree with views contained in Governor's
telegram No. 55, of 13/2 and you may inform
the Governor-General of Indo-China that we
regard the Agreement as now in force.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2037/21 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

TORNUS,
"Q" Report
(cancelled).

Following read by Valencia Radio.
QQQQ 38.48 N., 46.31 W.
Searchlights being played upon us by
suspicious vessel. (TORNUS, 0554/21).
Cancel my 0249 Z/21. (TORNUS, 0625/21).
Intercept. DE NNWS 2 Addressed TORNUS.
We are U.S. C.G. weather station No.2 at
the position searchlight on our flag
0622/21. DE GZFP (TORNUS) Cancel my QQQQ.
0249Z/21 (Ends.). (Valentia Radio, 0626/21).

NEWARK
WELLS

My 1131/16. NEWARK and WELLS delayed at
St. Johns N.F. by minor defects and weather.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1045/21, to Admty.).

B.H.X.111.

Departure BHX 111 ocean escort RAJPUTANA
returning to Halifax through 42.40 N 60.00 W.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1243/21).

Greek Ship
for Japan.

Please instruct one Greek vessel either
OLGA^E EMBIRICOS or EVLIVANOS whichever
longest at Comox to proceed to Japan.
Greek Committee concurs. Master should be
instructed that if he receives message
"papers left behind will be forwarded" he
should return at once or proceed suitable
U.S. or British port other than Hong Kong.
(Head of M. 1317/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)N.Z. Air
Personnel,
Escort.C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/4. Reply re escort
between Auckland and Vancouver.
(D.O.D.(F) 1737/21 to C.in C. A.W.I., etc.)
See Operations Volume.Martinique,
Intelligence.
re Vichy
French.Following from Administrator St. Lucia,
(Begins). French Army Doctor arrived from
Martinique, 18/2, reports Vichy Gov't
handed over to Germany 31/1 all stock of
DM Poisonous gas, also that Pilots of 2
(French) Seaplanes which followed escaping
seaplane to St. Lucia were on their return
arrested for failing as ordered to drop
bombs on St. Lucia and that Martinique
Gov't announced that 3 occupants of
escaping seaplane were imprisoned St. Lucia.
(Ends). (C.in C. A.W.I., 1933/21, to Admty.)Australia.HERBORGNorwegian tanker HERBORG due to leave
Fremantle 22/2 for Pladjoe, Sumatra, is
now wanted Balikpapan, Borneo. Request
necessary action.
(D.T.D. 1936/21, to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.BABITONGA.

My 1801/19. Brazilian authorities have definite notification that BABITONGA will not be allowed to sail while she has on board the 986 tons of diesel oil in drums embarked on 18/2 on grounds that same is in excess of bunkers required for voyage to nearest friendly port. 1543/21.

RHAKOTIS

Antofagasta)

BOGOTA)

Coquimbo)

QUITO)

Puerto Montt)

ERLANGEN

Talcahuano)

FRANKFURT)

Talcahuano)

OSORNO)

Talcahuano)

PRIWALL)

Talcahuano)

) Information received that Chilean authorities have issued orders to prevent from sailing. (D.S. 535).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.RAMB IV

At Massawa, reported converted into a hospital ship. (D.S. 535).

MARGHERA

See East Indies.

CARSO

Sinking of
FRANCA FASSIO.

*From Italian Sunk by TRITON on
Sources. 4.10.40*

*off Cape Noli.
(Savona)*

*No Italian ship sunk on 26.10.40
2nd ship claimed by TRITON
probably damaged.*

Your 1350/18. Two Italian Ships were sunk by TRITON in this area, one of about 8000 tons at sea in position 44° 10½' N., 08° 52' E. on 24/10/40 and one at anchor off Savona on 6/10. No survivors were rescued by TRITON. (C.in C. Med., 2215/21, to Admty.).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

BERNARDIN DE
SAINT PIERRE

Passed Sunda Straits 0405/20 for Saigon. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0823Z/21, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.21.2.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

- 2051/20. D/F indicates U/Boat was in a position approx. midway between Faeroe Islands and Shetlands Islands possibly returning home or may be on patrol. (D.D.I.C. 1032/21).
1315. From Aircraft. One S/M submerged bearing $\Theta \Theta \Theta$ Distance Θ miles course 360° position 60.15° N., 6.10° W. (Scapa W/T, 1315/21) (D.D.I.C. 1404/21).
2052. $57^\circ - 60^\circ$ N., W. of 15° , very indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2314. $57^\circ - 59^\circ$ N., $14^\circ - 18^\circ$ W. indefinite. (D.S. 536).
0143. $57\frac{1}{2}^\circ - 58\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N., $16^\circ - 20^\circ$ W. indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2135. $55\frac{1}{2}^\circ - 57\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N., $20^\circ - 24^\circ$ W., very indefinite. (D.S. 536).
2144. $54^\circ - 57^\circ$ N., W. of 15° , very indefinite (D.S. 536).
0848. $53^\circ - 54^\circ$ N., W. of 15° , indefinite. (D.S. 536).
0810. 47° N., $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ W., approx. indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 536).

Estimated U/B dispositions.German.

One Faroes - Shetlands 2051/20 may be homeward bound or on patrol.
Possibly 1 still $60^\circ - 61^\circ$ N. $14^\circ - 17^\circ$ W.
One $58^\circ - 59^\circ 30'$ N. $18^\circ - 22^\circ$ W.
One $56^\circ - 57^\circ$ N. $20^\circ - 23^\circ$ W.
One 100 miles of $53^\circ 30'$ N. 19° W.
One 100 miles of $52^\circ 30'$ N. $22^\circ 30'$ W.
One about 50° N. 30° W. 0142/20 due to return to Lorient.
One N.W. Finisterre en route Lorient.

Italian.

One 60 miles of $54^\circ 20'$ N. $16^\circ 40'$ W.
One 30 miles of 46° N. $7^\circ 30'$ W. probably patrolling.
Five more at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1225/21).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Search for ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

ADMIRAL

There are indications that the ^AHIPPER may sail from Brest. JACKAL, KASHMIR and KIPLING left Plymouth at 1902 today for a position off Brest. Air reconnaissance of Brest and air patrol and search have been arranged. Force H. (RENOWN and ARK ROYAL) returning towards Gibraltar from escorting Convoy W.S.6 is proceeding towards a position 300 miles west of Finisterre to carry out an air search on 24/2 as long as fuel permits.

U-boat
attacks.

M07512/41.

S.S. SCOTTISH STANDARD which was bombed and badly damaged in the N.W. Approaches yesterday was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy S/m today, MONGOMERY who was standing by her, attacked a firm contact. HURRICANE and PERIWINKLE both also report attacking (different) U-boats in the N.W. Approaches today.

Use of P.L.

In the event of invasion, P.L. is to be used for certain types of messages.

British Air Activity.

Wellingtons attacked Wilhelmshaven and Boulogne last night. Coastal Command aircraft attacked the HIPPER class cruiser at Brest.

Reconnaissances were flown today to Stadlandet and Bergen, and a sweep was made to the Heligoland Bight. Patrols were flown in the Fair Island Channel, in the southern part of the North Sea and A/S patrols in the Minches and south of the Faroes.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

The following attacks are reported today:-
Convoy O.B. 288 in the N.W. Approaches at 0900. S.S.KINGSTON HILL and KELIA damaged. Convoy E.N. 75 off Wick. No damage, reported. Convoy O.B. 287 in the North Minch. No damage. Unknown ship in the north part of the Bay of Biscay.

A heavy attack was made again last night on Swansea. There are several U.X.B in the Docks area, but apparently no damage was caused in the docks and there were no known naval casualties.

In view of the increase in attacks on ships in the N.W. Approaches by aircraft vulnerable to attack by light machine guns the Admiralty have proposed to the War Office that troops should be kept on deck in daylight in transports, ready to open fire with rifles and machine guns.

Mining.Operation
ZME 19.

PLOVER last night laid mines off the South east coast of Ireland.

Mines laid
off Brest.

42 Hampdens were despatched last night to lay mines off Brest. 36 aircraft laid mines in the correct area and 2 outside the area.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (contd).Enemy
Mining.

Mines were laid off the Mumbles during the air attack on Swansea last night, and in the Humber tonight between 1930 and 2200. Two mines were dropped at 1600 off Fowey and the port was closed. A mine is reported to have been dropped in Falmouth Harbour today.

Mines were detonated to-day off Harwich, Humber and in the approach to the Tyne.

Five further British mines were found on the coast of Iceland.

North Atlantic.Search for ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

Force H. See Home Commands.

Mediterranean.Mining
of Suez
Canal.

Enemy aircraft were over the Canal between 0400 and 0600 today. Some mines were laid. Bombs were also dropped in the Canal zone last night.

Benghazi
bombed.
TERROR
damaged.

Benghazi harbour was bombed by 4 German A/C's shortly after dawn today. Bombs fell near TERROR and damaged her (see 24/2) Little damage ashore was caused, except to the road. Bombs were also dropped near Derna.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Forces.

T.
V. *not 21/42*
W.

Commencing today, ships taking part in Italian Somaliland operations are to be known as Force W. HERMES and ENTERPRISE when acting as a unit are to be known as Force T.
Force V see 21/2. AUSTRALIA was added to Force V today.

Search for Raider.

At 0515 G.M.T. to-day Dutch S.S. RANTAU-PANDJANG made a raider distress message in a position about 280 miles E.S.E. of the position where the S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER was attacked yesterday. The German official communique this morning reports that their naval forces sank the CANADIAN CRUISER in the Indian Ocean.

At 0818Z to-day GLASGOW sighted a pocket battleship in 8° 30'S. 51° 35'E. and shadowed, using her one effective aircraft, but lost touch later in the day in reduced visibility.

CANBERRA is proceeding from 5° 10'N. 76° 40'E. at 1600 to 6° S. 60° E; SHROPSHIRE from bombarding Brava (near Mogadishu) this morning to 9° S. 54° E; CAPETOWN left Mombasa at 0730 for the Seychelles; ENTERPRISE and CERES are proceeding to Mombasa to fuel; HERMES and EMERALD left Mombasa at 1330 for 10° 30'S. 56° 40'E; AUSTRALIA who was escorting Convoy W.S.5B with HAWKINS left the convoy and is proceeding towards 9° S. 54° E. at 27 knots and now forms part of Force V. DORSETSHIRE is sending Force Z to Durban unescorted and is supporting GLASGOW (All times G.M.T).

/Bombardment.....

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies (contd).

Bombardment
of Brava.

SHROPSHIRE carried out a bombardment of targets near Brava (S.W. of Mogadishu) this morning. Bomber and fighter aircraft co-operation had been arranged.

America & West Indies.

S.S. TRELAWNY
attacked in
North Atlantic.

S.S.TRELAWNY reported being attacked this morning by a warship raider in position 47° 12'N. 40° 13'W (520 miles east of St. John's N.F). Her signals were deliberately jammed. At 1555 G.M.T. TRELAWNY repeated her previous signal and it was again jammed. Aircraft were despatched to search, but were unable to reach the area during daylight; weather and visibility were bad. Subsequently a signal timed 1815/22 was received from an unknown merchant vessel reporting that she was being machine gunned within a few miles of the above position.

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.A.fire
H.M.Ships
at unseen
targets.

A.M.1857/20 concur provided that A.A. Vessels in the Thames Estuary can still fire at unseen and unidentified aircraft. This is considered vital if traffic through Thames Estuary is to continue. (C. in C. Nore 1140/22.)

Your 1857/20. Concur. Presume this will not be brought into force until all aircraft are fitted with I.F.F.(C. in C. Plymouth 1306/22.)

Adty., 1857/20 - concur. (C. in C. Rosyth 1533/22.)

LEGION.

Request an exchange be arranged so that LEGION is available for C. in C. H.F., if he requires her for a special operation. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1700/22.)

Defence of U.K.

Use of P/L
in event of
invasion.

D.S.D.1153/22.

"Deluge".

At 1200/22. (D.C. 1202/22.)
At 2330/22. (D.C.2342/22.)

A.A. Defence
of Faroes.

Your 2359/21. These guns were allocated for other urgent purposes in A.D.G.B., but C. in C. F.C, consents to their being mounted at Skaale Fiorde as temporary expedient. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1516/22, to A.C.O.S.

Movements.

TALISMAN
TRIBUNE.

My 1803/15 para. C. dates of sailing of TALISMAN and TRIBUNE are to be exchanged. (F.O.(S) 0006/22., C. in C. W.A.1028/22.)

/RODNEY.....

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements
Defence of U.K. Contd.

RODNEY.

My 2052/21. Only one Sunderland now available will escort from about 1100 until 1530. (C. in C. Rosyth 0104/22, to RODNEY.)

→ TAKU.
TALISMAN.

Your 1803/15 Part 1. Adty., 1214/15, Captain (S) 2 1008/21. TAKU and TALISMAN are to be routed through the following positions. Thence to Halifax. (C. in C. W.A. 1305/21, to F.O.(S), S.2.)

OLYMPUS.

My 1130/21. Delete 4 miles and 30 min. N. and substitute 15 miles and 14 min. N. (S.5. 1031/22.) *Cancelled. See p. 763.*

→ TRIBUNE
→ TAKU.

A. Intend to sail TRIBUNE and TAKU escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1600/24 to (position) Thence CUTTY SARK returns to Clyde. TRIBUNE and TAKU through (position) and thence as routed by C. in C. W.A. 1805/21. B. Operational control of submarines will be transferred to C. in C. A. & W.I., when they enter N.A.A.W.I. station. (Capt.(S) 2 1048/22.)

STOKE CITY.

STOKE CITY is being sailed to replace LINCOLN CITY 23/2. (A.C.O.S. 1231/22.)

AZALEA.

To sail for Liverpool forthwith to be prepared to proceed on foreign service on 7/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1254/22.)

S/M's 021.
023.
SUNFISH.

My 1039/21. WHITE BEAR is to R.V. with 0.21 and 0.23 at 1530/23. 0.21 and 0.23 to carry out diving of one hours duration. Position. SUNFISH will join you 1800/23 off Bell Rock for passage to Scapa.

/You are.....

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.

Movements
Defence of U.K. Contd.

SUNFISH cont:

You are to make E.T.A. for SUNFISH at Scapa and make contact with Stanger Head before detaching her. (Capt. (S) 9, 1317/22 to WHITE BEAR.)

AURORA.

Scapa arrivals AURORA, transports 211 and 213. (A.C.O.S. 1534/22.)

AURORA is to proceed to arrive at Thorshavn, Faroes as soon after daylight as practicable tomorrow.

2. AURORA will be carrying four Vickers Mark VIII guns to be mounted for the defence of Skaalefiord. (C. in C. H.F. 1930/22.)

Scapa departure 2130 AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 2146/22.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines occupied tonight, one to 3 trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1551/22.)

S/M's.

Position at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1706/22, 2109/22, 1007/23.)

A/S. patrol.

By Trawlers WASTWATER and THIRLMERE. Details. Request air co-operation. (A.C.O.S. 1720/22.)

COLUMBIA.

COLUMBIA sails Plymouth 0830/23. E.T.A. area of obstacle 1030/23. (C. in C. Plymouth 1748/22.)

A.M.C.'s of Northern Patrol.

Your 1813/21. Intend A.M.C.'s fuel in Iceland on arrival only proceeding direct from patrol to arrive Halifax as follows: CHITRAL, MALOJA, AUSONIA, RANPURA, (dates) and thereafter at 4 and 6 day intervals.

/DERBYSHIRE.....

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements
Defence of U.K. Contd.

A.M.C's
Northern
Patrol.

2. DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA and CHESHIRE now refitting. Completion date uncertain. Expected to leave Clyde for Northern Patrol latter part of March and early April. (F.O.C.N.P. 2236/22.)

Operations.

Sweep for ADMIRAL
HIPPER. ADMIRAL

Information. Enemy. Indications that HIPPER may leave Brest.

(ii) Own at 0800/22 movements of submarines were as follows:- Submarines will be informed of destroyers movements.

(iii) Object is the destruction of ADMIRAL HIPPER if she leaves Brest.

(iv) Execution JACKAL KASHMIR and KIPLING are to pass Gate at 1600/ today, and proceed to vicinity 048° 14' N, 006° 00' W, which is to be reached by 2200/22, if practicable. If no contact is made with the enemy, destroyers are to return to Plymouth passing through 180° Lizard Head 12 at 0800/23. C.O. of JACKAL has discretion to abandon the operation at any time if the weather is unsuitable. (v) Fighter protection code word ~~river~~. (vi) Destroyers acknowledge. (C. in C. Plymouth 1355/22, 1755/22.) Request. TIGRIS and PANDORA may be warned. (C. in C. Plymouth 1358/22, to Capts. (S) 2, (S) 5.

Informing PANDORA, TIGRIS. (F.O.(S) 1819/22.)

My 1355. No submarines are to be attacked unless they commit a hostile act. (C. in C. Plymouth 1858/22 to JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING.

JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING, sailed. (C. in C. Plymouth 1902/22.)

/Your

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Sweep for ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

Your 2209/22. Arrive 180 degs. Rame
Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0830/23.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2328/22. to JACKAL.)

ANJA.

Admiralty's 1830/11, and SALOPIAN'S 1826
/20. Finnish ANJA intercepted by
SALOPIAN 20/2 in 064° 23' N, 029° 00' W,
arrive Reykjavik today.

Master admitted intentions of attempting
passage to Denmark Straits in order to
avoid German submarines. Same ship
when outward bound was brought into
Reykjavik by armed guard from CILICIA
last September for similar reasons and
warned that he would probably be sent to
Kirkwall if he offended again. In view
of this, should any action be taken
beyond re routing through Skopen Fiord.
From experience there appears little
likelihood of following any route given
him but cargo and navicerts are appar-
ently in order. (F.O.i/c Iceland 1729/22,
to Adty.)

Operation
N.C.

My 1409. Operation NC cancelled.
(V.A. Dover 2116/22.)

British Air Activity.

Instructions
for Aircraft
attacking
shipping.

In order to allow aircraft the maximum
opportunity of attacking enemy shipping
in the Channel, it is proposed to extend
to them the same freedom to attack at
sight by night as they now have by day
inside the area defined in para. 3A of A.
T. 1111/20/IX/40.

2. Whenever our own surface forces
are operating inside this area, it
would be necessary to arrange with A.O.C.
in C. C. C. for suitable restrictions
on bombing to be imposed. 3. It is intend-
ed that, as a general rule these
restrictions should be confined to that
portion of the area in which our forces
are operating. A general ban on
bombing would only be imposed if large
scale operations were taking place.

/4. Request.....

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

4. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. (H). 0059/22. to C's in C. Home.)

Your 0059/22 concur. (V.A. Dover, 1900/22.) 305. Your 0059/22 concur. (C. in C. Nore 1149/22.)

Patrols.

Today. ^{"Scab", "Fair", "Unst"} SPAB., FAIR, UNST. (C. in C. Rosyth 0840/22.)

Following A/S air patrol will be flown from 1030 until 2100 today, cross over patrol between 60° N, 04 50 W, 60 40 N, 6 W by Whitley A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 0920/22.)

St. Merryn.

While 801 Squadron are at St. Merryn no other Squadrons can be accommodated. Desire that 809 Squadron should go to St. Merryn about 17/3, for Armament Training. Request 801 Squadron may operate elsewhere from that date. (RANAS. 1206/22.)

Patrol of Stavanger Aerodrome.

In an endeavour to keep the Focke-Wolfe A/c operating from Stavanger from taking off during dark hours a patrol of one Blenheim a/c will be maintained over Stavanger Aerodromes from 0200 until half an hour before sunrise daily. Patrol will commence on 23/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/22.)

A/C. not to fly outward over Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Harwich.

22/2. Detailed investigation indicated our aircraft going out of the Country over Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Harwich. All operational aircraft outward bound are to be routed at all times to avoid these places. (Air Min. 1910/22.)

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTTISH M07512/41
STANDARD.
(bombed 21/2.)

If you have no seriously injured survivors on board do not part company with ASSURANCE and SUPERMAN until you arrive off Lough Foyle. (C. in C.W.A. 0121/22, to SCIMITAR.)

Convoy O.B.288.
attacked.
KINGSTON HILL,
and KEILA
damaged.

M04524/41

Following has been read; Enemy aircraft attacking even numbered O.B. convoy position 59° 40' N, 12° 40' W. course 274 speed 7 knots. (Even numbered O.B. Convoy 0900/22.)

Following ships damaged by bombing of O.B.288. (1) S.S. KINGSTON HILL, engine room flooded, will float if bulkhead (s) hold(s). 2. KEILA steering gear jammed. PICOTEE standing by these two ships in 059° 44' N, 012° 33' W. Request rescue tug. (ACHATES 1015/22.)

My 1335. No trace in War Reg. Attempted tow impossible, ship too heavy. Have taken Captain and 22 crew on board till morning. Crew will return if ship still afloat. Awaiting Tug. (PICOTEE 1755/22.)

Swansea
attacked.

M03479/41

Severe air attack on Swansea last night. Apparently no damage in docks. No known naval casualties. Several U.X.B. in docks area. Mines laid off Mumbles. Further report will be made. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0940/22.)

Convoy E.N.75.
attacked.

Enemy aircraft attacking odd numbered E.N. convoy ~~1103~~ in 58° 35' N, 2° 50' W. (JASON 1103/22.) Following has been read. Fighters have left for odd numbered E.N. Convoy. (Lyness W/T 1113/22.)

/WESTMINSTER.....

MOST SECRET.22. 2. 41.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.WESTMINSTER.

One enemy aircraft in sight approx. bearing 090 degs. approx. height 5,000 feet my position $51^{\circ} 34' N, 1^{\circ} 9' E$. (WESTMINSTER 1120/22.)

My 1120 enemy driven off to eastward. (WESTMINSTER 1122/22.)

Convoy O.B.289,
attacked.

The following has been read. Enemy Aircraft attacking Convoy ~~0041~~ in $58^{\circ} 0' N, 5^{\circ} 55' W$. (Odd numbered O.B. Convoy 1206/22.)

My 1204 aircraft dropped heavy object in level flight altitude 100 feet. Amended position $058^{\circ} 00' N, 005^{\circ} 45' W$. (MALCOLM 1236/22.)

My 1235. Aircraft approached as for torpedo attack, last ship of Aultbea portion proceeding to join O.B. 289. No hits. (MALCOLM 1258/22.)

Convoy E.N.
W.N. 2 Tankers.

Fighters being sent to Convoys Odd Numbered E.N, Even numbered W.N. and 2 tankers. (Rosyth W/T 1337/22.)

A.A. fire by
troops in
transports.

In view of the increase in air attacks on vessels in N.W. Approaches and the fact that the aircraft used are vulnerable to attack from light machine guns, suggest that O.C.'s troops in transports, both inward and outward bound, be instructed to arrange that as many as possible of the troops on board should be kept on deck in daylight ready to open fire instantly with rifles and machine guns if attack develops while vessels are east of $22^{\circ} W$. If you agree Masters of transports will be informed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1703/22. to W.O.)

Unknown Ship.

The following has been read.
Following intercepted. AAAA 47 R 15 N
40 R 20 W. Heavy jamming machine gunned.
(Z.X.M.A.(not known) 1815/22.)

22. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
Z.M.E.19.

Operation Z.M.E.19 completed. (PLOVER 0245/22.)

Operation
G.T.

Operation G.T. intend INTREPID and IMPULSIVE leave Dartmouth at 1915/23, taking departure from Start Point at 2000 laying parallel commencing 0001/24; to arrive Nab Tower 0800/24, passing through approx. positions 180°. Start Point 10 miles at about 0300/24.

If weather conditions are such that necessary speed cannot be (group omitted.) after laying intend to return to Dartmouth instead of Portsmouth at daylight. (D.20. 1815/22.)

Harwich.

Red mine detonated by 'LL' trawlers at 0300 in 51° 50.4'N, 01° 34.3' E. near inside. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0924/22.)

Mine detonated by S.A.Gear by EARL KITCHENER 1212/22, in 51° 50' 7"N, 1° 34.6" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1623/22.)

Operation
J.K.

Intend ICARUS to carry out Operation J.K. (See A.L. M/O.D. 2019/41 of 13/2, 41 para. 7) tonight escorted by VANSITTART. BERKELEY and TYNEDALE. Request Air Ministry be asked to arrange bombing diversion over Havre between the hours of 2130 and 2359 to support this operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/22.)

My 1107/22 sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1745/22.) Ops. 318. 22/2, Operation J.K. bombing diversion impossible. (H.Q.B.C. 2100/22.)

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.22. 2. 41.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Humber.

Adty., 1854/18, and my 1043/19; in view of mining situation in Humber proposal to repair Guard Loops had been abandoned. RINGDOVE will sail for Yarmouth in F.S. 23/2. (F.O.Humber 1117/22.)

The following 7 mines were exploded today. (F.O. Humber 1752/22.)

Between 1930 and 2200 about 20 aircraft mine laying in Humber between Hull and Immingham and a few lower down. (F.O. Humber 2250/22.)

Fowey.

At 1600 hours Heinkel dropped two mines bearing 211° and 220° respectively about 100 yards Polruan C.G. Station. (R.N.O. Fowey 1640/22.)

Port of Fowey is closed owing to enemy mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1802/22.)

Sweeps.

Available ships of 5th M.S.F. are to carry out searching sweeps. (a) From Kinnaird Head to Duncansby Head in advance of E.N.76. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 0700/24. (b) From Duncansby Head to Kinnaird Head west side of Q.Z.S.160 and dividing line A.Z.787. Ships are to return to Aberdeen on completion of operations. (C. in C. Rosyth 1858/22.)

Iceland.

My 1430/12, 5 further British Mark XX mines located ashore as follows: All rendered safe except 1. Several other reports still unconfirmed. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2120/22.)

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET.22. 2. 41.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Tyne.

Three acoustic mines detonated today, by "A" mark 11 sweep today in approach to River Tyne. Positions. (C. in C. Rosyth 2358/22.)

ADMIRAL
HIPPER.Enemy Intelligence.

German Naval aircraft are active in the Brest Area this morning. ^{ADM}In view of similar activity prior to ^{HIPPER}HIPPER leaving Brest, between 1st and 4th Feb., this suggests a possible further movement. (D.D.I.C. 1155/22. to C's in C. Home F.O.C.N.A, Force H.B.C.)

Various
Intelligence.

N.A. Stockholm 1231/22.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.Zigzagging.

Adty. message "E.L.". In future British Merchant ships sailing independently in the areas specified in A.M.S.I. 293 and Adty. Message "EF" are to zig-zag, whatever the visibility may be, both by day and night except in heavy weather. (D.T.D. 1356/22).

Tankers.

Your 1717/20. Difficulty of finding a suitable ship for Commodore is appreciated but the need for expediting tanker tonnage is so great that tankers should not be diverted for this purpose except as a last resort. (D.T.D. 1433/22, to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

Coastal Convoys.

W.N.88.

Position (STELLA POLARIS, 0050/22 to A.C.O.S.) Addition N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1231/22).

W.N.88 (0)

Destinations (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0951/22).

2 M.V.'s.

For Clyde. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 0954/22).

F.S.17A. 4/17A

Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1006/22) 37 ships (1007/22) Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1654/22).

F.N.14. 4/14

Sailed 0906/22, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1031/22) List (1129/22) Ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1734/22 C.in C. Rosyth 2355/22).

O.B.U.
289.

1100/22, unescorted, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1140/22) List (1224/22).

War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys (Contd.)

E.N.76. 1630/23, escorts, 19 ships, codes.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1143/22).

9 M.V's C.in C. Nore 2304/20. Escorts. (C.in C.
Portsmouth, 1207/22).

Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1211/22).

F.N.12 A. 412 A To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1504/22) List
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1645/22) Humber ships
arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1715/22).

F.S.18. 418 Sailed 1400/22, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil
1531/22 F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1742/22) 1 ship from
Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1721/22) List
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1739/22).

W.N.87. Arrived 1500/22 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1532/22).

E.N.76. VERONICA additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth,
1935/22).

W.N.89. S/M H.43 left with. (Capt. S.7, 1945/22).
1949/22, Escorts, 17 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Clyde, 1950/22).

F.S.19. 419 Sailed 2300/22, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil,
2341/22).

War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Ocean Convoys.

- O.B.290. 0130/24/2, unescorted, 2. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0900/22).
- O.B.288. Dispersal. (C.in C. W.A., 1149/22).
- H.X.109. My 1820/21, deletion. (D.T.D., 1204/22)
Destination MODAVIA (D.T.D., 1702/22).
- H.X.108. Destinations. (D.T.D., 1207/22 1208/22,
1209/22, 1725/22) Probably reported by
U-boat at 1531 (D.D.I.C. 1655/22)
MONTGOMERY to join (C.in C. W.A. 1954/22).
- S.L.64. Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0815/22, N.O.I.C.
Barry, 1437/22, 1459/22, N.C.S.O. Mersey
1540/22 1742/22.
- O.B.287. Arrivals, ROSENBERG and ST. ROSARIO
damaged by enemy a/c. (F.O.I.C. Greenock,
1640/22).
- O.G.54. COREOPSIS not ready to sail with.
(C.in C. W.A., 1713/22).
- H.X.106. 31 hours late, 15 stragglers,
ARTHUR F. CORWIN sunk, CLEA not yet
reported. (D.T.D., 1719/22 to N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa).
- H.X.107. Arrival. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1750/22).
- ? Not met. My p.c. and s. (WANDERER,
1030/22, 1630/22).

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

S.S. BATORY My 2249/15, 1728/19 and 1144/21.
S.S. RIMUTAKA BATORY for Halifax. RIMUTAKA for Trinidad.
Escort:- Sailing date and arrangements. "River"
FORTH 5. Fighter Protection code word RIVER.
6. Routeing signal will follow.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1401/22 to C.in C. W.A.).
My 1401/22. Route.
(D.O.D.(H) 1635/22).

S.S. CITY For Bombay. Arrangements.
OF PARIS (D.O.D.(H) 1727/22).
escort:-
ARAWA.

S.S. KENYA Arrived DUNEDIN, HESPERUS, GARLAND,
SOBIESKI LEGION escorting S.S.KENYA and SOBIESKI.
(F.O.i/c Greenock 2149/22.).

War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.SVEVE.

O.B. 289 SVEVE returned to port engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1117/22).

Wreck.

Object appears to be small cargo ship 2 thousand tons. My position 060° 14'N. 010° 05'W.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 0945/22).
Your 0945. Endeavour to take in tow and proceed to Stornoway. If unable report. (S.O.N.P.T. 1037/22).
Your 1037/22. Unable to tow.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 1235/22).
18 direct hits. 5 depth charges. No appreciable effect to buoyancy, light failing. Consider further expenditure of no avail request instructions.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 2000/22).

MOUNT RHODOPE.

(Greek) returned from H.X. 107 with heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 1321/22).

KEILA.
KINGSTON HILL.
(O.B. 288).

059° 58'N. 012° 22'W. KEILA returning under hand steering course and speed 130° 7 knots badly buckled amidships. W/T out of action but can receive Rugby broadcasts. KINGSTON HILL making water in engine room flooded 27 feet. Am attempting to take her in tow. Your 1228/21 part one not received.
(PICOTEE 1435/22 to C. in C. W.A).

EDOUARD VAN
VLAENDEREN.

Aground in Olafs Fiord. Crew safe.
(F.O. Iceland 1901/22).

SALLY MAERSK.

Proceed with all despatch to assist SABRE towing SALLY MAERSK in 55° 33' N. 012° 38'W. steering 090° 7 knots at 1832 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2222/22).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.FORT
RICHEPANSE.

My 1915/21/2 French FORT RICHEPANSE passengers are all reservists and families returning to French Morocco for demilitarisation. Passengers and crew all pro Vichy. Cargo 833 tons of bananas (not 1100 tons) consigned to group export and repartition at French ports and approx. 8 tons (corrupt group) empty tubes ammonia 43 bags of mails handed to censor. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1245/22 to Admty).

French
Shipping.

Difficulty of identification. Suggested notice to Vichy. (C.in C. Med., 1112/22 see Mediterranean).

From M.E.W. Your 1915/21. FORT RICHEPANSE and cargo to be seized at Gibraltar. Instructions being sent to Governor by Colonial Office. (D.E.W.D. 1811/22 to C.C.S.O. Gib.)

North Atlantic.MIRROR.
Cable
Repairs.

Gibraltar departure cable ship MIRROR escorted by ERIN to carry out repairs near Tarifa Point. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0002/22).

RUBENS.

Report your present position and E.T.A. Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0231/22 to RUBENS). Your 2005/21 and 0231/22. Now feared A/S Trawler RUBENS sank after air attack at 1428/13 G.M.T. in position signalled as 48° 50'N., 14° 20'W. Can SCARBOROUGH or GENTIAN give any information? (D.A.S.W. 1832/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)DAGMAR I
(in H.G.53,
air attack
9/2).Your 1824/21 No. 48 hours search by tugs from Funchal and search by Sunderland, fruitless. Search abandoned.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0957/22 to Admty).TUNA
H.G.54.At 0800/23 TUNA with Convoy H.G54.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1040/22).Destroyers
to R/V with
Force H.

Mo3379 | 4

Gibraltar departures 22/2 FORESIGHT, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1304/20.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1122/22).
FORESIGHT, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE sailed 1100/22 to position 037° 00' N., 012° 00' W. routed through 035° 30' N., 009° 00' W speed 14 knots, (corrupt group) escorting French P.L.M.13 and LORIENT to Gibraltar Straits 1200/23 035° (755') N., 008° 30' W 090° 7 knots.FORESIGHT will exercise searchlight and star shell in approximate position 035° (? 09 35') N 008° 30' W after dark tonight.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1710/22 to WRESTLER, MARSDALE).
My 1304/20. Amend R/V to 037° 00' N., 012° 00' W at 1200A 23/2 and there await further instructions from F.O. Force H. Pass through position 035° 30' N., 009° 00' W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1748/22 to FORESIGHT).REGISTAN
defect.F.O.C.N.P. 1050/21. REGISTAN has a defect which seriously affects fighting efficiency including inability to train after 6" gun. Intend to take in hand forthwith, estimated time to complete seven days.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1228/22 to Admty).S.S. EXETER
suspicious
vessel.My 1658/19 Captain of EXETER states suspicious vessel was motor tanker with funnel aft sighted stopped 150 miles west of Azores 1430/15 then steered south.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1251/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)RESOLUTION.

My 1220/19. Intend to sail RESOLUTION escorted by JERSEY, JUPITER, DUNCAN, VELOX p.m./23, routed in accordance with 1206/3 from Admiralty to make R/V (position) at 1100Z one - 1 27/2. Request DUNCAN and VELOX be relieved in this position. Estimated speed of advance from position $042^{\circ} 33' 017^{\circ} 15' 10$ knots. E.T.A. Nab. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/22 to C.in C. W.A.)

Force H,
Search for ADMIRAL
HIPPER.

Admty. 1155/22. Am proceeding from position $033^{\circ} 20'N.$, $020^{\circ} 26'W$ on course 030° at 17 knots, to carry out air search on 24/2 should ADMIRAL HIPPER leave tonight. Request dawn reconnaissance of Brest and air reconnaissance to S.E. from U.K.

(iii) As only 40% fuel remaining 0800/23 search must probably be limited to one reconnaissance 140 miles all round from position about 300 miles West of Finistierre.

(iv) F.O.C.N.A. requested to order destroyer to be in position $037^{\circ} 00'N.$, $012^{\circ} 00'W.$, at 1200A tomorrow and await further instructions.

(S.O. Force H, 1430A/22 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1430/22. Following arranged:

(a) Cross over patrol between $48^{\circ} 44'N.$, $06^{\circ} 52'W$ and $46^{\circ} 36'N.$, $05^{\circ} 58'W$ from 2200/22 to 0800/23. (b) Dawn reconnaissance and P.R.U. of Brest 23/2. (c) Parallel search, centre line $47^{\circ} 30'N.$, $09^{\circ} 55'W.$ to $45^{\circ} 20'N.$, $07^{\circ} 35'W$ from 0800/23 until about 1600.

(D.C. 2323/22 to S.O. Force H).

Air Report.

Daily Summaries Operations.
(200 Group 1700/22).

S.L.S.64.
(raider
attack
12/2.)

Admiralty 1940/21 and 2125/21 and my 1917/19 and 1631/21. (a) British ship VOLTURNO (b) British ship CLUNEPARK (c) British ship BLAIRATHOLL (d) Greek ship ANNA MAZARAKI (e) British ship MARGOT (f) Greek ship POLYKTOR. Makeshift lifeboat and raft accommodation is being provided and every endeavour is being made to sail all ships except (f) to join convoy H.G.54, repairs to (e) being well advanced.
(N.C.S.C. Funchal 1805/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)L/ CAVINA
MA\$VERNIAN
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

L/ CAVINA proceeding from Q.3 to Fayal E.T.A. 26/2. MA\$VERNIAN E.T.A. Q.3. and disposition 3 23/2 from U.K. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL position course and speed 033° 20'N., 020° 26'W. 030° 17 knots at 1400 proceeding towards position 300 miles West Finisterre. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/22 to N.A.Station).

South Atlantic.S.L.66.

L.A. CHRISTENSEN (Norg.) returned from S.L.66 with engine trouble. OAKDENE was ordered back from S.L.66 by escort as being unable to keep up necessary speed, she sailed independently on 20/2. ENGLISH TRADER sailed 20/2. (M.S.R. Freetown 0908/22).

CORNWALL.

Admty's 2300/8 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0743/21/2 requesting urgency of arrival in U.K. Should like CORNWALL to spend a few days in the area near L.36 and K 35 on way where there have been several D/F indications of presence of raiders recently and where no Warship has been for some time. (C.in C. S.A. 1115/22/N to Admty).

CHATEAUROUX
BENVENUE

Your 1929/20. Ministry of Shipping and Elder Dempster agree it is not possible after loading to condition ship to make convoy speed. Arrangements made for repairs to two 90 mm. L.A. guns carried and supply of ammunition for these, also to supply a machine gun and ammunition for H.A. fire. Propose to sail ship independently to Belfast for degaussing. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1122/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CLAN
MACTAVISH.

Overdue shipping cancel my 1115/18. CLAN MACTAVISH arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1145B/22 to Admty).

HAMLA.Your 1559/21. Master of HAMLA declared speed $9\frac{1}{4}$ knots and was therefore included in faster portion of convoy. Amended standard route which he should have followed after separation from convoy was slightly longer than amended convoys route. On previous occasion he had reported speed reduced to 8 knots owing to fouled bottom, and was included in S.L.S.53. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1159/22, to Admty).CYCLAMEN
CUBA.

My 1500/20 to Takoradi only. CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA left Lagos 1300/22. Will make every effort to arrive Takoradi before sunset 23/2. Imperative to leave without delay 24/2 in order to arrive Freetown (date). Dir. of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, 1300/22 to S.S.T.O. Takoradi).

MILFORD.

Departure 1300/22 MILFORD in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1213/21. R/V with FORESIGHT. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1305/22 to Admty, MALAYA, etc.)

L.L. Sweepers.Admiralty 1722/11/2. Provided gear arrives by date specified "LL" Sweepers GOS ~~SIX~~, 6, HECTOR ~~SEVEN~~, NEBB, and KAI will complete as follows: (4) Presume ratings indicated in my 0917/19/12 to Admiralty together with all officers will be despatched to arrive by these dates. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1316B/22 to Admty).Dispositions.

Weekly Statement 22/2. (C.in C. S.A. 1325N/22). Original in Lion Copy only.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
South Atlantic.

22. 2. 1941

Saturday

~~M E S S A G E~~ 1325N/22nd February.

~~SECRET~~

IN

~~From C. in C. South Atlantic.~~

Date 22.2.41.

Recd. 2124.

743A

~~NAVAL CYPHER (C) by W/T~~

~~Addressed R.A. S.A.D. Capt. i/c Simonstown.~~

Weekly statement 22nd February.

Freetown. H.M.S. ALBATROSS H.M.S. VINDICTIVE
H.M.S. ASPHODEL. H.M.S. FAULKNER H.M.S. FORESTER sail P.M. 22
February H.M.S. HILFORD sails 23 February H.M.S. WISHART and
H.M.S. VIDELETTE sail 25 February as local escort to W S six.

Freetown United Kingdom. H.M.S. COMDRIN
escorting S L 66 local escorts SURPRISE H.M.S. CLEMATIS.
H.M.S. BULOLO escorting S L 65.

United Kingdom Freetown. W S six escorted by
H.M.S. MALAYA H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM H.M.S. CATHAY. H.M.S. PHOENIX joins
23rd. W S six B escorted by H.M.S. MAURITIUS. H.M.S. CILICIA
(arrived 1st March) BULLFINCH CROCUS MARGUERITE.

Gulf of Guinea. H.M.S. DRAGON fuel Lagos 23 February
and be escort for French Transports from Point Noir(?e) to Freetown.
Lagos Capetown H.M.S. CORFU.

Point Noir(?e) Capetown. F S French Sloop Minesweeper
COMMANDANT DUBOC and PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE escorting military transport
ship FORT BINGER.

Capetown. H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE refitting.

Simonstown. H.M.S. CORNWALL H.M.S. DELHI.

Simonstown Durban. H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER French Sloop
SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA.

Capetown Mombasa area. Force Z escorted by
H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE.

[for Middle East]

Rio Area. H.M.S. ASTURIAS.

Plate Area. H.M.S. CUMBERLAND.

Montevideo. H.M.S. NEWCASTLE.

South Georgia Area. H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

U.K. ports. H.M.S. ALCANTARA H.M.S. ARAWA
H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR STAR H.M.S. CANTON H.M.S. ESPERANCE BAY
H.M.S. MORETON BAY H.M.S. WOOLTON H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE.

Halifax. H.M.S. VOLTAIRE.

1325N/22.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops.(4)
O.D.8.
O.D.(5)
M.(2)
O.I.C.

Mails.
Movts.
D.S.D.9
D.P.S.
I.F.(3)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
File X.

I think we might
insert this in
Leon copy.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)L.L.Sweepers.

N.L.O Durban's 1130/20. I consider results of survey of hulls machinery should be awaited before deciding to fit out vessels.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1314B/22 to Admty).
Your 1130/20. Approved to take up NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON for conversion forthwith.
"LL" equipment will be fitted at Alexandria. Instructions re FAIR MAGDA, SILESIA and ODD will be sent on receipt of report of survey.
(D.M.S. 1355/22 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 0357/22 indicate surface unit within 300 miles of 020° S 010° W. Reliability 40 per cent. Possible this is a bad fix of unit referred to in my 1959/21.
(C.in C. S.A. 1351N/22 to S.A. Station).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA
whale
catchers.

Please pass following to C.in C. S.A. repeated R.A.S.A.D. (begins) Ref: 1926/15 from Admty. Suggest one of OLE WEGGER's catches be sent south with THORSHAMMER: in order that QUEEN OF BERMUDA may embark necessary staff in that catcher and send her to Deception Island to destroy oil tanks etc. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 1827Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Is.)

W.S.6.
FAULKNER
FORESTER.

Departure 1800/22. FAULKNER and FORESTER in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1213/21. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1847N/22).

S.L.S.66.
KENYA.

To strengthen escort of S.L.66 KENYA is to join convoy as far south as practicable as arranged by F.O.C.N.A. and provide escort as far as the R/V for inward A/S escort, proceeding thence to Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(F) 1914/22 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)S.L.67.
ARETHUSA.A.T. 1727/16. ARETHUSA is to take the place of KENYA as homeward escort for S.L.67.
(D.O.D.(F) 1915/22 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A)CORNWALL.To be prepared for sea as rapidly as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 2244/22 to C.in C. S.A.)Mediterranean.Mining of
Suez Canal.Four enemy aircraft over canal between 0400 and 0600/22. Some mines were laid.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0913/22 to Admty etc).B.N.F.2.Convoy B.N.F.2. arrived Suez 22/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1037/22).French
Shipping.

Your 2021/20. UNIQUE reports having sighted 38 ships near Kerkenah Bank between 11th and 16th Feb., of which 27 were merchant ships 8 probably and 2 definitely French. All were darkened.

2. In view of difficulty of identification and consequent danger to French Ships suggest Vichy be instructed that we cannot guarantee safety of any merchant vessel outside French Territorial Waters in area between Cape Bon and Tripoli, unless we have previously been informed of her movements.

3. Marks of identification whether by day or by night cannot be relied upon owing to possibility of their being communicated, and certainty of their being seen and copied by the Italians.

4. It is for consideration to inform Vichy Govn., owing to persistent use by Italians, safety of French Territorial waters South of 035° 46'N., cannot in itself be regarded as a safe-guard for unidentified ships of whose movements we have not been informed.
(C.in C. Med., 1112/22 to Admty).

Reply: Admty 1800/2/3, p. 64 March.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Minesweeping.

Request information as to what width of channel can be assumed cleared by S.A.gear fitted in external box by one vessel also distance ahead of ship explosion is likely to occur.

(R.A.Alexandria, 1311/22 to Admty).
Operational Summary No.257. Up to 1200 22/2/1941. Night 21/22. 3 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs in Suez Canal zone between Port Said and Ismailia and 1 bomb near Shallufa. 1 mine dropped and exploded reservoir.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1341/22).

My 0913/22. Considered 3 planes flew over canal and 4 mines were laid. One exploded on landing and a 2nd has been exploded by LL sweep. Three barrage balloons were in position and it was observed attacking planes swerved off on reaching their vicinity. Of mines laid on 18/2 two exploded on landing and one has been exploded by skid.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1923/22 to Admty).

East Indies.Enemy Shipping.

21 Italian and 9 German merchant ships believed to be at Massawa, 4 Italian and 1 German at Assab. (D.S.536).

CAPETOWN.

As soon as ready CAPETOWN is to proceed 15 knots towards Seychelles.
(C.in C. E.I. 0234Z/22 to Force V).

U.S.9.

M06607/41)
M06645/41)

Convoy U.S.9. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0431Z/22).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)CANBERRA.Colombo departure 22/2, 0430Z, H.M.A.S.
CANBERRA.
(S.C.(I) Colombo 0500/22).HERMES,
EMERALD,
search for
raider.HERMES and EMERALD are to sail in
company as soon as ready and proceed 18
knots towards Agalega Island (010° 30'S.,
056° 30'E) searching for raider en route.
(C.in C. E.I. 0540Z/22 to Force V).KANIMBLA
orders
for
patrol.KANIMBLA is to leave Durban as soon as
possible and proceed to position (a) (?
030°) S., 035° E, then patrol between
positions (a) and (b) 022° 30'S., 040° E,
speed 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0550Z/22).KANIMBLA sailed in accordance with C.in C.E.I
0550Z/22.
(N.C.I.C. Durban 1149Z/22).RANCHI.To proceed at speed of 15 knots towards
position 015° S., 042° 20'E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0552Z/22 to RANCHI).RANTAU-
PANDJANG,
raider
report.My 1746/21. Dutch ship RANTAU PANDJANG
made an R distress message at 0515 G.M.T.
22nd in position 008° 24'S., 051° 35'E.
Position GLASGOW at this time was approx.
006° 50'S., 049° 50'E. GLASGOW has one
serviceable aircraft.
(C.in C. E.I. 0610Z/22 to E.I. Sqdn.)
RANTAU PANDJANG 2542 tons, Port Elizabeth
and Durban for Sabang, Sumatra. Position
about 280 E.S.E. of CANADIAN CRUISER'S
position. (D.S.536).Special
Movements
Forecast.Week ending 28/2.
(C.in C. E.I. 0612/22).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Convoy.Convoy W65.B.X. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. East Africa, 0615Z/22).B.S.16.Departures 0415Z FLAMINGO and 0615Z
KINGSTON to join B.S.16.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0742Z/21).Conditions
at
Kismayu.

Reported as follows:

(1) Mtanga Island. 3 guns Armstrong appear serviceable with some ammunition. 2 magazines blown, 2 others appear serviceable. Water available in small quantities from shallow wells. Small concrete jetty. (2) Kismayu Island. All guns and magazines demolished. Oil fuel pumping house, pipe line over water and large underground tank are apparently in good order. All oil has been let out, many spare parts available considered all could be put in order in 3 weeks. (C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/22 to Admty).

KANDAHAR
CAPETOWN
EMERALD.Mombasa left 22/2. 0215 G.M.T. KANDAHAR
and 0730 G.M.T. CAPETOWN. Arrived 0515
G.M.T. EMERALD.
(N.O.I.C. East Africa 0752Z/22 to C.in C. E.I.)*See also next page.*Pocket
Battleship
sighted by
GLASGOW.*

Pocket Battleship sighted^{*} in position 008°
30'S., 051° 35'E. at 0818Z course 120°
18 knots. My P.C. and S. are 007°
56'S., 051° 26'E. 120° 24 knots. In
pursuit with aircraft shadowing. Intend
to attack by night and shadow by day.
(GLASGOW 0944Z/22 to C.in C. E.I. Force V).

Troop
Transport.Your 2342/20. Can provide DILWARA,
INDRAPOERA with U.S.9. NEURALIA required
at Bombay.
(S.S.T.O. India 1013Z/22).

* GLASGOW's log records: Aircraft reported sighting 1 pocket battleship
80 miles ahead of us.
1243 (Zone - 3).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)LEANDER.

My 0700/16 on completing with fuel at Bombay LEANDER is to proceed 15 knots to position equator 754° E. Object is protection of (? shipping).
(C.in C. E.I. 1200Z/21 to LEANDER).

*Cancelled - See p. 751*CAPETOWN.
KANDAHAR.

My 0716/17. CAPETOWN to escort U.S. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ (date) KANDAHAR to boiler clean at Mombasa on relief.
(C.in C. E.I. 1358Z/22) See Operations Volume. *See also previous page*

CANADIAN
CRUISER.
(Sunk 21/2.)

German official communique this morning claims that German naval forces sank British steamer CANADIAN CRUISER in the Indian Ocean.
(D.D.I.C. 1447/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force V
Operations
Against
raider.

GLASGOW 0944/22. Ships on East Indies Station taking part in operation against this pocket battleship are known as Force V.

Approximate dispositions of Force V are
(a) GLASGOW, shadowing. Attacking only should favourable opportunity occur.
(b) CANBERRA proceeding from position $005^{\circ} 10' N.$, $076^{\circ} 40' E.$ at 1600 to position $006^{\circ} S.$, $060^{\circ} E.$ at 25 knots. (c) SHROPSHIRE from Brava at 1300 to 090° (009°) S., $054^{\circ} E.$ at about 26 knots. (d) CAPETOWN from $004^{\circ} S.$, $043^{\circ} 20' E.$ at 1600 to Seychelles at 18 knots. (e) ENTERPRISE proceeding to fuel Mombasa due a.m./23. (f) CERES due Mombasa a.m./23 ready for service a.m./25. (g) HERMES and EMERALD from Mombasa at 1315 to $010^{\circ} 30' S.$, $056^{\circ} 40' E.$ at 20 knots.
All times are (? G.M.T.) 22/2.

(C.in C.E.I., 1500Z/22.)

GLASGOW's 0944/22. AUSTRALIA may be used to hunt Raider leaving W.S.5.B. with HAWKINS only.
(V.C.N.S. 1620/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.22.2.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)SAVOIA,
ADRIA,
ERMINIA
MAZELLI,
MANON.

My 1852/17, para.2. (re prize proceedings at Bombay or Mombasa and delay of ratings return to U.K.) It would be preferable for prize proceedings to be continued at Mombasa as in my 1627/15.

(D.T.D. 1705/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

DORSETSHIRE.Force Z

GLASGOW's 0944/22. If delay to force Z can possibly be accepted. (? suggest) DORSETSHIRE proceed forthwith at best speed to occupy area between south Madagascar and Mauritius, Force Z proceeding direct to Durban to await (?onward) escort. (C.in C. E.I. 1728Z/22 to Admty).

GLASGOW 0944Z/22. Suggest DORSETSHIRE send force Z to Durban and proceed to position to meet any move to southward and support GLASGOW as directed by C.in C. E.I. (C.in C. S.A. 1729N/22 to Admty). 1729/22 repeated to N.O.I.C. Simonstown for information.

(C.in C. S.A. 2050/22).

Act as in C.in C. South Atlantic 1729N/22. It can be accepted that Force Z will proceed to Durban unescorted.

(V.C.N.S. 2200/22 to DORSETSHIRE).

Take DORSETSHIRE under your orders.

(V.C.N.S. 2236/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

GLASGOW.
Lost touch.
AUSTRALIA
In Force V.

My 1500/22. GLASGOW aircraft lost touch (probably after refuelling) due to reduced visibility. Area to Eastward and Northward was covered by subsequent search. GLASGOW had 60% fuel remaining at 1400Z/22. Conditions suitable for enemy to fuel at sea. AUSTRALIA proceeded from position Equator 047° E., at 1600Z/22 towards 009° S., 054° E at 27 knots and is now in Force V.

Consideration being given to using proceedings given in my 1428/7, para. one (e) clause (i) to check raiders escape to the Southward.

(C.in C. E.I. 1804Z/22 to Admty). (N.B. see 1940Z/22).

MOST SECRET.22.2.1941.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.

GD.56

See Op. and Table.
Sched. of Ships. Oct 20 - March
PG/14256. Page 24. para 2.

FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1804/22. A Bogus distress message will be initiated by Mauritius W/T Station at 0230Z/23. Ship's name used will be CITY OF AUCKLAND now at Colombo. Position 021° 28'S., 052° 10'E will be used. Message as made by Mauritius will be passed by L/T to Admiralty and N.O.I.C. Simonstown by C.in C. East Indies, prefixed X 329. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to warn N.O.I.C. Durban. East Indies Station Authorities have been informed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1940Z/22 to Admty).

Convoy
S.W.5.A.

My 0947/17 RANGITIKI and ANSELM unable to sail S.W.5.A. owing to engine trouble. Following ships S.W.5.A. will carry Personnel ex Egypt; ELIZABETHVILLE Military ?Mombasa 20, U.K. 20, 100 R.N. U.K. 140 CITY OF LONDON, CITY OF CANTERBURY, R.A.F. 250 each.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1827/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

KANDAHAR
EMERALD
HEPMES.

Mombasa arrived 22/2 0655 G.M.T. KANDAHAR. Mombasa left 22/2 1330 G.M.T. EMERALD H.M.S. HERMES.
(N.O.I.C. E.Africa 1920Z/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

LEANDER.

(?Cancel) my 1200/21. LEANDER is to leave Marmagoa at dusk 23/2 and proceed to Colombo arriving 0230Z/25.
(C.in C. E.I. 1942Z/22 to LEANDER).

*Cancelled. Samp 783*China.VERA.

Cancel my 0759/17. VERA arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore 0203/22).

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

TRELAWNY
attacked
by raider.

S.S. TRELAWNY (British, 4689 tons) being fired on by warship raider 1525Z, position 047° 12'N. 048° 15'W. Three aircraft diverted to search out and attack. (C.O.A.C., Halifax 1019/22 to C. in C. A.W.I) (Note; see following signal for position).

1325 G.M.T. S.S.S TRELAWNY sent out RRRR position 4712N 40.13 W. being fired on by warship. Cape Race reports deliberate jamming of this signal. Three aircraft which were already on search for missing aircraft have been diverted to search out and attack enemy warship.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1126/22 to Admty, C. in C. A.W.I).

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1019/22. Use your discretion whether to send NEWARK and WELLS to co-operate with aircraft.

(C. in C. A.W.I. 1202/22 to F.O. 5.B.S) My 1126/22. Cape Race reports TRELAWNY repeated previous signal at 1355 GMT. very approximate bearing 87 1/2 degrees same interference series of short dashes made by powerful quench gap.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1216/22 to Admty).

My 1019/22. Aircraft unable to reach area during daylight. Weather and visibility unfavourable.

(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1552/22 to C. in C.A.W.I). Your 1202/22. As NEWARK is unserviceable and weather forecasts unfavourable considered it undesirable to send WELLS alone.

(F.O. 5 B.S. 1630/22 to C.in C. A.W.I).

My 1126/22. Resolution Island reports receiving RRRR messages over period 1321 to 1605G.M.T. First two messages received through deliberate attempts at jamming. All later MSGS completely jammed both by spark and M C W sometimes simultaneous. As bearings were identical this may be two transmitters on same vessel. Bearings obtained (details).

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1754/22 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I).

/H.X. 110.....

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

H.X. 110.
S.C. 23.
stragglers.

My 1349/13. Were instructions in para 2. given to ships of H.H. 110? (D.T.D. 1310/22 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).
My 1349/13. Were instructions in paragraph 2 given to ships of H.X. 110 and S.C. 23? (D.T.D. 1311/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Trinidad
defences.

Your 1602/8. Approved to disclose position of anti-submarine fixed defences at Trinidad, under seal of secrecy, to Naval or Military Officers of United States already there.
(Head of M. 1553/22 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Examination
of mails.

Your 1002/25/1. (Re examination of mail from Portuguese and Spanish ships). So far these ships have all had Navicerts so have been exempt from call at Bermuda. Enquiries being made at Washington whether any mails have in fact been landed from them. If you have any evidence of this please report details.
(D.E.W.D. 1732/22 to C. in C. A.W.I). *Reply 812*

Shipping.

Your 1217/20. Concur in reintroduction up to 35° W. except that procedure is not to be used if surface raider is believed to be in North Atlantic.
(D.T.D. 1737/22 to R.A.3).

SEVERN
S.C. 22.

Re. 1752/17 from C. in C. A.W.I. just received. SEVERN was ordered to leave convoy S.C. 22 before dark 21/2 or in 25°W. whichever was earlier and is returning to Halifax by shortest route south of convoy routes.
(B.S.3 1923/22 to Admty).

New Zealand.

SKAGERAK.
KING LUD.

SKAGERAK refloated. Surveyor reports ship dry and seaworthy. KING LUD refloated but survey not yet made.
(Customs, Suva 0300Z/22 to S.O.I. Wellington N.Z).

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ATLAS.
SAVONA.
BELLONA.

21/2 departures ATLAS Lisbon SAVONA
for Marseilles arrivals BELLONA.
(Valencia 1520/22).

TANNENFELS.

See Italian Merchant Ships.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PASUBIO.

Arrived at Susak 19/2 from Trapani, Sicily.
(D.S. 536).

METEOR.

Tanker, left Cagliari 19/2 for Tripoli,
believed loaded with aviation spirit.
(D.S. 536).

INTEGRITAS.
CARSO.
MARGHERA.
DURMITOR.
DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI.
SOMALIA.

315.* My 1148/21 ^{p. 713.} Fourth ship now identified
as INTEGRITAS.
Condition of ships as follows:-

INTEGRITAS	Poor condition awash
CARSO	Excellent condition flooded aft
MARGHERA	Fair condition awash.
DURMITOR, Yugo Slav	Good condition afloat.

Considered that all ships could be salvaged.

Two lighters are at present being used
and some others may be made serviceable.

My 1026/17. Two ships unaccounted for,
therefore, would be certainly DUCA DEGLI
ABRUZZI and either YAMAYURI MARU or
SOMALIA probably latter. I consider that
MONCALIERI was never there.

Extract of UCKERMARK prisoner states that
TANNENFELS sailed 1730/30.
(C. in C. E.I. 07542/22).

* Re Scuttled Ships, *Kimayu*.

War Diary.

22.2.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SCOTTISH
STANDARD
(Bombed 21/2,
torpedoed 22/2).

My 1910. After R/V with NORTHERN SPRAY proceed in company to assistance of SCOTTISH STANDARD (British Tanker 6,999 tons) in position 59° 18' N. 16° 12' W. at 0930/21. MONTGOMERY is standing by.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/22 to ST. OLAVES, THAMES).

SCOTTISH STANDARD torpedoed twice at 1450Z, sinking slowly in position 131° 59' N., 17° W.

(MONTGOMERY 1707/22 to C. in C. W.A).

Correct 1707/22 re torpedoing of SCOTTISH STANDARD to read T.O.O. 1500/22.

(MONTGOMERY, No T.O.O./22).

My 0015/22. SCOTTISH STANDARD has sunk. Proceed forthwith (in) position 59° 58' N., 12° 22' W. at 1455 today. PICOTTEE standing by. NORTHERN SPRAY acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1858/22 to THAMES, ST. OLAVES, NORTHERN SPRAY).

BLACK OSPREY.
(torpedoed 18/2).

Eleven survivors from BLACK OSPREY torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic on Tuesday 18/2 have been landed at Barry from S.S. MOSDALE.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 1330/22, to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

1531.

Convoy H.X. 108 was probably sighted and reported by U Boat at 1531/22.
(D.D.I.C. 1655/22 to MAYFLOWER, SNOWBERRY).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

German.

One to northward of Shetlands probably homeward bound.

One 60° - 61° N. 15° - 17° W.

One 60 miles of 58° N. 18° 30' W.

One 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 20° 30' W.

One 90 miles of 53° 30' N. 18° 30' W.

One 90 miles of 53° N. 23° W.

One about 49° N. possibly about 27° W. en route Lorient.

One about 47° N. 6° W. en route Lorient.

Italian.

2 in North Western Approaches may be between 54° N. and 58° N.E. of 17° W.

2 in Bay of Biscay 46° - 47° 30' N. 6° - 9° W. probably patrolling.

3 others at sea.

(D.D.I.C. 1307/22).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.2.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.1015.

Have dropped 2 (two) patterns of 14 on possible contact in position 056° 19'N. 007° 59'W. and am now searching with PIORUN till nightfall unless otherwise required.
(HURRICANE, 1015/22 to C. in C. W.A).

1550.

*See SCOTTISH
STANDARD - previous
page.*

Have attacked firm contact 6 depth charges no evidence of destruction, contact now lost searching position 131 59° N., 17° W. (MONTGOMERY, 1550Z/22 to A.C.W.A).
Your 1550/22 and my 1954/22. Continue hunt until daylight and then rejoin Convoy unless otherwise ordered.
(C. in C. W.A. 2007/22 to MONTGOMERY).

1630.

Attacking submarine 59.18 N., 14.32 W. (PERIWINKLE, 1630/22 to Portrush).
WITCH is proceeding with despatch to assist PERIWINKLE with hunt.
(WANDERER 1845/22 to C. in C. W.A).

Unless in contact with 'U' Boat proceed forthwith and endeavour to locate Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 2159/22 to WITCH, MONTGOMERY, PERIWINKLE).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.ADMIRAL HIPPER.

Preliminary reports of photographic R.C. of Brest this morning show the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) still in dry dock. The dock is dry. JACKAL, KIPLING and KASHMIR returned to Plymouth this morning.

British Air Activity.

Wellingtons last night attacked the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) in Brest. An attempt to bomb the cruiser this evening failed owing to the weather. Specially equipped Whitley aircraft carried out an A/S patrol of 60 miles radius with centre 300 miles west of Cape Wrath from 1100 to dusk today.

Enemy Air Activity.

No attacks on shipping are reported today. CAMERON, bombed and sunk at Portsmouth on 5/12, was successfully refloated today.

War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.

Operation G.T. INTREPID & IMPULSIVE 5 M.C.B.'s escorted by 3 destroyers sailed this morning from Portsmouth to lay mines off Havre. Bomber Command were asked to provide a bombing diversion, but were unable to do so. See p. 766.

Minefield off Iceland. R.A. (M) considers he has established the cause of the trouble recently experienced.

The Tyne was opened at 1500 today after some mines had been detonated.

Swansea is still closed, as many mines appear to have been laid in the Approach Channel. Sweeping operations are impeded as some sweepers are in South Dock, the gates of which were damaged by air attack recently and cannot be opened at present. Five mines have been exploded, and 2/A M/S Trawlers ERIMO and INVERFORTH were seriously damaged by one explosion and 3/A Trawler TEWARA slightly damaged.

S.S. SHOAL FISHER was sunk by a mine this morning off Falmouth.

Mines were exploded off Spurn Point today. The Humber will no longer be closed at night.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed this evening. Blyth is open.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Operations against Vichy French.

S.S. P.L.M. 13 and LORIENT (intercepted by MARSDALE 18/2) arrived at Gibraltar this morning under armed guard. Information has been received that in consequence of our capture of French merchant ships the French intend to use Allied ships held at Dakar and Casablanca.

North Atlantic.

RESOLUTION left for U.K. today.

South Atlantic.

CLEMATIS today attacked a contact in 11° 56' N. 17° 51' W.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"MAR 2"
TERROR
damaged.

(see p. 780)

This operation is now in progress (attack on Casteloritzo Island) TERROR was bombed off Derna this evening and received further damage (see 24/2)

Enemy aircraft attacked Tobruk at dawn today, but no damage was caused. C.in C. Med. reports that at 0630/19 9 aircraft attacked COVENTRY, VOYAGER, and corvettes off Benghazi, but caused no damage.

/ Mining of Suez Canal.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Mining of
Suez Canal.

A tug towing a skid was slightly damaged by the explosion of a mine in the Suez Canal today. Progress in clearing the Canal is disappointing.

Operation
M.C.8.

C.in C. Med. reports that this operation was completed successfully. CLAN MACAULAY was bombed, one bomb passing through her funnel. Other attacking aircraft formations were evidently searching for the convoy or battle fleet but failed to locate them, passing close astern.

Libyan
bases.

It has been necessary to withdraw all ships from Benghazi owing to inadequacy of A.A. and lack of fighter protection which results in German aircraft being very little hampered on the coast of Cyrenaica. 5 or 6 a/c have been shot down, including one torpedo aircraft by PEONY. The Army is now being supplied by land from Tobruk.

East Indies.Search for
pocket
battleship.

CERES and ENTERPRISE arrived at Mombasa at 0455 G.M.T. today.

Fresh instructions were today issued to Force V and SHROPSHIRE. EMERALD and HERMES, supported by SHROPSHIRE ~~one~~ to sweep to the S.E., passing 100 miles north of Madagascar. AUSTRALIA is to sweep at 27 knots towards Mauritius from south of the Seychelles. GLASGOW is to search up to 250 miles to the eastward of Madagascar. CAPETOWN is to patrol to the north eastward of the Seychelles.

DORSETSHIRE is to return to Force Z; the latter is not to enter Durban.

/ It is reported ...

War Diary.23.2.41.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies. (Contd.)

It is reported that 250 British seamen recently landed at Mogadishu are in camp at Merza.

The Admiralty propose that merchant shipping should be routed closer to the East African coast, as raiders in the Indian Ocean have so far abstained from operations near coastal waters.

Bombardment
of Brava.

H.M. Ships bombarded Brava today.
A Glenn Martin co-operated.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Fire at
Unseen
Targets.

Admiralty 1857/20. Concur that fire at unseen targets in Home waters be restricted to ships fitted with R D/F which responds to I.F.F.

2. I do not agree with the suggestion that the nature of such fire should be restricted to standard barrage. This greatly hampers protection of convoys, puts ships at serious disadvantage because of the rapid rate of change of bearing usually associated with short range, and checks development of any more efficient procedure.
(C. in C. H.F. 0034/23).

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

At 1130/23 (D.C. 1154/23)
At 2330/23 (D.C. 2359/23).

Scapa.

Progress Report - 23rd February, 1941.
(R.A. Scapa 2015/23).

Movements.

RODNEY.
MATABELE.
ESKIMO.
TARTAR.

Arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 0444/23).

CHURCHILL.

Your 0110. It is of vital importance that you rendezvous with T.C.9 in accordance with my 1125/23 and the amount of assistance rendered to MANISTEE must be dependent on this.
(C. in C. W.A. 0656/23 to CHURCHILL).

** info sent - see p. 789*

STURGEON.

Left Methil 0700 for Blyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0738/23).
STURGEON estimated off Holy Isle 1200 proceeding Blyth. SUNFISH leaves Blyth about 1700 northward. *See also next page*
(C. in C. Rosyth 1400/23 to ERIDGE, MENDIP, COREOPSIS).
Do not proceed inside 20 fathom line until further orders.
(S.6. 1155/23 to STURGEON).
Expect to meet ERIDGE, COREOPSIS, and MENDIP proceeding from Tyne northwards.
(S.6. 1422/23 to STURGEON);

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

AURORA.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0946/23).

KELVIN.

It will be impossible for men of war to use D/G range in Humber for at least a week. Propose sailing KELVIN at 1600 to-day Sunday to Scapa for ranging there on passage to Plymouth.
(F.O. Humber 0959/23).
Your 0959. Approved. (D.O.D.H. 1542/23 to F.O. Humber).

SUNFISH.

Capt (S) 6 2245/22. My 1317/22. SUNFISH will not now join you. On completion of Submarine Dive proceed execution previous orders.
(S.9. 1009/23 to WHITE BEAR).

OLYMPUS.

Cancel my 1031/22. (see p. 690)
(S.5. 1235/23).

RESOLUTION.

JACKAL.
KASHMIR.
KIPLING.

Your 1252/22. JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING will relieve DUNCAN and VELOX in (position) at 1100 sailing from Plymouth p.m./24th Z - 1/27.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1334/23).

O.21.
O.23.

Dutch submarine O 21 and O 23 sailed in accordance with my 1031/21. Submarines will call Holyhead on passage. Probable time of arrival on North Atlantic Station, O.23 1900 B.S.T. 5/3, Q21 1600 B.S.T. 6/3.
(S.9. 1401/23). *NT. A.W.D.

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1526/23).

SURCOUF.
THUNDERBOLT.

My 1810/19. E.T.A. SURCOUF about 3/3. THUNDERBOLT about 5/3. No Q.J.A. Messages held.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1531/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

/Submarines.....

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Submarines

Positions at 0800/24 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1546/23 and 1908/23).

BRILLIANT.
SUNFISH.
MOLLUSC.

My 1407/23. Amend rendezvous to read "Off 22 Buoy at 0200/24".
(C. in C. H.F. 1637/23 to BRILLIANT).
My 1510/23. Amend as follows: BRILLIANT to R/V with MOLLUSC and SUNFISH at number 22 buoy at 0200/24. MOLLUSC then to return to Blyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1742/23).

SKEENA.
ST. LAURENT.

Sailed as by C. in C. W.A. 1911/21 routed as in C. in C. W.A. 1015/23. E.T.A. Halifax 4/3.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1903/23).

5th M/S F.

Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2230/23).

9th M/S F.

My 2003/10 para 5. 9th M.S.F. should not be sailed until receipt of further instructions.
(D.M.S. 2327/23 to A.C.O.S).

Operations.

Operation
Q.A.

Operation QA will be carried out tonight from 2030 to 2230. (C. in C. Nore 0951/23).
Operation Q.A. to-night 2030 to 2230. (C. in C. Nore 0959/23 to VORTIGERN, WOOLSTON).
Operation QA is cancelled for tonight Sunday. (C. in C. Nore 1936/23).

Search for ADMIRAL
HIPPER ~~class~~
(Cruiser.)

Arrived 0900 JACKAL, KIPLING, KASHMIR.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1010/23).

Patrol off
Berry Head.

My 0800/24. Western Channel night report add two M.L's Dartmouth 1830/23 to patrol in vicinity 135 Berry Head 15.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1628/23).

Operation N.C.

Add to my 1306. Operation N.C. will be carried out Zero Hour 2015.
(V.A. Dover 1801/23).

War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

Following patrols are being flown to-day:

~~STAND~~ "Stand":~~UNIT~~ "Unit".

IP - OP flown PM only.

Cross over between 60° N. 4° 50'W. and
60° 40'N. 6° W. from 0900 until 2100.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0816/23).Brest dawn reconnaissance unsuccessful
owing to weather conditions. Further
attempt being made.
(D.D.I.C. 1032/23 to F.O. Force H).My 0816/23 cross over patrol has now been
cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1450/23).Patrol "Eustace"
~~EUSTACE.~~My 0002/1/1 and my 1016/13/2. Add an A/S
Patrol to be flown by a Whitby A/C by
day or by night periodically through the
following positions. (C. in C. Rosyth
2255/23) See Summaries Folder.Own A/C
fired on
at Lowestoft.Admiralty's 2347/14/2. Ships in Harwich
Sub Command, might possibly have been *? which*
concerned neither took part in or saw
anything of incident. 1600 Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 1917/23).Enemy Air Activity.BARON RENFREW.
(Bombed 28/1).Proceed as soon as ready to Loch Lanaich
Ross of Mull to assist Tug SCHELDE to
tow BARON RENFREW to Rothesay Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/23 to MASTADONTE).Swansea.
(Air Raid
21/22).

M03479/41

Water operating gates of South Dock lost
and cannot be replaced locally.
Arrangements in hand to provide it, and
hoped to operate gates for morning tide
tomorrow. Other Docks unaffected. 2
U.X. Bombs in Dock Area are being dealt
with. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1207/23).

/KINGSTON.....

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2).

Remain as escort to KINGSTON HILL with NORTHERN SPRAY.
(C. in C. W.A. 1234/23 to PICOTEE).
ST. OLAVES and NORTHERN SPRAY have found KINGSTON HILL. Report your p.c. and s. if you are not in Company.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1239/23 to THAMES).
KINGSTON HILL in tow position 058° 035' N. 011° 29' W. course and speed 110° 3 knots. Making for Minches. THAMES closing to assist. (ST. OLAVES 1345/23).

Convoy F.S.

Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of Convoy ~~MINCHES~~ "Thavit".
(Rosyth 1452/23).

Mining.

Harwich Area.

1 magnetic mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0415 in 51° 50.3' N. 1° 32.8' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/23).

Operation G.T.

Operation G.T. paragraph five. Cover will be provided by motor gunboats. Five motor gunboats from Fowey and five from Dartmouth will sweep down to French Coast about 15 miles either side of destroyer.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1116/23).
Sailed INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, Motor gunboats 58. 59. 60. 61. (S O) 64.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1915/23).

Tyne.

At 1858/22 and 1900/22 respectively one Red Mine detonated in 047° from North Tyne Pier Light 5½ cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1158/23, 1159/23).
At 1942/22 one Green Mine detonated in 057° North Pier Light 2 cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1203/23).
At 1020/23 one Green Mine detonated in 096° North Tyne Pier Light, 12 cables.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1224/23).
Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/23).

/Swansea.....

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Swansea.
5 Mines exploded
ERIMO.
INVERFORTH
seriously
damaged.
TEWARA
slightly
damaged.

Port is still closed as many mines appear to have been laid in Approach Channel. Sweeping Operations somewhat impeded as some sweepers are in South Dock and cannot get out at present. Five mines have been exploded. S/A Trawlers ERIMO and INVERFORTH seriously damaged by one explosion, S/A Trawler TEWARA slightly damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1207/23).

Operation
ZME. 20.

Particulars. To be carried out on night of 24/2 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1318/23).

Falmouth.

Red Mine detonated at 0807/23 in 50° 7' 35" N. 5° 1' 10" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1540/23).

SHOAL FISHER.

(British, 698 Tons) Sunk by mine in 50° 10' 20" N. 4° 49' 50" W. at 1140/23. All crew rescued by H.M.T. SIR JOHN LISTER. 2 slight casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1624/23).

Spurn Point.

The two following mines exploded to-day. (F.O. Humber 1752/23).

Blyth.

Port of Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1825/23).

Humber.

Cancel my 1015/6/2. (re proposed daily closing) (F.O. Humber 1831/23).

Tees.
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed owing to suspected enemy minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2116/23).

Thames Estuary.

Green Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 1931/23 in 290°. Shivering Sand Buoy 5 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 2150/23).

/Liverpool.....

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (contd).

Liverpool.

Mine detonated by L.L. in 010° Bar Light Vessel 1.25 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2214/23).

S.N. 7A.
S.N. 7B.
S.N. 68A.

Consider cause of trouble in S.N. 7a, 7b and 68a to be established by my investigation. Have accordingly advised D.T.M. of my recommendations and requested assistance. If adequate action is taken elsewhere I can be ready for service prior to date C. in C. H.F. can provide cover. (R.A.(M) 2340/23 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.French
Coast.

Between 1216 and 1335 yesterday in excellent visibility several R boats or rescue craft were seen off the French Coast. It appeared that they were using smoke, possibly in connection with rescue duties.

There was considerable air activity.
(V.A.Dover, 1134/23).

ADMIRAL
HIPPER
~~Class~~
(Cruiser)
at Brest.

Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance on 23.2.41 show the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~Class~~ (cruiser) still in dry dock at Brest. The dock is dry.
(D.D.I.C. 1500/23).

Kiel
Canal
and
other
intelligence.

It appears that Kiel Canal is still obstructed, apart from ice. It has been previously reported that Canal is still partly blocked by INGA and is passable only by ships under 4000 tons.
(N.I.D. Comment on N.A.Stockholm 1137/23)
See Lion Copy. 769^A

Your 0025/21. This must have been freak reception as ship mentioned is known to have been in Baltic on 19th February.
(D.N.I. 1550/23 to C.in C. W.A.)

Off
Obrestadt.

STURGEON reports on 9/2 following shipping sighted passing 5 miles off shore off Obrestadt.
(S.6. 2022/23).

Unidentified
Ships.

Indication of unidentified ships 235° Dungeness 17 miles at 2200.
(V.A.Dover 2201/23 to BLENCATHERA).

769^A

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN
1137/23/February.

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date 24.2.41.

Inter-departmental Cypher 9
by Cable

Time 0135.

Re-circulation

Addressed D.N.I.

1. (a) due to severe icing of harbours, railway disorganization and necessary restrictions commercial shipping in the Baltic and North Sea is now almost at a standstill. B. one.

(b) German shipowners very recently asked by Danish Government to ship coal North Sea ports to Denmark. Though offered generous compensation against ice risks they declined on grounds that German Government had now forbidden their ships to leave German ports. Endeavour made by Danish vessels to bring coal to Esbjerg and thence by rail to Copenhagen and Eastern ports was unsuccessful. A two.

(c) Germans have just admitted to President Danish Shipowners Association their serious lack of small vessels up to 500 tons. In consequence Danes informed that their small vessels are now required to leave coal trade for Baltic. A.2.

(d) Commercial repair facilities at German ports now non-existent owing to yards being fully occupied with naval work. B.2.

(e) Germans have informed Danish shipowners that to augment tonnage required for certain specified purposes Dutch vessels seized in prize may be brought. Evidence of 2 vessels coming under Danish Flag through the medium of the Hypothek Bank. A.2.

(f) Certain German vessels now at Stockholm ordered to return to German ports by March 15th. 2 Masters have intimated crews they expect to be moved westward later on and that crews of occupied countries are to be discharged. B.3.

2. Kiel Canal. German shipowners informed Government that even when the ice clears Canal can only take vessels to 1800 tons. It will be reserved for naval requirements for some weeks anyhow. B.2.

3. Danish waters main traffic normally as follows:

(a) Little Belt. Entirely German vessels mostly carrying live oxen and pigs from Kolding to German Ports. Many smaller ships routed to the westward of Aako and Alsen. Now entirely frozen by thick ice.

Great Belt. Warships and small tankers. Now closed, but could be forced by ice breakers open to ferry service only March 21st.

(c) Sound. See my periodical reports. Both ferry services now operating. A.2.

4. British mining of Danish waters had best success last

Autumn.....

Lim copy only.

769^B

-2-

Autumn. Complete details shortly.

1137/23.

Para. 2. N.I.D. Comments.
It has been previously reported that the Canal is still partly blocked by the INGA and passable only by ships of under 4,000 tons. It seems that apart from ice the canal is still obstructed.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D. 9.
D.E.W.D. (3)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.N.M.S.
W.S.
I.P. (3)

WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal
Convoys.

- W.N.88. Position. (STELLA POLARIS 0230/23).
Arrived, 1615. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1646/23).
- F.N.14. 414 7 ships for Tyne diverted Humber.
(WESTMINSTER 0930/23). Your 0930
Sunderland ships to be diverted to Tees.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1115/23). List.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1140/23). Numbers from
Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1252/23).
E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER 1530/23). List to
join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1802/23).
- F.S.18. 418 Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/23)
25 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0952/23).
2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1710/23).
1 ship from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth 2353/23).
- F.N.12A. 412A Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/23).
Arrived 1630. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1644/23).
- F.S.17A. 417A Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1006/23)
Position, 25 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1213/23). Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1804/23).
- F.S.19T. 419T Additional slow convoy from Methil 2000/23.
Escorts. Code, "Merit". (C.in C. Rosyth,
1030/23) Sailed 2000, 27 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2021/23).
- 12 M/V's. Code "Chain". (C.in C. Portsmouth 1057/23).
(N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 1247/23).
Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1906/23).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

W.N.89. 1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1101/23).
List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Clyde,
1227/23). Sailed W.N.89 (O) 1645/23.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1701/23 and List, 1705/23).

E.N.75 U. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1105/23).

O.B.O. 290. 0245/24. VANQUISHER escort, 2 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1115/23).

F.S.17A. 417A Movements. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/23).
F.S.18. 418
→ F.S.19. 419
F.N.16. 416
C.E.26.

E.N.76. Ships for inclusion in O.B.291.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1251/23) Sailed
1630/23. Escorts. 15 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1809/23) List.
(1811/23).

→ F.S.19. 419 Numbers from Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1251/23)
Sailed 1500. (1510/23). SHELDRAKE additional
escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1517/23).
No Humber ships. (N.C.S.C. Humber, 1711/23).
List and destinations. (F.O.I.C. Tyne,
1801/23).

Channel. Portsmouth night movements.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1433/23).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.S.19. 419 F.N.14. 414 E.N.76.	Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/23).
F.N.11. 411	Non-Arrival. (N.C.S.C. Methil, 1520/23).
E.N.77. W.N.90.	GLEANER additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1530/23).
C.E.26.	Sailed 1501/23. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/23). List (1617/23).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1832/23).
O.B.C. 290.	2154/23. 17 ships. (N.C.S.C. Clyde 2210/23).
11 M/V's.	Escorts. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2304/23).
<u>Rosyth.</u>	Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2359/23).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.

H.G.53. Local Escorts. (LEAMINGTON 0915/23).
EMPIRE WARRIOR arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 2146/23).

H.X.107. FRONTENAC and ANN STATHATOU not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1053/23). H.X.107 U -
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1209/23).
1 arrival. (N.C.L.C. Barry, 1355/23).

H.X.108. 2 destinations. (D.O.D.(H) 1113/23).

O.G.54. 2300/25. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1155/23).

S.L.65. CAMITO to escort.
(V.A.N.P. 1158/23).

? Not met. MONTGOMERY and PERIWINKLE in
company. Searching.
(WANDERER 1200/23).

B.H.X.112. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1201/23).

O.B.290. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1340/23). Sailed 1252/23, 21 ships,
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1341/23). Escorts.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1600/23).

H.X.111. My 1529/23. Ships with naval ratings and
munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1531/23).

S.L.67. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1800/23).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Military
Convoys.REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHNAVER.

My 2258/16/2. Sailing of convoy will probably be delayed until March 4th. (D.O.D.(H) 1323/23).

W.S.6.
W.S.6.B.

1. The following transports left U.K. 8/2 in Convoy W.S.6.

2. The following transports left U.K. on 17/2 and will join convoy W.S.6. at Freetown.

3. The following M.T.Ships also sailed in W.S.6. on 8/2.

4. HIGHLAND BRIGADE is to proceed to Buenos Aires on completion of disembarkation at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1339/23).

ABOSSO.

A.M. 1727/22/2.

S.S. ABOSSO from Liverpool to W.Africa with service personnel speed 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots will sail with CITY OF PARIS and ARAWA. (D.O.D.(H) 1809/23).BATORY
RIMUTAKA.

Admiralty 1401/22 and 1635/22. A/S escort HARVESTER from Liverpool, HESPERUS, HURRICANE from Clyde. Request you will sail ship accordingly. HAVELOCK will be ordered to join escort.

S.C.23.

(ii) Destroyers are to fuel Reykjavik after making R/V in position (e) and will subsequently meet S.C.23. (C.in C. W.A. 2234/23).

T.C.9.M04410/41
M03749/41

In view of great importance of Convoy T.C.9. and S/M activity revealed by Wireless request you will consider reinforcing their Escort as early as possible. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2326/23 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

23.2.1941.

Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.ASSURANCE.

(Rescue Tug). Arrived Campbeltown with engine room defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0131/23).

GARONNE.

* *Nonwegian (N/V 7113) Tanker*
(~~Belgian 1208 Tons~~). Aground between 56A and 55A Buoys. Detail one A/S trawler to stand by. Tug proceeding from Yarmouth. (C.in C. Nore, 0237/23 to WOOLSTON).

* *Information from Trade Div.*ATHELQUEEN
BONDE.

British ATHELQUEEN returned from B.H.X.107 for repairs to hull. Norwegian BONDE returned from H.X.108 (corrupt group) engine repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 0956/23).

JERNLAND.

Rescue Tug SEA GIANT proceeded to assistance of S.S. JERNLAND anchored at 20 S.Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1502/23).

→ Rescue Tug SEA GIANT returned with JERNLAND in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2023/23).

VERONICA.

My 1035/22. H.M.S. VERONICA has been retained at Rosyth for engine repairs.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1607/23).

PASS OF LENY.

- N.T. in W.D.
Admiralty 1333/18. PASS OF LENY in tow of BRIGAND leaves Aberdeen at 0100/24 for Methil.
→ Request you will sail SEA GIANT for Methil as soon as possible to take on tow of PASS OF LENY to Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1708/23 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.23.2.1941.
Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.INVIGILATOR.
Not identified.

(Tug). Reported leaking off Cromer is being towed towards Yarmouth by A/P Vessel HINBA. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER sent to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1824/23).

AUSONIA.
M03962/41

(A.M.C. Serious fracture due to heavy weather has developed in port valve chest after hydraulic cylinder of steering engine. Temporary repairs can be effected in 48 hours provided welding plant is available.

Permanent repairs entail provision of new casting. Northern Patrol can be attempted but in event of further heavy weather grave risk of complete breakdown of steering engine. No hand steering gear fitted. Considered not advisable to recross Atlantic until temporary repairs effected. Request instructions.
(AUSONIA 2235/23).

23. 2. 41.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.P.L.M. 13.
LORIENT.

Arrival MARSDALE escorting French Ship P.L.M. 13 and LORIENT. (S.O.I. Gib., 1030/23.)

French
Retaliation,
Operation
"Ration".French seizure of Allied ships, Dakar and Casablanca. Instructions re: operation "Ration". (Hd. of M., 1953/23, to F.O.C.N.A, V.A. Force H.)
See Operations Volume.North Atlantic.WRESTLER.

Arrived. (S.O.I, Gib., 0600/23.)

French
M.V.'s.

Merchant officers and seamen required at Gibraltar to sail seized French ships to U.K. Desired to utilize D.B.S. from S.L.S.64. Report members remaining at Funchal after sailing of ships to join H.G.54. (F.O.C.N.A., 1112/23.)

Ships
ex S.L.S.64.

My 1805/22. Now hoped to sail all six ships 24/2, to join Convoy H.G.54. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1615/23, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

TUNA
PANDORA.

Position of submarines 1200/25, (a) TUNA with H.G.54, PANDORA (b) 044° 45' N, 009° 20' W, proceeding surface through 043° 00' 010° 50' thence steering south speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/23.)

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 3° 50' to 6° 40'. (200 Group, 1700/23.)

ASAKA MARU.

My 1704/20 ASAKA MARU sailed for unknown destination P.M. today. (N.A. Lisbon 1721/23, to Admty.)

RESOLUTION
sailed.

Departures RESOLUTION, JERSEY, JUPITER, DUNCAN, VELOX in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1252/22. (S.O.I. Gib., 1954/23, to C. in C. W.A.)

/RUBENS.....

MOST SECRET.23. 2. 41.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.RUBENS.

Your 1832/22. Sinking of A/S trawler RUBENS. Evidence from SCARBOROUGH and GENTIAN indicated that RUBENS parted company from O.G.52 p.m./10/2. Probable she mistook a signal passed to her by REGISTAN altering route of convoy as an order to herself to steer direct for $034^{\circ} 30' N$, $010^{\circ} 00' W$ and parted company accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A, 2346/23, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.COMORIN.

Your 1612/22. (no trace in W.R.) Presume you are 70 miles astern of position. EGBA has been informed accordingly. (C. in C. S.A, 0531/23, to COMORIN.)

CORNWALL.

A.T.2244/22, Report when CORNWALL will be ready for sea. (D.O.D.(F) 1038/23, to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.

Your 1038/23/2, CORNWALL ready for sea 0800/25. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1421B/23, to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE.

Arrived Montevideo 1000/22, 2 + 3. Intend to depart 0930/23 2 + 3. (NEWCASTLE, 1229z/23.)

Whale
Catchers.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1827z/22 passed to you. Following received from South Georgia (begins) THORSHAMMER and ten catchers will leave for ice 22/2. No fuel can be supplied by PESCA but THORSHAMMER can supply a certain amount of oil fuel and fresh water to QUEEN OF BERMUDA. THORSHAMMER will meet QUEEN OF BERMUDA in position $064^{\circ} S$. $050^{\circ} W$. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1313/23, to C. in C.S.A.)

See also next page

/MAURITIUS SL.68

.....

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

MAURITIUS
S. L. 68.

MAURITIUS is to provide additional ocean escort for S.L.68 from Freetown to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 1642/23, to C. in C. S.A.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Admty. 1644/3. Sailing of SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA for Suez is to be postponed for the present. She is to remain at Durban pending further instructions. (D.O.D.(F) 1653/23, to C. in C. S.A.)

DELHI.

A.T. 2350/17. DELHI will now refit at Singapore in accordance with my 1709/13, and is to be sailed when convenient. (D.O.D.(F) 1654/23, to C. in C. S.A.)

DRAGON.

Arrived 1100 oiled and sailed 1800/23. D. of Nigerian Marine Lagos, 1815/23, to C. in C. S.A.)

Whaling
Fleet.

My 2027/13, and your 1926/15. Request information of probable movements of Whaling fleet on completion of season in order that consideration may be given to route and protection of whale factory ships on homeward (corrupt group). (C. in C. S.A., 2155/23, to Admty.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

M07916/41

Whilst in Southern Area opportunity should be taken to visit Deception Island in accordance with R.A.S.A.D's. 1558Z/18/12. Subsequently to Fuerteventura from Thorshammes, you should proceed on this duty about 28/2, if your information is that conditions are still suitable and thence to Falkland Islands for fuel and stores. Before leaving neighbourhood of Whaling operations, report your intentions briefly by W/T.(C. in C. S.A., 2231/23, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Units.

From volume of D/F bearings between 1500 and 2130 G.M.T/22, seems evident there are a number of Italian warships at sea in lower Tyrrhenean Sea. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0138/23, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Tripoli
"Cucumbers".

V. A. Malta, 0650/23. See Mediterranean Volume.

Enemy Convoys.
Libya.

Convoys reported leaving Palermo 21/2, and Naples P.M./23, both for Libya. (Comdr. S.I, 0915/23, to S/Ms. on patrol.

Operations
"Mar. 2."
("Abstention")
"Mar. 1"
PARTHIAN.

Carry out operation MAR. 2 (^{"Abstention"}~~ABSTENTION~~) day ~~light~~ one is 24/2. MAR. 1 para. 8, light is to be exhibited from 0001/25 onwards. (C.S.3, 1046/23, to PARTHIAN.)

Air attack
on Benghazi,
and TERROR.

Shortly after dawn 4 JU 88's bombed Benghazi harbour, 6 bombs falling on water front and others near TERROR, little damage except to road no casualties.

Valona,
Enemy
Ships.

Greece. 22/2. Blenheim Reconnaissance reported 1 ship 17,000 tons 3 ships 10,000 tons leaving Valona on Westward course and 6 ships 8,000 tons arriving Valona. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E, 1143/23.)

Massawa
bombed by
F.A.A.

OPS. SUMM.No. 258. up to 1200 hours 23. 2. 41 III Sudan 21/2. 7 FAA, Albatrosses bombed Massawa hitting one destroyer in South anchorage and obtaining possible hits on two destroyers at Qain quays and submarine in Northern anchorage, aircraft reported over 35 merchant ships in harbour. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/23.)

/Ammunition.....

MOST SECRET.23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Ammunition.

230 15" Shrapnel Shell available in U.K.
Would these be of service in Medit.?
Fuzes No. 93 are available in Eastern
Medit. (D.T.S.D. 1156/23, to C. in C.
Med.)

UTMOST.

Will leave Malta P.M./25 to operate in
Gulf of Hammemet until A.M./1. She will
keep to North of 36° while East of 011°
10'. (Capt. S.I, 1210/23, to URSULA.)

Mine
Suez
Canal.

One mine exploded on starboard bow of
Diesel tug towing ~~mine~~ at kilometres
73.2 A.M./23. Presence of mines was not
suspected presumed to be acoustic. Tug
slightly damaged, minor injuries to crew.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1955/23.)

War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DUMMY
Signal.
CITY OF
AUCKLANDFollowing has been read. RRRR 21/28S.,
52 10E (X331) two unknown warships in
sight. (Admiral, Colombo, 0320Z/23,
to Admty.).N.B. See C.in C. East Indies 1940Z/22).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND, Warships following me 21.28S.,
52.10 E., course North, speed 12 knots.
(Admiral, Colombo, 0333Z/23, to Admty.).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND ordered to stop.
(Admiral, Colombo, 0340Z/23).
RRRR CITY OF AUCKLAND. Cancel my RRRR
message at 0315.
(Admiral, Colombo, T.O.R. 0355Z/23).U.S.9
LEANDERBombay 22/2 LEANDER arrived 0400Z with
convoy U.S.9. (S.O.I) Bombay 0401Z/23).CALEDON
PARRAMATTA
INDUS
CARTHAGEArrival 22/2 1815Z. CALEDON, 2115Z PARRAMATTA,
23/2 0330Z INDUS, 0425Z CARTHAGE.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0514/23).CERES
ENTERPRISE.Mombasa arrived 23/2 0455 G.M.T., CERES
and ENTERPRISE. (N.O.I.C. East Africa
0545Z/23).Troop
Transport.Your 2300/21. Summary is correct subject
to minor alterations in dates.
Request confirmation that AQUITANIA will
proceed Singapore and that ORMONDE will
proceed U.K. with 1200 Indian Troops, sailing
(date). (p. 785)
Reply to para (iv) about U.S.10 will be
signalled as soon as possible.
(S.S.T.O., India, 0555/23, to D. of S.T.).Kismayu,
British
prisoners.Am informed prisoners from Kismayu Area state
250 British seamen recently landed Mogadisco
and are interned in camp at Merca. No definite
information regarding date they were landed.
(C.in C. E.I., 0722/23, to Admty.).Enemy unit.Mauritius 0508/23. Frequency suggests unit
in Atlantic. (Capt. O.S., Singapore
0748Z/23, to C.in C. E.I.).

War Diary.

23.2.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

LEANDER

Cancel my 1942/22 comply with my 1200/21.
 (Routeing instructions for LEANDER).
 Speed 20 knots. (C.in C. E.I., 0804/23 to
 LEANDER).

EMERALD
HERMES
SHROPSHIRE
AUSTRALIA
GLASGOW
CAPETOWN

EMERALD and HERMES are to proceed now
 towards position 014° S. 055° through
 position 011° S. 051° at about 1000 Z/24.
 SHROPSHIRE is to pass West of Farguar
 Island and adjust speed to keep in
 supporting distance, EMERALD and HERMES
 making contact as necessary on 24/2.
 AUSTRALIA after passing through position
 009° S. 054° proceed towards position 018°
 S. 057° at 27 knots.
 GLASGOW search between Madagascar and
 055° E. proceeding Mauritius to fuel when
 necessary.
 CAPETOWN is to patrol to North East of
 Seychelles during night 24/25 fuelling
 Port Victoria a.m./25.
 (C.in C. E.I., 0820Z/23, to Force V).

DORSETSHIRE,
Force Z.

M07722/41

Your 1804Z/22. Unless touch has been
 regained with enemy DORSETSHIRE is to
 return to Force Z and escort to northward.
 Early arrival of Force Z in Mediterranean
 is of utmost importance.
 Relief of DORSETSHIRE with Force Z will be
 considered later.
 (V.C.N.S. 1046/23, to C.in C. E.I.).
 Admiralty 1046/23 not to you. Do not
 enter Durban. R/V with me at 0330Z/24 in
 028° S. 034° E.
 (DORSETSHIRE, 1130Z/23, to S.O. Force Z).
 Your 1046/23. If touch has not been
 reported by 1500Z/23 DORSETSHIRE will
 rejoin Force Z off Durban early a.m./24.
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to sail
 Force Z accordingly.
 (C.in C. E.I., 1132/23, to Admty.).
 Force Z sighted and proceeding northwards
 in accordance with DORSETSHIRE's 1130Z/23.
 (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1420Z/23, to Admty. etc.).

/ HINDUSTAN
 INDUS

....

force on their respective stations.

1712/23.

for D.M.S.
(Tel. 262).

Approved A.C.N.S.(F)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.O.D.(H)
D.N.I.(4)
D.T.D.
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.N.S.(2) (M/S 0127/41)
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.T.C.
H.P.S.
H.W.R.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1712/23rd Feb.

OUT

To: C. in C. East Indies. 857. Date: 23.2.41.

G. in C. China 590.

C. in C. America and West Indies. 414.

C. in C. South Atlantic. 356.

C.N.S. Ottawa. 188

A.N.B. Melbourne 812.

N.Z.N.D. Wellington 953.

F.O.C.N.A. 795.

Repeated:- C. in C. Home Fleet. 183.

C. in C. Nore 214.

C. in C. Portsmouth 689

C. in C. Plymouth 84.

C. in C. Western Approaches 247.

C. in C. Rosyth 982

A.C.O.S. 622.

V.A. Dover. 228.

C. in C. Mediterranean 577.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From: Admiralty.

AIDA.

A requirement now exists on East Indies Station for a more confidential series of Q Messages to promulgate the laying of British Mines. This requirement may eventuate on other stations. On Mediterranean Station this requirement is met by Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean issuing QB Messages with the limited circulation shown in Article 18 of C.B.01618 L/40.

2. Authorities addressed are requested to signal whether they concur in the amendment of the table in paragraph 7 of C.B. 01618 L/40, by:-

QC	East Indies Station	Commander-in-Chief	East Indies
QCA	East Indies Station	Captain-in-Charge	Ceylon
QD	China Station	Commander-in-Chief	China
QDC	China Station	Commander-in-Chief	China
QJ	America, & West Indies Station	C.N.S.	Ottawa
QK	North Atlantic Station	F.O.C.N.A.	Gibraltar
QKA	North Atlantic Station	S.O.I.	Gibraltar
QF	Australian Station	Naval Board	Melbourne
QFA	Australian Station	Naval Board	Melbourne
QM	New Zealand Station	Naval Board	Wellington
QMA	New Zealand Station	Naval Board	Wellington
QO	South Atlantic Station	Commander-in-Chief	South Atlantic.

3. New Serials QDC, QKA, QFA, QCA, and QMA, will replace messages now in QD, QK, QF, QC, and QM, Series respectively. Remainder of the table will remain unaltered.

4. Distribution of foreign stations given in Article 18 of C.B. 01618 L/40 will be amended:- For (Not QB Messages) read (Not 2 letter Serial Messages).

5. Proposals now made will bring procedure on all foreign stations into line and will not prevent the further sub-division of any station if this is required at later date.

6. If agreement is general an A Message will be issued amending C.B. 01618 L/40 on receipt of which Authorities are requested to issue the necessary signals to bring the new procedure into

force

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

HINDUSTAN

INDUS *See also next page.*

C.in C. East Indies 1126Z/16.
Not clear whether HINDUSTAN and INDUS are to join Mediterranean Fleet, but in view of your present heavy commitments I suggest you retain these two ships for time being assuming they would if necessary be able to join me at a few days notice. (C.in C. Med., 1117/23, to C.in C. E.I.).

Shipping,
East Africa.

As raiders in the Indian Ocean have so far abstained from operations in the vicinity of Coastal Waters request you will consider the desirability of merchant shipping being routed closer to the East African Coast. (D.T.D. 1310/23 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A.)

GLASGOW
position.

My p.c. and s. are 017° 24' S. 053° 30' E. 089° 24 knots. Intend to search Cargados Carajos area at daylight tomorrow Monday. If no sign of raider or auxiliary intend to proceed to Mauritius searching to S.E. on the way. Request fuel at Port Louis at 1400Z/21. (GLASGOW, 1512Z/23 to C.in C. E.I.).

"Q"
Mining
Messages.

Requirement now exists on E. Indies Station for a more confidential series of Q Messages to promulgate laying of British mines. Proposals. (D.M.S., 1712/23, to C.in C's E.I., China, etc.). See ~~Special Summaries Folder.~~ *Copy opposite.*

Force V.

1124/23/41

If contact pocket battleship not regained by dark 24/2, intentions for GLASGOW, DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE, HERMES, EMERALD, CANBERRA, CAPETOWN (C.in C. E.I., 1828Z/23, to Force V.) See Operations Volume.

/ INDUS

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)INDUS.

My 1250/18. Pending decision of Indian Government as regards transfer INDUS leaves Aden 24/2 for docking and essential repairs at Bombay. (C.in C. E.I., 1832Z/23, to C.in C. Med.).

SHROPSHIRE
bombardment
of Brava.
CERES.

Italian Somaliland operations. SHROPSHIRE bombarded near Brava A.M./22. Result direct hit on buildings Modun. Considerable damage to the whole Modun Area and to Modun-Gelib Road. Transport under trees shelled but result not observed. CERES will be available for co-operation with Army from 25/2. Military hope to take Brava 24/2. (C.in C. E.I. 1906Z/23, to Admty.).

China.AQUITANIA

Your 2317/20. AQUITANIA can be docked and work necessary to increase capacity accepted. A.C.N.B. has been asked to furnish details of latter. (C.in C. China, 0301/23, to Admty.).

Pacific
Defence.

Agreement for defence of S.W. Pacific Area. Reply to High Commissioners Australia and New Zealand in reply to telegram No.87 of 12/2/1941 from Govt. of Australia. (1 S.L., 1820/23 to C.in C's China and E. Indies). Original in Lion Copy only.

NOT SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

To: - C. in C. China 397
 C. in C. East Indies 860
 Repeated C. in C. Far East

Date 23.2.41

NAVAL CYPHER (F)

China
 1880/18/February
*Reference made
 Lindley.*
 785A

From Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

The following telegram has been despatched by Dominions Office to United Kingdom High Commissioners for Governments of Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand in reply to telegram No. 87 dated 12th February, 1941, from the Government of Australia.

Begins:- It is agreed that the South Western Pacific area should be regarded as a whole irrespective of station limits but it is further considered that all Far Eastern waters, including the South Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, must be considered together strategically.

2. This area again must be balanced in with the whole Empire's war effort. Attacks by Germany in the Atlantic will certainly not be any the less. The threat in the North Western Approaches both by air and submarine is expected to increase in the spring. Attacks on our home convoys have already been experienced and must be expected to continue. Attacks by armed raiders in all oceans must be expected to continue and indeed to increase with the co-operation of Germany and Japan.

The invasion threat to the British Isles necessitates the holding of a certain number of forces in Home Waters. Our war effort in the Mediterranean is likely to increase.

3. The addition of Japan to our enemies would add additional threats both to our territory and to our trade from the East coast of Africa to the Pacific.

Inside this area an investigation has already been made with a view to reducing the amount of essential trade that must be kept running. It is essential that the following important trade routes and supply lines should be kept going:-

- Cape to Aden.
- Cape to Colombo.
- Colombo to Aden.
- Australia to Aden.
- Australia to Singapore.
- Australia to the Cape and Panama.

The trade, even after it has been reduced to a minimum, is so big that it will be out of the question to run it entirely by convoys, and a certain amount of diverted routing will have to be accepted.

4. Many of our troubles would be alleviated by the stationing of P.B.Y.'s or other long distance aircraft on the trade routes. In fact, however, the situation must be faced that only 6 P.B.Y.'s have so far been delivered and that any delivery in quantity cannot be expected for several months.

5. The forces to be stationed in the Indian Ocean and the Far East cannot therefore at present be substantially increased beyond those already there except by the addition of one Battlecruiser and Aircraft Carrier and by the return of the Dominion Naval Forces of which you have already been informed. However, from the moment that Japan enters the war the situation in all the oceans will be carefully watched and an immediate redistribution of forces will be made should the threat to our communications in the Pacific and Indian Oceans be relatively greater than that in the Atlantic.

/ A.....

A more precise statement of the total numbers and types of various vessels likely to be available in the whole area under discussion is being telegraphed to C. in C. China and will be available at conference as basis for planning.

6. In the above circumstances it appears that, viewing the theatre of war as a whole and the total forces available for the defence of the various Imperial interests concerned, the disposition of the Dominion forces proposed at the previous conference might be regarded as slightly out of balance. It is appreciated that at this conference it was not possible to compare the relative strengths of the forces in Australasian waters and elsewhere owing to lack of information as to the total forces which would be available. The information referred to in paragraph 5 should now allow this to be done. We should therefore be glad if you would approach the Prime Minister expressing the hope that the Commonwealth Government and New Zealand Government will be prepared to authorise their military advisers to re-examine the naval dispositions (in consultation with the Naval Cs. in C. China and East Indies stations) in the light of the information which will now be available with a view to producing a plan for the best employment of the Imperial naval forces in the whole area of the Indian Ocean, Far Eastern and Australasian waters.

7. Whilst the situation would be alleviated by the entry of America into the war, we cannot allow for this anyhow in our initial dispositions. Even should America come into the war, the indications are that they will not station any forces in the Pacific west of Hawaii, except for a small Asiatic Fleet. Their Main Pacific Fleet will be at Hawaii, and a considerable force will be directed towards stiffening our forces in the Atlantic and so relieving certain of our forces, including capital ships, for the Far East. Ends.

1820/23.

Asst. Sec. to 1st Sea Lord.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.S.

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

C.S. to 1st S.L.

D.C.D. (F)

D.C.D. (H)

D.C.D. (F)

D. of P.

M.A.I.

D.C.

D.N.A.D.

M.P.S.

Head of M. for C.A.S., C.I.G.S., General Ismay and Col. Hollis.

I.P.

A.D.

War Diary.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X.110.

M04697/41.

Your 1349/13. Instruction in para. 2 given to Halifax portions of all Halifax convoys commencing with H.X.110 and S.C. convoys commencing with S.C.24. Bermuda H.X.110 probably not instructed due to earlier sailing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1001/23, to Admty.).

WORCESTERSHIRE,
Ice.

F.O. Iceland 2130/21/2. Request you inform WORCESTERSHIRE of ice conditions on her route if necessary. Do you consider it advisable for ships to continue to pass to northwards of area defined in Admiralty's 1933/16/1. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/23, to C.O.A.C. Halifax.).

H.X.111.

M06178/41

Halifax departure 22/2 AURANIA ocean escort. H.X.111. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1331/23, to Admty. etc.).

NEWARK

My E.926/36 and my 1131/16. Subject to your satisfaction with latest fuel consumption figures route to U.K. is to be amended as follows (details). S.S. TRELAWNEY reported being shelled by an enemy warship in position, 047° 12' N. 040° 13' W. on 22/2. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1630/13 to NEWARK).

Suspicious
Signal.

My 1216/22. Following received O.I.C. Resolution Island (begins) 2014 G.M.T. O H F J calling O F D C abrupt call, sounds suspicious, similar note to raider jamming yesterday bearing 94 uncalibrated comparative bearing T F A 63 uncalibrated (Ends). (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2132/23, to Admty., C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.23.2.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.HOBART
AWATEADeparture from Sydney for Auckland
HOBART escorting AWATEA, 0220Z/22.
(A.C.N.B., 0220Z/23, to Admty. etc.).WESTRALIA
ZEALANDIAWESTRALIA escorting ZEALANDIA arrived
and sailed Bowen 1945Z/21.
(A.C.N.B., 0250Z/23, to Admty. etc.).New Zealand.KING LUDMy 0300Z/22. KING LUND. Surveyor
reports ship seaworthy.
Ship ordered to Taltal Chile Ministry of
Shipping.
(Customs, Suva, 0342/23, to S.O.I.,
Wellington, N.Z.).

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARGHERA
CARSO.

Your 1148Z/21. (Scuttled ships
MARGHERA and CARSO.) Report if it is
possible to salvage these ships.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1855/23 to C. in C. E.I.)

Reply: page 907.

Suggest to put in Lion copy

SECRET

MESSAGE

1737/23 February OUT

To A.I.G. 47 and 48
for N.C.S.O's

DATE 23.2.41.

Naval Cypher C and P/L by T/P

From Admiralty

My 1641/11/1. Following periodical summary of anti U Boat campaign up to 10th February.

2. The comparative lull in U Boat activity has continued. One escorted convoy was attacked on January 29th with a loss of 5 ships. Another ship was sunk shortly after leaving another convoy.
3. With these exceptions all attacks on shipping have been made on ships straggling from Convoy or on ships sailing independently. The main lesson of the month's experience has been the danger of straggling which has proved equally applicable to U Boat or air attack. In both cases the enemy much prefers the easier task of picking off stragglers to facing the counter-attack of escorts.
4. Several contacts with and attacks on U Boats have been made some of which are extremely promising.
5. At present we believe that an average of about 6 German U Boats are operating in the North West Approaches and perhaps one or two Italian. It must be expected that a strong U Boat effort will be put out in the Spring months.
6. It is to be hoped that the lengthening daylight hours will react to our advantage as attacks are still made mainly at night. On the other hand long days increase the chances of shipping being located.
7. There is little doubt that U Boats shadow the convoy by day reporting by W/T so that other U boats may be ordered to attack if the general disposition permits. After dark the U boat closes in to attack coming in roughly on the beam of the convoy trimmed down to the conning tower and running on her Diesels. She will approach as close as she dares making her subsequent retreat at full surface speed. Evidence goes to show that if not pursued a U boat will stop to reload when 5 to 10 miles from the scene of her attack. In fair weather this will be done on the surface but in heavy weather she will go deep. The operation may occupy an hour after which if circumstances permit she will endeavour to regain touch with the convoy.
8. Experience has shown that some U boats will not hesitate to enter a convoy which is not keeping close station. This becomes more likely as the standard of station keeping deteriorates.

1737/23.

D.T.D. (172)

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

A.C.N.S. (H)

Naval Sec.

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.S.D. 9

D. of S.T.

I.F. (3)

D.A.S.W.

O.I.C.

W.D.

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

Summary.

My 1641/11/1. Periodical summary of Anti-U-Boat Campaign up to 10/2. (D.T.D. 1737/23, to AIG.47 and 48 for N.C.S.O.'s) Original in Lion copy only.

MANISTEE
O.B. Vessel.

Have been struck by torpedo on Port side posn., is 058° 15' N, 021° 33' W. (MANISTEE, 2145/23, to Whitehall W/T.)

Making water in main bunker, course 000° speed 6 knots. Damage at present under control. (MANISTEE, 2245/23.)

Detach HEATHER to proceed to assistance of MANISTEE torpedoed in position 058° 13' N, 021° 33' W, at 2145. Further signal will be made at 0400. (C. in C. W.A, 2320/23, to GEORGETOWN.)

Unknown ship.

The unknown vessel SSSS 5926 N, 2108 W, submarine sighted. (Valentia Radio 2245/23, to Naval Wireless Admiralty, Admiral Devonport.

TEMPLEMOAT.

Following has been read: S.S.S.S. 59. 27 N. 20. 20 W. TEMPLEMOAT still chased. Submarine. (Lyness W/T, 2346/23.)

S/M's Reported.

- 1313.
- 1345.
- 1424.
- 1435.
- 1545.
- 1910.

S.W. of Ireland.)
 59° 60' N, 15 - 20° W.)
 58° N, 18-20° W.) Indefinite
 58° N, 18-20° W.) positions.
 58.30 N, 19° W.) (D.S.538.)
 60° N, 9.30 W.)

S/M's Reported.
0926.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a Convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 0926/23, to Western Approaches.)

/My 0926/23.....

23. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. Contd.

My 0926/23. No fix obtained. It is possible that formation reported was HX 108 or S.C.22 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0952/23, to GEORGETOWN, ANTELOPE, WANDERER, WITCH, MAYFLOWER, SNOWBERRY.

My 0952/23. It is also possible that CANTON was reported. (D.D.I.C, 1054/23, to CANTON.

My 0952/23, and 1054/23. Further transmission at 1049/23, indicates CANTON is most probably unit concerned. (D.D.I.C. 1114/23, to CANTON.)

1301.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1301/23 to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1301/23. It is probable that formation reported was OB 288 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1316/23.)

1411.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1411/23 to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1411/23. It is probable that formation reported was O.B.288, or S.C.22, convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1426/23.)

1453.

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1453/23, to Ships and Authorities in Area B. H.Q.C.C.

My 1453/23. It is probable that formation reported was H.M.S. CANTON. Two U boats may be co-operating. (D.D.I.C. 1504/23 to CANTON, CHURCHILL, H.Q.C.C.

/Estimated.....

23. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Estimated
U/B dispositions.

German. One 40 miles of $59^{\circ} 30' N. 14^{\circ} W$,
may return to area north of $60^{\circ} N$.
West of $15^{\circ} W$.
One 40 miles of $58^{\circ} N, 20^{\circ} 30' W$,
One 60 miles of $56^{\circ} 30' N. 21^{\circ} W$.
One 40 miles of $53^{\circ} 30' N. 19^{\circ} W$.
One 90 miles of $53^{\circ} 30' N. 23^{\circ} 30' W$.
One about 48 degs. $30'$ east of $20^{\circ} W$.
en route Lorient. One arriving Lorient
S.W.

Italian. One 40 miles of $58^{\circ} 40' N,$
 $16^{\circ} 20' W$.
One 40 miles of $59^{\circ} 20' N. 14^{\circ} 30' W$.
One 90 miles of $56^{\circ} N. 16^{\circ} W$.
2 in Bay of Biscay.
2 others at Sea. (D.D.I.C. 1259/23.)

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 Comnav, 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.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat
attacks
in N.W.
Approaches.

Two ships were attacked yesterday and 6 today in 3 separate areas in the N.W. Approaches, viz. MANISTEE (O.E.V.) reported torpedoed yesterday evening and again this morning whilst making for port; S.S. TEMPLE MOAT ex O.B.288 chased yesterday; and the following torpedoed today: S.S. HUNTINGDON ex O.B.288 S.S. JONATHAN HOLT, MANSEPOOL and tankers G.C. BROVIG and BRITISH GUNNER. The four last were on the Northern Approach Route, north of 61° N., in Convoy O.B.289; the attack was made $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before daylight, probably by at least two submarines. S.S. ELISABETH LENSEN reported sighting a submarine in 60° 26' N. 25° 50' W. at 1810 today.

C.in C. H.F. suggests, with reference to the above torpedoings, that submarine reports should be made in plain language. This would enable other ships approaching the area to be warned more quickly.

It is estimated that there are 9 U-boats (including 2 Italian) operating in the N.W. Approaches.

Convoy
C.E.26
fired at.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 13 rounds early this morning during the passage of C.E.26 through the Downs. No damage is reported.

E.boats.

There were indications at 0003/24 and 2311/24 of E.boats in the Thames Approaches.

CANTON
engages
THUNDERBOLT

CANTON engaged THUNDERBOLT with accurate fire in 54° 19' N. 26° 43' W. this morning. THUNDERBOLT was not hit.

War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.

Aircraft of Bomber Command carried out heavy attacks last night on Boulogne and Calais.

A direct hit is claimed on ~~a ship in~~ No.2 dock at Calais. Owing to bad weather, no operations were carried out today.

Coastal Command aircraft attacked Brest last night.

Two enemy destroyers were sighted by aircraft off Ile de Vierge (near Ushant) this morning. Beaufort aircraft were despatched and attacked unsuccessfully this afternoon.

Dawn fighter R.C. has been asked for, in case the enemy destroyers pass Gris Nez at daylight tomorrow.

Enemy Air Activity.

An aircraft dropped bombs in Switha Sound and off Cantic Head early this afternoon and BLACKPOOL was bombed this morning off Duncansby Head. No damage occurred in either case.

Five small vessels were unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon 35 miles N. by E. of Cromer. Coastal Command aircraft on patrol drove off the attacker.

~~CAMERON sunk in No.8 dock at Portsmouth on 5/13 was successfully refloated today and docked for examination.~~

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.Operation
G.I.

INTREPID and IMPULSIVE last night laid mines off Brest, covered by motor gun boats. M.G.B. 63 failed to return to harbour and was last seen at 2145/23 about 40 miles south of Eddystone. M.G.B. 46 was towed in to harbour.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Tyne to the Humber.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off Milford Haven, North Shields, Spurn Point, Hull, the Mumbles and Flatholm Light.

Tees and Hartlepool were reopened this afternoon.

North Atlantic.

The six ships which found their way to Funchal from Convoy S.L.S.64, which was attacked by a raider on 12/2, sailed today for the U.K. in Convoy H.G.54.

Mediterranean.TERROR
sunk.

TERROR sank off Derna at 0400 today as the result of damage sustained in air attacks at Benghazi on 22/2 and off Derna yesterday evening.

DAINTY
sunk.

DAINTY was by air attack sunk off Tobruk during dusk today. She is the fortieth destroyer (including 2 of R.C.N.) to be sunk during the present war.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.

Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

Our troops occupied Brava today.

Search for
pocket
battleship.

Fresh dispositions were made to commence at dark today. GLASGOW, after fuelling at Mauritius is to relieve DORSETSHIRE escorting Force Z, on 28/2. AUSTRALIA is on her way to fuel at Mauritius, after which she is to search an area in the southern part of the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Australia. SHROPSHIRE, HERMES and EMERALD are to operate in the Seychelles area, using Port Victoria for fuelling; CAPETOWN after fuelling at Port Victoria is to reinforce the escort (ENTERPRISE) of Convoy W.S.5BX taking troops to Bombay. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to proceed towards Fremantle.

Air raid
on Aden.

The Naval W/T station power line was put out of action for a short time this morning by an air raid.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.ANJA.

Admiralty's 2134/23 and my 1729/22.
Master of ANJA admits receiving W/T instructions on 20/2, to effect that he would be standing into danger unless he altered course to proceed through Skopen Fiord.

By then he was approaching Iceland.
Considered route through Denmark Straits safer.

ANJA does not apparently carry large scale charts of Faroes.

(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1159/24).

Jan Mayen.

Representatives of Co-operative Society request permission to send expedition to Jan Mayen in June to collect driftwood in view of scarcity of timber in Iceland. Do not consider advisable and propose to withhold permission.

(F.O. Iceland 1343/24).

Firing at
Unseen
Targets.

Admiralty 1857/20. As A.S.V. sets fitted and to be fitted in destroyers (types 285 and 286 M) cannot normally receive I.F.F. the restriction imposed on firing at unseen targets will have a considerable adverse effect on power of offence and defence of A.A. destroyers against aircraft. I appreciate balance is not easy to strike.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/24).

Your 1857/20. Concur with C.in C. H.F. 0034/23.

(C.in C. W.A. 1441/24).

CORNWALL
DORSETSHIRE.

Owing to presence of Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean, return of CORNWALL and DORSETSHIRE to U.K. must be postponed.
(1st S.L. 2305/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.'Deluge'
DELUGE.At 1130/24. (D.C.1142/24).
At 2330/24. (D.C.2359/24).Bristol
Channel
A/A
Defences.Request very early decision on mounting of
A.A.Guns on Flatholm and Steepholm.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1105/23).Faroes
A.A.
Defences.My 2359/21, your 1516/22 and your 1921/22/12.
These guns will be manned by naval personnel
from the fleet until local infantry
battalions have been sufficiently trained
to take them over. Request that
arrangements may be made for A.A. gunners
to be sent at an early date to man these
guns pending consideration of final A.A.
defence, arrangements for Faroes.
(A.C.O.S. 1939/24).Movements.VESLECKARI
HONNINGSVAAG.My 1229/21. VESLECKARI and HONNINGSVAAG
delayed by heavy gale off North coast of
Iceland. Further signal will be made when
situation is clear.
(F.O.Iceland 1359/24).MAIDSTONE
TYNE.In view of docking and subsequent movements
it is important that MAIDSTONE should be
relieved by TYNE at earliest possible date.
Can confirmation now be given that TYNE will
sail for Scapa on 28/2 after acceptance.
(R.A.D. 1435/24).Northern
Patrol.Trawler lines tonight. (4 trawlers).
(A.C.O.S. 1536/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)Submarines.

Positions at 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1854/24).

SUNFISH.

SUNFISH is expected to sail about 0030/25 westwards of Orkneys and, Shetlands to position 61° 30'N., 2° 30'W. escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE thence routed northwards.
(A.C.O.S. 1854/24).

→ O.21.
O.23.

O.21. and O.23 escorted by WHITE BEAR are proceeding Southbound through Minches tonight Monday.
(C.in C. W.A. 1924/24 to HUGH WALPOLE).

WAR DIWAN.
WAR PINDARI.

Arrangements for WAR DIWAN to relieve WAR PINDARI.
(R.A.Scapa 2001/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

OLYMPUS.

Intend to sail OLYMPUS from Dartmouth at 1800/26 B.S.T. unescorted diving by day as far as position C thence on surface at C. O's discretion routed as follows to 350° Cape Sparte1, 10 miles.

4. OLYMPUS enters North Atlantic Station at 0600/2 B.S.T.
(S.5. 2000/24).

TRIBUNE.
TAKU.

Sailed 1630 escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with Capt: S.2.1048/22. Submarines enter N.A.& W.I.Station at 1200/2/3.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2211/24).
You may meet in the vicinity of Skerryvore. TRIBUNE, TAKU with CUTTY SARK Westbound.
O.21 O.23 with WHITE BEAR Southbound.
(S.2. 2321/24 to TRIBUNE, TAKU, O.21 O.23.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out.
Zero hour 2215.
(V.A.Dover, 1458/24).

P.Y.A.

Operation P.Y.A. will be carried out
tonight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1621/24).

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
JACKAL.
(Relief
of Escort
for
RESOLUTION).

As KASHMIR will not be in Harbour in time
to sail with JACKAL and KIPLING the latter's
directions proceed in company to comply
with my 1232/24. This signal will be
passed to KASHMIR on arrival.

(ii) KASHMIR will be sailed later to join
JACKAL and KIPLING who are to pass through
049° 30'N., 010° 00'W. As much Westing as
practicable is to be made during night
24/25.

(C.in C. Plymouth 1724/24 to JACKAL, KASHMIR)
Sailed 0630 KASHMIR. Arrived 1850 KASHMIR.
Sailed 1900 JACKAL, KIPLING.
Sailed 2032 KASHMIR.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1910/24 and 2154/24).

Convoy
C.E.26.
shelled in
the Downs.

Enemy coastal batteries fired thirteen
rounds between 0506 and 0525 today during
passage of C.E.26 through the Downs. No
damage or casualties reported.
(V.A.Dover 1742/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Proposed
Code-words
for
Fighter
Co-operation
in Channel.

To reduce length of signals requesting fighter co-operation it is proposed to allot permanent code words to regular groups sailing in English Channel as has already been done for routine minesweeping. Request five more code words may be allotted. (C.in C. Plymouth 0122/24).

Clyde.
Bombing
Restrictions.

Request bombing restrictions Clyde Sanctuary from 1800/28 until 0800/2. (S.7. 1021/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Air
Escorts.

Expect air escort of one Whitley from 0200/25. (C.in C. W.A. 1049/24 to ENCHANTRESS, WHITEHALL).

Expect air escort by Sunderland throughout the night. (C.in C. W.A. 2106/24 to GEORGETOWN).

Instructions
for A/C
attacking
shipping.

Your 0059/22. Concur in principle with proposals but as existing limit passes too close to Q.Z.Y. 174 and through Q.Z.X. 267 propose para. 3 A (1) of A.M. 1111/20/9/4 should be amended to read as follows.

2. Reference para.2 of Admty. Msge. 0059/22. As destroyers from Plymouth usually operate to Southward of the proposed line at least one night in 3, propose the Channel West of 3° West be divided into following area for ease of reference.

(C.in C. Plymouth 1120/24 to Admty).

Your 0059/22. Cancel my 1149/22. Concur in proposals as far as Nore Command Area is concerned. In view of the difficulties of accurate navigation by aircraft at night I consider that the proposed free bombing area is too close to Dungeness to allow a sufficient margin of safety for Channel convoys Coastal traffic and Warships on passage. Propose that distance should be increased to at least 10 miles from Dungeness.

(C.in C. Nore, 1224/24).

WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

A.M. 0059/22. concur.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1400/24).
My 1900/22. Concur with C.in C. Nore's
1224/24.
(V.A.Dover, 1743/24).

Enemy
Destroyers
Attacked.

My 1202/24. Destroyers attacked by
Beaufort Aircraft in position 049° N.,
003° 25' W. course 075° at 1328. One
near miss reported.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1702/24).
Aircraft reported two enemy Destroyers
at 1040 today 10 miles North of Isle
de Vierge (Near Ushant) and at 1328
carried out an unsuccessful attack in
49° North 03° 25' W. Course of Destroyers
was 075° and it is possible they may
pass Gris Nez at Daylight tomorrow.
Request that a dawn fighter reconnaissance
may be carried out between Boulogne and
Calais.
(V.A.Dover, 2006/24 to A.O.C. 11 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
E.N.Even.

Fighters are being sent to even numbered
E.N. convoy.
(Rosyth W/T 1210/24).
One enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy in
58° 21' N., 2° 29' W.
(FOWEY 1259/24).
Fighters are being sent to assist.
(Lyness W/T 1809/24).
An enemy air attack is imminent on convoy
~~PAWLE~~ "Pawle".
(Lyness W/T 2028/24).

KASHMIR.

Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft.
(KASHMIR 1422/24).

WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Orkneys.
BLACKPOOL
attacked.

M03759/40

Between 1235 and 1250 today one enemy aircraft passed over Skeabrae Strommess Switha then turned East and left over South Ronaldsay. Height about 20,000 feet. 2 bombs dropped in Switha Sound and 6 off Cantick Head no damage or casualties. Aircraft was engaged by shore batteries no result, observed. Weather fine wind N.E'ly fresh, visibility good. BLACKPOOL bombed and machine gunned by Ju 88 at 1140 in 58° 32'N., 2° 49' W., no hits no casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1619/24).

*N.T. in W.D.*ATHELSULTAN.
(Bombed
19/2).

C.in C. Rosyth 1708/23. Rescue tug sailed to assist ATHELSULTAN into Tyne and 1640 sailed for Methil E.T.A.0400/25. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1647/24).

CAMERON.
(Bombed 5/12).

Job D.136 damaged by enemy action in No.8 dock was successfully refloated on 23/2 and removed to No.11 dock where the vessel has been docked for examination and survey. (Dockyard, Portsmouth 1931/24).

Convoy
E.N.Odd.

An enemy air attack is imminent on convoy ~~W/T 2250~~ to whose assistance fighters are being sent. (Liverpool W/T 2250/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
G.T.

Completed according to plan.
 (Capt: D.20 0634/24).
 My 1915/23. M.G.Bs. 58.59.60.61 and 64
 returned.
 (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0759/24).
 0730/24 H.M.S. INTREPID and IMPULSIVE
 arrived.
 (C.in C. Portsmouth 0837/24).
 Proceed with despatch to relieve KASHMIR
 towing Motor Gunboat 46 to Plymouth.
 KASHMIR P.C. and S. at 1155/24 173° Lizard
 Head 43 miles 030° 8 knots.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1444/24 to BURWELL).
 My 1444. 2 Blenheims are escorting.
 Proceed to Dartmouth on completion if
 daylight permits.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1456/24 to BURWELL).
 KASHMIR's P.C. and S. at 1442 165°. The
 Lizard 35 miles 030° 7 knots.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1511/24 to BURWELL).
 BURWELL taken over. E.T.A. Rame Head 1840.
 KASHMIR 1737/24).

Thames
Estuary.

LL Trawlers report one red mine detonated
 at 1937/23 in 223° Knob Bell Buoy 4½
 cables.
 (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1025/24).

P.W.5.

Weather permitting Operation P.W.5. will
 be carried out tonight, ships sailing
 at 1815.
 (C.in C. Nore, 1036/24).
 M.T.Bs. 31.32.34 sailed at 1820.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1838/24).

Z.M.E.20.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1715 today
 for Operation Z.M.E.20. To lay at 2315
 returning on completion about 0420/25.
 (PLOVER 1109/24).

Tees.
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool now open.
 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1620/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven.

Following 4 mines exploded by sweepers today.

First Mine. At 0935/24 in 104° St. Anns Head 12 cables.

Second Mine. At 0936/24 in 131° St. Anns Head 10.5 cables.

Third Mine. At 0945/24 in 119° St. Anns Head 13.5 cables. 180° 3 knots. Green 10° 1 cable.

Fourth Mine. At 1037/24 in 120° St. Anns Head 22 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1731/24).

North Shields.

Details of 5 mines exploded.
(P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1755/24, 1800/24, 1803/24, 1805/24, 1809/24).

Spurn Point and Hull.

The following three mines exploded today. Off Spurn Point. Particulars. A spontaneous explosion occurred at 1727 in 106° Eastern end of Victoria Pier Hull. 5.75 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 1818/24).

Swansea.

Details of 2 mines exploded off the Mumbles and one off Flatholm light.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1850/24 1910/24, 2214/24 0950/25).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

Suspect E/Boat vicinity 54 E buoy at 2346.
(C.in C. Nore, 0003/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

E/Boats.
(Contd.)

Indication of possible E/Boat position
Z at 2240.
(C.in C. Nore, 2311/24).

Brest.

Estimate photographs obtained of Brest
harbour. The ^{191/24}HIPPER ~~(Cruiser)~~ (Cruiser)
is still present in dry dock.
(Plymouth 1140/24) (D.D.I.C. 1615/24).

Unknown
Vessel.

Unknown vessel following us at speed.
Position 60° 58'N., 20° 23'W.
(Unknown Vessel 1158/24).

2 Destroyers
off
Ile Vierge.

Aircraft reports at 1040 two destroyers
10 miles North Ile Vierge course 075.
Section of Blenheims and Beaufort A/C
have been ordered to attack, shadow and
report.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1202/24).

Enemy
Minesweeping.

Magnetic mines being swept by German
Aircraft in Flushing area, also at
unspecified district in Norway C.3.
(N.A.Stockholm, 1715/24).

Miscellaneous.

Aultbea
Mine-loop.

Ml. Mine loop laid.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1027/24).

Flashes.

2 white flashes not A.A.fire lasting a
few seconds were seen out to sea in a
westerly direction from Fortune Well 1194
at 2245 hours. Report of similar flashes
in this direction at 2212 hours just
received from 8th Essex Regiment.
(10th Somerset Regt. 2250/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Anchorage
Returns.

It may become necessary to fill certain anchorages to capacity at short notice. Daily anchorage return should be completed by a foot-note in the form "25 acceptable". This is to indicate approximate number of additional ships which can be accommodated on a date 2 days after issue of the anchorage return, account being taken of probable arrivals and sailings in the meantime. (D.T.D. 1919/24 to N.C.S.O.'s Kirkwall, Belfast, Oban, Aultbea).

Coastal
Convoys.

W.N.90.

0828/24. Escort, 2 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0848/24). Names.
(0857/24).

F.S.17A. 417A

Humber ships arrived. (exception).
(N.C.S.C. Humber, 0930/24).

F.S.18. 418

Humber ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 0930/24). Position,
19 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames,
1052/24). Arrived except GARONNE.
(2049/24).

F.N.14. 414

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber,
0932/24). Arrived 1130/24. (N.C.S.O.
Methil, 1146/24). AROSA absentee.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1721/24).

F.S.19. 419

51 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0939/24).
List from Tyne to London.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, no T.C.O.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.N.16.416

0839/24, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1004/24). KITTIWAKE with. (1006/24). List. (1109/24) 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1538/24). Joining from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1720/24).

12 M/Vs.

Your 1906/23, "Chain" arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth to Portsmouth, 1010/24).

E.N.75.

1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1026/24). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2033/24).

E.N.77.

0400/25. Escorts. 25 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1125/24). ST. LOMAN additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1240/24).

F.S.22.411

HEBE additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1125/24).

F.S.18, 418,
F.S.19, 419,
F.N.16, 416,
F.N.17, 417.
C.E.26.

Positions. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/24).

C.E.26.

M.L.105 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1203/24)
All arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1359/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

E.N.U.76. 0330/25, unescorted, 4 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1248/24).

W.N.U. 89. 1330/24, unescorted, 6 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1446/24). List
(1520/24).

W.N.89. Position. (HUGH WALPOLE, 1657/24).

E.N.76. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1704/24).

W.N.U.88. Names and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1759/24).

7 M/V's. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2223/24).

F.N.17, 417 EXMOOR additional escort.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2234/24).

F.S.21, 421 Sailed. 2300/24. 28 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/24).

Ocean
Convoys.

O.B.O.290. 0245/24. 2 ships, names and E.T.A.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0415/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

H.X.107. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0859/24).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1725/24).

O.B.C.290. Amendment to list. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0945/24)
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/24 Admty. B.O.
Greenock, 1914/24).

O.B.290. 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1000/24).
1 Absentee. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1104/24).

H.X.108. 1 deletion. (D.T.D. 1113/24).

S.C.22. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1114/24, 1115/24,
1116/24).

H.G.53. OUSEL arrived. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1155/24).
2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1346/24).
2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1725/24).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 2110/24).

O.B.288. E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1205/24).
List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey,
1338/24).

O.G.54. WIGRY, poor speed. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1230/24)
List, destinations and E.T.A.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1900/24).

WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

O.G.M.54. 1822/24, escorts. 13 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1901/24).

S.C.24. Advance sailing telegram, (S.C.N.O.
Halifax, 1329/24).

O.G. 7 Turkish ferry boats to be included
in next. (C.in C. W.A. 1330/24).

H.X.109. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1648/24 to MALCOLM
MALLOW etc.)

H.X.111. Asking why tankers not included.
(D.T.D. 1735/24 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

H.X.112. Destinations. (D.T.D. 2017/24).

H.X.112.)
S.C.24.) Cruiser to cover. Dates and Routes.
(D.O.D.(H) 2204/24 to C.in C. H.F.)
See Operations Volume.

ORDUNA. Estimated position at 1200/24.
(C.in C. W.A. 1130/24 to LANCASTER).
Unable to locate. (LANCASTER 1530/24).
Approved to return Port Z.A.
(C.in C. W.A. 1916/24). My E.T.A.
(LANCASTER, 2020/24).

DETTIFOSS. Halifax to Reykjavik (route).
(D.T.D. 2110/24).

WAR DIARY.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military
Convoys.

T.C.9.

M04410/41 |
M 03749/41)

T.C.9. will pass through following estimated position (Z).

2. Route thence through position (P).

3. Convoy consists of (?five) ships. Ocean escort C.S.18 in EDINBURGH. A/S escort OTTAWA, HAVELOCK, RESTIGOUCHE, ASSINIBOINE, CHURCHILL, Fr. Light Cruiser LEOPARD.

4. Capt: (D)3 in INGLEFIELD with ECLIPSE and ECHO to carry out an A/S sweep along reverse of route in para.2 and when met are to form additional A/S escort for convoy T.C.9. (R.A.D.H.F. 0416/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.PASS OF LENY.

— N.T. in W.D.

Admty. 1333/18. Sailed H.M.Tug BRIGAND with PASS OF LENY in tow. E.T.A.Methil 1200/24.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0140/24).

GARONNE.
(Grounded
23/2).

Sailed tug NORMAN to assist GARONNE aground between 56A and 55A buoys.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0355/24).
Detail SAPHIRE to stand by GARONNE.
(WOOLSTON, 0356/24 to VORTIGERN).
Our degaussing gear out of action we now ? stopped endeavouring to effect repairs.
(NORMAN 0600/24).
Report situation and position of GARONNE.
Fighter protection arranged. Code word "Adam" help messages on Port Wave.
(C.in C. Nore, 0633/24 to SAPPHIRE).
One escort is to part company at 1300 and return up Barrow Deep to look for S.S. GARONNE. If found she is to be escorted to the Nore L.V.
(C.in C. Nore, 1135/24 to WOOLSTON).
Proceeding in accordance with C.in C. Nore's 1135.
(WOOLSTON 1234/24 to VORTIGERN).
Your 1500/24 remain in vicinity of B eight buoy until 1600.
(C.in C. Nore, 1545/24 to VORTIGERN).

M.G.B.63.

M.G.B.63 has not returned to harbour. Last seen by M.G.B.42 at 2145/23 about 40 miles South of Eddystone. Blenheim Aircraft has been sent to search for her and has orders to inform you if seen. Report if M.G.B.46 has any later information of M.G.B.63.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1032/24 to KASHMIR).

Derelict.

1. Derelict reported in 53° 54'N., 13° 59'W. at 1125 on 23rd. Being broadcast for 24 hours.
(Hydrographer 1720/24).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ASAKA MARU.

My 1521/15/2. Lisbon reports Japanese ship ASAKA MARU sailed p.m./23 destination unknown. She is not to be interfered with.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0757/24 to N.A.Station.)
(Capt: S.8 1056/24 to PANDORA) See also China Station.

→ PANDORA.

Report your P.C. and S. 24 hours before arrival position F. Trawler SCOTTISH, ALOUETTE on patrol off Lisbon.
(Capt: S.8. 1022/24 to PANDORA).

→ TUNA
→ PANDORA.

At 1200/25. TUNA with Convoy H.G.54. PANDORA 041° N., 010° 50'W. proceeding on the surface through 038° 20'N., 010° 50'W. and 036° 45'N., 009° 30'W. to Gibraltar speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1034/24).

H.G.54.

My 1615/23 (Ships joining Convoy H.G.54) all six ships have sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 1330/24 to Admty).

French
Shipping
Movements.

Gibraltar 1200/24 French armed trawler LA HAVRAISE escorting CAPITAINE MARTIN, IMERETHIE II both passing loaded from Westward to Eastward.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1447/24).
Ref: 1620/20 from F.O.C.N.A. (re Ships ex S.L.S.64) following is part 2.
MARGOT, VOLTURNO, CLUNE PARK, BLAIR ATHOLL, POLYTOR, ANNA MAZARAKI. (cargoes and destinations). (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1647/24)

H.G.55.
bunkers.

Owing to temporary coal shortage here ships for H.G.55 should be bunkered as far as possible at Lisbon for 26 days on leaving Gibraltar. (R.A.Gibraltar 1600/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Area covered 5° West to 8° 30' West.
(200 Group, 1700/24).

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Italian Aircraft.

Movements. (N.A.Lisbon 1732/24).

Official call by F.O.C.N.A.

At request of the Governor and after consulting H.B.M. Ambassador Madrid today I paid an official call on the Military Governor at Algeciras meeting a most cordial reception. (F.O.C.N.A. 1842/24).

MARSDALE.
ISIS.
ENCOUNTER.

Departure for R.3. escorted by ISIS ENCOUNTER as far as 035° 30'N. 009° 40'W. Destroyers thence to Freetown. (Route). (F.O.C.N.A, 1942/24).

South Atlantic.

CLEMATIS.

Attack on S/m contact 1900/23 (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

MORVIKEN
raft found.

Lanes life raft containing 7 suits oilskins with Norwegian Ensign and name MORVIKEN, Bergen, 1938, was washed ashore on 21/2 at Spitzkop near Cape Agulhas. MORVIKEN sailed Capetown 22/8/1940 for Calcutta but failed to arrive. Lloyds Index dated 14/1/1941 reports this ship 1930 miles N.E. Capetown on 28/8/40. (S.O.I. Capetown 1030/24).

Special movements.

Forecast, Week ending 1/3. (S.O.I. Capetown 1047/24).
Amendment to 1601/20 (S.O.(I) Capetown 1230/24)
Week ending 1/3 (C. in C. S.A. 1305/24).

OAKDENE.
GUIDO.

Your 2105/22. OAKDENE sailed independently (my 1902/20) GUIDO cannot discharge cargo but will take 150 tons coal on deck, which will enable her to reach U.K. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1114/24).

DELHI.

My 2037/18 (DELHI to be retained at Simonstown) On completion of laying D.G. range DELHI is to be sailed for Singapore as in my 1155/16. (C. in C. S.A. 1141N/24 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

/S.L.66.....

War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).S.L. 66.

Admiralty 1914/22. S.L. 66 estimated to be 10 hours late. Cdre's noon R/V for 24/2 was 315° "Lark", 96 miles. 3 ships sailed from St. Vincent to join convoy estimated to have been 85 miles ahead of convoy at 2100 GMT/23 have been so informed and instructed to join A.M./25. (C. in C. S.A. 1231N/24 to F.O.C.N.A., KENYA).

Minesweepers.

Admty 1355/22 and S.N.O. Simonstown's 1314B/22. NOBLE NORA, TRANSVALIA, EGELAND and JOHN WILLIAMSON are only to be taken up subject to satisfactory survey. (D.M.S. 1236/24 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

S.S. CUBA.

CYCLAMEN and transport CUBA sailed 1530 G.M.T. speed 9.5. knots. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 1600/24).

Raider,
CUMBERLAND.
NEWCASTLE.
ASTURIAS.

GLASGOW's 0944Z/22. If there is definite evidence of ADMIRAL SCHEER in position reported, I consider it possible to break concentration of cruisers (? as proposed) Desirable to visit Falkland Is. in CUMBERLAND.

(a) CUMBERLAND has developed defects requiring 5½ days with one shaft out of action. During this period much needed self refit could be carried out.

(b) Opportunity to discuss defence matters with Governor.

(c) Consultation re W/T communication.

(d) Administrative arrangements re stores provisions and ammunition.

I consider for reason (a) visit should be made if dispersion of cruisers can be accepted. I propose to leave Plate 26/2 returning to Plate area about 9/3. NEWCASTLE remains Plate area and ASTURIAS Rio De Janeiro area during my absence. (R.A.S.A.D., 1643Z/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

/Suspicious.....

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious
Vessel,
HALCYON.

Master of Panama Ship HALCYON reports having sighted suspicious vessel 1700/9 in position 000° 31' S. 040° 05' W. about 1800 tons (details). Vessel closed the HALCYON to four miles then altered course North. No guns visible. Wireless operator reports that vessel made by W/T continued repetition letter D. (N.C.S.O. Bahia 1655/24 to Admty) See also 1345/25.

Whale
Catchers.

My 13132/23 (THORSHAMMER and 6 catchers to leave 22/2) Following received from South Georgia. THORSHAMMER has not yet left for Fayal 2330/23. (N.O.I.C. Falklands 2131/24 to C. in C.S.A).

Mediterranean.

TERROR
bombed
and sunk.

A.467, 24/2. All possible steps to be taken to provide fighter protection for damaged warship. At present off Derna proceeding Tobruk. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0149/24 to 202 Group). TERROR sank off Derna at 0400 to-day as result of damage from close misses in two bombing attacks. (a) At Benghazi on 22nd. (b) Off Derna evening 23rd. No casualties as far as known. Consider this information can be withheld from publication as enemy can have no knowledge of her sinking. (C. in C. Med. 1056/24 to Admty).

NORTHERN
PRINCE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1525B/20. Request this may be arranged or any other transhipment which would expedite arrival of the cargo of NORTHERN PRINCE in the canal area. Whole cargo and two pom-poms mounted in the ship urgently required. (C. in C. Med, 1150/24 to Admty).

French
Fleet,
Alexandria.

Reply to 1341/11 repayments to Godfroy's fleet. (Head of M. 1200/24 to C. in C. Med).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Air Report.
Tobruk
bombed.

Operational.

1. 23/2. Enemy bombed Tobruk Harbour at dawn. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1236/24).

Destroyers'
armaments.

Re removal of tubes and fitting of guns. (C. in C. Med 1258/24).

Operation
M.C.8.

M012558/41

Situation report. My 1228/16. Operation M.C. 8 completed successfully. CLAN MACAULAY bombed by shadower and low level attack made on her one bomb passing through funnel. One Heinkel III was shot down and one damaged by Fulmars who were providing protection. Other attacking formations were evidently searching for convoy or battle fleet but failed to locate passing close astern.

Benghazi
lack of
A/A
protection.

2. It has been necessary to withdraw all ships from Benghazi owing to inadequacy of A/A and lack of fighter protection which results in German aircraft being very little hampered on coast of Cyrenaica. 5 or 6 aircraft have been shot down including one torpedo aircraft by PEONY. At 0630/19, 9 aircraft attacked COVENTRY, VOYAGER, and Corvettes off Benghazi, no damage but near misses. 2 aircraft appeared to be in difficulties. Loss of TERROR reported in my 1056/24 must be in part attributed to lack of A/A defence which made Benghazi untenable. Army is now being supplied by land from Tobruk and this must continue so long as other commitments give free hand to enemy A/C in this region.

A.N.15.
A.S.16.

3. Convoys A.N. 15 and A.S. 16 arrived Piraeus and Egyptian ports 19th and 24/2 respectively.

4. Progress in clearing canal disappointing, separate signal is being made giving details.

Operation
MAR 2.

5. Operation MAR 2 to capture Casteloritzo now in progress. HEReward and DECOY landing a Commando followed by ROSAURA with permanent garrison. GLOUCESTER and LADYBIRD in support. C.S.3 in charge. (C;in C. Med. 1450/24 to Admty).

/Canal.....

War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Canal Area.Situation Report. (C. in C. Med 1550/24)
See Mediterranean Volume.Ships opening
fire at
aircraft.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1554/24.

W.S. 6.Your 1646/16. Re high explosives in W.S.6.
Confirmed. (D.T.S.D. 1633/24 to C. in C. Med).B.S. 17 slow
section.1500 G.M.T./24. List of ships (S.B.N.O.
Suez Canal area 1633/24).A.S. 15.Convoy A.S. 15 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said
1656/24 to Admty).East Indies.Italian
Somaliland.*(Brava)*My 1906/23. Over 3000 prisoners and
much material were captured 23/2 and it
appears enemy is in full retreat.
ENTERPRISE aircraft reconnoitred Lacte
19/2 but no shipping observed in anchorage
or vicinity. (C. in C. E.I. 0420Z/24
to Admty).B.N. 17.Departures 0420Z/24 SHOREHAM, YARRA, with
B.N. 17, 0440Z CHAKDINA for Perim patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0445/24).Enemy
Units.D/F Bearings obtained of 2 German targets
in Indian Ocean at 1557 and 2136 G.M.T/23.
D/F conditions bad. Targets were probably
within 600 miles Saya-de-Malha bank. Not
known if bearings were both of the same
unit. (C. in C. E.I. 0500Z/24 to Force V).
Request your remarks on my 0500/24 re
direction finding, being passed to you
may be signalled to me. (C. in C. E.I.
0502/24 to Admty, Capt O.S. Singapore).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd.)Enemy Units.
(contd.).

Your 0502/24. No indication that bearings are of same unit. Target at 2136 possibly in Eastern Mediterranean. Bearing at 1557 gives very poor fix probably in area indicated in your para. two.

(Capt. O.S. Singapore 1031Z/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

Your 0500Z/24. Bearings inconclusive but traffic suggests two different units, possibly raider and supply ship.
(D.D.I.C. 1825/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

Convoy
W.S.5.B.X.

List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Zanzibar 0855Z/24).

ENTERPRISE.

Mombasa left 24/2 0845 G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. Zanzibar 0915Z/24).

ANTENOR.
Convoy B.M.4.

ANTENOR is to leave Aden A.M./27 and proceed to Karachi passing through (position) arrive (date).

(ii) ANTENOR is to escort Karachi section of convoy BM 4, leaving Karachi (date) for Bombay, and is subsequently to escort BM 4 leaving Bombay (date) for the East.
(C.in C. E.I. 1342Z/24).

Troopships for
Australia.

C.in C. E.I. approval requested to proceed unescorted. (P.S.T.O. India 1045Z/24).

*See Page 862*B.N.16.

Convoy B.N.16 arrived Suez 23/2 and 24/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1121/24).

Bombardment
of Brava.

22/2.

Operational Summary 259 up to 1200 hours 24/2 1941. 4. Kenya 23/2. A Glenn Martin co-operating with H.M. ships in bombardment of Brava confirmed buildings destroyed and fires started. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/24).

RANCHI

My 1514/23. On arrival at position "B" RANCHI is to proceed Durban so as to arrive p.m./27. (C.in C. E.I. 1348Z/24).

GLASGOW
Force Z.

Your 1828Z/23 para. one. Approved for GLASGOW to rendezvous with Force Z. Further instructions follow.
(D.O.D.(F) 1611/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

see also next page

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Shipping
Bunkers.

To avoid confusion to tanker programme most important that supplies should be made in accordance with nomination unless strong reasons exist for disregarding them. (D.T.D. 1721/24 to N.O.I.C. Aden).

→ AUSTRALIA.

My 1828/25. On completion of fuelling AUSTRALIA is to proceed at 18 knots towards position 028° S. 045° E. (C. in C. E.I. 1842Z/24 to Force V).
Note. This was cancelled see 0452Z/25).

CAPETOWN.
ENTERPRISE.

My 1828/25 and my 1350/25. On completion with fuel at Port Victoria Seychelles CAPETOWN is to proceed to rendezvous with W.S. 5 B.X. escorted by ENTERPRISE in position 006° 20' N. 055° 50' E. at 0900Z/27. Speed of advance of convoy is 16 knots. (C. in C. E.I. 1856Z/24 to Force V. ENTERPRISE).

Messages
passed on.

My 1826/25 following messages have been recyphered to addressees C. in C. E.I. 1828/25, 1346/24 1842/24 and GLASGOW 1512/25. (C. in C. E.I. 2030/24 to Adty).

DORSETSHIRE.
CORNWALL.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
→ AUSTRALIA.
GLASGOW.

Force Z

Pending further report of Pocket Battleship following redispersions are to be effected. DORSETSHIRE to remain on E. Indies Station. She requires 10 days self refit. CORNWALL is allocated to W.S.6. and is to join convoy before Pocket Battleship can reach it, in the meantime remaining in Cape area. CANBERRA and LEANDER in company are to proceed toward Fremantle. AUSTRALIA should be employed in the Eastern area of the Indian Ocean so as to facilitate her return to Australia should the Japanese situation deteriorate. C. in C. East Indies 1828Z/25, GLASGOW may relieve DORSETSHIRE with Force Z if still desired. (D.O.D.(F) 2307/24 to C. in C's E.I. S.A.)

See previous page

24. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Singapore
Conference.

Your 1820/23. para. 5. Statement of forces available not yet received. Conference now considering this subject and early information essential. (C. in C. China, 0113/24, to Admty.)

HILDA KOLLER.

Overdue British Steamer due 20/2, from Colombo. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0825Z/24.)

Reserve of
Aviation
Spirit.

Admty. 1614/20. 180 tons of M.T.B. fuel already carried in lighters as reserve. Consider additional 320 tons may be required. Preferable to hold in lighters than in shore dumps. Lighter required for this is earmarked for requisition when required. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 1024/24, to Admty.)

TAIKOO.

Request approximate position of tug TAIKOO towing dredger from Singapore to Aden. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1238/24 to C. in C's China, E.I.)

ASAKA ~~MARU~~

My 1141/19. Ministry of Marine informs me ASAKA left Lisbon for Bilbao 1600/23, and will arrive 0900/25. She will pass through following positions:- (N.A., Tokyo, 1636/24, to Admty.)

N.E.I. Navy
and German
Raider.

Request you will inform C. in C. N.E.I. of presence of German Pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean, last reported near Seychelles 22/2. Report action Dutch are prepared to take to counter possibility of pocket battleship passing through Sunda Islands should she be proceeding to Pacific. (1 S.L. 2247/24, to C. in C. China.)

24. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Liaison
Mission.

Your 1140/17. Mission formed.
Proposed scope of work. (Controller
1112/24 to N.A. Washington) See
Operations Volume.

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Leave Trinidad 26/2, and proceed to
patrol in area enclosed in the following
positions.

(a) Antigua (b) Galera point
Trinidad. (c) $004^{\circ} 30' N$ $045^{\circ} 00' W$.
(d) $004^{\circ} 30' N$, $042^{\circ} 00' W$. Leave patrol
so as to arrive Trinidad 3/3. For future
reference this area will be known as O
area. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122/24, to
VAN KINSBERGEN.)

AKAROA.

Your 1311/23, re speed of AKAROA, 10
knots correct due to steep zigzag day and
night. (S.N.O., Curacao, 1205/24, to
Admty.)

B.H.X. 113.
Escort.

Due to defective generators LACONIA
unlikely to be able to sail for Bermuda
for B.H.X. 113. In view of state of
LETITIA, urgent defects in RANPURA and
need for adjusting Northern Patrol
programme ref. 2235/23, from AUSONIA, no
alternative can be arranged. Could
escort for B.H.X. 113 be provided locally.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1409/24, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1409/24. It is hoped that PRINCE
DAVID will be available for B.H.X. 113.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1742/24, to R.A.3.)

Mails.

Your 1732/22. No evidence, but Master
of U.S. Ship EXETER stated that he knew
several thousand bags had been carried
by Portuguese ship. He will be further
questioned on next arrival. (C. in C.
A.W.I. 2123/24.)

WAR DIARY.24.2.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.GEORGE M.
LIVANOS.

My 0302Z/9, Greek Vessel GEORGE M. LIVANOS due Aden 10/3 has following service cargo for Middle East. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne 0045/24, to C.in C. Med., etc.)

HERBORG.

Your 1936/21. HERBORG left Fremantle 1000Z/21, for Pladjoe. Ordered by W/T on 22/2, to proceed to Geraldton for re-routing to Balik Papen but did not arrive. Further W/T instructions in plain language have been made. (A.C.N.B., 1232Z/24 to Admty).

New Zealand.LEANDER.

New Zealand Gov. would like, if permissible, to issue to the press some account of operation by LEANDER. Request your remarks. (N.Z.N.B., 0453Z/24 to C.in C. E.I.).

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARKADIA

Arrived Istanbul 23/2 ARKADIA.
(Galata 1304/24.).

DELOS

Left Varna in ballast for Soviet Port
(Varna 1717/24).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GIUSEPPINA
GHIRARDI

Departure in Ballast Constanza.
(Varna 1717/24).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MANISTEE
(torpedoed 23/2).Following received MANISTEE course 000°
6 knots. Damage at present under
control. (C.in C. W.A., 0029/24 to
HEATHER).Am proceeding with LEOPARD to MANISTEE's
position expect to arrive about 0500.
(CHURCHILL, 0110/24).My 2320/23. HEATHER is to continue at
best speed to make contact with MANISTEE
reported steering 000°, 6 knots at
2245/23. (C.in C. W.A. 0404/24, to
HEATHER).At 0400 B.S.T. my p.c. and s. 058°
55' N. 021° 00' W.? 093° 7½ knots.
(MANISTEE, 0405/24, to C.in C. W.A.,
etc.).Report your condition and whether tugs
could be of assistance.

(C.in C. W.A. 0429/24, to MANISTEE).

MANISTEE
again attacked.
(Convoy O.B. 288.)Intercepted at 0623 G.M.T. D E G C K
S S S position 58° 55' N., 20° 50' W.,
MANISTEE torpedoed. (Coastguard,
Port Patrick, 0618/24, Lyness W/T.,
0618/24).Searching round position 058° 55' N.
020° 50' W.

(HEATHER, 1011/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

Report if contact has been made with
MANISTEE or HEATHER.

(C.in C. W.A. 1044/24, to CHURCHILL).

Your 1044/24. Area searched from 0430
to 0600 contact not made. In view of
your 0656/24 and your 0404/24 to HEATHER
and poor visibility ship proceeded
rendezvous. Am now hunting U-Boat.
59. 40 N., 20. 30 W. (weather).

(CHURCHILL, 1130/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

JONATHAN HOLT.0140 JONATHAN HOLT (British, 4973 tons, in
Convoy O.B.289) torpedoed position
061° 10' N. 011° 55' W.

(MALCOLM 0258/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

Two survivors. Ship has sunk.

(MALCOLM, 0636/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

Ships detached to stand by JONATHAN HOLT
should report names when well clear of
convoy.

(C.in C. W.A. 0720/24, to MALCOLM.).

/ HUNTINGDON.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

HUNTINGDON.

(British, 10946 tons.) S.O.S. Torpedoed.
58° 09' N. 21° 16' W.

(HUNTINGDON, 0309/24).

EE/ HUNTINGDON torpedoed in 58° 09' N. 21° 16' W.
at 0309. When MANISTAN is met report her
condition and whether worth while sending
tugs.

(C.in C. W.A., 0509/24, to HEATHER).

When you are convinced that all possible
assistance has been rendered to MANISTEE you
should proceed to render assistance to
HUNTINGDON torpedoed in position 058° 09' N.
021° 15' W. at 0300/24.

(C.in C. W.A., 1049/24, to HEATHER).

Your 1011/24. If nothing found by dark
tonight Monday proceed to search for HUNTINGDON
or survivors torpedoed in 058° 09' N.

021° 16' W. at 030/24. Report movements.

(C.in C. W.A., 1735/24, to HEATHER).

MANSEPOOL

(British, 4894 tons). In Convoy O.B.289.
Second ship torpedoed in position 061° 12' N.
012° 36' W. Ship afloat. Searching with
A/S ship escort with star shell.

(MALCOLM, 0456/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

My 0456. MANSEPOOL torpedoed in 061° 12' N.
012° 36' W. PETUNIA standing by with
17 survivors. Possibility of salvage good.

(MALCOLM, 0624/24 to C.in C. W.A. etc.).

Request you will sail SALVONIA and SEAMAN
through Minches to 61° 12' N. 12° 36' W.
to assistance of torpedoed ship.

Escort will be provided outside Minches.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0810/24, to N.O.I.C.
Campbeltown).

My 0810/24 name of torpedoed ship is

MANSEPOOL, good possibility of salvage.

PETUNIA standing by. SALVONIA is to remain
in company with SEAMAN.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1207/24, to SALVONIA
SEAMAN).

Tugs SALVONIA and SEAMAN sailed from
Campbeltown at 0900, in accordance with my
0810/24. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1215/24 to
C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1155 (No trace in War Reg.) am
proceeding. Have found steamship MANSEPOOL
torpedoed and abandoned position 061° 07' N.
012° 47' W.

(NORTHERN REWARD, 1533/24 to S.O. Trawlers,
Northern Patrol.

War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)BRITISH
GUNNER

(British tanker, 6894 tons). (In Convoy O.B. 289) SSSS de GKR. Presumed BRITISH GUNNER been attacked by submarine position 61° 07' N., 13° 10' W. 0450/24. (Wick Radio, 0501/24).

The following intercepted. Ship torpedoed, presumed BRITISH GUNNER in position 061° 07' N. 013° 10' W.

(A.C.W.A., 0812/24, to MALCOLM).

BRITISH GUNNER torpedoed in engine room stopped with crew on board. PETUNIA now standing by BRITISH GUNNER. Position 061° 15' N. 013° 29' W. Salvage prospects good. (MALCOLM, 1038/24, to C.in C. W.A.). Proceed in company as soon as ready to assistance of BRITISH GUNNER in 61° 15' N. 13° 29' W. at 1038 today. PETUNIA standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1450/24, to RESTIVE, PRUDENT.)

Have contact with BRITISH GUNNER torpedoed and abandoned. Am searching for survivors and GRAMPIAN in 061° 12' N. 013° 15' W. (NORTHERN REWARD, 1726/24).

Sailed tugs RESTIVE and PRUDENT from Greenock at 2000 in accordance with my 1450/24 routed through Minches. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2101/24, to C.in C. W.A.)

GRAMPIAN

Ship signal letters GTRN (GRAMPIAN) (Steam Trawler) torpedoed in 061° 12' N. 013° 15' W. at 0735. (BURNHAM, 0752/24, to A.C.W.A.). Your 1115 have not contacted GRAMPIAN. Am remaining in vicinity.

(NORTHERN REWARD, 2140/24, to S.O. N.P.T.)

Nore. - GRAMPIAN was afterwards found to be identical with the tanker G.C. BROVIG, q.v. Confusion arose owing to a corrupt call sign. (D.S. 540).

S.S. G.C.
BROVIG.

Norwegian, 9718 tons, in Convoy O.B.289. My 0904/24. Tanker BROVIG (SSGC) position 061° (?04') N. 014° 24' W. badly holed forward, capable of steaming but no steering gear, prospect of salvage very good if tug can be sent. MALLOW with corvettes endeavouring to save this ship, BRITISH GUNNER and MANSEPOOL. Tugs urgently required. (MALCOLM, 1328/24 to A.C.W.A.).

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

O.B.289.

Four ships O.B. 289 torpedoed,
JONATHAN HOLT, MANSEPOOL, BRITISH GUNNER,
One Tanker.
DOUGLAS continuing with convoy.
PETUNIA standing by BRITISH GUNNER.
MALCOLM, BURNHAM, MALLOW, CLARKIA searching
for U-Boat which attacked $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before
daylight. My position $061^{\circ} 04' N.$
 $013^{\circ} 33' W.$ two attacks delivered
starboard side. Consider at least two
U-boats attacking.
(MALCOLM, 0900/24, to C.in C. W.A., etc.).
Take Corvette under your orders and
continue to search for U-boat until
darkness then set in accordance with
(? C.in C. W.A.)
"Meet H.X.109" signal 1526/23.
U-boat(s) final attack on convoy 0750/24
in position $061^{\circ} 04' N.$ (? 013°) $42' W.$
MALCOLM, BURNHAM proceeding to rejoin
O.B. 289.
(MALCOLM, 1156/24, to MALLOW).
Proceeding with BURNHAM in company to re-
join O.B.289. My p.c. and s. are 061°
 $05' N.$ $014^{\circ} 15' W.$ 276° , 15 knots.
All Star Shells expended.
(MALCOLM, 1204/24, to C.in C. W.A.).
O.B.289 dispersed 2000/24. Search
abandoned best to save 3 damaged ships
keeping C.in C. Western Approaches and
N.O.I.C. Greenock informed. Tugs RESTIVE
and PRUDENT being sent. Hope to see you
with H.X.109 26/2.
(MALCOLM, 1947/24, to MALLOW).
N.O.I/C's Greenock's 1207/24, 3 ships
torpedoed and salvage prospects good:
MANSEPOOL in $061^{\circ} 12' N.$ $012^{\circ} 28' W.$
at 0355/24 BRITISH GUNNER in 060°
 $15' N.$ $013^{\circ} 29' W.$ at 0450/24 G.C. BROVIG
in $061^{\circ} 04' N.$ $014^{\circ} 20' W.$ at 1328/24
MALLOW is in charge of Corvette(s)
PETUNIA and CLARKIA in the vicinity
damaged ships.
(MALCOLM 2139/24).

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Use of
P.L.

Ref. MANISTEE's 2145/23 (MANISTEE), MALCOLM's 0258/24 (JONATHAN HOLT), and BURNHAM's 0752/24 (GRAMPIAN). It is suggested that submarine reports should be made in plain language as in G.S.I. article 242. This would enable all other ships approaching the area to be warned more quickly. (C.in C. H.F., 1552/24 to A.C.W.A.).

ESTRELLANO
(torpedoed 9/2)
DAGMAR I
(bombed 9/2)

Arrived DEPTFORD with 45 survivors ESTRELLANO and DAGMAR I. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1325/24, to C.in C. W.A.).

SCOTTISH
STANDARD
(torpedoed
22/2).

H.M.S. MONTGOMERY has been detached to land 39 survivors including 4 casualties at Oban rejoining convoy after. (WANDERER 0141/24). Have 39 survivors on board 4 hospital cases 2 very serious. Request MONTGOMERY be detailed as soon as possible. Propose landing them Oban. (MONTGOMERY 2150/24 to WANDERER).

Submarines Reported.

0419	About 60° N. 11° W.)	
1333	51.30 N., 12° W.)	Indefinite
0209	59.30 N., 20° W.)	positions
0428	Area of about 55° N., 19° W.)	(D.S.538).
0511	Area of about 59° N., 20° W.))	
0529	" " " " " " " "))	
0550	" " " " " " " "))	
0611	" " " " " " " "))	
0641	" " " " " " " "))	
1027	" " " " " " " "))	

1949 57.59° N., 9-14° W., position indefinite (D.S. 539).

2224 55.30 N., to 56.30 N., 18-22° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 539).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1033. An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1049/24 to Areas B, etc.). My 1049/24. It is probable that formation reported was S.C.22 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1111/24 to ANTELOPE, ACHATES, GEORGETOWN, SNOWDROP.)
By D/F at 1033/24 it is probable that S.C.22 was reported by U/Boat in about 60° N. 15° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1112/24 to DIDO, INGLEFIELD).
1810. Following has been read. Submarine Report. 60. 26 N., 25.50 W. ELISABETH LENSEN submarine sighted. (Burnham Radio, 1810/24).
- 1812 There are indications that S.C.22 and or O.B.289 are being shadowed by U/B's. (D.D.I.C. 1812/24).
1930. One Submarine bearing 360° distance 2 miles course 045°. My position 298° 61° N., 13° W., 14 miles. (NORTHERN REWARD, 1930/24).
- 1800 Admiralty message A.F. position 60° 26' N. 25° 20' W. at 1700/24/2 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1931/24).

Estimated
U/B
dispositions.German.

2. 20 miles of 61° 10' N. 13° 50' W. may follow O.B. 289 to westward.
1. 40 miles of 60° N. 14° W. may shadow S.C.22 or move north to O.B.289.
3. 60 miles of 59° N. 21° W.
1. 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 19° W. may be northbound.
1. West of Brest homeward bound.

Italian.

2. 90 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
1. 30 miles of 51° N. 16° W. en route Bordeaux. 1 or 2 in Bay of Biscay.
Possibly 1 nationality unknown off Bissagos Islands.
(D.D.I.C. 1407/24).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.2.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.South Atlantic.1900/23

CLEMATIS attacked contact 1900/23 in position $011^{\circ} 56' N. 017^{\circ} 51' W.$ (C.in C. S.A., 0145 N/24, to Admty., MALAYA, CILICIA, etc.).

THUNDERBOLT
attacked by
CANTON.

At 0830 G.M.T. in $053^{\circ} 55' N. 026^{\circ} 49' W.$ sighted Merchant Ship similar to VANDYCK steering 230° speed 15. Challenged but vessel opened fire with several guns. Accurate fire forced THUNDERBOLT to dive. Am endeavouring to Shadow.
(THUNDERBOLT, 0830/24, to Admty.).
Engaged and believed hit submarine in position $054^{\circ} 19' N. 026^{\circ} 43' W.$ at 0745N. (CANTON, 0845N/24, to Admty.).
Your 0845N/24. This might be THUNDERBOLT. (A.C.W.A., 1301/24, to CANTON).
At 0800 B.S.T./24 Fr. S/M SURCOUF was near $054^{\circ} 20' N. 028^{\circ} W.$ and THUNDERBOLT near $054^{\circ} 36' N. 025^{\circ} 45' W.$ Both proceeding on surface course 225° for Halifax. (C.in C. W.A., 1335/24, to CANTON).
Your 0830. This is CANTON.
(Duty Captain 1356/24 to THUNDERBOLT).
Following has been made to THUNDERBOLT.
Your 0830. This is CANTON. 1356/24. (D.S.O. 1411/24 to C.in C. W.A. F.O.(S)).
Your 0845 N/24 and my 1301/24, this is THUNDERBOLT.
(C.in C. W.A., 1401/24, to CANTON).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
PYA.

M.T.B's from Harwich carried out an anti-E.boat operation last night between Lowestoft and Harwich.

EXMOOR
sunk.EXMOOR who had been escorting Convoy F.N. ⁴¹⁷sank at about 2115 today after explosion which caused a fierce fire, off Lowestoft. She was apparently torpedoed by an E.boat.Dover
shelled.

Five shells were fired at Dover today. Superficial damage was caused to the M.T.B. Base.

→ ADMIRAL HIPPER.^{ADMIRAL}
The ^{ADMIRAL}HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) was sighted in dry dock at Brest again this morning.U-boat
attack on
Convoy
O.B.290.

M05584/41

DIALA in Convoy O.B. 290 was torpedoed ^{9025/26 (Page 908)} in the N.W. Approaches in 55° 50' N. 14° 0' W. S.S. COPELAND reported being chased in 61° 2' N. 19° 23' W.British Air Activity.51 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the docks at Brest last night, the ^{ADMIRAL}HIPPER (cruiser) being the main objective. Aircraft of Coastal Command also attacked the cruiser.

Specially equipped aircraft escorted Convoys S.C.22 and O.B. 290 last night.

/ Dawn R.C.

War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Dawn R.C. for the two enemy destroyers sighted yesterday and expected to pass Gris Nez at dawn was blank, but as the result of a report by Dover R.D.F. a further R.C. was carried out and 2 destroyers were sighted at 1203 off Calais. An attack is being organised.

Six Blenheim bombers of Coastal Command escorted by 34 fighters attacked a convoy of 5 vessels off Dunkirk this afternoon. No hits were obtained.

Enemy Air Activity.

Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH report being bombed and cannon-shelled on 20/2 whilst fishing in 52° 15' N. 11° 45' W. The latter was towed back to harbour.

Trawlers GRACKLE and DANDARA report being attacked by a F.W. aircraft supported by two fighters, at 1530/23 15 miles S. by E. of the Fastnet. The mate of DANDARA was killed, but the vessels were not damaged. The F.W. was shot down.

No attacks on shipping were reported today.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.Operation
P.W.5.

3 M.T.B's last night laid mines off the Belgian coast.

Operation
ZME 20.

PLOVER laid mines off the S.E. coast of Ireland last night.

Enemy
mining.

Minelaying by 20 enemy aircraft last night is suspected off Liverpool Bay and in the Milford Haven area.

Sailing barge GLOBE was mined and sunk at 1800 today off Garrison Point, Sheerness.

Mines were detonated today off North Shields, Harwich, in Swansea and Humber areas and in Thames Estuary.

Liverpool was closed at 0001 today and Falmouth at 0014.

Sunderland was opened this morning. Swansea was opened to ships not fitted with I.C. engines this afternoon.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Mar 2"

Kastalorizo Island was attacked and occupied by Naval forces today. A Commando landed before dawn in ships' boats from DECOY and HEReward. Opposition was apparently slight. LADYBIRD was slightly damaged by heavy air raid.

Mining of
Suez Canal.SARNA (^{M/S Trawler}~~minesweeper~~) was mined and sunk whilst sweeping in the Canal today.

M011766/41

/ Time taken for stores ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Time taken
for stores
to reach
Malta.

C.in C. Medn. points out that the length of time for stores to reach Malta is not realised in U.K. All stores must go round Cape for transshipment in Egypt. Owing to congestion in Egyptian ports and irregularity of Malta convoys at least 2 months elapse between arrival of stores in Egypt and arrival of same stores in Malta.

Air attack
on Tripoli.

Wellingtons attacked Tripoli harbour this evening dropping over 13 tons of bombs and report that a ship was set on fire near the Customs Wharf, two probable hits on shipping in the harbour, and damage caused to the port.

Air attacks
on Malta.

There was a succession of reconnaissances and fighter patrols by German aircraft over Malta today. Two moored Sunderlands in St. Paul's Bay were machine gunned but not hit. Two or three enemy aircraft were shot down.

Air attack
on Tobruk.

Tobruk was bombed this evening and a tanker was set on fire; the fire was brought under control.

East Indies.Raider

Bearings from Simonstown, Durban and Kranji obtained at 2138 G.M.T./24 indicated an enemy surface unit on a line Achin Head to Mauritius, probably midway.

Mogadishu
occupied.

Our troops occupied Mogadishu today, 200 Allied seamen were recovered at Berka.

MOST SECRET.

25.2.1941.

Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.ANJA.

Your 1159/24/2. ANJA may proceed to Petsamo via Skopen Fiord. Warn Master that if found off that route on this or subsequent voyages he will be sent to Kirkwall.
(D.E.W.D. 1003/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Procedure
for
Entry into
Minor
Defended
Ports.

Reference A.M.657A/1/1. Procedure for entry into Minor Defended Ports given in Recognition Manual S.P.02220(2) para.71 is to be brought into force at 0001/2/3.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1638/25 A Message 132.AZ).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Orkneys
Loop
Systems.

Your 1148/4/2. Cable ship required to effect necessary repairs to loop, and relaying of number 8. I consider that the necessity for repairs to and completion of the loop system in the Orkneys is urgent.
(A.C.O.S. 1115/25).
Your 1115/25. Cable ship is due to arrive Orkneys about 9/3 for repairs to loops. Question of completing whole loop system is under consideration.
(D.A/S.W. 1916/25 to A.C.O.S.)

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/25. (D.C. 1207/25).
At 2330/25. (D.C.2332/25).

Faroes
A/A
Defences.

Recital of events since 7/2. Requested that requirement may be included by the War Office in their memorandum to the Chiefs of Staff on the allocation of A.A. gun defences from the March production, and in the meantime, that the arrangements made by A.C.O.S. should be accepted and obtain until other defences can be provided.

/War

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.Faroes
A/A
Defences.
(Contd.)

War Office 1822/24. The guns are at present manned by personnel from the Fleet who are required to rejoin their ships as soon as possible. Requested that, until other arrangements are made, the possibility of Lovat Scouts manning the guns may be examined.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1706/25 to Air Ministry, War Office, A.A. Dd., and F.Cd. Your 1930/24. Requirement for A.A. defence will be considered by C.O.S. Committee with a view to provision being made from March production.

2. In the meanwhile War Office are investigating possibility of the 2 pounder Vickers being manned by local military with the object of releasing Fleet personnel as soon as possible.
(D. of L.D. 1710/25).

Movements.SUNFISH.

Intend to sail SUNFISH passing Switha Gate at 0830/25 escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE westward of Orkneys and Shetlands to position 061° (730') N., 002° (730)W thence routed northward.
(A.C.O.S. 0034/25 and 0049/25).
Sailed escorted by SOUTHERN SHORE.
(A.C.O.S. 0822/25 and 0826/25).

MISTRAL.

Sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 112^{9/}
23. (F.O.Iceland 0125/25).

PEGASUS.

My 1815/20. PEGASUS is to return to Belfast and not Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1058/25).
My 1815/20. Cancel sailing of PEGASUS further signal will be made.
(C.in C. W.A. 1314/25).

MOST SECRET.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)Escort
for
REPULSE.

Your 1323/23. Anticipate 5 destroyers available as A/S Escort without denuding mercantile convoys. This includes one from R.A.(M). Consider 8 as minimum acceptable.
(C.in C. W.A. 1232/25).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1356/25).

VESLECKARI
HONNINGSVAAO.
(Jan Mayen).

(Group Omitted) CF (?) and VESLECKARI have arrived Akureyri having developed minor defects owing to stress of weather. It is anticipated they will sail in company tomorrow.
(F.O.Iceland, 1410/25).

Submarines.

Positions at 0800/26 and movements for the following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1621/25 and 1706/25).

ACHATES.

My 1246/16 Shortage destroyers 4th Escort Group, and Admty 1612/24 refit, etc., BRILLIANT. Propose to retain ACHATES until relieved by BRILLIANT.
(Capt: (D) Greenock 1831/25).

TRIBUNE
TAKU.

Proceed direct to pass through following respective positions. Convoy to south of you may make drastic alteration in course to northward or disperse.
(F.O.S. 1951/25 to TRIBUNE, TAKU).

DUNEDIN.

It has been decided that DUNEDIN is to remain under the South Atlantic Command for the present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2212/25). See also p. 857.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)O.21.
O.23.
LA MOQUEUSE.F.C.(S) 1126/25 and my 1451/24 para.(B).
Request you will sail LA MOQUEUSE, O.21.
O.23 1900/26 so as to arrive Longships by
2000/27.
(S.3. 2359/25 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).Operations.Operation
N.C.Operation N.C. will be carried out zero t
time 2145.
(V.A.Dover, 1408/25).EXMOOR
torpedoed
by E/Boat.Sailed EXMOOR and SHEARWATER at 1349.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1410/25).
My 1708. EXMOOR and SHEARWATER are to
part company with F.N. on passing
Sheringham Buoy and proceed at SHEARWATER
best speed to meet F.S.21.
(C.in C. Nore, 2156/25 to EXMOOR,
SHEARWATER).
Am picking up survivors from EXMOOR at
5 buoy. Approximate position 052° 27N
001° 56'E.
(SHEARWATER 2200/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
Proceeding Yarmouth with survivors.
Medical assistance required. 1 trawler
proceeding Lowestoft with 5.
(SHEARWATER 2230/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
E.T.A. 2315. Request Deluge (? Doctor)
about midnight.
(SHEARWATER 2245/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Is message 2245 understood?
SHEARWATER 2315/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Ship reported on fire at 2110 in 52° 28'N.
2° 4'E.
(C.in C. Nore, 2205/25 to CAMPBELL).
Your 2303. EXMOOR burned fiercely and
sank.
(SHEARWATER 2340/25 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
After landing survivors proceed by Q.Z.S.
172 to meet F (?S) 21 due at Outer Dowsing
1130/26.
(C.in C. Nore, 2350/25 to SHEARWATER).
E/Boat(s) probably still in vicinity.
(C.in C. Nore, 2359/25 to WOOLSTON,
VORTIGERN, etc.)
Reports so far received indicate that
EXMOOR sank quickly near 052° 28'N.,
002° 04'E. at about 2115/25 after
explosion which caused fierce fire.
Survivors are being landed at Yarmouth by
SHEARWATER and COMMANDER EVANS. Subsequent
report from N.C.I.C. Yarmouth indicates
the probable presence of E/Boats.
(C.in C. Nore, 0110/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)EXMOOR
for the day
by E/B. cont:My 0234. Enemy retired to eastward.
(WOOLSTON 0314/26).Channel
Patrols.Trawler Patrols in Portsmouth Approach
Channels. 3 M.L's Patrol West of
Portland Bill.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1507/25).
C.in C. Portsmouth's 1507/25. 3 M/L's
will not patrol west of Portland Bill.
(F.C.I.C. Portland 1920/25 to N.O.I.C.
Dartmouth).Dover
Shelled.One shell fell in Dover at 1247 and four
to seaward of the harbour between 0851
and 1005 today. Superficial damage by
blast to M.T.B Base. No casualties.
(V.A.Dover, 1839/25).Operation
Q.A.Operation Q.A. will be carried out
tonight from 2300 to 0030/26.
(C.in C. Nore, 2153/25 to Destroyers).British Air Activity.Bombing
Restriction.F.S.A.4. Request S.B.R. 30 miles
either side of a line joining 61°15'N.,
003° 00'W., and 063° 30'N., 000° 15'E.
from 1200/25 to 1200/26.
(C.in C. H.F. 0041/25 to H.Q.C.C.)
My 0041/25. Amend to read from 1200/25
to 2200/26. Request T.B.R. in area
North of 063° N., and East of 001° W.
from 0400/27 until further signal.
(C.in C. H.F. 1227/25 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.A/S
Escort.

Expect A/S escort 1 (one) Anson at 0815 till 1800 today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0146/25 to WANDERER etc).

Patrols.

The following patrols are being flown today. ^{"Unit"}
"Stat" ~~STAB, FAIR, UNOT~~, S.A.2., S.A.3.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0820/25).

Patrol "Sleeve" being flown by one A/C.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1400/25).

Attack
on Enemy
Convoys.

Three Beauforts with torpedoes taking off 1130 from Wick to attack 4 M/Vs. and two escort vessels reported by A/C in 61° 51'N., 4° 5'E. course 020° at 0950/25. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1110/25).
My 1110/25. Amend position to read 61° N., 4° 50'E. Course 020° 5 knots average tonnage 5 to 6000 unladen. (C.in C. Rosyth 1216/25).

Falmouth
Approach,
Channel.
Request for
Fighter
Patrol.

To avoid air attack movements of shipping in Western Channel in daylight are reduced to a minimum.

(2) Falmouth presents special difficulty. Swept Channel Q.Z.S.180 is 17 miles long and through an area definitely mined by the enemy. Accurate navigation is essential and therefore ships must pass through it in daylight. For at least 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset certain days ships will be moving in this channel.

(3) Request favourable consideration may be given to provision of a fighter patrol over this channel when it is considered that number or value of ships justify it.

(4) If agreed, request for such patrol would be made on each occasion.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1152/25 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Attacks
on Brest.
Boulogne.

Night 24/25 Feb. 28 Wellingtons, 3 Stirlings, 16 Hampdens, and 6 Manchesters attacked the Docks at Brest, HIPPER cruiser being main objective. Weather conditions were good, but extreme darkness made it difficult to identify cruiser and prevented observation of possible direct hits. Many bombs were dropped some of a very heavy calibre in the target area and the cruiser was straddled in all directions. One Wellington attacked Docks and shipping at Boulogne.
(H.Q.B.C. 1551/25).

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
W.N.Odd.

Fighter aircraft have been despatched to ~~W.N.Odd.~~ "Mustar".
(Liverpool 0955/25).

Trawlers
ILFRACOMBE
and
SCARBOROUGH
attacked
20/2.

Trawlers ILFRACOMBE and SCARBOROUGH fishing in 52° 15'N., 11° 45'W. at 1050/20 report being attacked by four engined aircraft. Ships bombed and cannon-shelled. No casualties. Engines of SCARBOROUGH unserviceable and was towed back to Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1040/25).

GRACKLE
DANDARA
F.W. shot
down.

Trawlers GRACKLE and DANDARA attacked 1530/23 15 miles S. by E. from Fastnet. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1041/25). My 1041/25. Both were attacked by Focke Wulfe supported by 2 fighters. Focke Wulfe shot down in sea. Mate of DANDARA killed.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1140/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2).

Cancel my 0045/25. KINGSTON HILL is to be beached at Glumaig Bay, Stornoway. Salvage Vessel (?) RANGER will take over on arrival.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126/25).
KINGSTON HILL in tow of ST. OLAVES and THAMES escorted by PICOTEE arrived 1600/25 Requires pumping out which will be done by THAMES.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1622/25).
When KINGSTON HILL pumped out tow her to Glumaig Bay Stornoway and beach her alongside BROVIG.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1945/25).
See also p. 866.

ELIZABETH
MARIE
(Bombed and
sunk 14/2).

ELIZABETH MARIE, straggler from S.C.21 bombed and sunk.
(D.T.D. 1525/25).

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

One enemy aircraft shadowing an odd numbered F.N. Convoy South of Tyne in 52° 38'N., 2° 1'E. Course 018 speed 9 knots.
(VORTIGERN 2206/25).

Mining.Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected enemy minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0001/25).

Falmouth.

Port of Falmouth closed owing to enemy mines.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0014/25).

MOST SECRET.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Z.M.E. 20.Operation Z.M.E. 20 completed.
(PLOVER 0429/25).→ Operation
P.W.5.Arrived. M.T.B's 31,32 and 34 at 0844.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0858/25).Sunderland.Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0925/25).GLOBE.
sunk.Sailing Barge GLOBE mined and sunk at
1800/25 approx. 079° 6100 yards from
Garrison Point Sheerness. Believed no
survivors. Vessel was wooden and had no
engine.
(C.In C. Nore, 1029/26).Operation
G.T.Arrived 2220/24. M.G.B.46 in tow
BURWELL.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1222/25).→ Operation
P.W.5.Following received from BEEHIVE begins
My 0947/24. P.W.5. completed as ordered
in position 51 degrees 7' 18 seconds
north 2 ° 25' 10" East in clear but
very dark weather. No enemy ships seen.
0945/25.
(C.in C. Nore, 1329/25).S.N.68B.My 1457/20. For "4th March" read 9th
March".
(C.in C. H.F. 1524/25 to R.A.M.L.)North
ShieldsAt 1400/25 two mines detonated by S.A.
sweep. Particulars.
(P.M./S.O. North Shields 1530/25, 1550/25,
1055/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.).Harwich.

Two mines detonated simultaneously by S.A.gear at 1312/25. Particulars. (F.O.I.C.Harwich, 1533/25).

Swansea.

My 2209/20. Ships not fitted with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Swansea. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1548/25). Particulars of mines exploded 25/2. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1825/25).(1827/25).

Spurn Point.

One acoustic mine exploded at 0944/25. Particulars. (F.O.Humber, 1830/25).

Gap A.

Minesweeping Summary No.70 dated 19/2. para.9. It is hoped that area to Eastward of Gap A. will be re-searched at a very early date, as this is only passage used by submarines at present proceeding to and from patrol in North Sea. (F.C.S. 1924/25).

Thames Estuary.

S.A.mine detonated at 1328/25. Particulars. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 2150/25).

East Coast. Mine Barrage.

Your 1542/25. M/OD 2001/41 of 17 January 1941 was taken to be a plain statement of fact not requiring a reply. So far as Rosyth command is concerned I would suggest, between the Gap B and C, Western line referred to in paragraph two (B) of M/OD 2001/41 of 17 January 1941 be laid to Westward of line B.S.22 and B.S.23 and not to Westward of "declared area" itself as this would restrict still more the narrow lane of clear water, between barrier and coast. (C.in C. Rosyth 2335/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
Surface
Units.

By D/F at 1917/24 and 1937/24 G.M.T.
one or possibly two enemy surface units
within 200' of 27° N., 44° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0035/25).

SCHARNHORST .
GNEISENAU.

It is reported graded C.2. that
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU left Oslo
Fjord first week in February and have
not passed southwards through Belts up
to 20th February.

Comment. It appears probable these two
ships did proceed to Oslo end of January.
(Vide my 1751/25.1.41) possibly to avoid
ice conditions in Baltic.
(D.D.I.C. 1210/25).

Two
Destroyers.

My 2006/24. Dawn reconnaissance was
blank. At 1032 Dover R.D.F. reported two
vessels 343° Gris Nez 2.5 miles course 047
degrees. 11 group and Admiralty
informed by telephone. 11 Group on
request carried out further reconnaissance
reporting two destroyers 360 degrees
Calais 3.5 miles at 1203. 16 Group and
Admiralty informed by telephone. R.D.F.
Plot faded at a position 042 degrees
Gris Nez 9.2 miles. 16 Group inform me
that an attack is being organised.
(V.A.Dover, 1232/25).

Brest.

At 2145/24 a ship of about 10,000 tons,
believed to be a Cruiser, anchored off
the harbour in 48° 21'N., 4° 29'W. A/C
report.
(H.Q.B.C. 1551/25).

Aircraft reports at 1515/25. Enemy vessel
fired five star cartridge three times,
in 55° 26'N., 7° E.
(C.in C. Nore, 2046/25).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.Suspect
List.

My 1648/16 and 1818/16. Suspect list is separate from Category B and ships may sail in convoy. List will be revised as necessary. (D.T.D.) (2000/25 to N.C.S.O's Halifax, Bermuda, Freetown, Gibraltar.)

Coastal
Convoys.E.N.77.

0400/25. Escorts. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0415/25). List. (1108/25). SLEIPNER to reinforce escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0821/25). Non-sailings from Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1533/25). Positions 0001/26. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25 ULLSWATER 2149/25).

F.N.17. 417

M.L.105 sailed with. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0901/25). Sailed 0835/25, 35 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1115/25). Sailings. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1434/25). List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1504/25). Ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1715/25). 9 ships, 5 trawlers and 1 drifter joined at Outer Dowsing. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1904/25 to WOOLSTON, VORTIGERN).

F.S.19. 419

Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0933/25. Position. 36 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1044/25). Arrived, exceptions. (1913/25).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

E.N.U.76.

Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1030/25).

F.S.19.T. 419T.

Asking for names of ships. (D.T.D.1051/25)
Reply. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1644/25).Codes.Allotment of permanent code words to
regular group sailings. (D.N.I. 1148/25
to C.in C. Plymouth).F.N.17, 417
F.N.18, 418
F.S.21, 421
F.S.19, 419Positions.
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/25).

F.N.16, 416

List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1215/25) E.T.A.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25). Humber ships,
arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1645/25).
To join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1736/25).

F.S.18, 418

My 2049/24. GARONNE now arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1348/25).

5 M/V's.

Ex-Dartmouth. E.T.A. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1507/25).

F.S.21, 421

Sailed 77 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1538/25
1738/25) Position (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25)
EXMOOR and SHEARWATER as additional escort.
(C.in C. Nore, 1708/25). 5 ships from
Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1710/25, C.in C.
Rosyth 1905/25). List and destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1734/25). Additional
escorts. (C.in C. Nore, 2331/25).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

W.N.89.

Positions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1610/25,
HUGH WALPOLE, 2005/25).Iceland.

Sailings. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1745/25).

3. M/V's.

Amending. 2223/24. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth,
1913/25).

W.N.U.90.

1800/25, unescorted, 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2108/25).
List. (2113/25).F.N. and
F.S.Escorts. Amending. 1832/23.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2202/25).Dartmouth.Berths for large M/V's full, proposals.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2207/25).
Concur, (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1147/26).Ocean
Convoys.

H.X.107.

HARMALA arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barry, 0701/25)
SAN AMADO arrived. (N.C.S.O. Milford
Haven, 0905/25).

H.G.53.

COXWOLD arrived. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven,
0905/25) DAGO arrived (N.O.I.C. Barry
1124/25). VANELLUS arrived (N.C.S.O.
Mersey 1845/25).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

O.B.C.291. 2330/27. 25. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0953/25).

B.H.X.110. CITY OF OXFORD returned, lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1158/25).

H.X.108U. Arrived 0900/25 less REDGATE.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1029/25).
REDGATE arrived(1210/25).

O.G. 7 Turkish ferry boats to go in next
O.G.Convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1300/25).

O.G.54. List and Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Mersey
1430/25). Sailed 7 ships, (1431/25).
Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1700/25).

H.X.112. C.S.1. in NORFOLK to RW (date).
(C.in C. H.F. 1436/25).

H.X.108. E.T.A. (WITCH, 1445/25 to A.C.W.A.)

S.C.21. 8 hours late at R/V. 5 stragglers.
ELIZABETH MARIE, straggler bombed and
sunk. Not yet reported ALNMOOR and
BELCREST.
(D.T.D. 1525/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

H.G.54. Ships joining from Funchal.
(See North Atlantic).

O.G.O. 54. Escort. 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Cban, 1541/25).

S.L.S.65. Destroyers to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1705/25)

S.C.24. Destinations. (D.T.D. 1753/25).

O.B.290. Being shadowed. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

O.B.291. 0530/28. unescorted. 1.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2000/25).

Military
Convoys.

T.C.9. Your 1843/24. Expect to join T.C.9
about 1300Z tomorrow.
(MISTRAL 0036Z/25 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 0129/24. EDINBURGH, INGLEFIELD, ECHO
and ECLIPSE are to part company with
convoy T.C.9. in position (R) and return
to Scapa.

(ii) AURORA is to continue with Convoy
to Clyde.
(C.in C. H.F. 2259/25).

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Military
Convoys.
(contd).

Troop
Transports.

Following troop transports are due in U.K. shortly. (D. of S.T. 0118/25).

S.S. CITY
OF PARIS etc.

Adty 1727/22. 1809/23. 1357/24. None to all addressees. (1) A/S Escort. BRIGHTON BROADWAY from Liverpool. ROCKINGHAM MANSFIELD to R/V from Londonderry. S.O. ROCKINGHAM. (2) Request you will sail ships accordingly. (3) R/V to be arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. (4) Orders will be given for destroyers to meet S.L.S. 65. (C. in C. W.A. 1705/25).

RIMUTAKA.

Intend sailing S.S. RIMUTAKA escorted by HARVESTER at 1330/27 speed 11½ knots to comply with Admiralty's 1635/22. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1758/25).

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Small
Sunken
Vessel.

My 1105/15. Vessel was subsequently observed to sink in approx. position 190° 62 D. buoy 2.2. miles. Depth of water 18 fathoms. (F.O. Humber 1035/25).

O.10.

Sub. O.10 reports: Starboard engine defects. Convoy has gone ahead. I have escort. Proceeding to Tobermory to effect repairs. My position 057° 51' N. 006° 36' W. at 1030/25. (S.7 1306/25).

OCEAN PEARL.

My 1159/25. M/D OCEAN PEARL returned to Fraserburgh. Engine trouble. (R.N.O. Fraserburgh 1514/25).

OTAIO.

(British, 10,298 Tons) Received following from Master at 1612/25. Off Shaint Island. D.G. out of Action. Please advise whether to proceed to destination. (G.B.N.S. Restive 1700/25).

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ASAKA MARU.

My 0757/24. Destination Bilbao, E.T.A. 0900/25. (F.O.C.N.A, 0125/25, to N.A. Stn.)

Force H.

M03379/41

Arrival S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FORESIGHT, FIREDRAKE. (S.O.I., Gib., 0946/25, to Admty.)

TUNA
PANDORA.

Position of S/M at 1200 and movements for 24 hrs. (A) TUNA with H.G.54. (B) PANDORA 036° 40' N 009° 18' W, proceeding on surface to Gibraltar speed (?11) knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1434/25, to N.A. Stn.).

PANDORA
RESOLUTION.

Adjust speed to pass through position 340° Cape Spartel 12' at 0800/27, reporting if you will be more than two hours late. 1. You will not be escorted to Gibraltar. You will (sail) with convoy (date). RESOLUTION escorted by four destroyers p.c. and S. at 1200/25, 037° 50' N, 012° 00' W, 320° nine knots. (Capt. (S) 8, 1440/25, to PANDORA.)

H.G. 54.

Instruct ships joining from Funchal that in case of separation they are to follow standard route and not the diversion from standard route as ordered by N.C.S.O. Funchal. (F.O.C.N.A. 1536/25, to LEITH.)

MAGALLANES.
Germans on
Board.

Reliably informed 3 Germans serving as Stewards on board Spanish S.S. MAGALLANES arrived Bilbao 13th/2. (? and occupied) on N and S. American (? trunk runs). If ship not wearing Spanish Gov. Ensign these men should be removed if suspicion warrants. (F.O.C.N.A, 1659/25, to N.A. Station.)

/Air Report.....

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Northern Atlantic Contd.

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations, Area covered 3° 50' W, to 10° W. (200 Group, 1700/25.)

HYDROUSSA
AGIOS
SPYRIDON.

If bottoms thoroughly scraped request prospects of improved speed enabling them to join H.G. Convoy. (D.T.D. 1920/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S.Trawlers.

My 2302/25. These A/S Trawlers provisionally allocated to you to provide additional escort for H.G. and O.G. convoys rather than for local patrols. LADY HOGARTH should sail from U.K. about mid-March. Trawlers may later be transferred to Freetown if U-Boat menace in that area increases. (D.O.D. (F) 2305/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

WISHART,
VIDETTE.

Departures 0800/25, WISHART and VIDETTE in accordance with C. in C. S.A's, 1213/21, (Re sailing of local escort to R.V. ~~6~~ FORESIGHT and FORESTER.) (S.O.I., Freetown, 1001N/25.)

→ CORNWALL.

My 1421 B/23. CORNWALL ready for sea at 1 hour's notice for steam. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/25.)

CUMBERLAND.

Agree your visit to Falkland Is. with CUMBERLAND. You should be back in the Plate area 9/3, next move to return in that direction. (C. in C. S.A., 1023/25, to R.A.S.A.D.)

FENRIS.

Over due shipping, cancel my 1001/21, FENRIS Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1202B/25.)

→ Enemy Unit.
→ CORNWALL.

Your 2307/24, Par. (c) my 1115/22. It is possible these indications on Feb. 19th, 20th, and 21st may be enemy supply vessel or vessels waiting ADMIRAL SCHEER'S return. Suggest CORNWALL leaves Simonstown 28/2, spends 2 to 3 days in the area referred to, then to St. Helena to fuel and on to R.V. with W.S. 6 about equator. (C. in C. S.A., 1231N/25, to Admty.)

/Admty.....

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

CORNWALL
Cont.:

Admty. 2307/24/2 and my 1231N/25.
CORNWALL is to carry out practices for the present (C. in C. S.A, 1233N/25, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Whale
Catchers.

My 2131Z/24 and Admty., 1926/15.
THORSHAMMER and nine catchers left for Fayal 24/2 and expect to meet QUEEN OF BERMUDA (? 064° S, 050° W, approximately 27/2. Oil fuel on board 3600 tons whale oil (?2000) barrels including Sperm, 600 tons water for QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Owing to dissatisfaction of crew of catcher THORARINN proceeding Montevideo have concurred in Magistrate's suggestion to delay her 14 days to keep present movements of factory secret. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1248/25, to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Suspicious
Ship,
HALCYON.

My 1655/24. Further examination of master indicates tonnage of vessel may be overestimated since he insists she resembles a a Hansa vessel. She was a S. Ship with large passenger accommodation. (N.C.S.O. Bahia, 1345/25, to Admty.) *See next page.*

MACON.

Overdue shipping. British MACON sailed Mersey 30/1, due Freetown 20/2, has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1621/25, to Admty.)

PORT
FREMANTLE.

N.T. in W.D.
Your 1832/20 to Fairmiss check and report to Adty., position E, also date of arrival 51° N. (D.T.D. 1808/25, to Consul, Monte Video.

MALAYA.
FAULKNER.
FORESTER.

MALAYA, FAULKNER, and FORESTER are to leave convoy W.S.6. p.m./28, and increase speed so as to pass Freetown boom at 1600N/1/3. (C. in C. S.A, 1935N/25.)

/THORSHAMMER.....

25. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

THORSHAMMER.

My 1926/15. (re Fuel and Whale oil on board THORSHAMMER.). Repeat reply sent to para. E. (D.T.D. 2021/25, to N.O.I.C, Falklands.)

DUNEDIN.

To remain under S.A. Command for present. To act as special ocean escort for s.s. PROME. (D.O.D.(F) 2212/25, to C. in C. W.A.)

Suspicious Vessel.
9/2.

Master of Panama ship HALCYON now at Bahia reports sighting suspicious vessel at 1700/9, in 00° 31' S. 40° 5' W, which closed to 4 miles and then altered course N. (Description). Master insists she resembled HANSA vessel and was s.s. with large passenger accommodation. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 2203Z/25.)

Mediterranean

Kastelorizo, captured.

Kastelorizo Island occupied dawn/25. (See C. in C. Med., 0002/26.)

MANUNDA.
SOMERSETSHIRE.
(hospital ships.)

Your 1315Z/24. Date of departure Suez Hospital ship (MANUNDA depends on progress of clearing canal. Anticipate on or before 5/3. Hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE left Capetown 21/2, future movements unknown here. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0107/25, to A.C.N.B.)

Tripoli bombed.

Special operational Summary. All times G.M.T Night 24/25. Weather forecast indicated Valona unfavourable. Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Harbour, from 1830 to 2300 hours. Hits on Customs Wharf causing explosions and starting severe fires. 1 ship left burning near Customs and 2 probable hits on shipping in Middle of Harbour.

/Explosion.....

MOST SECRET.25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Tripoli
bombed.

Explosion and large fire lasting 1 hour near Eastern Mole. 3 sticks round power station. Other hits on land near Castello. 2 large ships outside harbour assisted in A.A. barrage. 1 aircraft failed to return. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0745/25.)

DAINTY
sunk.

H.M.S. DAINITY sunk when off Tobruk by enemy A/C during dusk on 24/2. Casualties about 20. (C. in C. Med., 1005/25, to Admty.)

Hospital
ship ABA.

Defects as probable result of bomb near misses. (D.S.T.O, Alexandria, 1108/25, to D. of S.T., etc.)

Mining in
Suez Canal.

Proposal to net the bottom of canal. (C. in C. Med. 1129/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

"Cucumber"
Sweeping.

I should be glad of any information concerning Italian (? ability) to sweep "Cucumber". "~~CUCUMBER~~". (S.O. Force H, 1137/25, to Admty.)

Your 1137/25. No information concerning Italian equipment available. Germans have developed a sweep which works but have not yet produced it in sufficient quantity for themselves. They may have informed Italians of method, but unlikely they would have transferred sweeps or that Italians would have made any considerable number. (D.T.M. 1928/25 to S.O. Force H.)

Balearic
Islands.

Request early reconnaissance of Maddalena harbour, Cagliari aerodrome and harbour, and Algiero Aerodrome, to ascertain whether preparations are being made for attack on Balearic Is. (S.O. Force H., 1139/25, to V.A. Malta.)

/REGENT.....

25. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.REGENT.

Leave area p.m./26, through 034° 20' 012° 16' and 035° 31' (? 014°) 12' to arrive off (corrupt group) Harbour 0630?/28. (Comdr. (S) 1, 1143/25. to REGENT.)

Minesweeping.

Your 1311/22. Distance at which mines explode varies between two miles and very close. Analysis shows 95% of mines have been swept at half a cable or more. Estimate that a sweeper gives 95% clearance of active mines over channel one cable wide, 88% over two cables, 27% over a mile. (D.T.M., 1400/25, to R.A. Alexandria.)

Air attacks on Malta.

Succession of reconnaissances and fighter patrols over Malta today by total 4 Do. 215's, one He.111 and large number M.E. 109's in small formations at a time. 2 moored Sunderlands St. Paul's Bay machine gunned, not hit. Hurricanes up during each of 6 alarms shot down 2 Do. 215's confirmed into sea and 1 Do. 215 probably shot down but unconfirmed. 1 Hurricane forced landed in sea, engine trouble not due enemy action, pilot rescued injured. 2 Hurricanes superficial damage by bullet holes. 1 Glenn Martin arrived from U.K. Cheers. We can now do some reconnaissances. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1745/25.)

Coast Defence, Crete and Libya.

Your 1628/14 (not to V.A. Malta). Concur in proposal to land 6" Anti-Submarine gun from ESSEX for Coast Defence. Request proposals regarding disposal of 3" H.A. gun which should be appropriated to a suitable merchant ship not already provided. (D.T.D., 1835/25, to C. in C. Med.)

/SARNA.....

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

SARNA
mined.

MO 4746/41

SARNA was mined, and sunk in Canal at (?Km) 138.5 while sweeping. She is clear of channel. Preliminary report indicates an acoustic mine. 2. Casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1929/25).

Stores
for
Malta.

Length of time for stores to reach Malta is not realized in U.K. All stores must go round Cape for transshipment in Egypt. Owing to congestion in Egyptian ports and irregularity of Malta convoys at least 2 months elapse between arrival of stores in Egypt and arrival of same stores in Malta. Frequently also essential parts of machinery are left at Alexandria and have to wait for following convoys. (V.A. Malta, 1953/25 to Admty).

PARTHIAN.
RORQUAL.

Your 1934/25 (N/T in W.R). * RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 1800/26 through 032° 00' 028° 30' thence through 034° 00' 028° 00' to Northward. * (Acknowledge). (Capt. (S) 1. 2229/25 to PARTHIAN).

TYNEFIELD

(Govt. Ser.) Tanker 5,856 tons. Bombed and damaged in air attack on Alexandria 25/2 (DCL 341)

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy Unit.

Bearings from Simonstown, Durban and Kranji obtained at 2138 G.M.T./24 indicate enemy surface unit on a line Achin Head to Mauritius probably mid way.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore 0111Z/25, to C.in C. E.I.).

Brava occupied.

My 1906/23 not to S.N.O. Red Sea. Brava occupied by our troops 24/2. Our advanced troops have reached vicinity Vittoria and Merka where they are encountering opposition and about 3000 prisoners have been taken. (C.in C. E.I., 0412/25, to Admty.).

AUSTRALIA

Cancel my 1842/24. After fuelling AUSTRALIA is to proceed to search an area between following points. (A) 019° 50' South 067° 50' (B) 021° 30' 069° 35' (C) 024° 15' 066° 30' (D) 022° 50' 064° 55'. As much of this area as possible but especially S.E. part is to be searched during daylight 26/2. Speed not to exceed 27 knots unless essential.
(C.in C. E.I., 0452Z/25, to Force V).

GLASGOW
Force Z.

M07722/41.

My 1934/24. GLASGOW on leaving Mauritius proceed at 20 knots passing South of Reunion but not approaching within 20 miles. Subsequently adjusting course and speed for R/V with Force "Z".
(C.in C. E.I., 0514Z/25, to Force V).

Aden Air
Raid.

Air Raid at Aden 24/2 put Naval W/T Station power line out of action 0658 to 0912 G.M.T. No casualties. (C.in C. E.I., 0612Z/25, to Admty.).

ENTERPRISE
CAPTOWN.
W.S.5B.X.

My 1856/24 amend position of rendezvous to read 005° 40' N. 054° 55'. Speed of advance of convoy is 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I., 0712Z/25 to Force V, ENTERPRISE).

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.5B.X.
MAURETANIA,
NIEUW AMSTERDAM,
→ CANBERRA.

Your 1045/24. Intend convoy WS 5 BX consisting of EMPRESS OF JAPAN and AQUITANIA to leave Bombay about (date) escorted by ENTERPRISE. MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM may proceed to Colombo unescorted. Intend CANBERRA to escort these two ships to Fremantle leaving Colombo (date).
(C.in C. E.I., 0746Z/25, to S.S.T.O. Bombay)

→ LEANDER

Your 0453/24/2. (New Zealand Govt. desires account of operation by LEANDER). No objection provided accounts are in general terms. Would you like LEANDER to write an account?
(C.in C. E.I., 1136Z/25, to N.Z.N.B.)
Reply: Yes. (N.Z.N.B. 0126/26).

Enemy
Units.

Your 1031Z/24. Several factors discredit possibility of target at 2136 being in Eastern Mediterranean. Traffic suggests two different targets, possibly raider and supply ship in Indian Ocean.
(D.D.I.C. 1209/25 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

U.S.10.

My 0554/23. Proposals. (S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 1245Z/25 to D. of S.T.).
See Operations Volume.

→ CANBERRA
→ LEANDER
→ HERMES

CANBERRA on completion of fuelling at Seychelles 26/2 is to proceed as requisite to rendezvous with LEANDER in position 004° S. 074° E. at 0200Z/1/3. CANBERRA is to (2 corrupt groups) to HERMES (? via) Oiler APPLELEAF before sailing.
(C.in C. E.I., 2026Z/25, to Force V).

→ LEANDER
→ CANBERRA

Oiler PEARLEAF arriving Addu Atoll about 0330Z/28. LEANDER is to arrive there at once and fuel, subsequently proceeding to rendezvous with CANBERRA as ordered in my 2023/25. Both ships then to proceed in company at 15 knots towards (?Fremantle) (C.in C. E.I., 2028Z/25, to LEANDER) / ?2026/25 (Most Secret) intended.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

TAIKOO.

Your 1238/24 (Request for position of tug TAIKOO) at Nancowry. (C.in C. China 0307Z/25, to Admty.).

Indo-China.

Failure of de Schompre. Free French movement throughout Far East threatened. Propose to visit Hong Kong and possibly Shanghai immediately. (C.in C. China 0726Z/25, 0823/25).

HILDA MOLLER

Cancel my 0825/24 HILDA MOLLER recalled Colombo. (N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0745Z/25, to Admty.).

Mining
Base

Commodore Hong Kong's 0152/4/1. Controlled mining base to be deferred for present. Question will be reviewed later this year. (Head of M. 2132/25 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

GEORGIC

My 1700/24 (Departure GEORGIC). Alternate route L should read 056° 50' N. 008° 55' W. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 0958/25, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

Non-
departure
of tankers.

Your 1735/24. My 1201/21 to N.S.H.Q. only begins, delays, ELONA, ERODONA, Oil RELIANCE for D.G. repairs. THALATTA engine repairs 2 weeks. HIDLEFJORD engine repairs 1 week. HAAKON HAUAN engine repairs time uncertain ends. Do you wish this routine message sent to Admiralty also. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1430/25 to Admty.).

/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN
BUXTON

....

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN
BUXTON

With concurrence of C.in C. A.W.I. intended ROYAL SOVEREIGN should proceed to Bermuda after fuelling and disembarking shells at Halifax on return from T.C.9, to hold two exercises and carry out gunnery practices. ROYAL SOVEREIGN would return to Halifax in time to escort H.X. (?115). BUXTON requires short docking prior to Atlantic crossing, cannot be done at Halifax for some weeks. Subject to concurrence of C.in C. A.W.I. intended that BUXTON shall accompany ROYAL SOVEREIGN as A/S escort and be docked at Bermuda if possible. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1656/25 to Admty.).

DANAE
DUNEDIN

A.T. 1315/9/1.
The movement of DANAE has been postponed and it is regretted that DUNEDIN cannot yet be released. (D.O.D.(F) 2213/25, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.PLUS.PLUS, CLIZIA, CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2,
destination unknown.
(Bilbao, 1308/25 to D.N.I).GALILEA.

Arrived 23/2. (Valencia, 2020/25).

TANNENFELS.Confirmed sailed from Kismayu p.m./30/1.
(D.S. 539).PROCIDA.
GALILEA.24/2 arrival PROCIDA 25/2 departure GALILEA
for Marseilles.
(Valencia 2040/25).ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.Kismayu.

Situation of Italian ships at. (D.S. 539).

CLIZIA.)
CAPO LENA.)

See German Merchant Ships, 1308/25.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.→ MANSEPOOL
(torpedoed 24/2)

NORTHERN SPRAY is to R.V. with SALVONIA and SEAMAN in 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1300 to-day and escort them to assist MANSEPOOL last reported in 61° 07' N. 12° 47' W. at 1533/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0037/25).

KINGSTON HILL
(bombed 22/2.)

If ship is seaworthy she should be towed south through Minches to Rothesay Bay. If this is considered inadvisable report action taken. PICOTEE is to remain in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0045/25 to ST. OLAVES, THAMES, PICOTEE).

should be on p. 843→ BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2).

PETUNIA is standing by MANSEPOOL. Will stand by BRITISH GUNNER.
(NORTHERN REWARD, 0104/25).
My position now is 061° N. 013° 08' W. have searched attacked area. Nothing to report, am endeavouring to contact BRITISH GUNNER again. (NORTHERN REWARD 1430/25). Continuing search for BRITISH GUNNER and MANSEPOOL. MALLOW proceeding to join H.X. 109 (Weather) My position 061° N. 013° 30' W. (CLARKIA 2000/25 to C. in C. W.A).

→ MANSEPOOL,
→ BRITISH GUNNER,
→ G.C. BROVIG.
(torpedoed 24/2).

MANSEPOOL likely to break up during present weather badly holed (fore) Bridge. BRITISH GUNNER hole Engine Room should float. BRITISH GUNNER was in 061° 16' N. 012° 20' W. at 1700/24. MANSEPOOL 16 miles 105° from BRITISH GUNNER. Am making progress with G.C. BROVIG holed starboard and forward. E.T.A. Lewis 2400/25.
(PETUNIA, 0615/25 to C. in C. W.A).

MANISTEE
(torpedoed 24/2).

Not met, (corrupt group) my p.c.s. are 062° (?14') N. 016° 29' W. 090° 14 Noon B.S.T. D.R. (Weather).
(CHURCHILL, 1201/25 to C. in C. W.A).

→ JONATHAN HOLT.
→ MANSEPOOL.
→ BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2).

Following survivors on board (1) JONATHAN HOLT one, S.S. COPELAND has one, unknown ship has some others.
(2) MANSEPOOL 22, believed SS NAILSEA-MANOR (?) has balance probably 17.
(3) BRITISH GUNNER 44, 3 were killed.
(PETUNIA, 1403/25 to C. in C. W.A).

/DIALA.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.2.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.(contd):DIALA.

(British tanker, 8106 tons) The following has been read. SSSS de GPK. DIALA torpedoed 55.50 N, 14.00 W., 1225. (Port Patrick Radio 1248/25).

Wrong r.o.s. of signal should be 0048/26, r line of torpedoing 0025/26. See Page 908.

COPELAND.

Following has been read. SSSS Position 61.02 N. 19.25 W. followed by submarine course 210, 1613/25. Thought to originate from COPELAND. (Valentia Radio 1616/25). Following has been read. SSSS. Position 61° 19' N. 19° 15' W. COPELAND followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio 1628/25).

G.C. BROVIG.
KINGSTON HILL.

G.C. BROVIG is to be taken to Stornoway and beached alongside KINGSTON HILL. (C. in C. W.A. 1717/25 to PETUNIA).

My 1717/25 KINGSTON HILL (Bombed 22/2) has gone to Aultbea. Beach BROVIG in Glumaig Bay, Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 1936/25 to PETUNIA).

Submarines Reported.

1550.	Possibly 58° N., 12.30 W. very indefinite.	} D.S. 540.
1708.	61.19 N., 19.15 W., reported by rescue vessel COPELAND.	
1813.	Possibly 56° N., 11° to 12° W., very indefinite.	
1919.	53° to 54° N., 20° W., indefinite.	
1950.	58.35 N., 6.55 W., reported by ACHATES.	
2117.	55° to 55.30 N., 21° to 22° W. (Italian) indefinite.	
2008.	48° N., 7.30 W., indefinite.	

1609.

My 1609/25. It is probable that formation reported was OB 290 or HX 109 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1705/25 to TRIUMPH, WINCHELSEA, TAKU, CHELSEA, AUSONIA, H.Q.C.C.)

1708.

Admty Message AF. Position 61° 19' N. 19° 15' W. at 1608/25 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1749/25).

/1813.....

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

1813. D/F bearings at 1813/25 indicate that convoy OB 290 is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1847/25 to WINCHELSEA, TRIBUNE, CHELSEA, TAKU.).

1950. One submarine bearing 180 distance 7 miles course unknown, position 58.42 N., 6.55 W. (ACHATES, 1950/25).

My 1950, submarine submerged. (ACHATES, 1955/25 to Scapa W/T).

ACHATES sighted submarine astern of convoy. Failed to gain contact. Rejoined convoy position at 2100 058° 44' N. 007° 38' W. (ANTELOPE, 2101/25 to C. in C.W.A).

2008. By D/F at 2008/25 position of German U-Boat approx. 48° N. 7° 30' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2038/25).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.

1 - 40 miles of 61° 10' N. 13° 20' W.
1 - 59° N. - 60° N, 10° W. - 13° W.
1 - 60 miles of 58° 30' N. 11° W.
2 - 57° 30' N. - 60° N, 19° W - 22° W.
Possibly 1 - 40 miles of 60° 30' N, 25° 30' W.
1 - 60 miles of 58° 30' N, 17° W.
1 - 60 miles of 56° 30' N, 19° W.
1 about 48° 30' N. 7° W en route Lorient.

Italian.

1 - 40 miles of 55° 40' N. 20° W.
1 - about 47° N. 13° W. en route Bordeaux.
1 - 59° N - 60° N, 13° W - 16- W.
No information of others at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/25).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.E/Boat
Attack.

S.S. MINORCA was torpedoed and sunk by an E/Boat off Sheringham Shoal in the early hours of this morning.

~~U/Boat~~
U/Boat
attack
on O.B.290.

Convoy O.B.290 was attacked by U/Boat last night in the N.W. Approaches and S.S. BORGLAND and KASONGO were torpedoed.

British Air Activity.

Boulogne was bombed last night.

Patrols in the North Sea were extended to the Coast of Norway today. At 1300 one of the patrolling aircraft sighted an enemy convoy of 10 ships with 2 destroyers steering south, about 25 miles North of Horn's Reef. Beaufort aircraft were sent to attack, but failed to find the convoy.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on
Convoy O.B.290.
In N.W.
Approaches.
MELMORE HEAD, 600^m from
KYRIAKOULA, 200^m
SOLFERINO, see page
RYDBOHOLM,
LLANWERN,
*SOVAC,
MAHANADA,
BEURSPLEIN, 1921,
AMSTELLAND,
SWINBURN,
damaged or
sunk.

See page
884.

Attacks on shipping in the N.W. Approaches are taking place outside the present range of fighter protection from the U.K. Convoy O.B.290 was attacked this morning in 55° 27'N., 168° 0'W. S.S. MELMORE HEAD was damaged and abandoned. KYRIAKOULA was abandoned though apparently not hit. SOLFERINO is reported on fire and abandoned and RYDBOHOLM abandoned but salvage possible. Convoy O.B.290 was attacked again by F.W. Aircraft at 1807 in 54° 7'N., 17° 6'W. S.S. LLANWERN was sunk, *SOVAC, MAHANADA and BEURSPLEIN reported burning fiercely, AMSTELLAND damaged but salvageable, SWINBURN presumed sunk. WESTONS barrage damaged and perhaps shot down one F.W.C.

Two further ships, BLANKAHOLM and SURINAME were damaged and proceeded to Ponta Delgada.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)EMPIRE
STEELHEAD.
damaged.

EMPIRE STEELHEAD which left convoy W.N.8 on 25/2 with steering trouble was bombed and damaged and set on fire this morning 10 miles E. of Cromarty and was towed to Invergordon.

TENERIFFA
sunk.

S.S. TENERIFFA was bombed and sunk off St. Govan's Head this afternoon.

Attack on
Cardiff.

Cardiff was attacked between 1945 and 2200 today by 70 to 80 enemy aircraft. Slight damage was caused in the docks.

Mining.

Coastal Command aircraft last night dropped mines in Hubert Gat and Terschelling Gat.

Mines were exploded today off Swansea. During the last 6 days four S.A. Trawlers have been damaged by near mine explosions in this area, and at present only one S.A. sweeper is available.

Trawler CHRISTABELLE was sunk today North of the Faroes, presumably by a floating mine. Power barges BRACKELIER and MONARCH were mined and sunk off Hull. These mines were exploded in the Humber, area.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air Attack
on Luqa
Aerodrome.

4 German bombers escorted by 20 to 30 fighters carried out large scale attack on Luqa Aerodrome (Malta) this morning. Several British aircraft were destroyed and damaged on the ground and several enemy aircraft were shot down, many of them by A.A.fire. The aerodrome was rendered unserviceable.

An enemy Red Cross Seaplane accompanied by about 20 fighters carried out a search for an hour this evening 40 miles round the Northern half of *the island.*


Kasteloritzo.

Two enemy M.T.B's raided Kasteloritzo last night, but withdrew before our ships could make contact.

East Indies.Search for
Raider.

AUSTRALIA is to sweep towards Colombo supporting EMERALD and HERMES on passage, on completion of fuelling at the Seychelles EMERALD and HERMES in company are to proceed to Colombo through the One and a half degrees channel: these two ships will be known as Force T. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed East of Madagascar to Durban and thence to Simonstown to refit. DORSETSHIRE on being relieved by GLASGOW as escort of Force Z, is to proceed to Mombasa.

The Germans claim that S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER was flying U.S.Flag and carrying U.S.markings when sunk, is denied by C.in C. E.I. The U.S.Consul witnessed her departure from Colombo on 5/2.

MOST SECRET.
WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.Submarine
reported
in West
Indies.

U.S. ship COAMO reports that on 23/2 she was challenged by radio by a submarine in 24° 4'N., 68° 30'W. The submarine which was not American, headed west and submerged.

Australia.

In view of the presence of pocket battleship in the Indian Ocean CANBERRA, SYDNEY and HOBART will be placed under the orders of A.C.N.B. until required to escort U.S.10.

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Corvettes
for Gibraltar
Convoys.

COREOPSIS unable to comply with C. in C. W.A's 2024/19. (Capt. D. Greenock 1052/26). * To sail with O.G. 54 (See p. 624)

GOETTBORG.

Leaves Skopenfiord for Gothenburg about 2100/27 routed as follows and thence through British declared channel. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D. H. 1113/26 and F.O.S. 1301/26).

Firing at
Unseen
Targets.

Admiralty message 70 A Z of 28th January. The routes taken by convoys are very close to the Northern dividing line and as reported by Admiralty 1622/22 mistakes in routeing have occurred and are liable to recur as positions of convoys are so uncertain. As suggested in Rosyth 1746/17/1 it is considered that the line should run north from the Butt of Lewis to the Faroes and thence over to Iceland. This line would give the following advantages:-

(A) Convoy routes normally lie to the westward of the line and thus all messages would be routed on area broadcast.

(B) Home Fleet units co-operating with incoming convoys would be on same area W/T organisation.

(C) Unless previously notified all merchant ships to the eastward to be treated with suspicion. (C. in C. Rosyth 1203/26).

Jan Mayen.

Your 1343/24. Concur that this expedition should not be allowed. (D.O.D. H. 1736/26 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

JAGUAR.
ISAAC SWEERS.

JAGUAR should be regarded as having joined the Mediterranean Fleet as from 31/1/41.

2. Dutch destroyer ISAAC SWEERS will replace this ship in the 5th Flotilla about end of May. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1926/26).

/Finnish.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. (contd).Finnish
Ships.
Homeward
Route.
QZX.6.
Minefield.

Your 1736/21, para. 1 is not fully understood. There is nothing in Admiralty instructions to stop vessels proceeding as far North or making landfall as far East as they like, after passing through 67° N. 05° E.

Para. 2 and your 1117/15. This minefield is known and has been promulgated confidentially. (D.N.I. 2012/26).

Defence of U.K."Deluge".
DEFENCE.

At 1130/26. (D.C. 1147/26).
At 2330/26. (D.C. 2320/26).

Dropping of
Flares
during
Invasion.

S. 5651/F.O.6. The dropping of flares over the U.K. constitutes a hostile act rendering the aircraft liable to immediate engagement by Fighter aircraft or ground defences, unless previous notice has been given to H.Q., F.C.

2. C. in C. Home Forces requests that in the event of invasion this rule should be waived and permission given for Army Co-operation Squadrons on "Action Stations" to drop parachute flares half an hour before first light approx. 4 miles from the coast in their respective reconnaissance areas, object being to disclose to the infantry on the beaches the presence or otherwise of enemy craft approaching.

The views of the Adty are sought as to whether the rule quoted in para 1. above should be amended to permit flares to be dropped on the occasion and under the conditions proposed. Whilst it is appreciated that Naval forces might thereby be exposed to attack in the initial stages of an invasion, without such flares there may be no illumination of the targets for shore defences. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1730/26 to Adty).

/Faroes.....

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.Faroes
A/A
Defences.

0158/536 (AA4) 26/2/41.
Necessary action is being taken on para.5 of your 1706/25. C. in C. Faroe Isles Force has cabled that owing limited troops for ground defence he cannot take on manning these guns and we agree. It will be some time before LAA personnel can be mobilised and available for this role but necessary steps will be taken dependent on COS decision. In meantime assume you will continue to man guns with naval personnel.
(War Office 1815/26 to Admty).

Movements.DUNEDIN.

Admiralty 2212/25. DUNEDIN is to sail so as to R/V with O.G.54 as follows: (C. in C. W.A. 0205/26 to DUNEDIN). Cancel my 0205/26. DUNEDIN is now to sail so as to R/V with O.G.54 in 051° 05'N., 020° W. at 1000/2nd. and thereafter act as ocean escort. Course and speed of convoy should then be 209 degs. 7 knots routed as follows:
DUNEDIN is to give instructions to S.S. PROME as to subsequent movements in accordance with Admty's 2212/25. On parting company LINCOLN is to report position O.G.54 to DUNEDIN when well clear of convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 1206/26 to DUNEDIN.)
Admiralty 2212/25 and my 1206/26. On gaining contact with S.S. PROME in convoy O.G.54 DUNEDIN and PROME are to part company and proceed at best speed suitable to PROME by following route to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A. 2330/26).

LONDON.

Intend to sail LONDON for Scapa at 1200/4. Escort of two destroyers to accompany LONDON as far as Kinnaird Head will be provided from Nore Command. C. in C. H.F. is requested to provide escort for remainder of passage if considered necessary. Fighter protection for passage will be arranged by C. in C. Nore. Approx. time passing Kinnaird Head 1200/3.
(C. in C. Nore, 1110/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)TAKU
TRIBUNE.

My 1951/25. Proceed thence TAKU through 056° N., 025° W. TRIBUNE through 055° N., 025° W. and thence to Halifax by route previously ordered.
(F.C.(S) 1254/26).

M.G.B's.

Your 1230/26. (No trace). In view of weather forecast M.G.B's are not to be sailed.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1314/26 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

HAVELOCK.

Request HAVELOCK be detached on passing to Aultbea whence she is required for escort 28/2.
(C.in C. W.A. 1506/26 to C.S.18).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.C.S. 1536/26).

HONNINGSVAAG
VESLACKARI.

My 1410/25. HONNINGSVAAG and VESLACKARI further delayed. Expect to sail at noon 27th.
(F.O.Iceland 1707/26).

Submarines.

Positions at 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1721/26).

O.21.
O.23.

Sailed O21 and O23 accompanied by LA MOQUEUSE in accordance with your (2359/25).
(N.C.I.C. Holyhead 1920/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)Two Destroyers
required as
Convoy
A/S
Escort.

My 2144/15 and C.in C. W.A. 1232/25.

2. Additional destroyers are required as A/S escort for special convoy sailing from Clyde on 4/3.

4. C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to detail two "V" Destroyers for this duty. During the absence of these ships the 20th Flotilla will remain at Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1956/26).

L.27.Intend sailing 1900/27 L27 diving by day routed as follows to N one buoy off Needles E.T.A. 0800/28 request escort to meet her.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2344/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Convoy.
MINORCA
(British,
1123 Tons)
sunk.

One enemy war motor boat bearing 090° distance 3 miles, course unknown, position 53° 4'N., 1° 20'E. (VORTIGERN 0232/26) (WOOLSTON 0234/26). S.S. MINORCA torpedoed and sunk in 053° 04'N., 001° 21'E. (WOOLSTON 0321/26). S.S. MINORCA sunk in vicinity of Sheringham, probably by E/Boat torpedo. Seven survivors in S.S. RUDMORE. (VORTIGERN, 0333/26).

Operation "Pocket"
~~POCKET~~

"Pocket"
~~POCKET~~ postponed today on account of weather.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0752/26 to H.Q.F.C.)
Request ~~POCKET~~ may be extended to include 28/2 and 1/3. Two six Destroyers taking part.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1604/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation
against
E/Boats.

Weather permitting following operation is to be carried out tonight with object of counter attacking E/Boats.
Force A. Two M.T.B's to be at Sheringham Light Buoy at 2000/26 and patrol close to Buoy on silent engines until 0001/27.
Force B. Two M.T.B's to be at No.5 Buoy at 2000/26 and patrol close to northward of buoy on silent engines until 0130/27.
Force C. Available M.L's to arrive in position 52° 11'N. 02° 15'E, before dark 26th and patrol on line 050° 230° for distance of 5 miles from this position until daylight when M.L's are to return to Yarmouth.

2. Patrol "O" is not repetition not to go north of No.5 Buoy.

3. F.N.Convoy of 10 ships is due No.5 Buoy at 1830/26 and Sheringham Light Buoy at 0030/27. F.S.Convoy of 76 ships is due Sheringham Light Buoy at 1630/26, and No.5 Buoy at 0200/27.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Operation
against
E/Boats.
(Contd.)

4. At 0001/27 Force A. is to withdraw to westward to well outside visibility range from convoy returning to Sheringham Buoy at 0300/27. Force A is to leave for Harwich at daylight 27th proceeding by Q.Z.S.172.

5. At 0130/27 Force B is to withdraw to Eastward to well outside visibility range from convoy route returning to No.5 Buoy at daylight 27th and proceeding thence to Harwich.

(C.in C. Nore, 1150/26 and C.in C. Nore, Recd., 1435/26).

Two M.T.B's will be at Sheringham Light Buoy from 2000/26 until 0001/27. Two M.T.B's will be at No.5 Buoy from 2000/26 until 0130/27. Adjust speed so that convoy does not reach Sheringham Light Buoy and No.5 Buoy before 0001/27 and 0130/27 respectively.

(C.in C. Nore, 1244/26 to SOUTHDOWN, etc.) Sailed M.T.B's 43,18,31 at 1639.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1641/26).

Your 1150/26 departure M.L's 110,108 at 1625.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1920/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation
N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out zero time 2215.

(V.A.Dover, 1414/26).

Trawler
Patrol
of
Q.Z.F.

Sailed DERBY COUNTY to carry out instructions in your 1646/26.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1754/26 to C.in C. Plymouth).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Firth
of
Forth.

Night flying from Crail 0430 to 0715 today stopped. Flame floats will be dropped North West of May Island between 0640 and 0700.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0106/26 to VERSATILE).

T.C.9.
Air
Escort.M04410(41)
M03749(41)

Sunderland aircraft will reach 060° 14' N., 009° 42'W. at 0815. After identifying itself to convoy aircraft will provide A.S.escort keeping outside 12000yards, from convoy. Relief for Sunderland will reach 058° 47'N., 007° 20'W. at 1600, carry out some procedure escorting till darkness.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0142/26).
My 0142/26 delayed weather.
Whitley aircraft may be sighted in your vicinity any time after 0800/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0730/26).
My 0730/26. Sunderland should arrive about 1300.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1044/26).
My 1044. Sunderland delayed should now reach 059° 18'N., 008° 05'W. at 1400.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1254/26).

Patrols.

Patrols being flown today.
S.A.2., ~~WAS~~, ~~EUSTACE~~, ~~Eustace?~~
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0918/26).
My 0918. Add patrol S.A.3. Both patrols S.A.2. S.A.3. have been extended to coast.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1040/26).

KINGSTON
HILL,
(Bombed 22/2).

Cancel all previous instructions. KINGSTON HILL is to remain at Loch Ewe. Ship has not to be beached unless necessary but has to be anchored in shallow water.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 1118/26).
Report on KINGSTON HILL.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1227/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Bombing
Restrictions.

A.M.1111/20/9/40. Request bombing restrictions from 1900/26 to 0800/27 in zone 15 miles on each side of line joining Nab Tower and Cape D'Antifer. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1753/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Flushing,
Calais,
Boulogne,
Dunkirk. }

1. Day 25/2. One Blenheim attacked the submarine repair and assembly station at Flushing where three bursts were observed, machine gunned Vlissingen Aerodrome, Oil tanks at Flushing and two small vessels off Coast of Flushing. Attacked Night 25/26. Details. (H.Q.B.C.1812/26).

Enemy
Minelaying
A/C Bases.

X.268 26/2.
Recent minelaying by enemy aircraft has imposed heavy strain on naval sweeping facilities. Request bases of enemy mine-laying aircraft be included in INTRUDER operations. (Air Ministry, 2300/26 to Fighter Command)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
O.B.290.
MELMORE HEAD
(British 5273
tons)
abandoned.
SOLFERINO
(Norwegian
2580 tons)
abandoned
KYRIAKOULA
(Greek,
4340 tons)
RYDBOHOLM
(Swedish
3197 tons)
abandoned.

MELMORE HEAD bombed at 0900 in 55° 27'N., 16° W. (Lyness W/T 0900/26) (Valentia 0905/26). Even No. O.B.Convoy being attacked by aircraft my position 55° 7'N., 16° 50'W. course 234 speed 8 knots. (Liverpool 1027/26) SOLFERINO burning and abandoned, GDYNIA returning with survivors. MELMORE HEAD listing to port abandoned. Greek KYRIAKOULA apparently not hit but abandoned have ordered to return to. Salvage of last 2 possible lat. 55° 02' Long. 16° 25'. (ENCHANTRESS 1050/26). My 0955/26 not to NORTHERN SPRAY. PRUDENT and RESTIVE are still sheltering in Stornoway. Escort them when they proceed to assistance of damaged ships. (C.in C. W.A. 1230/26 to PETUNIA).

/Swedish

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy O.B. 290
Contd.

(Swedish 3197 tons) RYDBOHOLM abandoned salvageable condition 055° 48'N., 014° 24'W.
(PIMPERNEL 1330/26 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 0250/26. S.S. DIALA (torpedoed 26/2) now proceeding under her own steam. MAN O' WAR and SUPERMAN are to proceed forthwith to assist MELMORE HEAD.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1747/26 to MAN O' WAR SUPERMAN.)

Lyness
Signal.Signal re air attacks now cancelled.
(Lyness 1123/26).EMPIRE
STEELHEAD.
(British,
7743 tons)
bombed.

Bombed, damaged, and on fire 10 miles 080° from Cromarty at 1126. M/S vessels STAR OF THE WAVE and GEORGE COUSINS now assisting. 14 group informed at 1133.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1201/26).
My 1201/26. Fire under control. 1 Trawler returning Invergordon with wounded 2 trawlers expect to tow vessel to Invergordon.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1251/26).
My 1201/26. M/S Trawler GEORGE COUSINS due Invergordon 1500 with 5 dead and 4 wounded ex EMPIRE STEELHEAD. EMPIRE STEELHEAD in tow by STAR OF THE WAVE and CAPE BARRACOUTA making good 2 knots towards Invergordon. E.T.A. 1800.
F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1420/26).
EMPIRE STEELHEAD left Loch Ewe and joined convoy W.N.89 on 24/2 for Methil for instructions as to which East Coast port she was to go to for engine repairs. Owing to failure of steam steering gear she was detached from convoy off Kinnairds Head at 1900/25 for Cromarty but was bombed at 1130/26 in 270° Burghead 5 miles. Is now proceeding in tow to Cromarty. E.T.A. 1800/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1533/26).
My 1420. Vessel now safely inside Cromarty Firth being towed to anchorage off Invergordon. Extent of damage not yet known.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 2009/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy
W.N.Even.

1 Aeroplane shadowing convoy bearing from centre of convoy 58° 38'N., 2° 38'W. (HELMSPEY 1220/26).
Fighter aircraft are being sent. (Lyness W/T 1237/26). (Rosyth 1226/26).

Convoy "Grain"
~~GRAIN.~~

Fighters being sent to convoy ~~GRAIN~~ "Grain". (Rosyth 1226/26).
No Trace of Code word in War Registry.

TENERIFFA
sunk.

(Norwegian 5655 tons). Sunk by bombing in 51° 6'N., 4° 49'W. No loss of life. Survivors in (?) bound up channel. (ST. MARYS 1450/26).
Proceed to assist M/V attacked by enemy aircraft in 5 miles S. by E. St. Govan's Head Light Vessel. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1504/26 to ST. MARYS).
St. Govan's Light Vessel reports large motor vessel 3 mast name not known heavily attacked by two large aircraft and sank at 1430. Two coasters standing by. M/L and A/P trawler sent from Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1543/26).
My 1543/26. Name of ship Norwegian & TENERIFFA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1620/26).
My 1620/26. ST. MARY'S reports all crew of M/V TENERIFFA saved. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1745/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy
O.B. 290.
LLANWERN
(British
4966 tons)
sunk.
SOVAC
(British
tanker
6724 tons)
MAHANADA
(British
7181 tons)
BEURSPLEIN
(Dutch,
4368 tons)
AMSTELLAND
(Dutch,
8156 tons)
damaged.

* SOVAC

*Information incorrect.
Not burning fiercely.
Arrived New York absolutely
undamaged 12.3.41. Information
received from owners by Trade
Division 14.3.41. (Convoy Pack).*

Convoy "Taswit".
PEWIT.

SOVAC bombed by six aircraft, in
54° N., 17° W.
(Port Patrick Radio 1755/26).
From SOVAC at 1751. Following from
LLANWERN. Bombed 54.7 North 17.06 West.
Aerial was earthing. Here attack
still proceeding.
(VALENTIA RADIO 1805/26).
From Valentia Radio. 5400N., 1700W.
SOVAC bombed by six aircraft 1753/26.
Attack still proceeding. Station
sending automatic AAAA and VVA at 1809
G.M.T. GCK states this station is
in this immediate vicinity.
(Port Patrick Radio 1810/26).
Help - ~~ONSET~~ (Even numbered O.B. Convoy)
54° 7' N., 17° 6' W at 1845.
(Motor A/S Boat No. 12. 1856/26).
O.B. 290 attacked by 4 F.W.C. aircraft
Following casualties. LLANWERN sunk.
* SOVAC, MAHANADA and BEURSPLEIN
burning fiercely. AMSTELLAND is
salvageable. WESTON will take her in
tow. Request tug may be sent. Weather
report. Position 54° 12' N., 16° W.
(WESTON 2137/26).

20 enemy aircraft over Convoy PEWIT. "Taswit".
My position 51° 22' N., 1° 32' E.
(BLENCATHRA, 1816/26).

Mining.Liverpool.

Prohibitions and Restrictions.
A.M. 2355/25/12 is cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1240/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Swansea.Mines exploded. Details. (today)
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1601/26, 1875/26).Falmouth.At 0849/26 Mine detonated with S.A.Gear
and at same time mine exploded $\frac{3}{4}$ mile
on Port Beam of sweeper. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1700/26).S.A.Trawlers
at
Cardiff.During last six days S.A.Trawlers
ERIMO, INVERFORTH, TEWARA and DARNETT
NESS have been damaged by near miss
explosions and will not be fit for
service for some time. The only S.A.
Sweeper now available in this area is
COMMILLIES but it is hoped AKITA now
fitting "A" frame will be ready on 28th.
It is requested arrival of SIESTA,
PITTSRUAN, POSTBOY, and KERRYADO (vide
C.A.F.O. 247/41) may be hastened.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1717/26).Hull.
BRACKELIER and
MONARCH
(Power Barge)
sunk.At 1300 today Power Barge BRACKELIER
Towing Barge MONARCH both of steel
construction sunk by underwater explosion
approximately 80 feet off Alexandria
Jetty, Hull. Crew of two in BRACKELIER
killed, crew of one in MONARCH rescued.
(F.O. Humber, 1750/26).Spurn Point.The following three mines exploded today.
Details.
(F.O.Humber, 1844/26).Z.M.E.21.Particulars. To be carried out on
night of 27/2 or as soon after as
practicable.
(D.O.D.(H) 1917/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)9th M/S
Flotilla.

9th M.S.F. are required to operate under R.A.(M) at Port Z.A. and on completion of operations are to be sailed to Portsmouth to join C.in C. Portsmouth Command.

R.A.(M) is requested to inform A.C.O.S. time and date by which 9th M.S.F. should arrive at Port Z.A.

My 2131/25 refers.
(D.M.S. 1924/26).

Explosion.

M.G.B.10 on passage reports an explosion in position 318° South Fork Buoy 3 cables. This may have been an acoustic mine. No damage.
(V.A.Dover, 1957/26).

OperationJ.L.

*(Two layers of mixed
magnetic mines off
C. Antifer.)*

Sailed 1915 INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS, VANSITTART, and WIVERN.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2147/26).

Enemy Intelligence.Convoy
sighted.

12 Merchant vessels course 180°. My position 55° 55'N., 7° 10'E.
(Duty E. 1300/26).
My 1300. Total enemy forces sighted up to time indicate consists of 10 merchant vessels 2 Destroyers.
(Duty E. 1310/26 to 18 R/C Group H.Q.)

GNEISENAU
SCHARNHORST.

It is considered probable that GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST have recently been in Oslo and possibly they may now be on the West Coast of Norway.
(F.C.S. 1308/26 to S/M's Area A).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Enemy
Shipping.

At 2210/25 in 50°N., 1° 40'W. Two unidentified ships mounting searchlights unsuccessfully endeavoured to locate Wellington - ships did not open fire.
At 1852/25 in 51° 40'N., 3° 25'E.
1 M/V 10,000 tons, 1 Coaster 2000 tons, and 5 patrol vessels stationary and facing N.N.E.
(H.Q.B.C. 1812/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Distances
and
Bunkers.

Masters arrived from Freetown complain that N.C.S.O. Freetown does not discuss route distances prior to sailing, resulting in insufficient bunkers being taken at Freetown.

Commodore of S.L.64 reports that 6 ships were sailed from Freetown with less than 26 days fuel. Essential that Masters should be informed accurately of the distance their ships are likely to steam before reaching destination.

(D.T.D. 1238/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Oiling
Freetown.

To conserve oil supplies in U.K. instructions given to shipping companies re bunkering of oil burning ships in A.M. 1751/2/9 have been modified for outward bound shipping for South African ports. Present policy is that as many ships as can be bunkered at Freetown will be allowed only enough oil in the U.K. to reach Freetown.

(D.T.D. 2314/26 to A.I.G. 47).

Coastal
Convoys.

F.N.16. 416

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0818/26).
Tyne ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Tyne, 1453/26).

E.N.78)
W.N.91)

HASTINGS as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0925/26).
1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1108/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.N.18.418

0840/26, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0929/26). SOUTHDOWN to overtake. (C.in C. Nore, 1253/26). Numbers joining. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1725/26).

F.S.21.421

76 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0946/26). Absentee (0947/26) List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1044/26) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1647/26).

F.N.17.417

List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1036/26). E.T.A. (WOOLSTON, 1130/26). List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1657/26).

E.N.76.

12 ships arrived. (1 absentee) (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1046/26). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1157/26). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1620/26).

4 M/V's.

Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1057/26).

F.S.19.419

My 1913/25, LEVENWOODS and LINWOOD reported in Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1112/26).

Dartmouth.

Your 2207/25, sailing at 1930/26, Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/26). Postponed 48 hours owing weather and lack of escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1806/26).

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.78. 1345/27. Escorts. 14 ships. Codes.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1205/26).

10 M.V's To Dartmouth. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1207/26)
List (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1217/26) Sailed
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1910/26). *See Page 929.*

W.N.89. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1226/26) S/M H.43
arrived (1425/26).

F.N.18.418 List. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1232/26).

C.W.27. Departures with. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1354/26)
1418/26, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1441/26)
List (1542/26) List (1542/26) Add M.L's
etc. (V.A. Dover 1909/26).

E.N.77. Position (A.C.O.S., 1355/26).

F.N.9, 409 Tyne Ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1452/26)
F.N.10, 410
F.N.11, 411
F.N.12, 412
F.N.12 A, 412 A
F.N.16. 416

F.S.22.422 Sailed 1400/26, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil
1521/26) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1654/26)

3 M.V's LRD HAILSHAM to escort. (C.in C. Plymouth,
1526/26).

4 M.V's Penzance to Dartmouth. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth
1729/26).

E.N.75. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1805/26).

War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

- W.N. 91. . 1905/26. Escort. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1905/26).
- W.N.U. 91. 1500/28, unescorted. 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1941/26).
- 9 M.V's Sailing 1630/27 for Bristol (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2312/26).

Ocean Convoys.

- O.G.54. 0035/26, escort SUNFLOWER, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0115/26)
DUNEDIN to R.V. (position) at 1000/2 as ocean escort. (C.in C. W.A., 1206/26)
List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/26)
Departures (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1144/26)
Amendments to List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0909/26).
- H.X.108. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0845/26).
- O.B.M. 291. 1930/26, LEEDS UNITED, 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1003/26) List. (2015/26).
- O.B.M. 292. 1745/27, DERBY COUNTY, 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1003/26).
- O.B.C. 292. 2230/28, 12. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/26) Amend to read 0030/1. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1430/26).
- S.C.23. HAVÖRN returned, lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1226/26).
- H.X.109 6 hours late at new R.V. (AUSONIA, 0430/26, C.in C. W.A. 1401/26 to CLARKIA, MALLOW).
- S.C.22 U. Escort ANTELOPE, arrived (exception). (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1450/26) SHEAF MOUNT to proceed Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1649/26).

/ H.X. 112. ...

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X. 112. C.in C. H.F. 1436/25. Request you inform C.S.1 of names of A.M.C's detailed. (D.O.D.(H) 2009/26 to R.A.3.).

Military Convoys.

ALCANTARA My 1402/18. ALCANTARA is not now required to be ready to sail from Clyde until 4th March. (D.O.D.H. 1220/26).

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. ROYAL ULSTERMAN (16 kn.) with 185 troops will be ready to leave Liverpool on 28th February.
2. C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail this ship in O.B.292, with instructions to leave convoy and proceed independently to Reykjavik when escort parts company.
3. After disembarkation ship should be sailed unescorted for Liverpool, but not more than 100 personnel should embark for return passage. (D.O.D. H. 1236/26).

H.X.112. C.in C. Home Fleet's 1436/25, paragraph 3. Request you will inform C.S. 1 of names of A.M.C's detailed. (D.O.D. H. 2009/26).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

26.2.1941.

Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.COSSACK.

Reports small fire in stowage for cotton waste in tiller flat. Slight damage to internal D.G. Coil and possible damage by water to steering motor. Reference C.A.F.O. 1419/40 sabotage possible but not considered likely. Further report will be made as to possible effect of damage on completion date.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 0138/26).
My 0138/26. Following received from D.4 begins Your 0138/26 damage to internal D.G. coil repaired. Steering motors tested and correct. No other damage. Completion date not affected. 1423/26 ends.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton 1522/26).

VORTIGERN.

Have been in collision with steamship WESTWOOD. Sustained damage at number 17 station starboard hand (side), from forecastle deck to 8 feet above water line.
(VORTIGERN 0331/26).

ACHATES.

My 2300/25. ACHATES not located. Searches have been carried out without result. Owing to deterioration in weather, am having to withdraw patrols.
(N.A.S. Stornoway 1227/26).

AUSONIA.

AUSONIA's 2235/23. Cause of defect in steering gear is excessive vibration of rudder post due to defective pintles of rudder. AUSONIA proposes carrying out Northern patrol after which considers dry docking advisable as soon as possible.
(F.O. Iceland 1630/26).

WAYNGATE.

(British, 4260 tons) Master and total crew 39 in number of S.S. WAYNEGATE saved and now on board. (LEOPARD 1831/26).

ST. MARYS.

Delayed at Milford Haven with dynamo defects which will take about nine hours to repair. (C.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2017/26).

EMPIRE
TIGER.

(British, 5159 tons). In 62° 5' N. 19° 50' W. Down badly by head. Want assistance. Ship stand by. (Valentia 2200/26).

War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.RENOWN

My 1229/21. Anticipated RENOWN ready for sea P.M./3/3.
(S.O. Force H., 0943/26, to Admty.).

French Units.

One French warship escorting one merchant ship p. c. and s. 038° 45' N. 009° 45' W. 200° 10 knots at 0025/26.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0952/26 to PANDORA).

VULCAN

Arrived at Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T./26. Reports unable decode message timed 1659/25. (From F.O.C.N.A. re S.S. MAGALLANES) Sailing 1900 G.M.T./26 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1121/26).
(W.R. Note - F.O.C.N.A. has been requested to take action.).

TUNA
PANDORA

At 0800/27 (a) TUNA with H.G. 54 (b) PANDORA proceeding on surface E.T.A. 340° Cape Spartel 12 at 0800/27 thence to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1134/26).

FURY
FEARLESS
JONQUIL
GERANIUM
MIRROR
ERIN
FIREDRAKE
HAARLEM

Following movements may affect you. FURY, FEARLESS, E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800/27 from Westward. JONQUIL and GERANIUM E.T.A. p.m./27 from westwards. Cable ship MIRROR escorted by ERIN working in position 036° 02' N. 005° 40' W. *See also p. 896* FIREDRAKE and HAARLEM on patrol in Western and central straits respectively. You may sight flying boat on patrol. (Capt. S.8. 1136/26 to PANDORA).

BELGIQUE

Your 1951/15 (Disposal of crew and cargo of Belgian s.s. BELGIQUE) and my 1200/19, request early decision be given so as to avoid immobilising tonnage longer than necessary. (F.O.C.N.A., 1215/26, to Admty.).

French Units.

1140/26 270° Casablanca 4 miles 1 French destroyer 2 submarines steering 259°.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1251/26, to N.A. Stn.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.).Western
Patrol.

Admty. 1823/21 and V.A.N.P. 2250/25.
My interpretation of Adty. 1623/21 is that V.A.N.P. in co-ordination with Admiralty will (? word omitted) (?proposed) patrol areas for ships of Western Patrol, but it is open to me to alter these patrols or operate these ships as necessary should I think fit.

Admiralty and V.A.N.P. would be informed of any such alterations. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/26 to Admty.).

Routeing
of S/M's.

S.O. Force H 1831/29/12 and My 1020/31/12.
To facilitate routeing of submarines clear of surface forces operating in Western Mediterranean, particularly when Force H is engaged, propose F.O.C.N.A. should be responsible for: (a) Routeing of submarines when west of 8° E.

(b) Passing information of own and enemy movements to submarines when west of 8° E.

(c) Informing surface ships and aircraft of movements of submarines in this area, and (d) Institution of Sanctuary when necessary. (F.O.C.N.A., 1314/26 to C.in C. Med.).

ARK ROYAL,
bombs.

Your 1738/18. (Reply).
(V.A. (H) 1525/26, to Admty.).

Enemy
Shipping.

Reported that German ship PLUS and Italian ships CLIZIA and CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2 destination unknown.

(D.D.I.C. 1617/26 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P., etc.).

HYDROUSA
AGIOS SPYRIDON

Your 1925/25, (?1920/25) HYDROUSA being scraped. AGIOS SPYRIDON will be scraped, both will be sailed in an H.G. convoy if their speed permits. Also at Gibraltar Greek KALLIOPI speed bare 7 knots.

KALLIOPI
*AGIOS BLASKFOS*AGIOS VLASIOS

/ Cargo iron ore ...

War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)HYDROUSA
AGIOS SPYRIDONKALLIOPI
*AGIOS BLASKFOS
(Contd.)*AGIOS VLASIOS (s/s 2974)
Lloyd's 1940-41.

Cargo iron ore ex S.L.S.64 doing trial a.m./27 and Greek *AGIOS BLASKFOS speed $5\frac{1}{2}$ knots cargo Manganesite straggler from S.L.S.65 speed given at Freetown as 7 knots. This ship arrived Gibraltar instead of proceeding as directed in case of separation. All men above ship refuse to sail U.K. unless in convoy. (V.A.C.N.A. 1626/26).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations.
Area covered 2° W. to 9° W.
(200 Group, 1700/26).

ASAKA MARU

Arrived from Lisbon (Bilbao, 1845/26).

H.G.55.
bunkers.

Your 1600/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon. (Ships for H.G.55 to be bunkered at Lisbon). This arrangement should not be continued longer than necessary owing to doubtful quality of coal available at Lisbon. (D.T.D. 1950/26 to F.O.C.N.A.).

CAVINA

Inform F.O.C.N.P., Largs. that CAVINA arrived bunkered and sailed 2330 G.M.T./26 (V. Consul, Horta, 2150/26 to Admty.).

Cable Ship.

Capt. (S) 8 1136/26 (Re movements of H.M. Ships). MIRROR escorted by ERIN now working in position $036^{\circ} 06' 30''$ N. $006^{\circ} 08' 30''$ W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2202/26, to PANDORA).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CUMBERLANDE.T.A. Port Stanley in CUMBERLAND 28/2.
Requirements.(R.A.S.A.D., 0009Z/26, to N.O.I.C.
Falklands).W.S.6.

Mos 811/41

Particulars of fresh water endurance
of vessels included in Convoy W.S.6.
(D.S.T. 0157/26 to C.in C. S.A., E.I.,
etc.).

My 0157/26 Part 2, Fuel.

(D.S.T. 0158/26).

Admty. 1339/23. Estimated fuel and
water requirements in tons of troop
transports of Convoy W.S.6 at Freetown.
(D.S.T., 0201/26, to C.in C. S.A., E.I.,
etc.).SCYTHIA
(W.S.6.)Admty. 1339/23 para. 1. Numbers embarked
in SCYTHIA should read as follows.
(D. of S.T. 0203/23 para. 1. Numbers
embarked in SCYTHIA should read as
follows:- (D. of S.T. 0203/26 to C.in C.
E.I.).DUNEDINYour 2212/25 (DUNEDIN remaining in
South Atlantic Command) and F.O.I.C.
Greenock's 1515/25. Request stores may
be shipped to Freetown.
(DUNEDIN, 0815/26, to Admty.).CORNWALLYour 1231 N/25 (Programme of CORNWALL
in relation to search for German raider
and subsequent R.V. with W.S.6.)
approved. (D.O.D.(F) 1049/26, to C.in C.
S.A.). *See next page.*IDOMENEUSOverdue shipping IDOMENEUS due Capetown
23/2 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.I., Capetown, 1140/26 to Admty.
etc.).CHATEAUROUXYour 1122/22 (Conditioning CHATEAUROUX
to make convoy speed) Approved.
(D.T.D. 1237/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

/ Africa Shipping

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Africa
Shipping.

Your 1821/13. Importance of shipping facilities between W. and S. Africa appreciated and Ministry of Shipping doing all in their power to meet situation short of allocating an ocean carrier for this purpose, which must be ruled out in present shipping situation. Arrangements. (D.T.D. 1239/26, to C.in C. S.A.).

THORSHAMMER

On board THORSHAMMER Oil Fuel 3600 tons whale oil 38000 barrels including sperm. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 1432Z/26).

SHETLAND

- N.T. in W.D.
My 1945/16. Intend to sail SHETLAND to Bathurst 1/3 with 200 tons military stores urgently required, SHETLAND to bring to Freetown 150 native volunteers from Senegal for Free French Forces. Anticipated date of return 9/3. (C.in C. S.A., 1717/26, to Admty.).

CORNWALL
W.S.6.

My 1231/25. CORNWALL is to leave Simonstown a.m./28 and proceed to Area L 36 B, carry out search in L. 36 B, L 36 A and K 36 until necessary to leave and proceed to St. Helena to fuel and from thence on 8/3 to rendezvous with Convoy W.S.6. (C.in C. S.A., 2017N/26, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). *Approved - See previous page.*

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Kastelorizo
Captured.
LADYBIRD

Kastelorizo Island was attacked and occupied at dawn today Tuesday (25/2) Details not yet known. LADYBIRD entered harbour but as a result of air attacks has withdrawn and is now on passage to Cyprus. In view of air activity relief of attacking troops by permanent (?garrison) may have to be delayed until this can be done by night. Desirable so far as possible to curtail press (and) B.B.C. speculation on possible significance of occupation in order to avoid drawing attention to future operations. (C.in C. Med., 0002/26, to Admty.).

Enemy
Units.

From D/F bearings there is considerable activity in sector W. and N.W. Malta. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0130/26).

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy for Libya reported left Salerno P.M./25. (Comdr. S.1, 1006/26, to S/M's on Patrol).

Tripoli
bombed.

Operational summary No. 261 up to 1200 hrs. 26/2/1941 night 24/25 Feb. 4 Wellingtons operating from Benina dropped 10,000 lbs of bombs on Tripoli Harbour hitting Spanish Mole and starting 1 fire near main quays. Fires from large warehouse and ship started by Malta Wellingtons visible for 1/2 hour before aircraft reached target. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1146/26).

Ships
engaging
unseen a/c's.

Adty. Messages 762 A of 10/2 and 1855/20. Proposed amendments to rule H.M. Ships engaging unseen aircraft are not considered suited to conditions in Eastern Mediterranean. My 1334/22 refers. Further signal will be made after discussion with H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (C.in C. Med. 1212/26).

S/M
movements.

From 1/3 Capt. (S) 1 to be responsible for informing Med. Fleet and R.A.F. authorities of movements of our submarines. (C.in C. Med. 1218/26).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)TERROR
(sunk 24/2)

My 1056/24. Confirmed no officers or men in TERROR were killed or wounded. (C.in C. Med., 1450/26, to Admty.).

Minesweeping
whalers.

Admty. 2021/18 to N.O. i/c Durban. Request Confirmation that only reconditioning and degaussing is to be undertaken at Durban and that complete conversion for LL sweep will take place at Alexandria. Question of manning is being investigated. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1632/26 to Admty.).

Malta Air
Report.

0830 - 1135 Photo R.C. Tripoli Harbour Mellaha and Gulf of Gabez. No signs of any ships near Harbour entrance which might have suffered damage from "Cucumbers". Gulf of Gabez no shipping. Enemy air activity.

Tripoli
Recco.Air Raid
on Luqa
aerodrome.

1145 large scale attack on Luqa Aerodrome by 30 JU.87s, 12 JU.88s escorted by 20 to 30 mixed fighters. 10 DO.215s and 1 HE.111s came in at end of attack but dropped no bombs. 8 Hurricanes up. Enemy losses by fighters, 2 JU.87s confirmed 7 others probable but not yet confirmed. By A.A. 5 JU.87s confirmed with 4 others probable. 3 of our fighters are missing. Damage Luqa Aerodrome. (details). (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1840/26).

PARTHIAN
RORQUAL

PARTHIAN arrives Alexandria Sanctuary 0700/27 from northward. RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 1800/26 northward through 032° 00' N. 028° 30' E. and 034° 00' N. 028° 00' E., T.O.O. 1800/26. (C.in C. Med., 1926/26, to Med. Fleet).

REGENT to
attack enemy
convoy.

Proceed with all despatch to 033° 20' W. 011° 56' N. to intercept convoy of 5 ships escorted by 3 destroyers reported off Kelibia at 1630/26, course 180°. If not sighted by 1600/27 return to Malta as previously routed. (Comdr. S.1, 2315/26, to REGENT).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.LEANDER.

Your 1156Z/25 (Account of operation by LEANDER) Yes please. (N.Z.N.B., 0126/26 to C. in C. E.I.).

U.S.9.Departure HECTOR with U.S.9.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0456Z/26).CANADIAN CRUISER,
use of U.S.A.
markings
denied.Ref. German claim (published in papers 25/2 in Ceylon) that CANADIAN CRUISER was flying U.S. flag and carrying U.S. markings. Ship had British flag and markings when she left Colombo 5/2 and U.S. Consul witnessed her departure.
(C. in C. E.I. 0512Z/26 to Admty). *German claim probably correct - see C. in C. E.I., 0610/7/3/41.*State of
Kismayu.

My 0746/22. One coast defence 4.8 and three 3" A.A. guns repaired Kismayu Island ready for use p.m./25 one nine foot Barr and Stroud range finder in good condition from Mtanga is now being mounted Kismayu Island and one further serviceable gun could also be moved from Mtanga. All other guns capable of being made serviceable in 4 to 6 weeks. Sufficient personnel to man one gun, more being asked for from South Africa.

Ample ammunition for all guns. Range table found. 3" A.A. guns can be used against surface craft up to 9,000 yards, max. range of coast defence guns is 20,000 yards P.W.S.S. established and temporary system of recognition introduced.
(C. in C. E.I. 0524/26).Massawa.

During air reconnaissance Massawa on 24/2 no A.A. Fire was encountered. This is unprecedented. (C. in C. E.I. 0526Z/26).

SOMERSETSHIRE.(Hospital Ship) left Capetown 20/2 for Suez direct at 12 knots, due 14/3.
(C. in C. E.I. 0650Z/26).

/DELHI.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd);

DELHI.

C. in C. S.A. 1141/24. Request DELHI be routed to pass West of Reunion so as to increase possibility of intercepting French shipping on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 0922/26 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown)

→ AUSTRALIA.

My 0452/25. (area of search for which AUSTRALIA was detailed) If no further developments, AUSTRALIA at 1430Z/26 is to sweep 18 knots towards Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0754Z/26 to Force V).

Transfer of aircraft.

As result of capture of Mogadishu. (C. in C. E.I. 0720Z/26) See Operations Volume. *Reply: p. 940.*

CANBERRA.
SYDNEY.
HOBART.

Employment in East Indies. See Australia.

→ EMERALD.
HERMES.
SHROPSHIRE.
DORSETSHIRE.

On completion fuelling Seychelles, EMERALD and HERMES in company are to proceed 15 knots through one and half degrees channel to Colombo. Time of departure from vicinity Denis Island to be reported from Port Victoria. EMERALD and HERMES will be known as Force T. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed 18 knots East of Madagascar to Durban and after fuelling and embarking ratings proceed Simonstown for refit. DORSETSHIRE on being relieved by GLASGOW is to proceed Mombasa arriving 1/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1108Z/26 to Force V).

→ AUSTRALIA.

My 0754/26. AUSTRALIA is to proceed through 000° 40'S. 068° 30' and one and half channels so as to be in support of EMERALD and HERMES on passage. (C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/26 to Force V)

Sailing of Captured Italian Ships.

Re collecting crews etc. (C. in C. E.I. 1148/26).

/Brava.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Brava,
conditions.

Reference to fall of Mogadiscio. Operations now proceeding on Bardera. 200 allied seaman recovered at Merka. Conditions at Brava: Pier dynamited for 40 feet at inshore end otherwise intact and being examined with a view to repair. One 3-ton and one 2-ton crane with petrol engines working, also electric light and water system. No lighters available but one large cargo boat on beach condition good. Impossible to discharge on beach owing to surf. Lighthouse in working order. (C. in C. E.I., 1202Z/26 to Admty).

ANTENOR.
AUCKLAND.
PARRAMATTA.
W.S.5.B.

26/2 arrival 0445Z, departure 1530Z
ANTENOR for Karachi, departure 1550Z
AUCKLAND and PARRAMATTA for W.S.5B.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1550Z/26 to Admty etc).

Mogadishu
Minesweeping.

Reference five "^{Cucumbers}~~cucumbers~~" planted at Mogadishu. Is magnetic spar sweep effective against them? This is only antidote available from Mombasa and use of anchorage is urgently required for army supplies. If magnetic spar sweep is not fully effective request I may use two LL craft of No. 108 group due Aden 27/2. Alternatively can any Wellesley aircraft be spared from canal area?. (C. in C. E.I. 1724Z/26 to Admty C. in C. Med).

AQUITANIA.

Your 0555/23. As C. in C. China has agreed in his 0301/23 that AQUITANIA can be accepted for drydocking at Singapore request vessel may be instructed accordingly. Question of 1200 Indian troops for U.K. is being dealt with separately.
(D. of S.T. 1958/26 to P.S.T.O. India)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.ARCHANGELOS.

Overdue Greek Steamer ARCHANGELOS Yokohama for Singapore due 21/2.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore 0337/26 to Admty).

Johore Area.

Johore Strait spoil ground area established. Position Siniop Beacon 1° 28' N. 103° 51' E. approx. (1) buoys established position 163° 6.9 cables and 156° 10.9 cables from the above light beacon, description can buoys. Painted yellow these buoys mark the northern limits of the spoil ground area.
(R.A. Malaya 0910Z/26 to China Station).

Dutch Tankers.

There are a number of Dutch Tankers in N.E.I. operated by local authorities and over which Dutch authorities in London have no control. Presumed you will concert with Dutch C. in C. action to be taken for the safety of these ships in the event of trouble with Japan.
(D.T.D. 1949/26 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.LETITA.

Re Salvage (R.A. 3 1101/26).

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Your 1232/23 route considered practicable but ship should pass south of 045° N. 053° W. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1130/26).

RANPURA.
H.X. 112.

Intend sailing RANPURA as ocean escort to H.X. 112. RANPURA has been ordered to leave convoy in (? 25) West and proceed Hvalfjörd reporting E.T.A. when well clear of convoy. In view of Adty 2204/24 RANPURA is unlikely to arrive Iceland before (date).
(F.O.C.3.B.S. 1131/26).

LUNULA.
DRAMATIST.

Ministry of Shipping 0920/30/1 and 1725/3/2 British Ships LUNULA, DRAMATIST not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1217/26 to Admty C. in C. A.W.I).

/Contraband.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Contraband
Control
Bermuda.

Your 1012/25/1 referred by M.E.W. to Ambassador Washington 2/2 and Consul General, New York, has investigated. Line has again instructed their officers to give every assistance during examination of ships at Bermuda. Lesson proposed in your final paragraph not concurred in by Admiralty, who hope you will have no further cause for complaint. M.E.W. unable to alter decision regarding holdback guarantees. (D.E.W.D. 1531/26 to C. in C. A.W.I).

ATHELREGENT

ATHELREGENT due 24/2 is to take cargo from ATHELQUEEN and return to U.K. Ship should be recalled if sailed.
(D.T.D. 1944/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

PRINCE HENRY,
armed guard
in Panama
Canal.

Ambassador Washington telegram 455. 29/1 to F.O. PRINCE HENRY passed through Panama Canal 26/2 and submitted to U.S. Armed Guard being placed on board. C.O. agreed to procedure "without prejudice to future instructions or actions in the matter which may be issued or taken by my Government". Letter to this effect addressed General Commanding was handed to U.S. Boarding Officer. This action was in general agreement with my verbal instructions before sailing from Bermuda. Minister Panama has suggested withdrawal of letter which I consider should not be done. Request guidance.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2541/26 to Admty) Reply: 1953/27.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.A.M.C's.

My 1216Z/21. Anticipate next two A.M.C's will sail from Australia early in June. Owing to endurance of these vessels route through $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ channel is not suitable but would be acceptable if tanker could be made available en route. Propose A.C.N.B. sail these ships for Colombo when ready and you arrange onward passage. Recommended that most suitable speed for these ships is 11 knots. (A.C.N.B. 0539Z/26 to C. in C. E.I).

CANBERRA.
SYDNEY.
HOBART.

In view of presence of pocket Battleship in Indian Ocean CANBERRA, SYDNEY, and HOBART, will be placed under your orders until required for escorting of U.S.10 unless strategic situation materially alters. SYDNEY and HOBART will be at your disposal after arrival Fremantle on Tuesday 4/5. (A.C.N.B. 0737/26 to C. in C. E.I).

New Zealand.AORANGI.
AWATEA.
escort.

Navy Office Wellington's 0702Z/25. To confirm para. 4 of Admty. 1737/21. Suggestion is that one Canadian A.M.C. should be based on Suva, observing that N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has already agreed in principle to employment of Canadian A.M.Cs as escort for AORANGI and AWATEA. (D.O.D.(F) 1732/26 to Navy Office, Wellington)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.PLUS.
CLIZIA.
CAPO LENA.PLUS, CLIZIA, CAPO LENA left Bilbao 24/2
destination not known. (Bilbao, 1845/26)LUSEL.*Should be*
LEESEE See Page 270.
8.3.41.Arrived from Vigo German ship said to be
LUSEL 25/2. (Bilbao, 1958/26).FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.COURONNE.

Arrived from France. (Bilbao, 1958/26).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.MARGHERA.
CARSO.*(at Kismayu)*Your 1855/23 (C. in C. E.I. 0656/26 to Admty)
Yes. Enquiries being made to obtain
services of Salvage Firm from South Africa
or failing that of a Salvage Tug and Drivers
from same source. PROTECTOR may be available
shortly. (C. in C. E.I. 0656/26 to Admty).CLIZIA. }
CAPO LENA. }

See German Merchant Ships.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.26.2.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.→ DIALA.
(torpedoed 25/2)

British tanker 8106 tons. In Convoy O.B. 290. Following has been read. SSSS de GPK. DIALA torpedoed 55.50 N, 14.00 W. 0025. (Port Patrick Radio 0048/26)
NOTE:- This information previously received by message timed 1248/25.
Detach one corvette to stand by DIALA torpedoed in 055° 50'N. 014° 00'W. at 0025/26. Tug SUPERMAN is being sent escorted by trawler. Ship detached to report name when well clear of convoy.
(C. in C. W. A. 0232/26 to ENCHANTRESS). Proceed to position 090° 3 miles from Inishtrahall Light so as to R/V with MAN O WAR at 1200 to-day proceeding thence in company to assist DIALA torpedoed in 055° 50'N. 014° 00'W. at 0025 ~~to day. 26/2~~. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0250/26 to SUPERMAN). Sailed SUPERMAN to the assistance of DIALA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0350/26 to Admty).

→ BORGLAND.

Norwegian, 3636 tons. In Convoy O.B. 290. Have all survivors S.S. BORGLAND. Am standing by torpedoed ship proceeding North Channel. (PIMPERNEL 0400/26 to C. in C.W.A). (D.S. 540). *See also next page*

BRITISH GUNNER. } 03.25
MANSEPOOL. }
(torpedoed 24/2).

Weather conditions improving request assistance of aircraft to locate damaged ship now estimated to be between 060° and 061° N. 012° and 014° W. (CLARKIA 0530/26 to C. in C. W.A).

→ KASONGO.
→ BORGLAND.
→ DIALA.

see p. 869
KASONGO (Belgian 5254 tons, in Convoy O.B. 290). Sunk, survivors on board CAMPANULA. PIMPERNEL with crew of abandoned BORGLAND on board, ordered to stand by and report to C. in C. W.A. repeated WHITEHALL if salvageable. CAMPANULA escorting DIALA to Clyde. (CAMPANULA 0615/26 to C. in C.W.A). W.D. Note:- KASONGO was wrongly named in this signal as KATANGA. KASONGO sailed Belfast for O.B. 290 24/2 - see N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1000/24.

/G.C. BROVIG.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

G.C. BROVIG.
(torpedoed 24/2)

When no longer required for ^{G.C.} BROVIG proceed R.V. with PRUDENT and RESTIVE who are proceeding towards 061° 07' N. 013° 10' W. Tugs position at 1000/26 059° 20' N. 007° 40' W. speed 10 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0955/26 to PETUNIA).

Your 0955/26. RESTIVE sailing. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1347/26 to C. in C.W.A). Abandoned BORGLAND 055° 53' N. 013° 33' W. sinking. All crew safe. Returning with 95 survivors. (PIMPERNEL, 1800/26). BORGLAND steering 080° 6 knots position 055° 53' N. 14° 0' W. escort. (PIMPERNEL 1330/26).

BORGLAND.

→ BRITISH GUNNER.
(torpedoed 24/2)

Your 1125/26. BRITISH GUNNER last reported in 61° 15' N. 12° 20' W. at 1700/24.

PETUNIA has been ordered to R.V. with and escort you. RESTIVE leaves Stornoway at 1400 today to join you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1358/26 to PRUDENT).

C. in C. W.As' 1230/26. PRUDENT is proceeding to 61° 15' N. 12° 20' W. and expects to arrive there at 1900 to-day. RESTIVE and PETUNIA are to proceed to this position as soon as possible.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1421/26 to PETUNIA, RESTIVE).

→ JONATHAN HOLT.
→ MANSEPOOL.
→ BRITISH GUNNER.

Following survivors landed Stornoway by PETUNIA from ships torpedoed in convoy O.B. 289. One from JONATHAN HOLT. 22 from MANSEPOOL, 17 believed to be picked up by another ship, 2 killed. 44 from BRITISH GUNNER, 3 killed. 4 survivors being detained in hospital.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1613/26 to Admty).

→ MANSEPOOL.

NORTHERN SPRAY, SALVONIA, and SEAMAN are to proceed in company as soon as possible to assistance of MANSEPOOL last reported in 61° 02' N. 12° 05' W. at 1700/24. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1658/26 to NORTHERN SPRAY, SALVONIA, SEAMAN) W.D. Note:- This was cancelled by 0005/27,

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Hebrides.
Iceland.

Between 2326/25 and 0121/26, six messages have been transmitted by German U-Boats. No definite D/F fixes obtainable but probable that one or more U-Boats were reporting positions of ships between Hebrides and Iceland. Possible that T.C.9 has not yet been reported. (D.D.I.C. 0208/26).

0125.

Great Britain Fleetboat Ships

Message AF. Position 55° 50' N: 14° W. at 0025/26 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0221/26 to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

23/2.

Following from Navy Dept. U.S. ship COAMO reports being challenged by radio by unidentified submarine 0408 zone four plus 23/2 in position 68° 30' W. 24° 4' N. Submarine refused to identify headed west and submerged. Ship will be interrogated further. Submarine was not American. (N.A. Washington 1555/26 to Admty).

1118.

D/F Bearings at 1118/26 indicate possibility of U-Boat in 52° N. 6° 50' W. Bearings unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1602/26).
D/F report of U-Boat in 52° 00' N. 06° 50' W. at 1115/26, position approx. Aircraft searching. Send one trawler to patrol Eastern End of Q.Z.F. 18 to keep U-Boat down. (C. in C. Plymouth 1646/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
D/F Bearings at 1118/26 indicate possibility of U/B in 052° N. 006° 50' W. Bearings unreliable.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2218/26 to French Sloop Minesweeper LA MOQUEUSE, Netherlands S/M's 021, 023.).

/Estimated.....

War Diary.

26.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.(contd).

Estimated
Dispositions.

German.

One 60° 30' N. - 61° 30' N. 11° W. - 14° W.
One 60° N. - 61° 30' N. 19° W. - 21° W.
One 60 miles of 60° N. 25° W.
2 58° N. - 60° N. 19° W. - 22° W.
Possibly 1 56° - 57° N. 19° W. - 20° W.
One 40 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
One 59° N. - 60° N. 11° W. - 13° W.
One 30 miles of 58° N. 12° 30' W.
Possibly one 30 miles of Butt of Lewis.
One about 55° N. 16° W. with O.B. 290.
One 54° N. - 55° 30' N. 20° W. - 22° W.
One 53° N. - 54° N. 19° W. - 21° W.
One 60 miles of 48° N. 7° 30' W. may be
patrolling.

Italian.

One 40 miles of 55° 20' N. 21° 30' W.
2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches.
One about 46° 30' N. 6° W. en route Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 1256/26).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.27.2.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
by small
craft.

M.T.B's and M.L's of Nore Command patrolled last night off the East Coast with the object of counter attacking E/Boats.

A/A
protection
in N.W.
Approaches.

Two military personnel with M.G. Equipment are to be allocated to all British vessels sailing independently or in O.B. Convoys, as in the case of vessels on the East Coast

U/Boat
Campaign.

S.S. BALTISTAN dispersed from convoy O.B.290 was torpedoed early this morning in 51° 52'N., 14° 55'W.

Submarine
reports
to be
made in
Plain
Language.

The Admiralty have concurred in principle with the suggestion of C.in C. H.F. that submarine reports shall be made in plain language.

British Air Activity.

27 Coastal Command aircraft bombed Havre today.

Very bad weather caused flying to be severely restricted today, and all "Strikes" for tonight were cancelled.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.27.2.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. ANCHISES sailing independently, was bombed and damaged this morning about 175 miles West of Bloody Foreland and was later abandoned.

Attack on
Convoy
F.S. 21. 421

M03739/41

S.S. OLD CHARLTON in Convoy F.S. 421 was bombed and sunk and S.S. BLACKTOFT was bombed and damaged this afternoon off Harwich. S.S. GALLOIS and DASHWOOD in the same convoy were slightly damaged when the convoy was attacked this morning.

A/S Trawlers were unsuccessfully attacked by an aircraft off Plymouth this afternoon.

A Heinkel bombed Yarmouth this morning and is believed to have been shot down by trawlers.

Mining.

Operation
J.L.

D.20 in INTREPID with IMPULSIVE and ICARUS escorted by 2 destroyers last night carried out a minelaying operation in the Channel. Blenheim aircraft carried out a diversion by bombing Havre, to cover the operation.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.27.2.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (Contd.)Mining off
the Mersey.

S.S. CAPE CLEAR in Convoy H.X.1 08 was damaged by a mine this morning off great Orme's Head and was towed into the Mersey.

S.S. MANCHESTER EXPORTER was mined about an hour later near the same position and entered the Mersey under her own power.

Humber.

^{.M.}
HEIT REMILLO was mined and sunk in the Humber early this morning.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off the Mumbles, Falmouth, Milford Haven, Plymouth and the Humber.

Mediterranean.

FERMOY was bombed off the Grand Harbour Malta this afternoon, but was not damaged.

Four mines exploded at Malta today; a local diesel engined boat was blown up.

9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes attacked Valona aerodrome today and report 9 enemy aircraft destroyed.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.27.2.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.RAMBI
sunk.see p 943
946

Italian S.S. RAMBI engaged LEANDER when ordered to stop this morning and was sunk by fire from LEANDER in position 1° 0'N., 68° 30'E. (about 250 miles W.S.W. of the Maldive Is.) LEANDER was not damaged. RAMBI was a raider which left Massawa 20/2 with orders to proceed towards N.E.I; her intention was to attack trade while on passage.

Search
for
Raider.

CORNWALL is to patrol in the Capetown area. DORSETSHIRE is to remain with GLASGOW and Force Z pending further orders. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to R/V and to remain in the central Indian Ocean area for the present.

MOST SECRET.27. 2. 41.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.ARROW.

ARROW is to be transferred to Home Fleet.
(C. in C. W.A. 0918/27.)

Two destroyers
required as
Convoy A/S.
escort.

Adty., 1956/26. WIVERN and VANSITTART are the only two V's here, and WIVERN, due for docking and boiler cleaning, is planned to dock today. If WIVERN is not docked now the docking programme already tight will become tighter still as these Frenchmen must be docked shortly. If a V Destroyer can be scraped up from some other source it will repay us well in the end. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1017/27 to Adty.)

Your 1017/27. Your desire to adhere to your refitting programme is fully appreciated, but regret that WIVERN must sail to escort REPULSE and convoy.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1205/27.)

Ships firing
at Unseen A/C.

384. My 1140/22. I concur also with C. in C. Portsmouth's 1437/24. (C. in C. Nore 1301/27.)

A.M. 70 A.Z. of 28/1/41. It is considered that a further months trial of the northerly dividing line is desirable, particularly since the new W.A.Command has only recently come into operation.
(C. in C. H.F. 1921/27.)

Submarines
as Convoy
Escorts.

Admiralty letter M.04446/40 of 29th March to be amended as follows:-

Instructions given in paragraph 3 under heading of "Destroyer Escort not present by day", to be amended to read "The action to be taken depends on the object ordered for the submarines. When present as a defence against surface raiders the submarine should not abandon the convoy for the purpose of stalking the U - Boat.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2030/27.)

MOST SECRET.27. 2. 41.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.

At 1130/27. (D.C. 1207/27.)

Movements.COREOPSIS.

Sailed for Gibraltar to overtake O.G. 54, and to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1346/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0745/27.)

SHEFFIELD.
DIDO.

My 2005/14. 2. SHEFFIELD was ordered to break off (from Convoy S.L.65) in latitude 50° N., or as near as fuel allowed and proceed to Gibraltar.

3. Request you will sail one DIDO class cruiser at best possible speed to join SL 65 and provide A/A escort to North Channel. (1st. S.L. 0946/27.)

Admiralty's 0946/27. (paragraph (iii)). Proceed when ready to comply, at best speed consistent with weather conditions. Route via Minch if practicable and thence direct. (C. in C. H.F. 1219/27 to DIDO.)

REGISTAN
CORINTHIAN

You are requested to sail REGISTAN for Q three and CORINTHIAN for O. three - P three when ready. (F.O.C.N.P. 1010/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

PEGASUS.

PEGASUS is to act in accordance with my 1815/20 as amended by my 1058/25. (C. in C. W.A. 1107/27.)

FURIOUS.

FURIOUS will not be required to sail until 4/3. Ship may be at extended notice until that date to enable her to complete any necessary repairs. (A.C.N.S. H. 1231/27.)

/0.23.....

MOST SECRET.27. 2. 41.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements Contd.O.23.

Amend E.T.A. 270° Longships 3 miles to 0400/28. (O.23. 1358/27.)

E.T.A. Longships now 1100/28. (O.23 2116/27.)

Northern
Patrol.Trawler line to-night. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/27.)S/M's.

Positions at 0800/28 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1726/27.)

A.M.C.'s.
for
Iceland.

Your 1448/16. Request you will report sailing dates when known and also how many passengers could be taken on from Reykjavik to Halifax by the A.M.C. which will be relieved in each case. (D.O.D.H. 1858/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)

AURORA.

AURORA is to sail from Clyde A.M. 2nd March and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1941/27 to AURORA.)

Operations.Operation
against
E-Boats.

Owing to weather Motor Launches have been ordered to proceed into Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 0111/27.)

MINORCA.
(Torpedoed
by E-Boat
26/2.)

S.S. RUDMORE landed 4 survivors and 3 dead from MINORCA at Hartlepool. Survivors state MINORCA torpedoed by E-boat at 0220/26 when in F.N.17 off Sheringham Shoal. Names of survivors and dead. 10 survivors are at Howbeck Hospital, Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1052/27.)

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol "Stand" taken off at 0315 and patrol "Bert" 0630. (C. in C. Rosyth 0228/27.)

My 0228. Patrol ~~Stand~~^{"Stan"} cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0530/27.)

My 0228. Patrol ~~Bert~~^{"Bert"} cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 0614/27.)

No flying by 18 Group A/C possible at present. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/27.)

Kites and
Balloons.
Flying
Instructions.

The following instructions for the flying of kites and balloons by H.M. Ships Merchant Ships, and Fishing Vessels are to be substituted for all previous instructions which are hereby cancelled.

These instructions are subject to any local restrictions that may be imposed by C. in C's abroad in their respective areas. (A.C.N.S(T) 1054/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.

ANCHISES.

(British, 10,000 Tons) Attacked in 55° 14' N. 13° 17' W. (Valentia Radio 0826/27.)

Require assistance. Hold flooded and preparing to abandon ship, position 55° 14' N. 13° 17' W. (ANCHISES 0930/27.)

From ANCHISES. Please send tugs at once. May be possible save ship. (Valentia Radio 0953/27.)

If in the vicinity proceed with SUPERMAN to assist. Report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 1045/27 to MAN OF WAR.)

Am proceeding to assist ANCHISES. (ENCHANTRESS 1129/27.)

/S.O.S.....

MOST SECRET.27. 2. 41.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.ANCHISES cont:

S.O.S. approx. position $55^{\circ} 16' N$, $13^{\circ} W$, drifting N.E. one knot. Assistance required urgent by ship sinking in very heavy weather. (ANCHISES 1804/27) (C.G. Port Patrick Radio 1804/27.)

My position $055^{\circ} 34' N$, $012^{\circ} 43' W$, course 210 degs., search to Leeward of original position. Fruitless. (ENCHANTRESS Wind Direction W.210. 1945/27.) Force of Wind 7.

Position of ANCHISES at 1807, $55^{\circ} 16' N$, $13^{\circ} W$, drifting N.E. one knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1955/27, to SUPERMAN.)

Convoy O.B.290.

(Bombed 25/2.)

AMSTELLAND.RYDBOHOLM.LEEDS CITY.BEURSPLEIN.MAHANADA.SWINBURNE.

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Departure Greenock 27/2. NORTHERN SPRAY and SALVONIA. Tug SEAMAN unable to proceed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0855/27.)

Have AMSTELLAND in tow. Ship will not steer. Heavy forward. Can be salvaged. Bulkhead five perforated. Wind direction 240 force 5. (WESTON 1000/27.)

My 0005/27. SALVONIA and NORTHERN SPRAY are to proceed in company to assist. RYDBOHOLM abandoned and salvageable in $55^{\circ} 48' N$, $14^{\circ} 25' W$, at 1330/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/27.)

/Your 2202/26.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).Convoy O.B. 290
Cont: -

Your 2202/26 and 0903/27. Convoy dispersed in 053° 55' N. 017° W. at 2000/26. WHITEHALL and WINCHELSEA trying to tow LEEDS CITY engine disabled in position 053° 50' N. 017° 30' W. Wind Direction 240 Force 5. (WHITEHALL 1016/27). *See also next page*

→ AMSTELLAND

Tow parted. Starboard engine out of action. (WESTON 1035/27).

From ANCHISES. Please send tugs at once. May be possible save ship. (Valentia Radio 0953/27).

→ VANQUISHER standing by AMSTELLAND. WESTON returning with survivors. (WESTON 1120/27).

→ Standing by AMSTELLAND position 053° 52' N. 016° 26' W. BEURSPLEIN 13 miles 245° from her, abandoned but floating well, fire still smouldering, salvage possible, no visible damage to hull. MAHANADA 10 miles north of BEURSPLEIN still afloat but burning fiercely salvage unlikely. SWINBURNE presumably sunk. Am endeavouring to keep in touch with both. Following survivors on board, BEURSPLEIN 8, SWINBURNE 47, MAHANADA 58. (VANQUISHER 1345/27).

p869

Convoy O.B. 290 was attacked at 1000/26 by 1 F.W.C. A/C under cover of Hail Storm. SOLFERINO and MELMORE hit and abandoned Greek KYRIAKOULA abandoned apparently undamaged at 1845/26 O.B. 290 attacked from astern by formation of 4 A/C F.W.C's and H.E. 111's Part 2 follows. (WESTON 1400/27 Part 1, circulated as WESTON 1420/27).

My 1400 part 2. Aircraft avoided escort vessel when possible. Vessels hit SOVAC MAHANADA and BEURISPLEIN burning out. LLANWERN sunk. AMSTELLAND hit by 3 bombs number 1 and 3 hold flooded. Propeller out of water crew still on board will remain afloat part 3 and final following. (WESTON 1421/27).

/My.....

War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday:HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).Convoy O.B. 290
cont: -

My 1400 part 3 and final.

One F.W.C. hit by WESTON's barrage and later repeatedly hit by 5. Jettisoned bombs 1 mile from convoy, gained height, and then seen descending in distance. (WESTON 1400/27).

Second attack
on Convoy F.S#21.
BLACKTOFT damaged
OLD CHARLTON sunk.

One enemy aircraft shadowing 030 distance 2 miles in 51° 37' N. 1° 13' E. course 223, speed 7 knots. (VANITY 1552/27).

See also next page

(British 1109 Tons) At 1803/27 Departure Rescue Tug KENIA to assist S.S. BLACKTOFT. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1813/27).

S.S. OLD CHARLTON reported sunk in about 51° 57' N. 01° 40' E.

Wreck probably dangerous to navigation. Request Q.Z.H. may be issued. (C. in C. Nore 2205/27 and 2351/27).

Convoy O.B. 290
cont: -

WINCHELSEA has LEEDS CITY in tow. Position course and speed at 1400/27 053° 42' N, 017° 30' W, 074 deg. 3 to 4 knots. Request tugs and escort may be sent as WHITEHALL will have to return to base for fuel p.m. 1st March at the latest. (WHITEHALL 1624/27).

See previous page

My 1345/27. Weather deteriorating, water gaining in AMSTELLAND, tugs urgently required. Crew still on board, Am standing by.. (VANQUISHER 1703/27).

Your 1624/27. Act as escort to WINCHELSEA until Force returns for fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1913/27 to WHITEHALL).

Your 1703/27. Regret no chance of tugs before noon tomorrow Friday. (C. in C. W.A. 1945/27 to VANQUISHER).

/Unknown.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

Unknown ^{Nonwegian}
ship S.S. LIBRA
1536 tons.
attacked. ^{see BR. 1337}
^{Page 217}
^{in Convoy F.S. 421.}

AAAA from unknown ship attacked off Shipwash Dashwood by aircraft. (N. Foreland Radio 1010/27).

VANITY.
(Convoy F.S. 421).

One Aeroplane, course 150, height 2000 feet, posn. 52° 5' N. 1° 51' E. (VANITY 1012/27).

My 1012. Machine gunning. (VANITY 1013/27).

*See previous page*Lowestoft.

At 1105 Dornier dropped five bombs near misses North Pier extension. A to D - Nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1128/27).

At 1605 single enemy A/C bombed South Lowestoft some civilian casualties. A to D. nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1658/27).

GALLOIS.
(British, 2684
Tons)

6 miles South of Shipwash attacked by aircraft. (N. Foreland Radio 1150/27).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Heinkel III bombed Yarmouth at 1145. Paragraphs (A) (B) (C) (D) Nil.

Aircraft was fired at by Trawlers, left flying East with one engine stopped. M.L's entering harbour engaged and are sure that they hit. Last seen losing height and just above surface with tail well down and smoke from starboard engine. Consider certain casualty. Weather too rough to investigate. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1250/27).

Thames
Estuary.

Summary of explosions etc. in Thames estuary for night of 26/27.
2000. Bomb exploded on striking water about 1 mile 225 deg. from the end of Southend pier.
2010. Group of about 25 amber flares fell slowly in area approx. between Birchington and Herne Bay.
0605. Heavy explosion probably in sea to South West of Medway gate. No aircraft in vicinity. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1305/27).

/TENERIFFA.....

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

TENERIFFA.
(Bombed 26/2).

37 survivors being entire crew of Norwegian TENERIFFA sunk by enemy aircraft off St. Goven Light Vessel at 1405/26 picked up by S.S. PERDITA and disembarked at Cardiff. Three men detained in hospital with minor injuries. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1445/27).

EMPIRE STEELHEAD.
(Bombed 26/2).

My 2009/26/2. EMPIRE STEELHEAD anchored off Invergordon. Damage is internal, structural only, not affecting main machinery or boilers. Vessel is seaworthy and could proceed under own steam, except for previous defect of steering engine. Hand steering from aft is possible but Master is averse to accept risk. Repairs to D.G. also necessary. Request instructions for destination of ship when ready. Casualties are 5 killed 2 since died of injuries and 3 now in R.N.A.H. suffering from minor injuries.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1522/27).

Grimsby
bombed.

Four bombs dropped by low flying aircraft at 1308 on Grimsby. No Naval damage except windows in officers quarters at Royal Hotel. (F.O. Humber 1658/27).

Cardiff
bombed.

Cardiff was attacked last night by 70 - 80 enemy A/C between 1945 and 2200. A large number of H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped. The enemy attacked mainly singly and used flares followed by incendiaries and H.E.'s. Only slight damage caused in docks where the Britannia Fuel Works and cattle lairage were damaged. In Cardiff and district a number of public buildings and dwelling houses were damaged. Casualties 10 killed, 30 seriously injured, 60 slightly injured. No Naval casualties. A number of bombs fell on the mud on the foreshore and in open country N.E. of Cardiff. On the weather deteriorating about 2200, the attack terminated.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1745/27).

Plymouth.

One Dornier A/C attacked A/S Trawlers off Plymouth at 1620/27 with Bombs and Machine-Guns. No casualties. (C. in C. Plymouth 2353/27).

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation J.L.

Operation J L completed. Nothing to report.
(Capt. D.20 0441/27).

My 2147/26. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth
0521/27).

CAPE CLEAR.

(British, 5085 Tons) CAPE CLEAR believe
struck mine near Great Ormes Head. Require
tug, making water slowly.
(Lyness W/T 0737/27).

S.S. CAPE CLEAR 5085 tons near mined 53°
27' N. 4° 01' W. at 0857 today. Now
anchored at Bar and will be brought up
Harbour Friday. Reported some damage
in engine room only. Hull intact.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2153/27).

9th M/S. F.

A.M. 1924/26. Request 9th M/S Flot. be
sailed to arrive Port ZA p.m. Monday 3rd
March. (R.A.M.L. 0956/27 to A.C.O.S).

ZME. 21.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 to-day
for operation Z.M.E. 21 to lay at 2340
returning on completion about 0500/28.
(PLOVER 1055/27).

My 1055/27 postponed 24 hours Weather unsuit-
able. (PLOVER 1632/27).

REMILLO
sunk.

(A/P Trawler) At 0158 today sunk by
underwater explosion in N.W. by N. of Gate
2 cables. No survivors landed so far.
(F.O. Humber 1130/27);

53° 34.6' N
0° 10.3' E

Wreck of H.M.T. REMILLO lies in 274°
Spurn Point Light House 1.76 miles heading
South. Two mast showing 8 feet and funnel
awash at low water. (F.O. Humber 1830/27).

/Search.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Search
of War
Channel.

Subject to weather condition Oropesa searches from 2 to 3 miles East of dividing line AZ 787 and QZS 160 between May Island and Duncansby Head will be carried out on 1st March and completed by 1800. (C. in C. Rosyth 1159/27).

Reinforcing
of a certain
minefield.

C. in C. Plymouth 1258/27. See Operations Volume.

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 0935/27 as follows. (Capt M/S Sheerness 1417/27).

Swansea.

My 2209/20 and 1548/25. Ships with I C engines may now enter and leave Swansea. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1436/27).

At 1615/27 one Red Mine exploded by S.A. 102° 1.6 miles from Mumbles Head Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1855/27).

Off Clacton.

My 1552. Consider Aircraft probably laid mine in about 51° 41' N. 1° 19' E. (VANITY 1607/27).

CHRISTABELLE.

Aberdeen trawler OCEAN PRINCESS A 580 reported at 2020/26 Aberdeen trawler CHRISTABELLE A 360 blew up and sank with all hands in 061° 27' N. 006° 05' W. Supposed cause floating mine. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1630/27).

Falmouth.

Mine exploded in 50° 7' 45" N. 5° 1' 30" W. S.W. gale blowing no ships in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1740/27).

Milford Haven.

One red mine detonated by single LL in 097° St. Ann's Head 12.7 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/27).

/Plymouth.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd).Plymouth.

One mine exploded spontaneously at 2315/26 close South of Penlee Point. One mine detonated at 0824/27 in 5° Breakwater Fort 9 cables by S.A. Gear. (C. in C. Plymouth 1807/27).

1 parachute mine reported dropped in position 165 degrees Rame Head 3 miles. Aircraft engaged by Penlee pom-pom battery and believed hit. (C. in C. Plymouth 2353/27).

Spurn Point.

At 1552 L.L. Trawlers detonated a Red mine in 304° 17.3 miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse. (F.O. Humber 2240/27).

Enemy Intelligence.Naval Unit
Movements.

German W/T activity suggests preparations for movements of Naval Units from the S.W. Norwegian Coast to the Bight. (D.D.I.C. 1201/27).

W.T.I. indicates.

1. Coastal traffic between Naze and Bergen possibly in preparation for a movement of vessels towards Trondheim.
2. Possible E/B activity from Calais tonight. (D.D.I.C. 1904/27).

German Main
Units.

February 26th. Wilhelmshaven. TIRPITZ still in Bauhafen. Bremen. SEYDLITZ still in Werfthaven. (D.D.I.C. 1553/27).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.General.Convoy routes
in 70 AZ.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1203/26. Concur except that consider line should run from Cape Wrath to Faroes and thence to Iceland. The 50 miles margin to the eastward authorised by C. in C. W.As' 1921/2 has proved of value but it is insufficient and a rigid line well clear of the convoy routes is considered essential. (C. in C.W.A. 1532/27, to Admty).

A/A Guns,
O.B. Convoys.

Two military personnel with their M/G equipment drawn from the U.K. A.A. Coastal Shuttle Service are to be allocated to all British vessels sailing independently or in O.B. convoys. Conditions. Admiralty 1619/14 and 2312/26 and T.D. Memo D.E.M.S. No. 140 of 18/2 cancelled. (D.T.D. 1546/27 to A.I.G. 47 etc).

Submarines
as Convoy
Escorts.

Head of M. 2030/27. See Policy.

Coastal Convoys.

F.S. 23.423

Sailed 2300/26, 23 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0050/27) Convoy scattered, expect 8 hours late. (WALLACE to C. in C. Rosyth 0912/27) 4 ships returned Methil (C. in C. Rosyth 1316/27) Position (WALLACE, 1349/27, PYTCHLEY, 1524/27) HEBE to join (C. in C. Rosyth 1921/27) Numbers (C. in C. Rosyth 1627/27) E.T.A. (WALLACE 1654/27) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1742/27).
10 ships from Methil did not sail (C. in C. Rosyth 1933/27) 6 ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 2255/27, C. in C. Rosyth, 2315/27).

F.S. 22.422

Sailed 0200 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0210/27) 10 ships (0947/27) No ships from Blyth (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0949/27, C. in C. Rosyth, 1109/27) Situation (WESTMINSTER 1630/27) NEWFOUNDLAND E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER, 1707/27).

/W.N. 91.....

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 91. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0947/27) Amending 1905/26. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1516/27)

F.N. 17.417 2 Absentees (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/27) Humber ships arrived (exceptions) (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1006/27) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1254/17).

F.N. 18.418 E.T.A. (SOUTHDOWN, 0900/27) Numbers from Tyne, etc. (C. in C. Rosyth 1232/27 to SOUTHDOWN, etc) List (N.C.S.O. Humber 1515/27) To join (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1743/27) E.T.A. SOUTHDOWN 1900/27).

Penzance. My 1729/26. "Slave" postponed 24 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1421/27).

9 M.V's. My 2312/26. Postponed 24 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1307/27).

F.S. 19.419 My 1913, LEVENWOOD and LINWOOD arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 1451/27).

E.N. 77. Position, BALMAHA straggled (ULLSWATER 1506/27).

F.S. 21.421 Position, 59 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1514/27) VANITY to remain until relieved by CATTISTOCK (C. in C. Nore 2209/27).

Dartmouth. Your 1217/26 arrived less NELLIE. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth to N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1534/27).

W.N. 91 (0) Sailed 1555/27, WOLVES, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1556/27).

/E.N. 78.....

War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

E.N. 78. List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1606/27) 1345/27 escorts, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1657/27).

F.N. 19. } 419
F.S. 24. } 424
Corrections to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/27).

W.N. 90. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1800/27).

E.N. 77 U. Arrived 1500/27, 15 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1805/27).

F.S. 23. } 423
F.N. 21. } 421
Corrections to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1931/27).

C.W. 27. Arrived less STANWOLD (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2013/27).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 111. ANNAVORE returning, unable to maintain speed. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0146/27).

H.X. 108. Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0930/27) (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1531/27) (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1540/27) (N.O.I.C. Barry, 2025/27).

O.B. 292. 0600/1/3, unescorted, 1. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0900/27).

O.B.M. 292. Amend 1003/27 to read 1900/27, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 4 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1051/27).
See also next page.

S.C. 24. Destinations (D.T.D. 1332/27) Request names of non-arrivals (D.T.D., 1333/27 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea).

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

- S.L. 65. Escorted by SHEFFIELD and BULOLO, position and route. One DIDO class to join. (D.O.D.(H) 0946/27 to C. in C. H.F) Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1912/27).
- H.G. 55. List and destinations (F.O.C.N.A. 1155/27).
- B.H.X. 119. Advance sailing telegram (Bermuda 1201/27).
- S.C. 22. Position (ANTELOPE, 1530/27) Requesting names non-arrivals. (D.T.D., 1533/27 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea) Reply (N.C.S.O Aultbea 1545/27).
- O.B. 291. Sailed 1435/27, 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1510/27) List 1511/27) ABERDEEN to leave (C. in C. W.A. 1550/27) Escorts (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/27).
- O.B.O. 291. 0530/28, escort CALDWELL, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/27).
- O.B. 292. ABERDEEN to accompany (C. in C. W.A. 1550/27)
- O.B. 293. Sailing 3/3 No Loch Ewe portion (C. in C W.A. 1657/27).
- O.B. 297. Sailing 13/3 No Loch Ewe portion (C. in C. W.A. 1657/27, amended 0939/28).
- S.C. 22 B.C. Estimate will meet O.B.C. 291 in Clyde about 0100/28 (C. in C. W.A. 1731/27 to ACHATES).
- H.X. 112. Destinations (D.T.D. 1754/27).
- O.B.M. 292. List and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1915/27) 1902/27, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 4 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1915/27).
See previous page
- H.X. 109. Destinations (D.T.D 2127/27, 2128/27, 2129/27)

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys.
MILITARY CONVOYS.

WATERMEYER.

My 1235/24 and N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1629/25 addressed N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. Request drydock may be made available for WATERMEYER at first opportunity in view of importance attaching to her early sailing for Capetown.

Date when dock is available should be communicated immediately. (D. of S.T. 0943/27)

HAVELOCK.

Request you sail HAVELOCK to r/v with FORTH, RIMUTAKA, BATORY, escorted by HESPERUS, HARVESTER, and HURRICANE at 1830/28 in 000° En Troddy 1½ miles speed of advance 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1051/27).

STRATHMORE.

My 2144/15 and my 1323/23.

1. STRATHNAVER will not now be available. Her place will be taken by STRATHMORE sailing from Liverpool.

2. STRATHMORE will be ready to leave Liverpool on 4/3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for her to sail and join the convoy.

3. STRATHMORE is required to sail with W.S. 7 and should return from Gibraltar to Clyde with the minimum delay. (D.O.D.H. 1103/27).

ALCANTARA.

My 1613/26 sailed (C. in C. Portsmouth 1906/27).

T.C.9.

M04410/41)
M03749/41)

Arrived Convoy T.C.9 with AURORA, OTTAWA, ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, CHURCHILL, MISTRAL. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2310/27).

DUNEDIN.

A.T. 2215/27. Cancel my 2212/25 except para one. (D.O.D.F. 2330/27).

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.EMPIRE
TIGER.

(British, 5159 tons) Shipping heavy seas, fore welldeck awash. Standing by boat ends. (Valentia Radio 0025/27.)

Our boats washed away, please hurry. (Valentia Radio, 0212/27.)

SUFFOLK.

Examination of machinery on return to Harbour 26/2, has shown port after turbine engine stripped and several tubes in port after condenser damaged as result. Ship unable to proceed to sea. (SEO. 1st. C.S. 0116/27.)

G.C. BROVIG.

Captain of RANGER considers G.C. BROVIG should not be beached but is able to proceed A. (as received.), after leaving repair port in fine weather. Ship has already steamed 350 miles in a rough sea before reaching Stornoway. Recommendations. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0945/27.)

NEPTUNUS.

Request you will sail Tug SCHELDE to arrive Luce Bay, Mull of Galloway by 0730/1st. On arrival SCHELDE is to refloat the Netherlands Trawler NEPTUNUS aground to the East of Mull of Sini-ness and if required tow her into Loch Ryan. R.A.F. Motor Boat will assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1052/27.)

PASS OF LENY.

In tow of SEA GIANT escorted by HEBE reported in 055° 26' N, 001° 20' W, at 0915. (WESTMINSTER 1135/27.)

HEBE.

My 0915. My position 1300 one mile South of Number 20 F Buoy. SEA GIANT in company. Making good maximum 3 knots. (HEBE 1310/27.)

/MONIMIA.....

27. 2. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MONIMIA.

MONIMIA ashore Peterhead Bay unable to be refloated until weather moderates. Heavy seas driving her further ashore. Crew Safe. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/27, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1714/27.)

STRATHAIRD.

Paravane and D.G. washed (overboard). Request instructions. (STRATHAIRD, 1232/27.)

LONDON.

My 1110/26. Departure delayed 48 hours by defects. (C. in C. Nore 1300/27.)

FRANKLIN.

Some damage caused by P.L.A. Tug SIRDAR. Repairs are being carried out forthwith and will probably be completed by 6/3. (F.O.I.C. London 1510/27.)

MAID OF KENT.

M.L. MAID OF KENT attached to wiping station has been rammed and sunk at North Wall Tidal Basin p.m. today. (D.G.W.O. Portsmouth 1521/27.)

DAROGAH.

My 2349/29/1. It is considered if attempted salvage of this Trawler is long delayed difficulty will be experienced due to accumulation of sand. DAROGAH is badly required for mine-sweeping and it is requested that priority may be given to her salvage before attempts are made on the vessel discussed at meeting with P.L.A. on 7/1. (C. in C. Nore 1635/27.)

WESTWOOD.

VORTIGERN reports having been in collision with S.S. WESTWOOD 26/2. Request WESTWOOD may be surveyed. (Capt. D. Rosyth 1804/27.)

/BRIGAND.....

27. 2. 41.Thursday.War Diary.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.BRIGAND.

Your 1210/27. Sailing of BRIGAND delayed owing to leaking oil tank and contaminated fuel. (A.C.O.S. 1812/27.)

TAKU.

Unable to dive owing to fractured after hydroplane gear external to Hull. Hove to at 2100 G.M.T. in estimated position $056^{\circ} 36' N$, $021^{\circ} 07' W$, wind gale force heavy seas, low visibility. Owing to Kitchin rudder effect ship is not under control. Estimate drifting 4 knots to southward. Request assistance. (TAKU 2045/27.)

BARCLIFF.

(Boom Defence Vessel). Following received from BARCLIFF at 1210/27 begins: Hove to 30 miles South of Portland. Whole Gale. Ship just holding her own, position getting serious. ends. Have sent LEONIAN to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2203/27.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

27.2.1941.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Raider Situation.North
Atlantic.

My 2302/20.

1. TRELAWNEY attacked at 1425/22 B.S.T. about 520' E. of St. Johns. Made RRRR but attacker may be armed merchant raider. At 1915/22 unknown ship reported being attacked by aircraft in same area.
2. By D/F at 2017/24 a raider or supply ship was within 200 miles of 27° N. 44° W.
3. Vague D/F indications at 0111/25 that unidentified unit was somewhere S. by W. from Freetown.

South
Atlantic.

1. D/F on 20/2 and 22/2 indicate 1 unit probably a raider in area South of St. Helena. A supply ship is possibly also in this area.
2. A suspicious ship was sighted near Capetown on 16/2 and mines discovered in this area on 21/2. These may have been laid by unit now South of St. Helena, or possibly by raider which attacked whalers in Mid-January of which nothing since heard.

Indian
Ocean.

ADMIRAL SCHEER appears to have attacked CANADIAN CRUISER 480 miles E. by S. from Mombasa at 1708/21 and RANTAU PANJANG 280 miles to W.S.W. at 0615/22. She was located by GLASGOW 3 hours later, but touch was subsequently lost.

ADMIRAL SCHEER or an armed raider 680 miles N.E. of Mauritius and 300 miles S.E. of Madagascar respectively.

Previous sinkings in Seychelles area quite possibly by armed merchant raider whose present whereabouts are not known.

Pacific
Ocean.

No information.

(D.D.I.C. 1756/27 to C. in C's etc.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.S.L.S.64
Survivors

Request when AVOCETA may be expected Lisbon. F.O.C.N.A. urgently requires at Gibraltar survivors of S.L.S.64. Consignment of survivors expected Lisbon tomorrow and no suitable shipping available here for their transport.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1217/27 to Admty.).

TUNA

At 0800/28:- TUNA with H.G.54.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1612/27).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations.
Area covered 2° W. to 8° W.
Flying curtailed by fog.
(200 Group, 1700/27).

Pay of
Free French.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1730/27, to Admty.).

JOAO BELO
intercepted.

Your 2309/26. JOAO BELO (Portuguese, 6365 tons) intercepted 035° 15' N. 013° 36' W. bound for Lisbon. Person mentioned cabin and baggage searched negative result. One male steerage passenger. Italian passport, parentage Greek Dodecanese age 41 not apprehended.
Submit if further search and apprehension of Italian passengers required Y zone Trawlers be informed.
(MALVERNIAN, 1800/27, to F.O.C.N.A.).

VULCAN

Left Ponta Delgada 1945/26 for Freetown routed through 016° N. 029° W. speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2124/27 to COMORIN)

War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.IDOMENEUS

Overdue shipping, cancel My 1140/26
IDOMENEUS arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I., Capetown, 0915B/27).

Suspicious
vessels seen
by HALCYON

N.C.S.O. Bahia 1655/24 and 1345/25
(re suspicious vessel seen by master of
HALCYON) are passed to you.
Ship cannot be identified here.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1148/27, to S.O.I.
Kingston, J.).

Shipping,
Bunkers.

Your 1238/26. All masters of independently
routed ships given distances along their
routes. All convoy ships informed of
expected number of days steaming to their
destination and told they must have four
days margin bunker in addition. In case of
S.L.64 estimated number of days steaming to
West coast ports was 22, and according to
figures given by masters every ship of this
convoy left Freetown with 26 days bunker.
Any shortage of coal in ships mentioned
must have been due either to incorrect
figures given by masters or to failure in
checking quantities of coal delivered.
In future actual distances in movements
will be given in addition.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1203/27 to Admty.).

Lourenco
Marques.

Your 0723/19. (re use of ? Lourenco
Marques as transshipping port for enemy
trade). Investigation by N.C.S.O.
Lourenco Marques shows no reason for
suspicion. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1403B/27,
Capt. O.S., Singapore).

French
Controlled
Ships to be
intercepted.

Reported French intend to requisition and
use allied ships previously detained, in
particular ex Danish ships HARALD and
ULRIKHOLM (now on British Register) and
Norwegian tanker JASPIS. If these ships
are sighted unescorted they are to be sent
or brought into a British port. If
escorted they are to be reported only.
(G.in C. S.A., 1557N/27, to S.A. Stn.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CORNWALL

It is at your discretion to comply with C.in C. E.I. 1114/27. (Re: possible movements of German pocket battleship) (D.O.D.(F) 1547/27, to C.in C. S.A.).
Reply to C.in C. E.I. 1114/27 (C.in C. S.A. 1941N/27 to C.in C. E.I.)
See Operations Volume.

Mediterranean.LIVERPOOL

Your 2349/17. On completion of temporary repairs now in hand LIVERPOOL will be fit to cross Atlantic provided route chosen can be relied upon to ensure reasonably moderate weather.
(C.in C. Med., 0019/27, to Admty.).

Turkey
LL Sweep.

Your 1226/28/1 para. (m). Most effective form of magnetic minesweeping apparatus is the LL Sweep. Anticipated that Turks would have difficulty in finding suitable ships to carry that sweep.
It is hoped to sweep Greek and Turkish ports with our own resources as the strategical situation permits.
The maintenance of secrecy of LL Sweep gear is also a matter of importance.
(Head of M. 1001/27 to N.A. Ankara).

/ Capture of Kastelorizo,

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Capture of
Kastelorizo,
DECOY,
HEREWARD,
LADYBIRD,
ROSAURA
(Op. Mar 2.)

? re-

My 0002/26. Commando landed before dawn in ships boats from DECOY and HEReward. Opposition apparently slight. LADYBIRD entered harbour at daylight unopposed except for rifle fire which she silenced with ship guns and then landed party of Royal Marines in town. After heavy air raid in which LADYBIRD sustained slight damage she disembarked Royal Marines, who were no longer required, and withdrew to Cyprus. During night of 25/26/2 two enemy M.T.B's raided Island but withdrew before our force could make contact. Permanent garrison from Cyprus embarked ROSAURA but in view of enemy activity has been transferred to DECOY and HERO at Alexandria. These two ships, covered by BONAVENTURE, PERTH, HASTY and JAGUAR, with (?land) garrison and relieve Commando during the night of 27/28/2 S.B.N.O. Suda Bay pass to ~~CECILE~~ "Cecile". (C.in C. Med., 1009/27 to Admty.).

Convoy
A.N.F.16.

1000/27, List of ships.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1103/27).

Tobruk,
air raid.

1. 25/2. During evening enemy bombed Tobruk. Fire started on 1 tanker brought under control.
No material damage.
2. Greece.
Aircraft reconnoitred Valona 26/2 reporting 11 cargo vessels in harbour. Hurricanes machine-gunned 2 cargo ships escorted by gun boat 10 miles off Valona.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/27).

UTMOST

On completion of mission proceed through 180° Filfola Is. 5 miles to arrive Marsamuschetto 0700/4. Unless necessary you are not to break W/T silence.
(Cdr. S.1, 1330/27, to UTMOST).

URSULA

Leave area and proceed through 035° 40' 014° 07' to arrive off Marsamxett (Marsamuschetto) 0700/3. Do not break W/T silence unless necessary. (Cdr. S.1. 1337/27, to URSULA).

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

Air Raid
on Malta
26/2.

Heavy raid 26/2 by (30 ?) J.U.87, 12 J.U. 88, 10 Dornier 215 and 10 H.E. 111, escorted by 20 to 30 mixed fighters. Attack chiefly on LUQA. Our bag by fighters 2 J.U. 87 confirmed, 7 others probable, by A/A 6 J.U. 87 confirmed, 4 others probable. Our losses 3 Hurricanes. 6 Wellingtons burnt out on ground 3 others badly damaged. One Glen Martin written off 3 others unserviceable for about a week. Much damage to aerodrome but casualties surprisingly few. Later on Red Cross plane accompanied by 20 fighters came and searched round Northern half of Island for an hour and one M.E. severely damaged by Hurricanes. From this it would appear enemy losses more severe than we estimated. Two German Airmen captured. Add to my report for Tuesday one D. 215 definite. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1420/27, to C.in C. Med.).

Maddalena
Reconnaissance.

Your 1139/25 (re reconnaissance of Maddalena harbour Cagliari aerodrome and harbour Algiero aerodrome). Owing to heavy blasts regret no reconnaissance now available. (V.A. Malta, 1423/27 to S.O. Force H.).

FORMIDABLE

Not clear in Admiralty if FORMIDABLE has yet been passed through Suez Canal. If not, it is for consideration she should be towed through mined portion so as to reduce risk from Acoustic mines. (V.C.N.S. 1601/27 to C.in C. Med.).

M.V. sunk by
UPRIGHT.
Malta Force
Submarines.

Cdr. (S) 1 1555/27 not to Admiralty. The merchant vessel carrying petrol burst into flames fore and aft on being hit, sank without a trace or survivor. UPRIGHT states ship made no W/T signal. In these circumstances suggest no announcement be made of sinking and that Italians be left to guess whether loss was due to aircraft mines or submarine.

/ Recommend no undue

War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)M.V. sunk by
UPRIGHT.
Malta Force
Submarines.
(Contd.).

Recommend no undue publicity be given to exploits of Malta force submarines. Lazaretto is just getting going as an efficient base and I do not want attention to be drawn to it as a suitable target for German dive-bombers. (V.A. Malta, 1645/27, to C.in C. Med.).

Malta
Air Raid
26/2.

X 6807.
Ref. yesterday's dive bombing attack on Malta.
Anticipate Luqa aerodrome serviceable by a.m. 1/3. Civilian damage at Luqa and Guidia villages considerable.

FERMOY bombed.

27/2. 1410 - 1420. 1 JU 88 aimed 3 or 4 bombs at FERMOY off Grand Harbour. No hits. 4 Hurricanes up, no engagements. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1710/27).

Suez Canal
Mines.

Detect mine in Suez Canal. Request information on following suggestion.
(i) Underwater television believed to be used in Panama Canal for inspection of lock gates and bottom of lock.
(ii) Infra red ray for use in detecting objects falling into canal. Idea is to use beam of infra red ray down length of canal with indicating device to show when and where any object crosses beam.
(iii) Will torpedo fire acoustic mine? (C.in C. Med., 1949/27 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.MAURETANIA

Your 1045/24, no objection to proposed use of MAURETANIA, subject to C.in C. E.I. approval.
(D. of S.T. 0123/27, to P.S.T.O. India).

HAWKINS,
KINGSTON,
W.S.5B.

27/2 0335Z arrival HAWKINS, 0740Z, departure KINGSTON for W.S.5B.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0742Z/27, to Admty. etc.).

→ RAMB I
intercepted
sank.

see page 15

Sighted Italian RAMB I flying Red Ensign at 0510Z/27. On order to stop at 0619 she hoisted Italian colours and opened fire from fore-castle and poop guns. LEANDER fired five salvoes. RAMB I struck her flag at 0628 and abandoned ship. Set herself heavily on fire and sank at 0718Z in position 001° 00' N. 068° 30' E. 11 officers and 89 men prisoners. Italian casualties one seriously four slightly wounded. Intend transferring prisoners to capacity of Oiler PEARLEAF.
(LEANDER, 0744Z/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

AQUITANIA
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

Your 0746/25. Firm sailing date 5/3 speed of advance. 19 knots.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1116Z/27, to C.in C. E.I.)
My 2028/25. On completion of oiling sail Oiler PEARLEAF for Colombo. I hope she can somehow accommodate all your prisoners and armed guards for this short passage.
(C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/27, to LEANDER).
LEANDER's 0747/27. New Zealand Govt. would very much like to publish news of sinking of RAMB I by LEANDER and ask that publication in N.Z. may precede publication elsewhere. Request you signal as soon as news may be released.
(N.Z.N.B. 2247/27, to Admty.).

Mines in M.V.'s as
defence against
raiders.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Mines in
M.V's as
defence
against
raiders.

Following proposal for defence of merchant shipping against enemy raiders is forwarded for consideration.

All ships to carry about 12 magnetic floating mines. On identifying a raider alter course to bring enemy right astern and start releasing mines. (Details). (F.O.C.R.I.N., 0941Z/27, to Admty.).

W.S.5B.
HAWKINS.

Arrival 0910Z/27 M/S Group 109, departure HAWKINS for W.S.5B. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1015Z/27, to Admty. etc.).

Search
for pocket
battleship.
Re CORNWALL

C.in C. E.I. 1114Z/27 See Operations Volume.

Conditions
at Merca.

My 1202/26. Pier intact two cranes about two tons each working. Travelling crane one ton double Ecauville track eight trucks. Good workhouses and roads. Sea conditions suitable for unloading at pier and on beach. Following available two diesel tugs sound B.P.A. no compressed air. Two twenty ton diesel barges in working order. Nine steel dumb lighters. One motor boat. All cranes destroyed. Fuller information awaited. (C.in C. E.I. 1206/27).

Clearing
"Cucumbers"

D.T.M. 1215/27 to C.in C. E.I. in reply to his 1724Z/26.

Re Two
A.M.C's to
sail from
Australia
early June.

Your 0539/26 Feb. Concur. (C.in C. E.I. 1512Z/27 to A.C.N.B.).

Massawa.

Your 0702/26. Massawa is not to be planted with Cucumbers without further instructions. Report when your preparations enable you to do so and a decision will then be given. (V.C.N.S. 1600/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)SHROPSHIRE

My 1108/26 (re sailing orders and speed (18 knots)) para. A (ii). SHROPSHIRE is to proceed at 23 knots. (C.in C. E.I., 1904/27, to Force V.).

HILDA MOLLER.

My 1149/26. HILDA MOLLER to proceed Hong Kong to discharge cargo of salt. (D.T.D. 2025/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

DORSETSHIREForce Z

Remain with GLASGOW and Force Z, pending further orders from C.in C. E.I. to whom a separate signal is being sent. (V.C.N.S. 2317/27 to DORSETSHIRE).

CANBERRA,LEANDER,DORSETSHIRE,GLASGOWForce Z

My 2307/24.

(a) In view of A.C.N.B. 0737/26 which orders HOBART and SYDNEY to Fremantle, suggest CANBERRA and LEANDER should remain in the central Indian Ocean area for the present. From your 2028Z/25 it would appear that you can supply them with fuel. (b) Considered desirable that DORSETSHIRE should remain with Force "Z" and GLASGOW if fuel permits until latitude of 10° N. is reached. (V.C.N.S. 2331/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.ARCHANGELOSCancel my 0337Z/26 ARCHANGELOS arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Singapore, 0211Z/27).Situation
in Far East.Appreciation of situation (C.in C. F.E.
0230/27) See Operations Volume (Lion
copy only).Search for
Pocket
Battleship.N.E.I. Navy dispositions (C.in C. China
0251/27) See Operations Volume.Thai naval
forces.(D) First Base Defence Force thought to
consist of fourth S/M squadron, a cruiser,
an aircraft Carrier and at least eight to
ten auxiliaries or transports concentrated
in Linschoten Island area possibly for
exercises.
(C.I.S. Far East 0856Z/27).America and West Indies.CARADOCArrangements have been made ^{for} CARADOC to
visit Puerto Barrios, Guatemala and Tola
Honduras on 3/3 and 4/3 respectively,
returning to Kingston Jamaica 7/3.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0951/27).PRINCE ROBERT
escort duty.Admty. 1737/21 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has agreed
that PRINCE ROBERT should be based on Suva
for this escort duty commencing with
AWATEA trip leaving Suva end of April.
Request further details be arranged
between N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and N.O.
Wellington, keeping me informed.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0952/27, to N.O.
Wellington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)./ S.S. SUFFOLK
"R" report.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

S.S. SUFFOLK
"R" report.

British Ship SUFFOLK reports when in position 014° 42' S. 092° 40' W. at 0855 G.M.T./21 intercepted on 600 metres following: RR RR followed by suspicious vessel (ends). Estimated by strength of signal ship near above position. See my 1556/14 (Master of WASHINGTON EXPRESS reported encountering suspicious cargo vessel). (S.O.I. Kingston, 1038/27, to Admty. etc.).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.
BUXTON.

Concur in proposed arrangements. Dock will be available. BUXTON should bring docking plan and (?) bottom composition. It would be convenient if ROYAL SOVEREIGN carried out some practice before entering harbour. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1052/27 to F.O. 3 B.S. (Note:- Refers to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1656/25)).

B.H.X. 113
escort.
M04966/41.

Following is a repetition of my 0952/26 (Previously received undecypherable) My 1742/24. PRINCE DAVID will act as escort for B.H.X. 113 leaving Bermuda 3/3. Ends. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1108/27).

B.H.X.112.

Departure B.H.X. 112 Ocean escort CALIFORNIA returning to Halifax through 42.10 N., 60.00 W. (Cdre. in Charge Bermuda 1203/17 to Admty. etc.).

Bermuda
Contraband
Examination.

Your 1221/24. Your 1244/2 is receiving urgent consideration. Questions raised are however somewhat complicated. (Hd. of M. 1345/27 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

LARPOOL
Overdue.

Ministry of Shipping 1700/12. Br. LARPOOL has not arrived St. John's Newfoundland. Ship sent 'QQQQ' Message subsequently cancelled at 1100/22 giving position 43.14 N. 49.02 W. If this position correct ship is considerably overdue. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1430/27, to Admty.).

LARPOOL Cont:....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.).LARPOOL
cont.:

Ministry of Shipping (?1700) /1 (N/T in War Registry) not to C.in C. A. & W.I. Br. LARPOOL has not arrived St. John's Newfoundland ship sent 'QQQQ' F message subsequently cancelled at 1100/22 giving position 43.14 N. 49.02 W. If this position correct ship is considerably overdue. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1436/27).

U.S.
Coastguard
Cutters.

Navy Department informs me that when Lease Lend Bill goes through President will give instructions that ten coastguard cutters are to be turned over to us. (Armament) Navy Department request information whether vessels would be desired in present condition; if not, what are recommendations of re-armament. Vessels will have ASDICS and depth charges. Complement 12 officers and 150 men. (N.A. Washington, 1729/27, to Admty.).

Panama
Canal,
Armed
Guards.

Your 2341/26. H.M.G. have now notified their acceptance of the new regulation concerning armed guards without any reservation. The letter should therefore be withdrawn, if possible, and in future H.M. Ships should submit to armed guards without demur. (Hd. of M. 1953/27 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Australia and New Zealand.WESTRALIA
MANOORA

WESTRALIA, MANOORA, sailed Sydney 1515Z/26 escorting GABRIELLA bound for Auckland, KAIRANGA bound for Wellington, to 036° 20' S. 169° 00' E. (A.C.N.B. 0435Z/27, to Admty., etc.).

MONOWAI
AWATEA

Departure Auckland MONOWAI escorting AWATEA. (S.O.I. Wellington, 1200Z/27).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.ISCHIA*5101 tons. Loyds register 1940-41.*
5100 tons, struck a mine in Gulf of Manfredonia, 41.38 N., 15.59 E., vessel is still afloat (D.S. 541, 27/2).CLIZIA)
CAPO LENA)

Left Bilbao 24/2. (D.S. 541).

GIUSEPPINA
GHIRARDI

Left Varna in ballast 24/2 (D.S. 541).

VICTORIA

13098 tons, reported (B.O.) arrived at Leros on 31/1 with petrol, food and war material. (D.S. 541).

CALIBANO

5,000 tons, reported (B.O.) arrived at Rhodes on 31/1 with unknown cargo. (D.S. 541).

SENIO

1067 tons, Press reports blown up and sunk in a Yugoslav port, believed by time bomb. (D.S. 541).

VOLTA

1191 tons, believed mined in 42.48 N., 10.42 E. a.m./24. (D.S. 541).

RAMB I.3667 tons. Sunk by LEANDER.
(C.in C. E.I., 0744Z/27)
See FOREIGN STATIONS, East Indies.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MANSEPOOL,
etc.,
(torpedoed
24/2).Cancel all previous instructions. Proceed
forthwith south through Minches.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/27 to SALVONIA,
SEAMAN, NORTHERN SPRAY.)BALTISTANBritish, 6803 tons, dispersed from
Convoy O.B.290.
Following has been read. SSSS.
51.52 N. 19.55 W. BALTISTAN torpedoed.
(Liverpool W/T, 0315/27).Use of P/L.C.in C. Home Fleet 1552/24 (Re submarine
reports to be made in plain language).
Concur in principle these reports to be
made in the form given in D.M.S. Appendix B.
Article 16, example GYM V 2 UD - SSSS 60 -
16N 1536W BRITISH PIONEER torpedoed 1937 IMI-
(C.in C. W.A. 1427/27, to Admty.). *See also 7/3/41.*
*Page 281.*Convoy
O.B.290
(attacked by A/c
26/2).Description of attack. (ENCHANTRESS
2001/27, 2002/27).*Should be under Enemy Air Activity*Submarines Reported.

1118	Possibly 52° N., 6.50 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
1330	55-56° N., approx. 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
1847	54° N., 17-18° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
2127	54° N., 17.30 W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
2254	54° N., 17.30 W(?) position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
2050	58.50 N., 8.30 W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
2324)	58° N., 20° W. position indefinite. (D.S. 541).
2339)	

/ 1049 (false) ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.2.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)1049
(false)

Torpedo track sighted from GQYDNIA (?GDYNIA) my position $055^{\circ} 18' N.$ $012^{\circ} 16' W.$ (ENCHANTRESS, 1049/27, to C.in C. W.A.). Cancel my 1049. Reported torpedo track referred to periscope proved to be piece wood. Am proceeding to assistance of ANCHISES ?bearing ?approximately. (ENCHANTRESS, 1129/27).

1235.

D/F at 1235 B.S.T. U-Boat in area $52^{\circ} 30' N.$ to $53^{\circ} 30' N.$ $20^{\circ} W.$ to $22^{\circ} W.$ (D.D.I.C. 1320/27).

LOSADA
(S/M's
friendly)

Following has been read.
Q Q Q Q $51^{\circ} 38' N.$ $5^{\circ} 34' W.$ LOSADA followed by two suspicious objects astern look like submarines.
(Portishead Radio, 1623/27).
SSSS LOSADA now being chased by submarines firing at them position $51^{\circ} 38' N., 5^{\circ} 34' W.$ (Landsend Radio, 1634/27).
SSSS $51^{\circ} 38' N., 5^{\circ} 34' W.$ LOSADA chased by submarines, course 117, speed 9 knots. (Devil's Point, 1638/27).
Cancel my QQQQ and SSSS of 1625 G.M.T. (LOSADA, 1723/27).
LOSADA reports having fired on 2 S/Ms in position $51^{\circ} 38' N.$ $05^{\circ} 35' West$ at 1753. She has been informed that S/Ms are friendly.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1854/27, to LA MOQUEUSE).

1912.

D/F at 1912 B.S.T. U.Boat in area 30 miles radius from $48^{\circ} 30' N.$ $9^{\circ} 00' W.$ (D.D.I.C. 1947/27).

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ...

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Information very indefinite.

German.

- 1 60° N. - 61° 30' N. 11° W. - 14° W.
- 1 59° N. - 60° N. 11° W. - 13° W.
- 1 N.E. of Rockall.
- 1 40 miles of 59° N. 16° W.
- 4 or 5, 55° N. - 61° N. near 20° W.
- 1 60° N. - 61° N. 25° W. - 26° W.
- 1 or 2, 52° N. - 53° N. 20° W. - 21° W.
- Possibly 1 53° 40' N. - 54° 20' N. 17° W. - 18° W.
- Possibly 1 about 52° N. 6° 50' W. 1118/26.
- Possibly 1 about 48° N. 7° 30' W.

Italian.

2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1402/27).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.HOLMELEA
attacked.

S.S. HOLMELEA sailing independently reported at 0226 today being gunned by an unknown craft about 320 miles W.S.W. of Bloody Foreland. *See page 99/.*

British Air Activity.

Blenheims today attacked Quiberon and report 3 hits on the shore quarters of enemy submarine crews.

Normal patrols were flown today north of the Shetlands and in the North Sea where they were extended to the coast of Norway. A/S patrols were flown in the Minches and south of Ireland.

Enemy Air Activity.Air
threat
in N.W.
Approaches.

The air threat in the N.W. Approaches necessitates a redistribution of A.A. vessels. As a first measure C.in C. Rosyth is to send to Western Approaches 6 Wairs (W or V class destroyers converted to A.A.) or sloops with good H.A. armament. Convoys on the East Coast will for the present be escorted by only one sloop.

/ Fighter Command

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Air
threat
in N.W.
Approaches.
(Contd.)

Fighter Command will provide greater protection, though half the passage is done during dark hours when such protection cannot be provided. C.in C. Rosyth and C.in C. Nore warn the Admiralty that to run east coast convoys of 50 or more ships with only one escort vessel is to incur very grave risk. C.in C. Rosyth's remaining sloops have insufficient speed to deal with E.boats and lack A.A. guns to deal with aircraft. In view of the situation in the N.W. Approaches the resources of Coastal Command will be concentrated on the protection of shipping in the area to the maximum extent possible. Bomber Command will take over a proportion of the duties now performed by Coastal Command in the North Sea.

M03867/41.

WESTMINSTER and Convoy F.S.22 were bombed this morning off Orfordness. No ships were hit.

The railway line to the dockyard at Dover was cut during air attack this afternoon.

S.S. ICELAND a straggler from Convoy H.G.53 is claimed by a German broadcast to have been sunk and the crew taken prisoners of war about 11/2.* The ship had her steering gear damaged by air attack on 10/2 in 36° 33' N. 17° 58' W. The Germans also claim that S.S. KOSMOS (Norwegian) sailing in the British service, was intercepted and brought to a French port by German naval forces last September.

* Sunk by ADMIRAL HIPPER, 11.2.41.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.

F.O. Humber requires at least two vessels capable of sweeping acoustic or magnetic mines, with good A.A. armament. His existing sweepers cannot deal with the mines which are being continuously laid near Humber Light Vessels.

S.S. CABENDA was mined and sunk in Swansea Bay this morning.

Blyth was opened this morning. Port Talbot is closed to ships with I.C. engines.

South Atlantic.

S.S. CLAN OGILVY reported sighting a submarine at 1900 G.M.T. today in 7° 18' N. 14° 26' W., about 120 miles S.W. of Freetown. C.in C. S.A. considers this doubtful.

Mediterranean.

Malta
harbours
mined.

About 10 enemy aircraft dropped mines at early dawn today, in both harbours, and 2 on Valetta. A.A. guns hit and blew up one mine. Considerable damage was caused.

/ Kastelorizo evacuated.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

28.2.1941.

Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.).Kastelorizo
evacuated.

Owing to continued heavy air attacks and the landing of reinforcements by the enemy our force was withdrawn from Kastelorizo last night. During the withdrawal JAGUAR fired torpedoes at a ship in the inner harbour, believed successfully, and engaged and hit an enemy destroyer which succeeded in escaping.

Mining of
Suez Canal.

M. A/S B. No. 3. was damaged by a mine in the Suez Canal today. *[Refloats, see 3.3.41, p. 99]*

ROVER

ROVER is to join C.in C. China.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. has ordered shipping in the Mozambique Channel as a temporary measure into north and south bound lanes each 40 miles wide, the inner lane about 20 miles from the coast.

War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Western
Patrol.

A.T. 1823/21. In exercising operational control of the Western Patrol, F.O.C.N.A. has full authority to alter patrols or operate the ships as he thinks fit, informing Admiralty and F.O.C.N.P. of the action taken. (A.C.N.S. T. 0014/28 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Six Wairs
or Sloops
for W.A.
Command.

The air threat in the North Western Approaches requires a redistribution of anti-aircraft vessels.

2. It is therefore necessary, as a first and immediate measure, to transfer six Wairs or sloops with good high-angle armament to reinforce C.in C. Western Approaches.
3. It is accepted that convoys on the East coast shall for the present be escorted by one sloop only. It has further been accepted that Fighter Command will provide greater protection and means for implementing this are now being considered.
4. Request you will report in the course of today the vessels detailed and the expected date of transfer.
(V.C.N.S. 1218/28 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1218/28. Intend to sail six Wairs as follows:

WOOLSTON 1/3
WOLSEY 3/3
VALOROUS, VIVIEN, VANITY, 4/3
VICEROY 7/3

My remaining sloops have no suitable H.A. armament. I would have much preferred to sent them. Without speed to compete with E.boats or A.A. guns to deal with aircraft they are far less value to me that Wairs. While fully realising the urgent requirements of C.in C. W.A. I consider that to run FS and FN convoys with only one escort vessel is incurring very grave risk. One escort can afford scanty protection to a convoy and cannot keep it together. Further she can afford little aid to its navigation which is so important on the East Coast. I would suggest that the three ships mentioned in your 1731/10/2/41 relieve three of the Wairs

/I am now sending ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. (Contd.)

I am now sending as soon as they are ready as these latter ships are thoroughly conversant with the East coast convoy route. (C.in C. Rosyth 1720/28). *See Admiralty 1734/1/3 p. 4. March*

Tug Situation at Scapa and Kirkwall.

The shortage of Tugs at Scapa and the fact that there is no tug stationed at Kirkwall is seriously impeding Salvage operations in this area. WILLIAM HASTIE would have been refloated yesterday but Tug ALLIGATOR sent from Scapa for this purpose had to go to the assistance of WAZIRISTAN which was dragging ashore. WAZIRISTAN was towed clear but WILLIAM HASTIE with no tug in attendance drove further up reef and flooded throughout. She is now lying on her side and will almost certainly become a total loss. It is suggested that an additional tug for Scapa and a tug permanently stationed at Kirkwall is the minimum requirement for carrying out work efficiently. (C.S.V.O. Lyness 1250/28 to A.C.O.S.).

TORBAY to replace TAKU at Halifax.

My 1459/15. Intend TORBAY should now join (S) 2 at Halifax in place of TAKU who will join (S) 3 after repairs. (F.O.S. 1653/28).

Air Protection in N.W. Approaches.

In view of situation in North Western Approaches decision has been made to concentrate resources of Coastal Command on the protection of shipping in this area to the maximum extent possible. Proportion of the duties now performed by Coastal Command in North Sea to be taken over by your command. Request you arrange immediate consultation with C.in C. Coastal Command with a view to discussing resources and methods of meeting requirements and report to Air Ministry decisions reached. Assistance may also involve diversion of part of 2 Group effort to take over operations against enemy submarine bases hitherto undertaken by 53 and 59 squadrons Coastal Command in order to release latter squadrons for further reinforcing North Sea patrols.

/ Separate confirmed

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. (Contd.)Air
Protection
in N.W.
Approaches.
(Contd.)

Separate confirmed instructions regarding such operations will be issued as soon as your report after consultation with C.in C. Coastal Command is received. You should take it that these detachments may be required for period of at least two months. (Air Ministry to C.in C. Bomber Command. Recd. 1820/28).

M.G.B's in
Nore Command.
Proposed
fitting with
Asdics.

It is intended to employ M.G.B's allocated to the Nore Command as anti E-boat patrols for which they are urgently required. It is considered that they would be far more effective if fitted with asdics or some form of under water listening gear. Request information whether this is possible. (C.in C. Nore 2144/28 to R.A.C.F.).

Defence of U.K."Deluge"
Operations.

At 2330/27 (D.C. 0002/28) At 1130/28
(D.C. 1205/28) At 2330/28 (D.C. 2234/28).

Movements.DUNEDIN.

Cancel my 1206/26 and 2330/27.
DUNEDIN will not act as Escort to O.G.54.
(C.in C. W.A. 0131/28 to LINCOLN).

PEGASUS.

Your 1815/20. Sailed PEGASUS to rendezvous with O.B.291 000^o Altacarry 8 miles at 1200/28. (F.O. Belfast 0430/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

REPULSE
ZULU
NAPIER
BOADICEA

....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)REPULSE
ZULU
NAPIER
BOADICEA

On completion of night B.P.T. firing ZULU join NAPIER east of Swona at 2130 today and proceed in company to Rosyth. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive May Island 1000/1 thence speed to Rosyth is not to exceed nine knots.

2. NAPIER, ZULU, with BOADICEA now at Rosyth provide escort for REPULSE to Greenock.

3. When released NAPIER proceed to Glasgow for repairs and alterations.

ZULU and BOADICEA are to return to Scapa. (R.A.D. 0915/28).

LUDLOW
LEEDS
LEWES

A.M. 1731/10. Anticipate LUDLOW, LEEDS, and LEWES will be ready to sail about 11/3. (C.in C. Plymouth 1105/28).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 3 trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/28).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800, 1st March and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1748/28 and 1831/28).

H.32.
SALADIN.

You may meet O.10 on passage. Situation 2000/28. Submarine H.32 pass to SALADIN. (S.3 2236/28 to H.32).

British Air Activity.Operation "Pocket"
POCKET

^{"Pocket"}~~POCKET~~ postponed for today. (C.in C. Plymouth 0952/28 to H.Q.F.C.). My 1930/22 and 1604/26. Request ~~POCKET~~ may be extended as follows:-

2/3 0900 - 1400
3/3 1100 - 1600
4/3 1100 - 1300
5/3 1100 - 1300.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2111/28 to H.Q.F.C.).

/ Patrols

War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Patrols.

The following patrols are being flown today
~~HMST~~ SA, IA, SA, 2, SA, 3.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 1105/3).

Operations

~~SLAVE~~ "Slave"
~~WARRANT~~ "Warrant"
~~OUNCE~~ "Ounce."

My 1729/26 and 1421/27 ~~SLAVE~~ ^{"Slave"} postponed a further 24 hours.
 (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1243/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).
 288. ~~SLAVE~~, ~~WARRANT~~ ^{"Warrant"} and ~~OUNCE~~ ^{"Ounce"} postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1306/28 to H.Q.F.C.).
 My 1306. Delete ~~SLAVE~~ ^{"Slave"}.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1450/28).
 My 1243/28 cancelled. ~~SLAVE~~ ^{"Slave"} sailing 1800/28.
 (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1452/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).
 My 1452/28. ~~SLAVE~~ ^{"Slave"} sailed less FARFIELD.
 (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1850/28 to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth).

Air Search.

One ~~Sunderland~~ ^{Sunderland} leaving Mount Batten at 1630 on A/S search along your track.
 (C.in C. Plymouth 1602/28 to CLEVELAND).

Bombing Restrictions.

Total bombing restrictions in T.B.R.40 are arranged from daylight/3/3 to darkness/4/3.
 (S.5. 1825/28).

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ANCHISES.
(Bombed
27/2.)

ANCHISES located in 055° 17' N., 012° 59' W., at 0030. Possibility of salvaging good if taken in tow soon. Am searching for boats to leeward. Part of crew still on board. (ENCHANTRESS 0050/28, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1930/28 to SUPERMAN.)

ANCHISES.

If in vicinity pass through position of ANCHISES. (C. in C. W.A., 0133/28, to FREESIA.)

Request aircraft at daylight to provide air protection and assist in location of 6 lifeboats with 150 survivors last seen 6 miles W.S.W. (ENCHANTRESS 0202/28.)

ANCHISES.

Proceeding. Ship may not last till daylight in risen sea. Help for part of survivors urgently required. (ENCHANTRESS 0347/28.)

Your 0202. Keep a good look out for A/C which will be sent to assist in search if able to take off. (C. in C.W.A., 0513/28 to ENCHANTRESS.)

Remaining crew abandoning ship at dawn very heavy weather 0505/28. (ANCHISES 0515/28.)

Approx., position ANCHISES at 1250/28, 055° 16' N., 012° 47' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1531/28, to FREESIA, MAN OF WAR.)

Following from N.O.i/c Londonderry begins. Following received from KINGCUP via aircraft have picked up six loads. One boat still missing am searching till dusk then request permission to return.

1745 ends. (C. in C. W.A., 2058/28, to Adty.,).

Your 1746. Well done. Return to harbour with survivors. (C. in C. W.A., 2211/28, to KINGCUP.)

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2.)

Tow has parted. LEEDS CITY, proceeding under own power at about 3 knots. Am escorting. p.c. and s. 054° 04' N., 014 40' W., 040 3 knots. (WINCHELSEA 0919/28.)

/My 0919/28.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2)
Cont:-

My 0919/28. LEEDS CITY reports engine unuseable with engine-room and boiler-room flooded. Bulkheads hold at present. I hope to take ship in tow again later this afternoon when weather moderates. Request tug may be sent to take over as soon as possible also relief surface escort. (WINCHELSEA 1330/28.)

My 1330/28. Tow has carried away a second time. LEEDS CITY now reports unable to keep steam. Intend to attempt to tow again at daylight if weather permitting, at present quite unsuitable. Request information whether tug and air protection are available. 54° 25' N., 12° 44' W. (WINCHELSEA 2140/28.)

MAN OF WAR in company with SUPERMAN proceed to assist LEEDS CITY reported 054° 18' N., 013° 09' W., at 1200/28, with WINCHELSEA standing by. WINCHELSEA inform MAN OF WAR position course and speed and remain in company until necessary to return for fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 2226/28.)

BLACKTOFT
(Bombed 27/2.)

S.S. BLACKTOFT damaged by bomb in engine room after aircraft attack near position "Z" about 1600/27. Now in tow of Tug KENIA and expected to arrive Harwich 1100 today. WIDGEON escorting. No report of casualties. (C. in C. Nore 1007/28.) Tug KENIA towing S.S. BLACKTOFT arrived at 1236. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1244/28.)

Convoy
F.S.422.
M 03867/41

Enemy bombing Convoy ~~XXXX~~ "Archa" in 52° 3' N., 1° 47' E. (WESTMINSTER 1127/28.) My 1127. 2 Bombs no hits. (WESTMINSTER 1130/28.)

AMSTELLAND.
(Bombed 26/2.)

My 1345/27, and my 1703/27. AMSTELLAND abandoned and sinking in 054° 10' or 00' N., 014° 38' W. Drifting eastwards. Crew 45 on board VANQUISHER. Consider unlikely she will last under present weather conditions until arrival of tug. Am searching to westward for BEURSPLEIN. (VANQUISHER 1610/28.)

/BEURSPLEIN.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

BEURSPLEIN
(Bombed 26/2.)

My 1610/28. Have been unable to locate BEURSPLEIN. Am returning to base with 157 survivors and body of late Captain of AMSTELLAND. (VANQUISHER 1955/28.)

CLEVELAND
TYNEDEALE.

You have been reported by enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth 1732/28, to CLEVELAND, TYNEDEALE.)

Dover and
Folkestone
bombed.

At 1410 today single enemy aircraft dropped four bombs in Dover cutting railway line to dockyard and damaging house property. No casualties. At 1630 one bomber escorted by four fighters dropped four bombs between Folkestone Pier and Copt Point. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1841/28).

Mining.

Blyth.

My 0911/27. Port of Blyth is now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0902/28.)

Z.M.E. 21.

My 1632/27. Weather unsuitable. Operation postponed till p.m. 1st. March. (PLOVER 1002/28.)

Port
Talbot.

Ships fitted with I.C. engines are not to enter or leave Port Talbot until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1150/28.).

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.28. 2. 41.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Humber.
Two more
Sweepers
requested

Mines are continuously being laid near Humber Light vessels and there are strong indications that they have also been dropped in Q.Z.S.120, 132, 205, 206. My existing LL and SA vessels cannot deal with this and it is essential that at least two vessels capable of sweeping acoustic or magnetic mines with good A A armament should be allocated to Humber. (F.O.Humber 1152/28.)

Enemy Intelligence of British Mines.Knowledge
of British
Minefield
off
Stavanger.

My 2347/10 and QZX 262, it is reported that on 8th January a Swedish ship was routed by German Naval Authorities at Egersund to clear a British minefield stated to have been laid recently in area enclosed by a line joining 58° 48' N., 5° 18' E., to 58° 36' N., 5° 18' E., and by lines at 90° from these two points to the Norwegian Coast. Master was told that minefield had only just been laid. (D.D.I.C. 1358/28.)

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.~~Home Commands~~ Contd.Humber.

F.O.I.C. Humber 1152/28. No ships to meet Humber's requirements can be spared from other commands. C. in C. Nore is requested to assist as far as is possible with sweeping forces from the Nore Command. (D.M.S. 1950/28.)

CABENDA
(British
534 tons.)

Mined in 51° 34' N., 3° 54.8" W.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1209/28.)

Hartlepool.

At 1215/28. One Acoustic Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler. Details. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1449/28.)

French Coast.

A.C.N.S. (H) 1547/28, to C. in C. Plymouth. See Operations Volume.

Iceland.

My 2120/22. 6th mine now rendered safe and three further British mines dealt with as follows. Further unconfirmed reports North Coast. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1725/28.)

Searches of War Channel.

My 1159/27. Operations postponed 24 hours and will be completed on 2nd., March in advance of ship. (C. in C. Rosyth 1800/28, to REPULSE.)

Enemy Intelligence.Suspicious Vessel.

In 47° 02' N. 24° 10' W. MORGENEN following by suspicious vessel. (Land's End Radio 0947/28.) Intercept at 1038 G.M.T., From Valentia Radio. From MORGENEN cancel my QQQQ. 1035/28. (Valentia 1039/28.) QQQQ. MORGENEN. Suspicious vessel still near. (Valencia Radio 1101/28.) MORGENEN stopped by suspicious vessel 1046/28, position at 0947 47° 02' N. 24° 10' W. (Valentia Radio 1150/28.)

Code
/Knowledge.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Code words
for groups
of merchant
ships.

Permanent Code words are allotted to escorted groups of merchant vessels sailing as follows: (a) Dartmouth to Needles, "~~Range~~" ^{"Range"} (b) Dartmouth to Falmouth ~~Range~~ (c) Falmouth to Dartmouth ~~Range~~ (d) Falmouth to Hartland Point ~~Range~~ ^{"Wheel"}.

2. These groups sail so as to be in following positions half an hour after sunset: (a) and (b) 50 17 N. 03 30 W. (c) and (d) 49 54 N. 05 12 W.

3. Groups require cover from time of leaving port until dark and from dawn following morning until arrival or dark average speed of 7 knots.

4. Future requests for cover for these groups are to be made to C. in C. Plymouth in form "Request cover for ~~Wheel~~ 17th February".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1110/28 to N.O.I/C Falmouth, H.Q.F.C., N.O.i/c Dartmouth, H.Q.C.C).

Use of own
weapons
against
aircraft
by merchant
ships.

Operations by German aircraft against shipping at sea in the Western Approaches are increasing, and take place outside the present range of fighter protection from U.K.

(B) It is of the first importance that all Merchant Ships should make the most effective possible use of their own guns and weapons if attacked.

(C) Attacks usually take place at a low altitude and one Fockewulf bomber has already been shot down by machine gun fire. Essential that machine gun fire should be withheld until the aircraft is within effective range. (I.E. 1000 yards or less).

(D) It does not appear that the P.A.C. weapons where fitted, has yet been brought into frequent use, although this weapon may prove very effective if properly used.

(E) N.C.S.O's are requested to impress these remarks on all masters.

(F) F.Os i/c and N.Os i/c are requested to take action forthwith to ensure that the necessary technical instruction is given to all concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 1608/28).

/Anchor.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.
(contd)

Anchor
lights
too
bright.

Recent aerial reconnaissance disclosed that, in some cases, anchor lights of merchant vessels were visible from a considerable altitude.

The attention of Masters is to be drawn to A.M.S.I. 243, paragraph (A) 5 and N.C.S.O's should take steps to ensure their compliance with these regulations. (D.T.D. 1937/28).

Machine
guns and
manning.

Ref. Adty. 1546/27 scale of equipment of Military Personnel in ocean going ships should be one machine gun per man. The Coastal Shuttle Service is to continue to be equipped with only one Military gun per two men.

D.E.M.S. Officers should arrange with A.L.O's that as far as possible each of the two Military personnel in team should have the same type of gun. (D.T.D. 2104/28).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S. 23.423

E.T.A. (WALLACE 0045/28) 25 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0951/28) Absentees (0952/28).

F.N. 18.416

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 0815/28) Absentees (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0953/28) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1015/28) Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1604/28).

W.N. 92.

0905/28, escorts, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0925/28).

W.N. 91.

Ships for (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1030/28) E.T.A. Dummet Head (PIROUETTE 1700/28) Ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1923/28).

W.N.U. 91.

1600/28. Unescorted, 17 ships. 6 kites. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1734/28).

/F.S. 22.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 22. 422

KENTWOOD returned (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1131/28).

F.N. 19. 419

0832/28, 36 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1044/28).
List of ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Thames 1239/28, 1507/28) 7 ships and 1 H.M. Tug and 17 trawlers from Humber to join at 62 D Buoy (N.C.S.O. Humber 1740/28).

F.N. 19. 419
F.S. 24. 424

Your 1833 owing to strong following wind and sea am considerably ahead of time and expect to arrive at 62 D for Dupp Buoy 0830. Ship will have great difficulty in steering if speed is reduced, present speed of convoy 6½ knots. (VIVIEN 1920/28 to C. in C. Nore).

VIVIEN's 1833 not to all addressees. LADY PHILOMENA is to be detached at 62 D Buoy to await ships joining F.N. from Humber. F.N. 19 should reduce speed if circumstances permit to allow Humber contingent to overtake during day. LADY PHILOMENA is to proceed to overtake F.S. 24 as soon as Humber ships join F.N. convoy. (C. in C. Nore 2225/28 to VIVIEN, VANITY, LADY PHILOMENA N.O.C. Humber). Ships (as N.C.S.O. Humber 1740/28) Joined (C. in C. Rosyth 2231/28).

E.N. 79.
W.N. 92.

FOWEY to act as additional A/A escort E.N 79. On meeting transfer to W.N. 92. Code words (C. in C. Rosyth 0915/28).

O.B.C. 291.

List of ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0930/28, 1015/28).

F.S.
F.N.

Forecast of sailing (C. in C. Rosyth 1317/28) Amendment to 1832/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/28).

F.S. 21. 421

Arrived except 4 (N.C.S.O. Thames 1321/28).

F.S. 25. 425
F.S. 26. 426

Escorts - amendment to 1650/21 (C. in C. Rosyth 1321/28).

/F.S. 22.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 22. 422

In Barrow Deen (N.C.S.O. Thames 1400/28)
Arrived except (ships) (N.C.S.O. Thames
2004/28).

E.N. 78.

Position (A.C.O.S. 1425/28).

Plymouth
sailings.

C. in C. Plymouth 1453/28.

F.S. 24. 424

Sailed 1400/28. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil
1451/28) List of ships and destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1606/28) 3 ships join from
Humber (C. in C. Rosyth 2253/28) Sailed
with VICEROY and COTSWOLD (C. in C. Rosyth
2359/28).

F.S. 25. 423

Destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber 1505/28)
Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 2341/28)

W.N. 91.
E.N. 78.

Positions and crossing tracks. (C. in C.
W.A. 1534/28).

Portsmouth
night
movements.

C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/28 .

F.N. 17. 417

Tyne ships arrived except 3 (F.O.I.C. Tyne
1604/28).

Unescorted
sailings.

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1952/28.

YEW TREE.

Reported at anchor off Yarmouth (N.C.S.O.
Thames 1951/28 to C. in C. Nore etc.
further to his 1321/28 re non-arrival).

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.

O.G. 54.
DUNEDIN.
S.S. PROME.

726 see P. 875.
Cancel my 1206/26 and 2330/27. DUNEDIN will not act as escort to O.G. 54 S.S. PROME is to proceed to Freetown in accordance with original sailing orders given her at Milford Haven. (C. in C. W.A. 0131/28 to LINCOLN).

O.B. 291.

No mail in Lloyd's.
EMPIRE SWAN, E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0915/28).

O.B.C. 291.

0125/28, escort RAMSEY, 18 ships (5 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0130/28).

O.B. 297.

My 1657/27. Sails Liverpool 13/3 (C. in C. W.A., 0939/28).

O.B.O. 291.

Sailed 0530/28, escort CALDWELL, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0955/28).

O.B.O. 292.

0730 /1. Escort ST. APOLLO. one ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1615/28). *See also next page*

O.B.C. 293

0100/4, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1002/28 amended 1004/2/3).

H.X. 108.

Arrived Cape Clear (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1325/28).

O.G. 54.

Lost contact. Asking for p.c. and s. (DIANELLA to C. in C. W.A. 0945/28).

O.G. 55.

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to R.V. with for passage to Gib. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1705/28).

O.B. 292.

Cancel sailing tel. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1200/28) Ships and destinations (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1601/28).

/S.C. 22.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

- S.C. 22. WESTERN MAID, TROMPENBERG arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1455/28) Clyde arrivals (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1835/28).
- S.C. 24. Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1523/28)
- O.B.E. 292. Sailed 1525/28. 11 ships one kite (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1602/28).
- H.X. 113. Destinations in reply to his 1201/27 (D.T.D. 1854/28 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).
- H.G. 55. Destinations (D.T.D. 1929/28).
- H.X. 109. Your 1604 (Request for report of position of H.X. 109) Convoy lost in gale early 27/2. Present position unknown they are probably scattered. (BURNHAM 1701/28 to A.C.W.A).
Your 1701/28. What was position of convoy when last seen and time. What was position of MALCOLM when last seen. What is your position now. Attention is drawn to W A G O 0154. (C. in C. W.A. 1916/28 to BURNHAM).
- O.B. 292. Escort ARAB from Liverpool until main escort is met. AMBUSCADE, Fr. Destroyer OURAGAN, HOLLYHOCK, DANEMAN, KING SOL, from Clyde. ST. APOLLO from Oban, S.O. AMBUSCADE. Sloop ABERDEEN. (D., Greenock 1755/28 to C. in C. W.A).
- H.X. 111. My 1126/27. H.X. 111 is now routed (as follows) and should therefore pass clear of all addressees. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1852/28 to various).

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Military Convoys.
~~MILITARY CONVOYS.~~

FORTH.
HESPERUS.
HURRICANE.
BATORY.

Sailed for Halifax in accordance with Adty. 1401/22/2 1635/22/2 and C. in C. W.A. 2234/23/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0008/28).

T.C. 9.

Following arrived Clyde. DUCHESS OF YORK ORONTES T.C. 9. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0800/28).

ABOSSO.
CITY OF PARIS.

Sailed 28/2. E.T.A. 13/3. Latter if not calling Freetown E.T.A. Capetown 21/3. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1450/28). 1450 sailed CITY OF PARIS and ABOSSO escorted by BRIGHTON and BROADWAY. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/28).

ARAWA.

Sailed in accordance with Admiralty 1727/22/2 and 1357/24/2. E.T.A. Freetown 1600Z/13th March. (N.O.I. C. Greenock 2000/28).

STRATHMORE.
REPULSE.
FURICUS.
ALCANTARA.

My 2144/15. Routes. (A.C.N.S. H. 2247/28 and 2248/28). Admiralty 2144/15 Para (3) Does this include A/S screen for ship referred to in para (2). (C. in C. H.F. 1901/28). Your 1901/28. Yes. Eight destroyers are being provided by C. in C. W.A. assisted by C. in C. Portsmouth for this convoy and escort, when they sail from the U.K. (A.C.N.S(H) 2315/28);

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

TAKU.

Proceed best speed to assist TAKU broken down in 056° 36' N, 021° 07' W., at 2100/27, and drifting to southward. Take her in tow and proceed to 056° 30' N., 014° W., when condition permits. Present area for total bombing restriction will remain in force until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 0118/28, to ENCHANTRESS.)

TAKU is roughly equidistant between Iceland and a U.K. port.

2. Existing commitments in the vicinity of the U.K. will make it exceedingly difficult to provide adequate air and surface escort for this very slow tow.

3. Request therefore you will consider TAKU proceeding to Iceland in the first instance. (A.C.N.S.H. 1354/28 to F.O.S.)

Important to keep W/T silence. C. in C. W.A. and F.O. (S) will keep you fully informed of measures being taken to assist you. (F.O.S. 1459/28, to TAKU.)

TAKU was disabled in about 056° 36' N., 021° 07' W., yesterday evening with fractured hydroplane gear, externally to hull and is unable to move owing to KITCHEN rudder. ENCHANTRESS is proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.S. 1652/28, and 1932/28.)

Proceed forthwith as ordered in my 0118/28, to assist. TAKU. (C. in C. W.A. 2247/28, to ENCHANTRESS.)

Your 1354/28, which was received at 2115/28. In considering this course of action earlier today I rejected it since I considered the U-boat and air menace to be less hazardous than the difficulty in towing the S/M beam on to the prevailing wind towards Iceland.

/Furthermore.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.TAKU cont.:

Furthermore throughout the passage to Iceland the S/M would be getting further and further from any additional towing facilities that might be required. I have been in communication with C. in C. W. A., who is considering both alternatives and I am happy to abide by his decision. (F.O.S. 2351/28, to Admty.)

MEMPHIS.

S.O.S. MEMPHIS position $56^{\circ} 24' N.$ $9^{\circ} 50' W.$, requires assistance. (Malin Head 0406/28.) Needs immediate assistance filling with water. de GKU. (Malin Head T.O.R. 0525/28.)

Proceed position $056^{\circ} 40' N.$, $010^{\circ} 20' W.$, to assist MEMPHIS. (C. in C. W.A. 0538/28, to COREOPSIS.)

S.O.S. from MEMPHIS needs immediate assistance, slowly filling with water, position $56^{\circ} 45' N.$, $10^{\circ} 20' W.$, water increasing, engine room fires out, four hours heavy sea, torpedoed Norwegian crew on board, boat space not available. (Seaforth Radio 1020/28.)

Corrected position MEMPHIS 100 miles 290° Inistrahull. (Port Patrick Radio 1059/28.)

Correct position of MEMPHIS 100 miles 290° from Inistrahull. Hudson aircraft is being sent to assist. (C. in C. W.A., 1237/28, to COREOPSIS.)

Things are serious. Engine-room full stern nearly under. (Portpatrick Radio 1840/28.)

/Conditions.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

MEMPHIS
Cont:-

Conditions worse, one boat washed away, the other on high side. (MEMPHIS 2323/28.)

MEMPHIS now reports her position at 1500 was approx. 055° 50' N., 008° 30' W., (C. in C. W.A., 1526/28, to COREOPSIS.)

From MEMPHIS. Can't last much longer. Please send help. Position 56° 08' N., 9° 28' W. (Port Patrick Radio 1557/28.)

SONJA MAERSK.

(British Tanker, 1909 Tons.). Blown ashore in heavy gale at Reykjavik. Total loss. Crew saved. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1200/28.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.
Possible
sabotage.

Following received begins. Addressed, F.O.I.C. Glasgow from QUEEN ELIZABETH. Please pass following to Strachan Fairfield Works, Glasgow from RODDAN. H.P. Turbine Gland partly stripped dummy severely rubbed blading undamaged. Piece file between impulse wheel and dummy spindle eccentric eight mils. H.P. Turbine Gland and dummy rubbed blading undamaged. Examination proceeding. Ends. T.O.O. 1509/27. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1255/28. to D.N.I.)

RICHMOND
HILL.
(British,
7500 Tons.)

S.O.S. Position bearing due South from Vik. Commodore broken down, require assistance. T.O.R. 1115. Ends. (Iceland 1340/28, to Wick.)

(?Essential) (?if nothing is sighted) proceed in company to assistance of *MODAVIA broken down in 062° 01' N., 018° 30' W., at 1342/28. PETUNIA report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 1652/28, to RESTIVE, PETUNIA, PRUDENT.)

*RICHMOND HILL - See next page

/Your 1626/28.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

RICHMOND HILL
cont:-

Your 1626/28. RICHMOND HILL broken down. MODAVIA and six ships, course 080 degrees, latitude 62° 36' longitude 18° (DOUGLAS 1659/28.)

My 1652/28, for MODAVIA read RICHMOND HILL. (C. in C. W.A. 2157/28, to RESTIVE, etc.)

Tug
situation
in Greenock
Area.

Tugs St. OLAVES and SEAMAN are ready for sea at Stornaway. SALVONIA and NORTHERN SPRAY are proceeding to Londonderry in accordance with your instructions. MASTADONTE is available at Greenock but is unreliable and short range only. No assistance has been sent to MEMPHIS. I have not yet received your instructions to RESTIVE and PRUDENT. SUPERMAN is proceeding to ANCHISES in accordance with your instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1847/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

DYNAMO.

(British, 809 Tons). Stranded outside harbour North of N. Pier trying to enter 27th. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1940/28.) Refloated at 2200/28. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2219/28.)

TOWARD.

(Rescue ship) Unable to sail with O.B.C. 292 owing to damaged propellor. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2058/28.)

CLARKIA.

Both life boats stove in, raft washed overboard, and raft support carrying degaussing gear feed severely buckled in north east gale 27th. Main coil unaffected. Proceeding towards Minches. My position 060 degrees 58' N. 009 degrees 42' W. (CLARKIA 2100/28.)

NORTHERN SUN.

Commenced pumping stokehold. Hope to get leak under control. (Corrupt group) continuing to endeavour to make contact. (NORTHERN SUN 1815/28 to PETUNIA.) Have sighted and am close to NORTHERN SUN in position 062° 22' N., 011° 14' W. (PETUNIA 2250/28.)

/From PETUNIA...

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.

NORTHERN SUN
Contd.

From PETUNIA to VIMIERA, VISENDA, am with NORTHERN SUN in 062°23'N 011°22'W. course 102 degrees 2 knots. She requires towing to Thorshavn. Will stand by until you arrive indicate time. (Scapa W/T 0001/1.)

NEPTUNUS.

Your 1052/27. Netherlands Trawler NEPTUNUS is ashore in position one mile North East of Sandhead Luce Bay. (N.O.I.C. Stranraer 1545/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

LA MOQUEUSE.

Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1603/28.)

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French
Convoys.

French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE passed Gibraltar westbound at 1000/27 escorting French M.V's OUEDIFLED, (? OUED TIFLET), OUED FES, and IPANEMA. French destroyer TEMPETE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1400/27 escorting French M.V's OUERGHHA, CAUDEBEC and CHAMPAGNE. (D.O.R. 1/3).

→ IMPERIALIST.

Departure for Y.1. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0900/28)

MACON.

Your 1621/25 arrived Ponta Delgada 18/2. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1050/28 to N.S.O. (I) Freetown).

Netherlands
S/MS.

- (a) Netherlands submarines will shortly be operating on N.A. Station. They are painted as follows.
- (b) British communication ratings and liaison officers are carried.
- (c) Recognition procedure is identical with that of British Submarines. S.P's are also identical.
- (? Informed) first submarines enter station about 5/3.
- (e) Request authority addressed may warn ships about to enter N.A. Station accordingly (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/28 to N.A. Station).

KENYA.

Re Adty, 1914/22 KENYA sails p.m./28 and expects to pass through (position) 1200 G.M.T./5/3 steering 155° 18 knots. If necessary to ensure meeting KENYA, COMORIN must break W/T silence. (F.O.C.N.A. 1140/28 to COMORIN).

Departure F.O.C. 10 C.S. in KENYA. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1600/28).

DUNCAN.
VELOX.

→ Pass through 036° 20'N. 008° 00'W. IMPERIALIST sailed 0900/28 for Y one decimal point three. MIRROR escorted by (GRMJ) (not traceable) is working on cable in position seven decimal point seven Cape Trafalgar 220°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1211/28 to DUNCAN, VELOX). * See also next page

/JASPIS.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

JASPIS.

(B.2.) Tanker JASPIS (Norwegian) left Casablanca at ? 1522/25, destination stated to be Bordeaux, speed estimated 8 knots. Manned by crew of "OCTDAIM. My tel. No. 2436. (Consul General, Tangier, T.H.I. 1243/28 to Admty).^{??} ~~believed intended to be~~ OCTANE.

Movements of
REPULSE, FURIOUS
W.S.7 etc.

Pass following A.Ts to S.O. Force H. 2144/15, 2258/16, 1323/23. 1103/27 Above A.Ts have been repeated to REPULSE. (D.D.O.D.(F) 1414/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

MIRROR.

My 1211/28. MIRROR now in 035° 55'N. 005° 48'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1505/28 to DUNCAN, VELOX).

VERBENA.

Arrival VERBENA having lost contact with convoy 23/2. (S.O. (I)Gib. 1546/28).

Air
Operations.

Daily Summary. 1 surface recco. east. 1 surface recco. west. Area covered 4° W. to 8° W. Flying curtailed by fog. (200 Group 1700/28).

? S.L.S. 64.
survivors.

My 1217 My 1207 and My 1206/27 (1217/27) not to Admiralty. Portuguese representative of Marine allows "ARDEOLA" to transport survivors to Gibraltar. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1735/28).

ASAKA MARU.

Request information whether ASAKA MARU took in oil fuel while in port and full particulars of passengers and cargo embarked or disembarked also mean draft on arrival and departure and any other information. (D.N.I. 2006/28 to Consul, Bilbao, N.A. Lisbon).

Unknown
Unit.

Following D/F bearings obtained by Adty of unknown unit at 1856 G.M.T./28. (F.O.C.N.A. 2358/28).

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL.

Simonstown departure 0700/21 ¹CORNWALL for patrol and St. Helena in accordance with your 2017/26 and 1941/27. Speed of advance 25 knots. E.T.A. St. Helena. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0715Z/28 to C. in C. S.A).

NOBLE NORA,
TRANSVALIA,
EGELAND,
JOHN WILLIAMSON.

Admty 1355/22 and 1236/24. Arrangements being made for Union Government to requisition these vessels subject to satisfactory survey and transfer them to Admiralty. 0938B/28.

S.S. CANADIAN
CRUISER.

Overdue shipping CANADIAN CRUISER due Durban 26/2 not arrived. (S.O.(I), Capetown 0945/28).

CILICIA.

You will be required to sail after fuelling to overtake convoy S.L. 67 which commences sailing at 0630/1. (C. in C. S.A. 1021N/28 to CILICIA).

? Ship
0148.

Corrupt SSSS distress message intercepted by Ascension at 0148 G.M.T. latitude corrupt longitude 018° 20'. Request information whether this signal was intercepted elsewhere.(C. in C. S.A. 1142/28 to Admty).

HOLMELEA.

Your 1142/28. Following was read at 0141/28. SSSS de HOLMELEA 54° 15' N. 17° 25' W. HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft machine-gunned. (D.D.I.C. 1805/28 to C. in C.S.A). *Small Boat Campaign. Page 991.*

S.L. 67
escort.

Adty's 1727/16 and 1915/26 propose ARETHUSA relieves MALAYA as escort to S.L. 67 in (position) at 1200N/14. (C. in C. S.A. 1327N/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

FURIOUS.
aircraft for
Tahome.

My 1403/14. Code Word for (A) Operation in para 1 - ~~SECRET~~ (B) Operation in para 5 - ~~SECRET~~ (C) Embarkation in U.K. - "Pageant" ~~SECRET~~. Admty 1403/14 has been repeated to REPULSE. (D.O.D.(F) 1351/28 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A. etc).

/PORT.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).PORT FREMANTLE.

Your 1852/20. Check route between positions "E" received as 11° 20' N. 20° 20' W. and "F" received as 48° 30' N. 28° 05' W. (D.T. D. 1357/28 to Consul, Montevideo).

*Reply - see Page 26
1.3.41.*

NICOLAOU
ZOGRAFIA.
TAXIARCHIS.

Your 1921/25. Impossible to bring NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA up to slowest convoy speed and ship will have to sail independently. Master Chief Engineer and crew are willing to sail but remaining officers refuse. Understand refusal entirely concerning rate of pay. Master declines to prosecute. TAXIARCHIS sailing in S.L. 67. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1508/28).

CHATEAUROUX.

My 1237/26. French express concern at risk involved in independent sailing. Request your views re alternative. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1609/28).

CYCLAMEN.
CUBA.

Arrival 1730/28 CYCLAMEN escorting CUBA. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1925N/28).

KOSMOS.

Norwegian oil refinery ship, 17801 tons, German broadcast states intercepted last September and taken to a French port. KOSMOS left Walvis Bay, S.W. Africa, on 12/9 for Curacao, D.W.I. (D.S. 543).

D.F. bearings.

Following bearings obtained at 1856/28 G.M.T.
Text of message FF TAL DGU HZA ZNA G.
(D.D.I.C. 2043/28 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A and W.I., F.O.C.N.A).

Following bearings obtained at 1617/28 G.M.T. Possible positions are within 150 miles of 10° S. 60° E. or approx 29° S. 78° E. Impossible to estimate which position, is to be preferred. (D.D.I.C. 2300/28 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. C.O.I.S. Singapore, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.REGENT.

Your 2516/28 convoy not sighted. E.T.A. off Marsamxett 0568/1 4 figure weather report 9890.
(REGENT 0001/28 to Cdr (S) 1).

*See also next page*Kastelorizo.

Re withdrawal (C. in C. Med. 0944/28)
See Mediterranean Volume.

FORMIDABLE.

Your 1601/27. FORMIDABLE has not passed Canal and has been sent to Port Sudan to await opportunity. In the meantime she is at the disposal of C. in C. East Indies for operations against (? Massowa).
(C. in C. Med., 0942/28 to Admty).

N.O.i/c Malta's 1645/27 para. 2. There has been full concurrence. (C. in C. Med., 1011/28 to Admty).

Enemy A/C Mining.

At early dawn about 10 planes shed parachute mines in both harbours and two on Valetta. One mine hit and blown up by anti-aircraft guns. Considerable damage but casualties few. Am putting hospital ship DORSETSHIRE in Marsaxlokk 36 invalids. (V.A. Malta 1120/28, to C. in C. Med).

Jugoslav shipping.

N.A. Belgrade 1148/28 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air operations.

1. Egypt. 27/2. R.C. Tripoli.

Attack on Valona.

2. Greece. 27/2. 9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes attacked Valona aerodrome bombs bursting on aerodrome and on hangars and buildings. Hurricanes destroyed 7 CR.42 and further 2 CR.42 were destroyed in collision. 3 Blenheims and 1 Hurricane damaged no casualties.

Attack on supply ship.

1 Blenheim on A/S patrol between Marsa Taclai and Massawa dropped 1000 lbs. of bombs near enemy supply vessel proceeding South position 15° 45' N. 39° 22' E. Blenheim damaged by A.A. fire from ship.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1254/28).

/Movements.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Movements
Summary.

C. in C. Med 1306/28. See Lion copy only.

REGENT.

Your 0001/28 acknowledged. Mines of unknown type laid by aircraft 280° 6.25 cables and 290° 4.7 cables St Elmo light. Instructions for entering Marsamxett Harbour. (Cdr. (S) 1 1401/28 to REGENT).

See previous page

Tripoli.

Estimate of German reinforcements. (C. in C. M.E. to W.O. 1420/28).

Sweep by
NUBIAN
HASTY.
JAGUAR.

NUBIAN, HASTY, and JAGUAR are carrying out sweep (100%) during dark hours tonight commencing near Kastelorizo towards Rhodes then back towards Kastelorizo thence direct to Alexandria. (Capt. (S) 1 1501/28 to RORQUAL).

Relief of
aircraft
flying
crews.

5th S.L. 1548/28 to C. in C. Med.

ROVER to
proceed to
China.

On completion of present rest period, and outer Suez Canal being open to traffic, ROVER is to be sailed to join C. in C. China. Report date she will be ready at Alexandria. Crew should be adjusted as necessary before sailing. (C. in C. Med. 1552/28 to Capt. (S) 1).

Mines at
Malta.

My 2208/19.
(i) On 27th two mines exploded spontaneously off Sliema Front. Two mines exploded off St. Julians Bay, possibly caused by Diesel engined Gozo boat which was blown up.

(ii) Weather conditions similar to those referred to in para. 2 of my 2208/19. (V.A. Malta 1556/28).

/Suez.....

From War Registry,

1306/28th Feb.

984^A

CORRECTION.

C.in C. Mediterranean's 1306/28 Feb, subject
movements summary number 188 Eastern Mediterranean.

In two places for " 825 Squadron" please read
" Inshore Squadron"

1306/28

A.C.N.S.(T)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O to 1st S.L.
Ops (4)
O.D.5.
O.D.8.
O.I.C.(2)
I.P.(3)
D.S.D.9.
D.A./S.W.
W.D.
E.O.S by courier.
Mails.
Movements.
M.(3)

D.P.S.
E.P.S.
D of P(3)
D.T.D(4)
D.T.D(M)
D.E.W.D(3)
Adm. Chalmers.
N.I.O. Australia House.

CFW.

M 9844 B.

*Don't type.
(For him copy only)*

SECRET MESSAGE 1306/28th February. IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date. 28.2.41
Recd. 2101

Naval Code (O) (Secret) by W/T

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet (? S.O.Minesweepers
Malta Force), S.O. 201 Group, B.N.A.Athens,
V.A.Malta. 122, S.O.Force H., S.C.Force I.
825 Squadron, F.O.C.North Atlantic. 828. R.A.Alexandria,
S.B.N.O.Suez Canal Area 803. S.B.N.O.Suda Bay,
N.O.i/c Haifa.

IMPORTANT.

Movements summary number 188 eastern Mediterranean .
S/M H.M.S.RORQUAL left Alexandria 1800/26 through 032°
00' North (? 028°) 30' East and 034° 00' North 028°
00' East to Patras in Southern Aegean keeping south East
of Scarpanto night 28th/1st. H.M.S.TRIUMPH on patrol
Calabria. H.M.S.UTMOST operating in Hammamet Gulf and
H.M.S.URSULA patrolling west of Tripoli (Libya). H.M.S.
REGENT due Malta 1st March from Tripoli (Libya)
(2) French ship PROVIDENCE three funnels grey hull
showing lights has safe conduct leaves Beirut 0300/1 for
Marseilles via Messina passing 12 miles south of Gauda
Mende to Calabrian coast 20 miles east Stilo Point thence 12
miles south of Cape Del Armi speed 10½ knots. H.M.S.AJAX
H.M.A.S.PERTH H.M.S.NUBIAN H.M.S.JAGUAR H.M.S.HASTY
operating south east of Rhodes. H.M.S.AJAX H.M.A.S.PERTH
pass Kaso Straits night 28th/1st and remain in southern
Aegean. H.M.Ships NUBIAN JAGUAR HASTY arrive Alexandria
p.m. 1st. H.M.S.BONAVENTURE due Alexandria A.M. 1st.
H.M.Ships DECOY HERO pass south of Crete due Suda Bay
A.M. 1st. H.M.S.LADYBIRD at Famagusta.. Convoy A N 16
escort H.M.Ships COVENTRY GREYHOUND H.M.C.N.ST. CROIX
MCONSTONE (? left) Port Said 1500/26th Speed 7 knots and
A N F 16 escort H.M.S.CALCUTTA H.M.A.S.VAMPIRE H.M.S.
HOTSPUR left Port Said 1000/27th (?to) pass Kaso night of
28th/1st due Suda Bay and Piraeus 2nd March.
H.M.S.ORION leaves Alexandria for Port Said p.m.
28th returning 2nd March. H.M.S.WRYNECK H.M.A.S.WATERHEN
2 Corvettes in 825 Squadron being joined by H.M.A.S.STUART
2nd March. Benghazi closed to shipping. S.O.Force I at
Mersa Tobruh. T.O.O. 1304/28th.

1306/28.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops.(4)
O.D.(5)
O.D.8.
O.I.C.(2)
I.P.(3)
D.S.D.9.
D.A./S.W.
W.D.
F.O.S, by courier.
Mails.
Movts.
M.(3)
D.P.S.

Advance copy sent
Ops, O.D., O.I.C.
Passed F.O.(S)
E.P.S.
D. of P.(3)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.E.W.D.(3)
Adrl. Chalmers.
N.L.O.Australian House.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Suez Canal.

Reply to C. in C. Med 1550/24 re locating mines (D.M.S. 1756/28 amended 2205/1).

*Reply to 1756/28 - C.C. Med. 1704/2/3, para 63-64, March*Malta mines.

138 Q B B Malta. Marsamxett harbour is dangerous due to mines laid in following approx position.

Instructions for Ship entering.
(V.A. Malta 1625/28).Air Operations.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 28/2. All times G.M.T. Glenn Martin photographic R.C., Maddelena. Cagliari, Elmas and Alghero at special request S.O. Force H.

At early dawn 10 unidentified enemy aircraft dropped parachute mines in and off Grand Harbour and Marsa Scirocco Harbour 2 of which exploded in Valletta causing considerable damage and casualties. A.A. claim 1 aircraft unconfirmed destroyed. One mine hit and exploded by A.A. before reaching ground.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Med 1735/28).

DORSETSHIRE
(Hospital ship)

Leaves Malta about 1800/28 for Eastern Medn. passing North of Medina Bank. (V.A. Malta 1821/28 to REGENT).

DORSETSHIRE.Hospital ship. Sailed 1800 for Haifa.
(V.A. Malta 1916/28).Your 1139/25. Air reconnaissance today. Maddalena. Alghero aerodrome. Cagliari.
(V.A. Malta 2213/28 to S.O. Force H).W.S.6.
Ammunition.

Following is repetition of my 1646/19. (No trace of previous receipt) Admiralty 337. From C. in C. Med. Admiralty 1722/15. Request confirmation that quantity in W.S.6. contains appropriate proportion of high explosive. Semi-armour piercing only is mentioned 1646/19. (C. in C. Med, 2337/28)

Reply: 1212/2/3, p. 62 March

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ LEANDER.

My 1500/27 and 2026/25. LEANDER on completing with fuel is to escort Oiler PEARLEAF towards Colombo until 1300Z/1. Amended rendezvous for LEANDER and CANBERRA will be ordered. (C. in C. E.I. 0436Z/28 to LEANDER).

Orders for DORSETSHIRE.

Force Z

My 0920 and 1108/26 DORSETSHIRE is now to remain with GLASGOW and Force Z until 010° N. DORSETSHIRE is then to proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles for fuel, arriving a.m/5. (C. in C. E.I. 0510Z/28 to DORSETSHIRE).

→ Sinking of RAMB I. by LEANDER.

My 0744Z/27. No damage to LEANDER. Last sentence should read. Begins. Intend transferring prisoners and guard to capacity of oiler PEARLEAF. Ends. (LEANDER 0915Z/27).

LEANDER's memo 44/27. (1) RAMB ^Ione was a Raider which left Massowa 20/2 with orders to proceed toward N.E.I. pending further instructions. (ii) Intention was to attack commerce while on passage. (iii) Raider opened fire under Naval ensign. (iv) Sunk by LEANDER's fire not by scuttling action. (v) Raider failed to communicate encounter with LEANDER to any one. (vi) Oiler PEARLEAF with all prisoners expects to arrive Colombo 0300Z/2. (vii) Intend to suppress all news of above from present. (C. in C. E.I. 1014Z/28) Please ascertain from survivors of RAMB I whether she was to co-operate with German raiders, and if so any further details obtainable. (D.D.I.C. 1553/28 to C. in C.E.I)

→ CANBERRA. LEANDER.

Orders (C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/28) See Operations Volume.

B.N. 17.

Convoy B.N. 17 Port Sudan portion arrived 28/2 BRITISH TRADER, KINDAT, TONJER, SUBADAR. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1149Z/28 to Admty).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Convoy
B.S.17.

Sailing telegram (i) B.S. 17 Port Sudan
Portion (ii) 0415Z/28. (vi) FLAMINGO, YARRA.
(N.O.I/C Port Sudan 1152Z/28).

Air Attack
on supply
ship.

See Mediterranean H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1254/28.

Mogadiscio,
Merchant
Service
captives.

Request British Merchant Service prisoners
rescued at Mogadiscio be interrogated.
Information on following points required.
(D.D.I.C. 1245/28 to N.O.I.C. Mombasa).

RANCHI.

Cancel my 1548/24. (C. in C. E.I, 1527/28
to RANCHI).

Routeing of
Shipping.

Adty. 1510/25.

(i) I have ordered Shipping in Mozambique
Channel (?area) between 019° S. and 034° S.
into North and Southbound Lanes each forty
miles wide, the inner lane being about 20
miles from general trend of coast.

(ii) I intend this to be only a temporary
protective measure against present raider
threat, my hope being that change will
remain undiscovered for a short time and if
the raider attacks as heretofore, he will
draw a blank. As a permanent measure I
consider additional concentration over such
a long distance would be unsound until
more ships and (?aircraft) are available
to protect routes throughout.

(iii) With reference to my 1522/7/1 para 2
I intend the Southern boundary line (line
B) shall be to north of Seychelles and that
all shipping to and from Mozambique Channel
shall pass within about 300 miles of Mombasa.
(C. in C. E.I. 2010Z/28).

War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Bearings
ASAKA MARU

Bearings obtained by Simonstown D/F, Auckland, Waipapakauhi and Awarua D/F Stations are of Japanese Special Service Ship ASAKA^{MARU} proceeding Yokohama to Lisbon via Panama Canal. Bearings place unit in vicinity of Canary Islands 2248 G.M.T/27. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0341Z/28).

Japanese
Demand for
Charts.

My 1649/19. San Francisco reports from U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer there has been recent heavy demand for navigation Charts of Southern, Central and Western Pacific and Islands by Masters of Japanese Merchant vessels in U.S. ports. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1255/28 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

America & West Indies.ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Halifax arrival from T.C.9. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1442/28 to Admty).

WOLFE.

Halifax departure WOLFE Ocean escort S.C.24. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1505/28).

NITIEI MARU.

My 2001/27, another tanker NITIEI MARU sailed Los Angeles 22/2 cargo aviation base petrol in dirty tanks previously used for diesel known. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1519/28 to Capt O.S. Singapore).

PRINCE ROBERT.

C. in C. A.W.I 0952/27. PRINCE ROBERT urgently requires 30 days refit after arrival in Canadian waters with AWATEA mid March. Anticipate she cannot arrive Suva earlier than 30/4. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1559/28 to N.Z.N.B).

S.C. 24.

C.O.A.C. Halifax 1329/24 and 1044/25. Deletions and Additions. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1602/28).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.2.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.Suspected
Raiders.

Following signals received from S.O.(I) Kingston, reliability C.O. and B.O. respectively.

(1) Master of WASHINGTON EXPRESS on arrival Balboa reports at 0100/8 in 010° N. 087° W. cargo ship estimated 5000 tons, two masted, one funnel, believed flush deck forward, passed on opposite course. Master suspicious owing to alteration first toward then away. Stranger fired three signal lights white turning red in flight, also flashed morse continuously ending signal N.C. once. No. W/T heard T.O.O. 1556/14.

(2) British ship SUFFOLK reports when in 014° 42' S. 092° 40' W. at 0855 G.M.T./21 intercepted on 600 metres following;- Begins RRRR followed by suspicious vessel ends. Estimated by strength of signal ship, near above position. Ends. T.O.O. 1038/27. Reference Para (2) could any British or Allied Ship have been near the position. (D.D.I.C. 1308/28 to A.C.N.B).

F.O.C. Australian
Squadron.

Naval Board Melbourne's 0737Z/26. F.O.C. Australian Squadron will hoist his flag in HOBART on arrival Fremantle. (A.C.N.B. 2355Z/28).

MOST SECRET.28. 2. 1941.Friday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.LEESEE.

German ship LEESEE has sailed. Particulars of departure not known. (Consul, Vigo, 2000/28, to Admty.)

Collier.

6000 tons belonging to Stinnes Line, reported mined in first week of February in Lower Elbe. (Air Staff Opnl., Summary 98.)

MAJA.

Danish (2203 tons) reported mined in first week of February in Lower Elbe. (Air Staff Opnl., Summary 98.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.MONBALDO.

Para reports MONBALDO moved anchorage to seaward approx., position 1° 19 min. Sth., 48° 30' W. (N.S.O.(I) Monte Video, 2229Z/28.)

RAMB. I.

See East Indies.

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
attacked.HOLMELEA.

British 4223 tons. Following has been read. SSSS de GCK. Position 54.24 N., 17.25 W. HOLMELEA gunned (by unknown attacker) Valentia Radio, 0124/28, 0129/28.) SSSS de GLV 54. 24 N., 17, 25 W., HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft. Send immediate assistance. (Landsend Radio, 0136/28, T.O.R. 0242.) SSSS de HOLMELEA. 54.15 N., 17.45 W., HOLMELEA attacked by unknown craft, machine-gunned. (Burnham Radio, 0141/28.) Proceed to assistance of HOLMELEA being gunned by U boat in 054° 24' N., 017° 25' W., at 0224. (C. in C. W.A., 0245/28, to WHITEHALL.) Unable to find HOLMELEA proceeding Londonderry to refuel 54° 30' 16° 20' (weather). (WHITEHALL, 1800/28, to C. in C. W.A.) See Page 981.

KASONGO
DIALA.
(torpedoed
26/2.)

Arrived CAMPANULA with 38 survivors from KASONGO, escorting DIALA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0709/28, to C. in C. W.A.)

CLAN
OGILVY,
S/m. sighted.

SSSS de CLAN OGILVY, 7 R 18 N 14 R 26 W., Submarine sighted 1900 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1909Z/28.)

MANISTEE
(torpedoed
23/2.)

Your 2205/27 received 1743/28. (requesting confirmation H.M.S. MANISTEE should be presumed lost.). No further information of MANISTEE or of her ships company has yet been reported. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/28, to Admty.)

S/m's reported
1807.

Following bearings of German U/Boat obtained at 1807/28. (D.D.I.C. 1911/28.)

1337.

About 55.50 N., 10° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 543.).

/1832 Following.....

28. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1832.

Following bearings of German U/Boat obtained on at 1832/28. (D.D.I.C. 1919/28.)

1909.
G.M.T.

Ref. Admty., message AF. Position $7^{\circ} 18' N.$, $14^{\circ} 26' W.$, at 1909/28 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2133/28.)

Estimated
U/B.
dispositions.

German 3 N.W. of Hebrides may be 30 miles of (a) $59^{\circ} N.$, $8^{\circ} W.$, (b) $59^{\circ} 30' N.$, $11^{\circ} 38' W.$, (c) $61^{\circ} N.$, $13^{\circ} W.$

5 or 6 between $52^{\circ} N.$, and $61^{\circ} N.$, near $20^{\circ} W.$, may be respectively about $52^{\circ} N.$, $53^{\circ} N.$, $55^{\circ} 30' N.$, $58^{\circ} N.$, $59^{\circ} 30' N.$, $61^{\circ} N.$ Possibly one near $60^{\circ} N.$, $25^{\circ} W.$ 1 40 miles of $58^{\circ} 30' N.$, $16^{\circ} 30' W.$ 1 40 miles of $56^{\circ} N.$, $17^{\circ} 30' W.$ 1 30 miles of $54^{\circ} 30' N.$, $17^{\circ} 30' W.$ 1 30 miles of $55^{\circ} 50' N.$ $10^{\circ} W.$
1 St. Georges Channel.
2 patrolling 100 - 150 miles West of Ushant.

Italian. 3 in N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1448/28.)