

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat
campaign

MALCOLM, escorting Convoy H.X.109 reports that CADILLAC (tanker, 12062 tons), was torpedoed at 2301 in the N.W. Approaches about 210 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis. S.S. CANADIAN STAR reported this morning sighting a submarine on the surface in 54° 20' N. 14° 50' W. S.S. CITY OF CALCUTTA reported early this afternoon a submarine on the surface in 58° 22' N. 33° 21' W.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command aircraft bombed Wilhelmshaven, TIRPITZ, Emden and Boulogne last night. An aircraft patrolled west of Brest from 2100/28 to 0030/1 to attack the HIPPER cruiser if she sailed. The cruiser was again sighted in dry dock at Brest this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
W.N.91.

Convoy W.N.91 was attacked this evening north of Kinnairds Head, after being shadowed during the afternoon. S.S. FORTHBANK was hit and set on fire, and S.S. PENNINGTON COURT was damaged above water but proceeded with the convoy.

Convoy
S.C.22.

Convoy S.C.22 was attacked this afternoon 30 miles North of St. Davids Head and EMPIRE SIMBA and Dutch tanker ROTULA were set on fire and abandoned. (p. 11-12)

/ Convoy E.N. 79. ...

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy
E.N.79.

Convoy E.N.79 was bombed this evening off Kinnairds Head after being shadowed earlier, and tanker ATHELTEMPLAR was hit and set on fire.

Trawlers
ST. AGNES No.1.
HUGH WALPOLE.

Trawler ST. AGNES No.1 was attacked off Kinnairds Head this afternoon and 2 men were killed, though the trawler suffered only slight damage.
A/S Trawler HUGH WALPOLE was hit off Aberdeen.

The Admiralty have ordered the A.A. armament in all merchant ships approaching or leaving the U.K. to be fully manned from dawn to dusk whilst ships are east of 20° W.

(p.16)

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL this morning intercepted the French S.S. VILLYE DE MAJUNGA about 450 miles West of Capetown and is sending her in to Simonstown under armed guard.

DELHI

Urging the complete retubing of all boilers, C.O. cruiser DELHI points out that in May, 1940, all boilers were sentenced to one year's life and final, but the ship has since steamed 55,446 miles, equivalent to about four year's normal peace time steaming, and over 100 tubes have perforated or split. (p.26)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

1.3.1941.

Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Sweep
near
Kastelorizo.

NUBIAN, HASTY and JAGUAR carried out a sweep last night between Kastelorizo and Rhodes.

Air raid
on Malta.

A number of bombs were dropped today on the N.E. and south coast of Malta. Very little damage was done.

Mining
of Malta.

H.M. Drifter PLOUGHBOY was damaged by a mine at the entrance to the Grand Harbour today and had to be beached.

Operations
by UPRIGHT

C.in C. Med. reports that on 23/2 UPRIGHT torpedoed an unescorted ship in 34° 23' N. 11° 49' E. At 0240/25 UPRIGHT obtained a hit with a torpedo on a warship, considered to have been a cruiser of the ARMANDO DIAZ class or possibly a NAVIGATORI class destroyer.

Valona
bombed.

Blenheims, escorted by Hurricanes, attacked Valona today. (p.67)

East Indies.Massawa
bombed
by F.A.A.

Blenheims bombed the S/M base at Massawa today. (p.67)

Five Albacores from FORMIDABLE attacked the northern harbour at Massawa shortly after dusk today. Bombs were dropped on a small floating dock believed to contain a submarine. (p.67)

S/M sunk.

A Blenheim on patrol bombed and sank a submarine near Dahlak Island today.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.PRINCE OF WALES.

On completion PRINCE OF WALES will come under the orders of C.in C. H.F. and will proceed to Scapa for trials and working up as ordered by him.
(D.O.D.(H) 1214/1).

East Coast Convoys, protection.

Admty. 1218/28 and C.in C. Rosyth 1720/28. Concur with C.in C. Rosyth, While everything possible will be done from Nore to reinforce escort during most vulnerable part of the passage South of Flamborough recent reductions and casualties among Nore destroyers will not admit of additional escorts for every convoy. Considered that a very grave risk is incurred by allowing convoys of 50 or more ships to proceed through the dangerous area between Outer Dowsing and Southend with only one escort. Observed that half of this passage is done in dark hours when Fighter Command are unable to provide protection against bombing or E/Boats. It can only be expected that the scale of enemy attack on the East Coast will steadily increase with increased production and improving weather. Any reduction in the size of convoys will react unfavourably on the turn round of shipping.
(C.in C. Nore, 1220/1 to Admty).

Wairs or Sloops, for W.A. Command.

Your 1720/28. ^(no trace) The three ships mentioned in A.M. 1731/10/2 are not suitable for employment in the Western Approaches on account of their lack of asdics, short endurance, and poor sea-keeping qualities.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1334/1).

M.G.B's in Nore Command.

Your 2144/28/2. Suggest M.L's work in conjunction with M.G.B. To fit M.G.B's with asdic or some form of underwater listening gear is a very lengthy and unsatisfactory process, further it entails very considerable reduction in speed.
(R.A.C.F. 1549/1 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. (Contd.)Redistribution
of Air Forces
for protection
of East Coast
trade.

V.C.N.S. 1929/1. See Operations Volume.

Defence of United Kingdom.Faroes
A/A
Defences.

Naval Officer in Charge Faroos reports

- (1) Infantry not repetition not available to man A/A guns,
- (2) A/A guns can be manned temporarily by Coast Defence Artillery and weakening of Coast Defence Batteries must be accepted.

(3) I consider the early despatch of troops light A/A Royal Artillery to operate guns to be urgent.
(A.C.O.S. 1053/1). *Reply: p. 43.*

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/1. (D.C.1152/1).

Scapa.
A/A
Defences.Your 1131/14/12. Request very early provision of U.P. Ammunition.
(A.C.C.S. 1229/1st).Scapa.
Indicator
Loop
broken.No.6. Indicator Loop is out of action. Request repairs to this loop may be undertaken during forthcoming visit of cable ship.
(A.C.O.S. 1235/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom. (Contd.)Strength
of M/L
Flotillas.

Request you will signal probable effective strength on 1st April of each M.L. Flotilla based in U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1335/1 to R.A.C.F.)

Your 1335/1. Strengths as follows:
(R.A.C.F. 1832/1 to Admty).

Movements.

Scapa Departure.
SOMALI, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO, TARTAR, LEGION,
QUEEN EMMA, and PRINCESS BEATRIX.
(A.C.C.S. 0005/1.

TYNE.

Intend to sail TYNE escorted by ARROW
and BOREAS for Scapa at 1400 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1059/1).

DUNEDIN.

Intend to sail DUNEDIN for Devonport
at 0400/2 in accordance with Admty's.
1610/28.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1103/1).

ERIDGE.

Leave Rosyth at 1800 today and proceed
to Scapa. Speed is not to exceed 9
knots until after passing May Island.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1105/1 to ERIDGE).

TALISMAN
PORPOISE.

(a) Intend to sail TALISMAN and PORPOISE
escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1630/3 to
057° N., 012° W. E.T.A. 2000/4. Thence
CUTTY SARK return to Clyde, TALISMAN and
PORPOISE through position as routed by
C.in C. W.A. 1828/27/2.
(b) Submarine enter N.A. and W.I. Station
at 1200/9.
(S.3. 1147/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)ALCANTARA.Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1324/1).Northern
Patrol.Trawler Line tonight. 2 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/1).LONDON.Will sail for Scapa from the Nore on
6/3 and will pass Kinnaird Head about
1200/7, escorted by 2 destroyers of the
Nore Command.(ii) 2 Destroyers are to be sailed to
relieve the Nore Command destroyers off
Kinnaird Head.
(C.in C. H.F. 1801/1 to R.A.D. H.F.)DIDO.Admty. 0946/27. Part company with
Convoy in North Channel and proceed to
Clyde. After re-fuelling return to
Scapa.
(C.in C. H.F. 1757/1 to DIDO).Submarines.Positions at 0800/2 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1806/1).REPULSE.Unbasining REPULSE delayed on account of
weather. Anticipated time of departure
from Rosyth 1000/3 arriving Clyde about
2000/4. Anticipated time required for
fuelling and embarking and disembarking
ratings in Clyde 4 hours.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1806/1).KELLY
KELVIN.Sailed 1912.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2030/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)CHITRAL
AUSONIA.

Severe gale. CHITRAL and AUSONIA still waiting to enter harbour. Gale moderating slowly. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 2210/28).

Operations.Operation
N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out zero time 2345. (V.A.Dover, 1401/1).

Asdic
Sweep
off
Needles.

Cross report Needles loop at 1400. Carry out Asdic sweep to outer end of Needles searched channel ahead of Tanker. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1720/1).

M/B
Patrols.

M.B. Patrols area 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 sheltering in harbour owing to weather conditions. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1900/1).

Operation "Obstacle"
OBSTACLE.C.in C. Plymouth's 1748/27 and 1214/1. ~~OBSTACLE~~ postponed 24 hours on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2010/1).British Air Activity.Air Escort
for
RESOLUTION.

Pass to RESOLUTION. Sunderland Flying Boat will escort you from 1330 to day. (C.in C. Plymouth, 0828/1 to JACKAL).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Air
Escort
for
RESOLUTION.
(Contd.)

Pass to RESOLUTION. Cancel my 0828/1.
One Hudson will escort you from 1630
till dark today.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1228/1 to JACKAL).
Pass to RESOLUTION. My 0828/1. One
Hudson will relieve Sunderland at 1630/1.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1314/1 to JACKAL).
Cancel my 1228/1.
Pass to RESOLUTION.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1420/1 to JACKAL).
In view of air escort having failed to
locate you today, one Hudson will search
for you at dawn to assist Blenheims to
locate you.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2246/1 to RESOLUTION).

Air
Operations.

Cancel SHARP. "Sharp"
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0921/1 to H.Q.F.C.)
"Warrant" WARRANT postponed until 1630/2. ~~OWNCE~~
"Ounce" postponed until 0730/3.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2046/1 to H.Q.F.C.)

Patrols.

Air Patrols today. "Unit" "Stat" "Fair"
UNST, STAB, PATR,
S.A.3. from 1100.
First three in operation now.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0944/1). "Bert"
My 0944/1. Add Patrol BERT now in
operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1150/1). "Stand"
My 0944/1. Add patrol STAND now in
operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1622/1).

A/C to
Stockholm.

L.C. 14 G-AGAV leaving Leuchars 0100
G.M.T.2/3 for Stockholm. E.T.A. Stockholm
0530. G.M.T.2/3 Route - Leuchars to
57° 30'N., 8° E. thence to Smogen and
Stockholm.
(Air Min. Civil Control, Perth, 1555/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.LEEDS
CITY.Escorts. Air escort should reach you
about 1030.
(C.in C. W.A. 0257/1 to WINCHELSEA).LEEDS CITY.
(Bombed
26/2.)C.in C. W.A. 2226/28. LEEDS CITY in
054° 32'N., 012° 37' W. at 0001/1,
drifting slightly E.N.E.
(WINCHELSEA 0040/1 to MAN OF WAR).
Conditions still unsuitable for towing
by WINCHELSEA 0800. Position of LEEDS
CITY 054° 16'N., 012° 36'W. drifting
in direction 070° at about 1 knot.
Engine room flooded and abandoned and no
steam available but bulkhead holding.
Am standing by. 140 tons of oil fuel
remaining.
(WINCHELSEA, 0928/1).Tug SUPERMAN is returning for shelter.
MAN OF WAR R/V with WINCHELSEA and
stand by LEEDS CITY when WINCHELSEA has
returned for fuel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1351/1 to WINCHELSEA).ANCHISES.
(Bombed 27/2).SUPERMAN reports abandoned search for
ANCHISES owing to bad weather. Return-
ing for shelter. No wireless
communication with Vessel since 0800/28.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0900/1).
Your 2100/18. Land survivors, at Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1356/1 to KINGCUP).
Arrived KINGCUP with 156 survivors from
ANCHISES.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1945/1).Brest.A number of German Naval A/C are active
in the Brest area. (D.D.I.C. 1219/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy W.N.91.
FORTHBANK,
(British
5057 tons)
hit.

One aircraft shadowing convoy ~~RUSTY~~ "Rusty"
in 58° 27'N., 2° 40'W.
(CURACOA 1315/1).
Odd numbered W.N.Convoy, required
fighter assistance 57° 56'N., 2° 3'W.
course 145 speed 6 knots.
1930/1.

Enemy Aircraft bombing odd numbered
W.N.Convoy.

(HASTINGS 1950/1).

My 1950 FORTHBANK, hit. On fire.

HASTINGS, 2000/1).

My 2044/1. FORTHBANK in W.N.91 also on
fire in 057° 40'N., 001° 45'W. Tug
ABEILLE IV from Peterhead ordered to
assist. M/Ss from 5th M/S Flotilla are
to assist both ships.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 2102/1 to S.O.5th M/S
Flotilla).

Assist ship on fire in position 057° 40'
North, 001° 45'W.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 2116/1 to WOOLSTON).

My 2000. FORTHBANK position 057° 50'N.,
001° 55'W. still on fire. No immediate
danger. GAVOTTE standing by. Am
embarking seriously injured from FORTH-
BANK.

(HASTINGS, 2145/1).

FORTHBANK engines disabled. Fire
under control. GAVOTTE alongside. Am
detaching.

(WOOLSTON 2306/1).

EMPIRE SIMBA.

(S.C.22) (Ex H.X.103).

(British 6086 tons) bombed in 52° 49'N.,
5° 12'W. Making water, engine room out
of action.

(EMPIRE SIMBA 1320/1)(Liverpool W/T).
1320/1).

Sailed rescue tug GOLIATH to assistance
of tanker EMPIRE SIMBA reported by LEEDS
UNITED 085° Tuskar 20 miles.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1425/1).

cont.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)EMPIRE
SIMBA.
(Contd.)

Corrected position now 52.21' North,
5.23' W. 1315/1 G.M.T.
(Burnham-on-Sea Radio. Recd. 1433/1).
LEEDS UNITED has been ordered to stand
by EMPIRE SIMBA. She reports salvage
possible and requests another tug.
SEINE is at Swansea. No other tug is
available at Milford Haven.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1554/1).
EMPIRE SIMBA engine room and stokehold
half full of water making water rapidly
immediate assistance required. I am
preparing to abandon if need be. Master.
(~~1449/1~~ 1449/1).
My 1425/1. Tug GOLIATH has returned
owing to stress of weather and will be
sent out again when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1731/1).
Following from LEEDS UNITED begins:-
"Have crew of Tanker aboard. Now
embarking crew of EMPIRE SIMBA. Both
ships may be salvaged. Cannot manage
to tow in this weather. 1659/1. Ends".
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1835/1).

Convoy
E.N.79.
ATHELTEMPLAR
(British Tanker
8949 tons).
Bombed.

One Aeroplane shadowing convoy ^{"usage"} USAGE in
56° 36' N., 2° 7' W.
(FOWEY 1415/1).
Fighters have been sent to assistance
of ^{"usage"} USAGE and ^{"Lancet"} LANCET.
(Rosyth W/T 1440/1). ^{"usage"} USAGE
Enemy bombing Convoy ^{"usage"} USAGE in 57° 4' N.,
1° 30' W.
(FOWEY, 1930/1).
One bomb ATHELTEMPLAR.
(FOWEY, 1932/1).
My 1932. On fire but not sinking.
(FOWEY, 1937/1).
Proceed with all despatch to assist
ATHELTEMPLAR on fire in 057° 11' N.,
001° 45' W. No tugs available.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2044/1 to ERIDGE).
Intercept ship on fire in 057° 11' N.,
001° 45' W.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2118/1 to SPEEDWELL).
Add to my 2228/1. If ATHELTEMPLAR is
salvageable keep ERIDGE and use her to
escort ATHELTEMPLAR to Methil.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2258/1 to S.O. 5th M/S
Flotilla).
Your 2245 not to S.O. 5th M/S.F. and
F.C.C.O.S. (remains?) LEDA is coming out
again to take charge of operations and

/has

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)ATHELTEMPLAR (E.N.19.)Cont: -

has been instructed to get ship to Methil.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2308/1 to SPEEDWELL).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy in position 57° 4'N., 1° 50'W.
(FOWEY, 1943/1).

ST. AGNES.

At 1350 ST. AGNES No.1. registered No. S.N.88 was attacked by German A/C 22 miles N.W. of W. Kinnaird Head 2 of crew were killed, no others injured. The crew state that an aerial torpedo penetrated wheel house. Ship entered Fraserburgh Harbour at 1550.
(DIO, Peterhead 1725/1).

HUGH WALPOLE.

(A/S Trawler) K.J. position ship hit 057° 11'N. 001° 45'W.
(HUGH WALPOLE 1955/1).

Mining.ZME.21.

My 1002/28. Operations postponed further 24 hours on account of weather.
(PLOVER 0937/1).

The Naze.

W.T.I. indicates heavy Minesweeping off the Naze overnight.
(D.D.I.C. 1156/1).

Swansea.

Red mine detonated 1.46 miles from Mumbles Head Light at 1140/27/2.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1230/1).
One red mine exploded by L.L. 256° one mile 2.5 cables from Port Talbot south Pier Light.
One Blue mine exploded by single L 267° 7 cables from Port Talbot south Pier Light.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1515/1 and 1750/1).

WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Tyne.

At 0955/1/3 one Red Mine exploded by S.A.Trawler in 121° North Tyne Pier Light 23.5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1625/1).

Spurn Point.

The following three mines were exploded today. Details.
(F.O.Humber, 1805/1).

Oversay.

ST. APOLLO has sunk a mine in position 310° Oversay 6 miles considered German K.J.Type.
(AMBUSCADE, 1857/1).

Searches of War Channel.

My 1800/28. Operations postponed a further 24 hours.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2159/1).

Enemy Intelligence.TARONGA.

Following report graded B.2. TARONGA, 7000 gross tons reported to have been undergoing conversion, due to leave Oslo February, 28th manned with naval crew has 3 torpedo tubes each side 3 aft 3 each bow total 12 torpedo tubes. Maximum 21 knots. Not camouflaged. Painted WILHELMSSEN colours. Icebreakers reported to have cleared a passage out of Oslo.
(D.D.I.C. 0205/1). (F.O.S.0841/1).
(C.in C. H.F. 1753/1 to Capt: D.6.)

Enemy Unit.

My 2300/28 and 0541/1. It now appears that position of enemy unit is within 150 miles of 9° 00'S., 62° 00'E.
(D.D.I.C. 1020/1).

WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)The Naze.

W.T.I. indicates heavy minesweeping activity off the Naze overnight. (D.D.I.C. 1156/1).

Brest Area.

A number of German Naval Aircraft are active in the Brest area. (D.D.I.C. 1219/1).
Enemy air activity off Brest this morning may indicate ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER leaving harbour. (R.A.S. 1241/1 to OLYMPUS).

German Rescue Float.

German rescue float in Newhaven Harbour. Request instructions as to disposal. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1525/1).

ADMIRAL HIPPER-class Cruiser.

Air R/C today showed ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~class~~ (Cruiser) still in dry dock at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1639/1).

Nickel shipment from Kirkenes.

A report has been received that a first shipment of 3,000 tons of Salmijarvi (Petsamo) nickel ore will be made early next week from Kirkenes ultimate destination Hamburg. Further details are being sought and will be sent to you, on receipt. (Graded B.2.) (D.N.I. 1918/1 to F.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.A/A Guns.

The A.A. Armament in all merchant ships approaching or leaving U.K. is to be fully manned from dawn until dusk while ships are east of 20° W. Where necessary number of men in watch on deck is to be temporarily increased to meet this requirement. Any necessary overtime will be paid.
(D.T.D. 0150/1 to Commodores and N.C.S.O's)

Independent Sailings.

Your 1725/27. A.M. 1857/17/7/40 was intended to ensure Admiralty knowing for what port an independently routed ship was making. Reference A.M. 1913/14/1 and 1856/15/2 ships should not be sailed with defective d.g. unless a port abroad or Scapa or Clyde has been specifically nominated by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1831/1 to N.O.I.C. Curacao).

Convoy Information.

Attention of Commodores of Convoys is to be drawn to the fact that W.A.C.I. (Western Approaches Convoy Instructions) is included among their books and that valuable information is contained therein regarding U.K. approaches and coastal routes.
(D.T.D. 2058/1 to C.in C's).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S. 24. 424

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0219/1).
Absentees. (0946/1). 15 ships.
(0947/1). 8 ships for Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1129/1).
1 ship (N.C.S.C. Humber, 1716/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

- E.N.79. 0630/1, escorts, 22 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0845/1). List.
(1054/1). 1 addition. (N.C.S.O. Methil
1602/1.) BRIGAND not to join.
(A.C.C.S. 1616/1). 2 ships to join.
(N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 1830/1). Position.
(HUGH WALPOLE 2220/1). CURACOA joining
(CURACOA 2256/1). My 1830, 1 returned.
(N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 2354/1).
- F.S.23. 4.2.3 2 parts joined. (WALLACE 0905/1).
Position, ships for London. (22).
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1100/1).
- F.N.19. 4.19 Group to join. (F.O. Humber, 0951/1).
List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1059/1).
E.T.A. VIVIEN, 1215/1). Humber ships
arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1459/1).
List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1529/1).
- F.N.21. 4.21 Sailed 0833/1. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Thames, 1013/1) List. (1204/1).
T.H.V. PATRICIA to join. (F.O.I.C.
Harwich, 1420/1). Ships joining from
Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1714/1).
Cancel my 1714/1), no ships from Humber
(0001/2).
- F.S.25. 4.25 My 1321/28, delete WOOLSTON, MEYNELL to
escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1037/1).
Sailed, 2300/1, 26 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Methil, 2203/1).
- C.E.27. Drifter to join. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate,
1115/1). BERKELEY to escort.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1737/1).
- W.N.91. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1115/1). My 1030/28,
ships joining W.N.92. (N.C.S.O. Lyness
1125/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)F.N.19, 419
F.N.21, 421
F.N.22, 422
F.S.23, 423
F.S.24, 424

Positions. (C.in C. Nore, 1200/1).

F.S.27, 427

Delete WOLSEY. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1215/1).

F.N. and
F.S.Forecast of sailings.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1217/1).

W.N.U. 92.

1630/1, unescorted 1 ship.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1244/1). 1700/1,
unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea,
1830/1). Position. (Commodore, 1925/1
to A.C.C.S.)F.N.19, 419
F.S.25, 425
E.N.79,
W.N.91.

Positions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1600/1).

F.S.34. 434

NIGER to join for Harwich.
(F.O. Humber, 1608/1).

C.W.28.

ATHERSTONE to escort. (C.in C.
Portsmouth, 1737/1).

W.N.93.

Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1900/1).

F.S.21, 421
F.S.22, 422
F.S.23, 423

Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2058/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.

O.B.C.292. 0200/1. escorts, 10 ships.
(N.C.S.C. Clyde, 0230/1).
(List, 1045/1).

O.G.53. In company, approaching Spartel, fog.
(ARETHUSA, 0754/1).

O.B.C.292. 0730/1. escort, 1 ships.
(N.C.S.C. Oban, 0907/1).

O.B.U. 292. 1415/2, unescorted, 15 ships.
(N.C.S.C. Aultbea, 1045/1).

O.B.M.293. 1930/2, YORK CITY. (N.C.S.C. Milford
Haven, 1135/1).

O.B.U.293. Ships to be diverted to Loch Ewe and
join O.B.U.293. (C.in C. W.A. 1246/1).

O.B.294. ST. CLAIR II to join.
(C.in C. W.A. 1246/1).

S.L.67. S.L.67. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.C. Freetown, 1258/1). Absentees.
(1700/1).

H.X.112. Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax,
1439/1).

H.X.113. Advance sailing telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1506/1).
Ships with munitions.
(C.C.A.C. Halifax, 1507/1).

O.G.O. 54. 1 straggler returned.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1527/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

- O.G.54. LA MALOUINE to proceed with.
(C.in C. W.A. 1625/1).
- O.G.55. COREOPSIS to proceed with.
(C.in C. W.A. 1625/1).
- S.L.65. DIDO to part company. (C.in C. H.F.
1757/1). 59 ships, escorts, route.
(C.in C. W.A. 1905/1).
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1917/1 to PHILANTE,
SUNFLOWER, etc.)
- O.B.293.
O.B.297. Consequent upon the R/V for H.X.111 and
H.X.113 being altered to more Northern
latitude, O.B.293 and O.B.297 will be
routed through the Minches. O.B.297
will therefore sail from Liverpool on
(date).
(C.in C. W.A. 1845/1 to Admty etc.)
- H.X.110. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D. 1937/1).
- S.C.23. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D. 1938/1).
- H.X.109. Altered destinations.
(C.in C. W.A. 2222/1).
- Routeing
Forms. Outward routeing forms O.B. 288 and
O.B.289 sailed 20/2 and 22/2
respectively received 1/3. It is
essential that these forms reach
Admiralty at earliest possible moment and
utmost priority is to be given to ensure
their despatch.
(D.T.D. 1142/2 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Military
Convoys.

W.S.7.

Request early report as to sea speed which each vessel of convoy W.S.7 will be able to maintain when ready to sail.

(D.S.T. 0422/1).

Your 0422/1. G.2. 18½ knots.

G.5. 20 knots.

G.11. 18 knots.

G.15. 17½ knots.

G.19. 19 knots.

R.118 18 knots.

(D.S.T. Glasgow, 1630/1 to Admty).

also P3TD Clyde, 1028/2, p. 58

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1. 3. 1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NORTHERN SUN. Will join RESTIVE as soon as VISENDA arrives to tow NORTHERN SUN in 062° 23'N. 011° 22'W. (PETUNIA 0002/1).
NORTHERN SUN now has situation under control and is returning to Thorshavn. She requests VISENDA to stand by. (PETUNIA 0820/1).

TAKU. ENCHANTRESS has been instructed to proceed to assist TAKU reported broken down in 56° 36'N. 21° 07'W. at 2100/27 drifting Southward and to tow her through position A. 56° 30'N. 14° W. Request you will sail SALVONIA escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY through position A to meet TAKU and to tow her to Londonderry passing through position A on the return journey. (C.in C., W.A.0026/1 to N.O.I.C.Londonderry.) Intend to substitute GLADIOLUS for NORTHERN SPRAY escort for SALVONIA on account of GLADIOLUS greater speed and endurance. (Capt.D. Londonderry. 0101/1).
Take SALVONIA under your orders proceed so as to comply with C.in C. W.A. 0026/1. Search for damaged submarine is to be maintained until limit of endurance. Damaged merchant vessels met en route are to be disregarded although survivors should be embarked if met. (Capt.D., Londonderry 0655/1).
SALVONIA escorted by GLADIOLUS left Londonderry in accordance with C.in C., W.A.0026/1. (Capt.D.,Londonderry 1215/1 and 1314/1).
Submarine TAKU damaged and unable to dive estimated very approximate position 055° N. 020° W. drifting slowly south eastwards. Any escort vessel making contact with TAKU is to stand by her and report her position when convoy is well passed. (C.in-C., W.A.1643/1 to LINCOLN etc.)
Latest estimate of TAKU's position 1201/1 is 055° N. 020° W. drifting south eastward. (A.C.W.A. 1829/1 to GLADIOLUS).
Add to my 1643/1. Before reporting position of TAKU escort vessel should proceed as far as possible from Submarine without risking losing touch with her. (C.in C., W.A. 2309/1).

LEONIAN. Following received from Boom Defence Depot Ship LEONIAN. Begins: Have been hove to 24 hours. D/G short circuit by deck cargoes shifting. Compass now useless. Impossible to round Heimaey Island. Blowing whole gale. Ship unseaworthy. Request instructions. Ends. Request you will proceed to her. (F.O.I.C. Iceland. 0815/1 to CHITRAL).

/VILDA ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (contd).VILDA.

~~S.D.V.~~
~~S.D.V.~~ VILDA arrived Methil with boat stove in, davits bent and compasses defective. She is proceeding to Leith to-day to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Methil 0934/1).

GEORGETOWN.
(Destroyer)

GEORGETOWN's 1400/26/2. Following damage sustained after being rammed by merchant ship. Work involved would take at least five weeks, vessel being in dry dock the greater part of the time. GEORGETOWN at present berthed in Glasgow. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow. 1111/1).
 Your 1111/1. GEORGETOWN can be taken in hand at Immingham.
 2. Ship may be detained in Clyde until arrival of new commanding officer.
 (Adty.1927/1 to F.O.I.C., Glasgow.)

STANWOLD.

(British, 1020 tons). Left Southend in C.W.27 on 26/2, has not arrived, and must be presumed lost with all hands. Ship was observed to have list to port on sailing. Reported steering badly at 2230/26. Last sighted at 0420/27 and reported to have a list to starboard. Several bodies washed ashore in the vicinity of Newhaven, one identified as John D. Potts Chief Officer s.s. STANWOLD. Loss of this ship may have been caused by foundering due to heavy weather as no reports have been received which would indicate loss due to enemy action.
 (C.in C., Portsmouth 1527/1 and 1603/1).

BURNHAM.

BURNHAM's starboard engine out of action until arrival of lubricating oil. Oil expected 0900 tomorrow.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea. 1655/1).

SUFFOLK.

Requests extended notice for steam in view of following defects. Expect unable to put steam on main engines for about 1 week. Only forward engine room will then be available until turbine repairs completed. T.O.O.2141/27. Ends. Intend to approve.
 (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1850/28).

Unknown Ship.

S.O.S. from unknown ship position 57 - 56 N 0203 W.
 (Wick Radio 1515/1).

/NEW COMET ...

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

NEW COMET.
(M/S Trawler)
SOUTHSEA
(Paddle M/S)
MARJORIE M.
HASTIE.
(M/S Trawler)

Ref. Telephone enquiry NEW COMET raised and sank again p.m. 28.2.41., further attempt 3.3.41. SOUTHSEA will be taken in hand by Admiralty Salvage Officer as soon as possible. M. HASTIE not refloated and a further attempt will be made 14/3.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne. 2046/1 to Adty.).

Drifter
derelict.

Following from INDIAN STAR begins: Drifter derelict 057° N. 01° 54' W. 2010. Ends. Investigate as soon as practicable.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2134/1 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.).

2 Unknown
Ships.

1 ship in distress in 057° 04' N. 001° 50' W. and another in 057° 40' N. 001° 45' W. Salvage craft in the vicinity of both.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2210/1 to Quantock).

DAROGAH.

Your 389 and A.L. of 21st February M/S.V.146/41 reason for the priority assigned is that experience shows that such a heavy lift as the DAROGAH can only be undertaken in perfectly fine weather. While waiting till such weather can be expected the lifting craft are fully employed on important work in sheltered water. (D. of Salvage 2105/28 to C.in C. Nore).

2 Derelicts
in Cardigan
Bay.

Intend to send tugs EMPIRE HENCHMAN and ABEILLE 21 now at Clovelly to slave two derelict vessels in Cardigan Bay.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2328/1).

War Diary.1. 3. 1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Enemy
Unit.My 2043/28. Further bearings. (D.D.I.C.
0603/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)FIREDRAKE.

Aground in thick fog at 1015/1 near Gibraltar possibly Sardina Bay 036° 18' N. 005° 15' W. Sandy bottom. Assistance being sent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/1 to Admiralty).
FIREDRAKE refloated and returning to harbour 11 knots under own power. Ship was ashore in position 36° 28' 30" N., 4° 45' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/1 to Admiralty).

ASAKA. MARU.

Your 0341Z/28, Japanese Special Service Vessel ASAKA arrived Bilbao 25/2 from Lisbon and is expected to leave on 10/3. (D.D.I.C. 1311/1 to C.O.I.S. Singapore, etc.)

H.G. 55.

Request particulars of any Ships for H.G. 55. Cancel my 1600/24 (H.G. 55 to be bunkered at Lisbon). (F.O.C.N.A. 1610/1 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

Funchal
Reports.

Informed by Portugese Captain of Port fisherman sighted convoy from Funchal 1700/24 northbound off Island of Porto Santo, and at 1900 G.M.T. large submarine was sighted off south east coast of Island cruising about on surface subsequently proceeding on Southerly course (C.3.) (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1615/1 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).

Air
Report.

Flying cancelled by weather. 1 French Glenn Martin arrived from Oran. (200 Group, 1730/1).

s.s. GUINE
(Portugese)

Report that member of crew is suspected German Agent and believed carrying German code for use with Agent in Cape Verdes. Plans for German supply bases in islands, &c. Captain of ship reported pro-British and would help. s.s. GUINE left Lisbon 27/2 for Funchal, Cape Verdes, and South America. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1844/1).

War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Free French
M.V.'s

Your 2357/18. Degaussing not considered essential before arrival in U.K. where ships will be diverted to a suitable port for this purpose.

2. Ships for U.K. should be sailed in convoy without L.A. armament but consideration should be given to temporary supply of machine guns from local resources.

3. Permanent arming of these ships after arrival in U.K. will be taken up with Free French Forces. (D.T.D. 0029/1 to C.in C., S.A.)

PORT
FREMANTLE.

Your 1808/25 and 1357/28 and my 1207/26. Position (e) and (f) confirmed. Route past Azores left to master purposely. Deviation will not affect time of arrival 5° N., ship having reserve of speed. (N.C.S.O. Montevideo 1020/1 to Admiralty). See Page 982. 22.2 41.

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA.

Intercepted by CORNWALL. See French Merchant Ships.

SAVA.

Overdue ship Yugo Slavian SAVA due Durban 26/2 from Vizagapatam not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1055/1).

Shipping
Complaint.

Frequent complaints are being received from Masters that other ships sighted by them do not comply with A M S I 224. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1120B/1 to Admiralty).

"S" Message.

My 1142/28 and Admty 1805/28 (re corrupt SSSS message received by Ascension) Following was received by Ascension at 0158/28. SSSS unread 1 on 18 20 mins unread WETTERKID. Ascension reported groups doubtful, message unfinished. Request any further information. (C.in C., S.A. 1132/1 to Admty).

DELHI, boiler
retubing.

Admty 1031/17/11. Dockyard Simonstown now reports B4 boiler requires complete retubing. In May 1940 all boilers were sentenced to one year's life and final. Since then ship has already steamed 55446 miles equivalent approximately to 4 years' normal peace time steaming and over 100 tubes have perforated or split. I submit decision to carry out partial retubing only should now be reconsidered.

/ If DELHI

War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).DELHI,
boiler
retubing.
(contd).

If DELHI is to be reliable or have any operational value during extension of life required by Admty. 1031 strongly urged all boilers should be completely re-tubed. (DELHI 1143/1 to C. in C. S.A).

CHATEAUROUX.

Your 1609/28. Acting on your 1237/26 I sailed CHATEAUROUX independently yesterday with concurrence of French Liaison Officer. Regret ship was routed to Clyde in error instead of Belfast. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1521/1 to Admty).

French
Shipping.

Your 1018/12. Your 2302/16/1 was not received here. What are limits set for interception of French ships? (N.A. 1531/1 to Admty).

BRITISH CAPTAIN.

Tanker, overdue since 23/2 request information. (D. of S.T. 1838/1 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

LANCING.

Overdue shipping Norwegian ship LANCING due Port Stanley 26/2 from Rio de Janeiro not arrived (S.O(I) Montevideo 1912/1).

CILICIA.
S.L. 67.

Departure 1800/1 CILICIA as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 67 in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1329/1. Local A/S escort ASPHODEL, H.M. Trawlers SPANIARD, KELT, TURCOMAN. (S.O(I) Freetown 2237N/1).

Mediterranean.Glen
Ships.

Re passing through Canal. (C. in C. Med. 1131/1 to S.O. Force Z). See Med. Vol.

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Operations
by UPRIGHT.

UPRIGHT investigated ~~SPAX~~^{Stax} on 22/2 no ships were observed in roads. On 23/2 an unescorted darkened ship was hit with one torpedo in 034° 23' N. 011° 49' E. Ship burst into flames and (? word omitted). At 0240/25 in 034° 33' N. 011° 45' E. fired four torpedoes at central and largest of three warships steering 145°. One hit observed through periscope while diving. At 0615 after being hunted UPRIGHT came to periscope depth and (?saw) two ORIANI Class Destroyers in position of attack which were stopped or circling in the vicinity for 2 hours. Ship hit considered to have been ARMANDO DIAZ Class Cruiser but might have been NAVIGATORI Class Destroyer. Owing to very dark night identification and fate cannot be definitely determined. In view of V.A. Malta's 1645/27 consider no communique should be issued at present. (C. in C. Med. 1309/1).

Canal
Minesweeping.

If you concur Captain H.W. Faulknor will be flown out to take charge, under S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, of measures necessary to keep Suez Canal open for shipping in face of enemy mining. (V.C.N.S. 1351/1 to C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Suez). *See also 1752/1, p. 29.*

Identification
between British
S/MS and allied
A/C and vice versa.

(C. in C. Med 1417/1).

Turkey A/S.

Information on A/S matters may be disclosed to Turkish Naval Authorities as considered necessary with following exceptions. (D.A/S W. 1520/1 to C. in C. Med).

ROVER.

Your 1552/28 ROVER will be ready to sail from Alexandria noon/4. (Capt. S.1 1529/1 to C. in C. Med).

Malta
Air Raid.

1130/1 Six JU. 88's escorted by fighters dropped many bombs on N.E. and Southern Coast of Island many in sea causing very little material damage. 8 Hurricanes up but no engagement. (H.Q.R.A.F. Med 1750/1).

/Suez.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Suez Canal
Mine
Watching.

Your 1129/25 to C. in C. E.I. (re netting Canal) Adty doubt practicability of this scheme (reasons). In Admiralty view, problem can be most effectively tackled by perfection of the lookout system and means for subsequently detonating or removing mines. Suggestions.

By A.F.O. 857/40 rewards are payable for information leading to the recovery of mines. Presume you have considered the application of this order to your lookout service. (V.C.N.S. 1752/1 to C. in C. Med).

Kastelorizo.

Your 0944/28. Assume you are sending a full report as soon as you can ascertain all the facts, which will enable us to rebut any false statements by the Italians. (~~G. in C. Med.~~, 1917/1 to C. in C. Med).
r S.L.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Request ship now proceed Egypt with WS 6 B. (Movements M.E. 2250/1 to W.O. etc).

Malta,
Mines
exploded.

5 mines exploded in entrance to Grand Harbour on 1/3.
(II) A Skid was being towed by H.M. Drifter PLOUGH BOY at time and one exploded close under her starboard side, one 30 yards on her starboard bow and one about 120 yards astern of her. Kango Hammer (2 Corrupt groups) and Skid was sweeping for blue mines. Drifter suffered serious damage and had to be beached.
One rating missing 9 injured. (V.A. Malta 2501/1).

* GASTORCA.
Royal
funeral (Alfonso XIII)
party.

* MALLORCA *intended*
see pages 198, 174.

Spaniards inform me official deputation leaves Valencia 2000/3 for Civita Veccia in S.S. *GASTORCA for funeral of King. Guarantee no cargo no improper passengers. Ship showing usual lights. Return sailing 8/3 or 9/3 same conditions. Request immunity from search etc. (N.A. Madrid 2358/1 to Admty).

War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.STAR OF CAIRO.
"Q" message.

British ship STAR OF CAIRO made a Q distress signal at 0127Z/1 when in position 007° N. 078° 05' (E) Message cancelled at 0210Z/1. Cancellation genuine. (C. in C. E.I. 0216Z/1 to E.I. Sqdn).

Forces V, T, W.

(1) Ships who are at present required to decode Force "V" signals are SHROPSHIRE, LEANDER, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA, HERMES, EMERALD, and DORSETSHIRE. The address Force V will be used as necessary to facilitate signalling and does not indicate a composite force.

(2) Force T is composed of HERMES and EMERALD.

(3) Force "W" is composed of H.M. Ship operating off the coast of Italian Somaliland and is present composed of CERES only. (C. in C. E.I. 0604/1).

MAURETANIA.
NIEUW AMSTERDAM.

My 0756/25 (? 0746/25 intended) and your 0737/26 (1) Subject to no further information of (?pocket) battleship in Indian Ocean, intend AUSTRALIA instead of CANBERRA to escort MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM to about 013° S. 104° E. Suggest HOBART and SYDNEY relieve AUSTRALIA as escort from above position. (C. in C. E.I., 0738Z/1 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne).

RANCHI.

To proceed to Durban so as to arrive a.m/2. (C. in C. E.I. 0736/Z/1 to RANCHI).

W.S.5BX.
ENTERPRISE.

My 0746/25. W.S. 5 B.X. Leaves Bombay 5/3 for Singapore escorted by ENTERPRISE. (C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/1) See Operations Volume.

Summary
of Raider
Activities.

Following account of raider activities obtained from British seamen rescued from Italian Somaliland. Covers period from attack on SCIENTIST on 3/5/40 to grounding of DURMITOR off Warshuk, Somaliland 22/11/40. Original in Lion Copy only. (C. in C. E.I., 0810/1 to Admty).

page 31A

/AUSTRALIA.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

AUSTRALIA.)
EMERALD.)
HERMES.)
CANBERRA.)
LEANDER.)

Orders (C in C.E.I. 1152Z/1 and 1534Z/1)
 See Operations Volume.

CERES.
rescued
seamen.

My 1734/1. CERES E.T.A. Mombasa 1300Z/2
 with following rescued prisoners (including
 masters) 169 British, 13 French, 36 Yugo
 Slav, 68 Lascars, total 286. (C. in C. E.I.
 1902/1 to Admty).

Diversion
of shipping.

My 2006/1 is being passed to you. Request
 adjacent stations will conform. (C. in C.
 E.I. 2000Z/1 to adjacent stations).
 My 2006/1 Part 2 (ii) (Note Part 1 not yet
 received) shipping North and West of line
 A - E and South of Mozambique channel is
 to be diversely routed where practicable.
 (iii) Eastbound shipping to Far East is to
 use Achin Head Channel and westbound shipping
 the 010° channel.
 (iv) Shipping to and from Seychelles and
 Mauritius is to conform to para. one as
 far as possible taking shortest route to
 and from line AE provided that the voyage
 is not unduly prolonged thereby. Ships
 sailing between Mauritius and Ports to North &
 north east thereof are to be routed west
 of Saya De Malha. My 2006/1 part 3 final.
 (v) para. one does not apply to ships bound
 for and from Australia which will continue
 to be diversely routed as at present.
 (vi) No ship is to be routed between Guardafui
 and Socotra without permission.
 (vii) Neutral ships should continue to be
 routed as at present.
 (viii) Adjacent station informed. (C. in C.
 E.I. 2006Z/1 to Adty).

S/M sunk
by R.A.F.
near
Dahlak Is.

C. in C. E.I. 2036/1 see U-Boat Campaign.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

0810/1st Mar. IN

C. in C. East Indies.

Date 2.3.41.

Recd 0212.

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty, repeated N.O.I.C. Simonstown, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, C.O.S.S., C. in C. South Atlantic, New Zealand Naval Board.

IMPORTANT.

441 (1) Following account of a raider's activities was obtained from British seamen rescued from Italian Somaliland. Full reports not yet received.

<u>Ship Sunk or Captured.</u>	<u>Time & Date.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>How Ship Sunk</u>
SCIENTIST	1530/3rd May	020° S 004° 30' E	1	Nil	Shelled & torpedoed
TIRANA	1100/10 June	012° S 068° E	5	1	Not sunk
CITY OF BAGHDAD	0800/11 July	000° 090° E	2	3	Time bomb
KEMMENDINE	0930/13 July	004° S 082° E	Nil	Nil	Shelled and torpedoed.
TALLYRAND	1300/2 Aug.	030° S 049° 30' E	Nil	Nil	Time bomb
KING CITY	0500/24 Aug	017° S 066° E	(corrupt group)	1	Shelled
ATHEL KING	0800/9 Sept.	022° S 067° 30' E	3	2	Shelled
BENARTY	1300/10 Sept	021° S 071° E	Nil	Nil	Time bomb
COMMISSAIRE REMAL	1300/29 Sept	028° S 076° E	3	Nil	Time bomb

(B) TIRANA sent away with prize crew 4th August in position

030° South.....

- 2 -

030° South 069° 30' East probably for Bay of Biscay port with all own crew, crew of TALLYRAND and following ratings from other ships - SCIENTIST, Scarrow, Foulis, Howarth, Gascon, Chicken (passenger). CITY OF BAGHDAD, Brett, Grant, Jack. KEMMENDINE, Fisher, Mogowan, Brown and all passengers.

(C) DURMITOR seized on 21st October position 008° 30' South 101° 30' East, seized prize crew put on board. Ships immediately separated as ordered again meeting on 26th October in 014° 30' South 101° 11' (?), all Europeans except one wounded, Brown and most native prisoners were transferred to her. DURMITOR grounded off Warshuk Somaliland Coast 22nd November. All Europeans except two Frenchmen sent to camp 3 miles South of Mogadishu, DURMITOR proceeded Kismayu under Lieutenant Dahrer. Europeans moved to Merca on 25th January.

(D) Following died of dysentery, Ferret, ATHELKING Crunes and Skilling, CITY OF BAGHDAD.

Description of raider - Captain Rogge. Hansa line ship similar to Tannenfels, 20 knots, motor ship, one funnel, can be fitted with two erections behind funnel to house range finder, dummy house round engine room searchlight, Sampson posts ready for erection.

(2) Names of survivors rescued in Italian East Africa will be sent as soon as known.

0810/1.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D., O.I.C. Trade and Cdr. Holbrook.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
Controller
Vice Controller
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
Nav. 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. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D.S.D. 9.
D.S.D.
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (5)
Enc 52 Arch South
W.D.

D.P.D.
M. (7)
Cdr. Holbrook
D. of S.T.
E.P.S.
Hydrog.
D.W.D.
D. of N.
O.C.S.C.
T/P for Dep. Cont. (2) Bath
R.G. of S.S. Cardiff.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Shipping
Restrictions.

Your No. 3 to me, 28/2. Restrictions on ships over 4000 tons were placed with Admty's approval. I see no improvements in the situation such as warrant any alteration until we see results of Tokyo Negotiations over Thai Indo-China dispute. (C. in C. China 0337Z/1 to Consul Gen., Shanghai).

Oil Stocks,
Shanghai.

Your 0323/12. Providing situation permits, request you take necessary steps to maintain oil stocks at Shanghai. (D.T.D. 1608/1 to C. in C. China).

QUEEN MARY.

A.C.N.B's 1345/28, request you delay sailing of QUEEN MARY if practicable. Request whether boiler cleaning can be carried out at Singapore. Signal will follow regarding anticipated date of sailing of U.S.10. (D.S.T. 2131/1 to F.O. Malaya).

America & West Indies.LETITIA.

Your 1101/26/2. Report present condition. On receipt of above information, reply to your 1101/26/2 will be made. (D.N.C. 0557/1 to R.A.3 B.S).

BHX. 111.
damage.

Not identified.
~~LETITIA~~ HYLTON, BRITISH COLONIAL and Greek JOANNIS returned from BHX 111 with heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1011/1).

IROQUOIS.
BERNARD.

British IROQUOIS and Norwegian BERNARD^H returned from B.H.X.111 and S.C. 24^A respectively both for engine repair. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1109/1).

TORONTO CITY.

Sailed A.M. today. Delay due to coal bunkering difficulties. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1213/1).

BISHOPDALE.
CARADOC.
DIOMEDE.

Following for BISHOPDALE. After loading at Curacao, proceed to Jamaica to disembark stores from CARADOC. Leave Jamaica so as to transit Panama Canal 12/3 and R.V. with DIOMEDE at Chatham Bay Cocos Island at 1600 G.M.T./15. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1222/1 to S.N.O. Curacao). *See also next page*

/Ships.....

War Diary.1.5.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).Ships for U.K.
with defective
D.G.

Your 2008/26/2 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda. Request confirmation that ships with defective D.G. equipment may be sent to Oban or Loch Ewe. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1232/1 to Adty).

LARPOOL.

Your 1436/27. LARPOOL routed to Halifax due 27/2. earliest date. (D.T.D. 1239/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

DIOMEDE.

My 1152/21. DIOMEDE remains at Chatham Bay Cocos Is. until 5/3 if desired, then to carry out following programme. (a) Investigate anchorage in Galapagos Island for possible raider activity. (b) Arrive Callao 11/3 leaving 12/3. (c) Proceed to R.V. with BISHOPDALE at Chatham Bay Cocos Is. at 1600Z/15. Callao pass to DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1251/1 to DIOMEDE).

*See previous page*TREVILLEY.
HOPERIDGE.

Ministry of Shipping 1245/9 and 1235/17 British ships TREVILLEY and HOPERIDGE not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1253/1 to Admty C in C. A.W.I.).

Trinidad
loop defence.

Request answers to following (re indicator loop control) may be signalled without delay. (D of L.D. 1655/1 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad). Reply (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1106/3).

FLORIAN.
NICHOLAS
ANGELOS.
WISLA.

Respective owners urgently enquiring for information. All overdue this side. Request advice. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2117/28).

Australia.U.S. Convoy.

A.C.N.B. 1207/19 and S.S.T.O. India's 1245/25. Propose for consideration in view of difficulties in arranging onward transport from India, and improving position in Red Sea Zone, that (a) U.S. convoy consisting of QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH, AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, with total capacity 22000 should proceed to Suez without transshipment (A.C.N.B. 0538Z/1 to Admty etc).

See Admty 2241/3. p. 101

War Diary.

1.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

Convoy
A.V.5.

Date to leave Suva. Re escort by PRINCE
ROBERT (N.Z.N.B 0022Z/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
See Operations Volume.

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SULLBERG.

28/2 arrival German Steamer SULLBERG.
(Valencia, T.H.I., 2345/1).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Ships at
Kismayu
accounted
for.

My 0754/22 now established following ships
definitely took refuge at Kismayu.

SAVOIA.	INTEGRITAS.
LEONARDO DA VINCI.	CARSO.
MANON	MARGHERA.
ERMINA MAZELLA	ADRIA.
UCKERMARK	PENSILVANIA.
TANNENFELS	DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI.
DORMITOR	KIONGA. ASKARI.

and SOMALIA which is only ship accounted for.
(? not accounted for) *see page 142.*
(2) DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI accounted for vide
Adty. 0802/27/2 to C.in C. Med. and C.in C.
E.I. only.

YAMAYURI
MARU

(3) Japanese ship YAMAYURI MARU unloaded
petrol and rice but sailed prior SOUTHAMTON's
bombardment. (C.in C. E.I. 0726Z/1).

FRANCA FASSIO

Your 1350/18. Only certain information
available from Spanish source is:
Heavy explosion. No S/M seen. Ship sank in
3 minutes.
Means of rescue kept very quiet but not landed
from S/M.
(N.A. Madrid, 1649/1, to Admty.).

War Diary.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA
intercepted.

(?Dealt) with French ship VILLE DE MAJUNGA in position 034° 08' S. 010° 18' E. on passage from Marseilles to Madagascar with 600 demobilized troops, two civilian passengers, 105 tons general cargo. Master refuses to navigate ship to Simonstown. Am putting party on board to take her in.

(CORNWALL, 0725Z/1 to C.in C. S.A.).
CORNWALL's 0725/1/3/41 and your 1013/1 not to Admiralty. If desired that Union Govt. should requisition this ship, as for two previous vessels, and after consultation with Union authorities, I propose to divert VILLE DE MAJUNGA to Capetown where organisation is ready and facilities available. Strongly urge very early decision on both these questions may be made which will greatly assist in their execution.

(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2138B/1, to C.in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.CANADIAN
STAR.

(British 8293 tons). Following has been read. SSSS CANADIAN STAR 54.20N., 14.50W submarine sighted on surface. (Lyness W/T 1030/1 Valentia Radio 1034/1).

CITY OF
CALCUTTA.

British 8063 tons. Received 1338 G.M.T. SSSS 58.22 N., 33.21 W, CITY OF CALCUTTA sighted submarine on surface. (Portishead Radio, 1302/1). CITY OF CALCUTTA 58.22N., 33.31W. (as in signal) sighted submarine on surface 0630/1. (Valentia Radio 1302/1). Following received from Port Patrick radio. Intercept at 1345 G.M.T. SSSS 58.22N., 33.21 W., CITY OF CALCUTTA sighted submarine on surface 1346/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1346/1).

GAIRSOPPA
(torpedoed
?15/2).

British 5237 tons. Lifeboat from GAIRSOPPA washed ashore near Lizard, 1 survivor now in Helston hospital. 2 Dead. Survivor states vessel was torpedoed 14 days ago. Further details when survivor can be questioned. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1447/1). *Had 44 S.L. 64 owing to fuel shortage.*

BRITISH GUNNER
MANSEPOOL
(torpedoed
24/2) RICHMOND
HILL
(Casualty 28/2).

Area vicinity 061° 15' 012° 20' has been well searched. No trace of BRITISH GUNNER or MANSEPOOL. Request instructions. Am in company with PRUDENT proceeding towards RESTIVE and position of RICHMOND HILL 062° 30'W. 015° 30'W expect to arrive 0800/2. (PETUNIA, 1940/1 to C.in C. W.A.) 1 ship torpedoed. Position 060° 20'N., 012° 18'W. (MALCOLM, 2301/1 to C.in C. W.A.) My 2301. My course and speed 131° 8 knots. All star shells expended require aircraft with parachute flares immediately. Position 060° 20'N., 012° 18'W. (MALCOLM, 2315/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Attack on
O.B.290,
U/Boat
Tactics.

Convoy O.B.290 was recently attacked at night by a single U/Boat which approached from astern and torpedoed the rear ships of centre columns. This is the first definitely recorded case of such an attack and shows the variations from the usual approach between bow and quarter and attack on wing columns may be expected.
(D.A/S.W. 0009/2 "A" message).

Submarines
Reported.

1452.

By D/F at 1452 German U/Boat in 050° 45' N., 008° to 009° W.
(F.O.(S) 1521/1 to O.21 O.23 OLYMPUS).
By D/F at 1452/1 probably U/Boat in position 050° 45' N., 008° to 009° W.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1534/1 to Plymouth Command Area).

1522.

U/Boat sighted in position 045° 33' N., 009° 30' W. at 1522/1.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1604/1 to OLYMPUS).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

Very indefinite and unreliable.

GERMAN.

3 N.W. of Hebrides 59° N., - 61° N.,
8° W. - 14° W.
6 between 52° N., and 61° N near 20° W. on
27th may tend to move to eastward.
1 N.W. of Rockall 58° N - 59° N., 15° W -
17° W.
1 S.W. of Rockall 56° N., - 57° N., 15° W
- 17° W.
1 54° 20' N., 14° 50' W. 1130/1
1 40 miles of 56° N., 10° W.
1 St. Georges Channel.
1 Off Mounts Bay.
1 about 49° N., 6° W. - 7° W.

ITALIAN.

3 in N.W. Approaches.
1 110 miles S.W. Freetown 2000/28.
(D.D.I.C. 1417/1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.1.3.1941.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines
Attacked.

2309.

By MALLOW, 60.20N., 12.18W., 300° Butt
of Lewis 215'. Delivered attack on
doubtful contact.
(B.3.) (D.S. 545).

Submarine *claimed*
sunk by
R.A.F.
near
Dahlak Is.

(1) R.A.F. report sighting Submarine
015° 33'N., 040° 14'E., at 1040/1
G.M.T. (2) Two direct hits
obtained on submarine while crash
diving. (3) Stern lifted clear of
surface and then submarine sank.
(4) Large patch of oil. Observation
kept for further 15 mins. No sign of
submarine wreckage or survivors.
(C.in C. E.I. 2036/1).

See also 1748/3 page 110.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.

Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat
campaign.

C.in C. W.A. reports today on his intentions for co-operation by combined air and surface A/S striking forces in the Western Approaches. It is reported that S.S. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (Norwegian), a straggler from Convoy H.X.107, was torpedoed on 19/2 in the N.W. Approaches and S.S. GAIRSOPPA, which left convoy S.L.64 owing to shortage of fuel, was torpedoed about *13/2 in the Western Approaches.

B.R.133Y, Torpedoed 16/2.

M/S Trawler ST. DONATS sank 35 miles east of the Humber at 0015 today as the result of collision with COTSWOLD yesterday evening. COTSWOLD was damaged and will require docking.

British Air Activity.

Boulogne was bombed last night; the seaplane base at List, ~~today~~, Ijmuiden, the Helder and other targets were attacked today. Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked a convoy this afternoon off Horn's Reef and hit with one torpedo a merchant vessel of about 2000 tons.

Routine patrols were flown today. The coast of Norway was patrolled from Stavanger to Trondheim and a special R.C. of Trondheim was carried out. Special A/S patrols were maintained in the N.W. Approaches. 22 convoys were escorted today.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. SIMALOER was bombed and abandoned this morning in the N.W. Approaches. Convoy O.B.291 was attacked this morning 85 miles west of Achill Head and S.S. STORAAS was damaged by a near miss. Shipping in Lerwick Harbour was attacked twice today. Cable ship ARIEL and collier KIRKWOOD had a few casualties, and was slightly damaged. The enemy also machine-gunned Kirkabister Lighthouse. An enemy aircraft was damaged by ARIEL. S.S. CASTLEHILL was bombed and sunk off Minehead today.

Mining.

Falmouth was opened this morning for vessels up to 18 ft. draught. Mines were exploded off Blyth and Spurn Point. Minelaying was carried out last night off the east and west coasts; estimated 20 aircraft engaged.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

German and Italian aircraft, especially the former, are operating from Mandible* and are becoming increasingly active in the Eastern Mediterranean, especially against the Suez Canal. C.in C. M.E. 1910/2 gives strength of British Air Forces in Egypt and Libya, and an estimate of German air forces in the Mediterranean.

The Italian air threat to Cyrenaica is at present almost negligible.

* Code for air bases,
Dodecanese.

East Indies.

C.in C. E.I. has been instructed to report proposals for the future employment of former special service vessels CITY OF DURBAN, CAPE SABLE, BOTLEA, KING GRUFFYD.

S.S. VILLE
DE STRASBOURG
intercepted.

SHROPSHIRE intercepted the French S.S. VILLE DE STRASBOURG this afternoon about 100 miles S.E. of Cape St. Mary, South Madagascar, and is escorting her in to Durban.

Use of
territorial
waters by
enemy.

The Admiralty today informed C.in C. E.I. of the action which he is authorised to take against enemy vessels which may try to make use of Yemeni or Saudi Arabian waters, Jibuti and territorial waters of French Somaliland.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Invergordon.
Shortage of
A/P Trawlers.

Reduction of A/P trawlers based on Invergordon seriously decreases efficiency of patrol for which present numbers and types of trawlers allocated are insufficient. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1250/2).

ANTELOPE.

Is to be transferred to Home Fleet. (C. in C. W.A. 2149/2).

Gaps in
Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

Should relief for Denmark Strait patrol reach Iceland late, gaps on patrol line will occur if arrival dates at Halifax as in my 2236/22 are adhered to. To reduce such gaps to a minimum, request I may be informed of longest delay acceptable for ships from patrol reaching Halifax. (F.O.C.N.P 22226/2 to 3 B.S).

Proposed A/S
measures in
Western
Approaches.

C. in C. W.A. 2230/2 See Operations Volume.

"Deluge"
Defences.

Defence of U.K.

At 2330/1 (D.C. 0004/2) At 1130/2 (D.C. 1142/2) At 2330/2 (D.C. 2352/2).

Bristol
Channel.

Proposed coast defences (Dacoast Four 1013/2) See Operations Volume.

Orkneys
Loop
Repair.

Your 1235/1. Cable ship is due to arrive Orkneys about 9/3 for repairs to existing loop and H.D.A. systems. (D.A/S W. 1752/2 to A.C.O.S).

Scapa.

Progress Report 2nd March 1941 (R.A. Scapa 2015/2).

Faroes.
A/A
Guns.

Your 1053/1. Arrangements for manning A.A. guns in Faroes are being actively perused by War Office who hope to effect relief fortnight to three weeks. Admiralty 1710/25 refers. (D. of L.D. 2216/2 to A.C.O.S).

War Diary.

2.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CHITRAL.

Sailed for Halifax. E.T.A. 8/3. (F.O. Iceland 0902/2).

VICEROY.

Your position at 0825 has been reported by Enemy A/C. (D.C. 0921/2 to VICEROY).

UNBEATEN.

Intend to sail UNBEATEN at 1700/3 from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day via Needles Channel to R/V with 2 TOWN class destroyers 110°. Start Point 3 miles at 0930/4th. (S.5 0940/2).

TALISMAN.
TORBAY.

My 1147/1. Delete all mention of TALISMAN. TALISMAN will now sail with TORBAY on 6/3. (S.3 1021/2).

HONNINGSVAAG.
VESLACKARI.

My 1801/27. HONNINGSVAAG and VESLACKARI still weather bound at Akureyri. Hope to sail to-morrow. (F.O. Iceland 1039/2).

PANDORA.
Instructions in
case of separation
from Convoys.

PANDORA sailing with H.G. 55. (B) If transfer arrangements from H.G. to O.G. convoy fail she will proceed to Gibraltar along track of O.G. 55 at speed of advance of convoy and 50 miles ahead. (C) In the event of complete separation from H.G. 55 PANDORA will proceed along route of convoy at its speed of advance as far as 049° N. then as in (B). (D) In the event of PANDORA becoming completely separated from O.G. 55 she will proceed along route of convoy to Gibraltar at its speed of advance (E) PANDORA will co-operate with C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A. and S.O. of escort of O.G. convoy in cases of (B) (C) and (D) when she is well clear of H.G. convoys. (F) C. in C. W.A. is requested to pass necessary information to S.O. of escort to O.G. 55 (G) Intend to make similar arrangements in future convoys. (F.O.C.N.A. 1044/2).

AURORA.

Sailed for Scapa in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1941/27/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/2).

RESOLUTION.

Your position has been reported by Enemy A/C. (D.D.I.C. 1327/2).

COSSACK.

Intend to sail COSSACK 1815/2 for Scapa. E.T.A. 1200/4. Route. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1427/2).

/Northern.....

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1433/2).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/3 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1541/2).

PEGASUS.

Your 1100/2. PEGASUS must on no account be left unescorted. (C. in C. W.A. 2235/2 to VANOC).

Operations.

Operation "Claymore".
CLAYMORE.
(Kofoten Islands)

Covering force will proceed 1430/2.
(ii) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort during daylight/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1105/2).
Scapa departure NELSON, KING GEORGE V, EDINBURGH, NIGERIA, INGLEFIELD, ECHO, MAORI, ECLIPSE, PUNJABI. (A.C.O.S. 1445/2).

Operation N.C.

Will be carried out Zero time 0015/3. (V.A. Dover 1447/2).

British Air Activity.

Search for M/V's from H.X. 109.

One Sunderland from Sullom Voe 0800 to Butt of Lewis thence to 59 20 N. 8 50 W. to 60 29 N. 13 00 W. to 60 55 N 12 30 W. to North Rona to locate missing ships of H.X. 109. If 10 or more ships located A/C will escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 0706/2).

/Patrols.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (contd).Patrols.
Trondhjem.

Air patrol today ^{"Toss", "Stab", "Bert", "Fair"} ~~FROST, STAB, BERT, PAIR~~ reconnaissance of ^{TRONDHEIM} ~~TRONDHEIM~~, also special meteorological flight. (C. in C. Rosyth 0800/2).

18th Group Patrols. S.T.1 0900 S.T.2. 1430 for 3/3. (N.A. Station, Stornoway 1712/2).

Hudson A/C will be patrolling 20 miles to South of you during the night and may drop flares and attack enemy craft. (C. in C. Plymouth 1918/2 to RESOLUTION).

Escorts.

My 0110/2 first escort will be Anson aircraft on 385 K/CS relieved by Blenheim aircraft on 6000 K/Cs.

H.M.S. CURACAOS 0155/2 search for second damaged ship should be arranged with aircraft co-operating if situation permits.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0626/2 to WOOLSTON).

In addition to A/S air escort close A/A cover will be provided by one Whitley from midday. (C. in C. W.A. 0935/2 to VANOC, PEGASUS, etc).

Expect escort by Hudson aircraft throughout daylight 3rd March aircraft frequency 6000 kcs. (C. in C. Rosyth 1942/2 to AMBUSCADE, etc).

Barrow and
Millom Air
Decoy.

D. of L.D. 1334/2 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.FORTHBANK.
ATHELTEMPLAR
(Bombed 1/3)W.N.91EN.79

Your 2306. Return forthwith to FORTHBANK.
~~AN~~BEILLE IV is to tow ship to Invergordon.
 You are to escort GAVOTTE proceed to rejoin
 convoy. (C.in C. Rosyth 0004/2 to WOOLSTON)
 Tug ABEILLE IV has been ordered to take
 FORTHBANK from W.N.91 in tow in 57° 50' N.
 01° 55' W. and proceed to Invergordon.
 WOOLSTON has been ordered to escort.
 M.S.5 with SPEEDWELL and ERIDGE have been
 ordered to take ATHELTEMPLAR from E.N.79
 in 57° 4' N. 01° 50' W. to Firth of Forth,
 KELLETT and ROSS are proceeding to join
 FORTHBANK. (C.in C. Rosyth 0050/2).
 Convoys W.N.91 and E.N.79 in 57° 40' N.
 1° 45' W. and 57° 11' N. 1° 45' W.
 Attacked by aircraft at 1950/1/3.
 ATHELTEMPLAR (E.N.79) Tyne to Curacao in
 ballast hit and on fire amidships.
 Survivors taken off and effort being made
 to tow ship to Methil.
 FORTHBANK (W.N.91) New York to Hull cargo
 steel machinery and general. Hit and on
 fire but fire under control and ship being
 towed to Invergordon.
 German A/C crashed in sea off Melrose Head
 at 2055 and 4 of crew taken prisoner.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 0057/2 to Adty.).
 Fighter cover arranged for ATHELTEMPLAR.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 0106/2 to LEDA).
 Your 0016. ^{"Rusty"}
 Confirmed A second ship in ~~the~~ was hit.
 Trawler was ordered to search astern as it
 was thought ship fell out of convoy.
 As PIROUETTE and GAVOTTE both appear to have
 been severed from FORTHBANK it is probable
 she located wrong ship. S.O.S. broadcast
 by Scapa W/T Station at 2052/1 was possibly
 from this ship. (CURACOA 0155/2 to C.in C.
 Rosyth).
 Burn searchlights at short intervals to
 assist WOOLSTON to locate you.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 0413/2 to ABEILLE IV).
 Fighter protection being sent to S.S.FORTHBANK.
 (Lyness W/T 0949/2).
 Fighters being sent to assist ATHELTEMPLAR.
 (Rosyth 1058/2).
 My 1316 WATERMEYER sailed.
 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1441/2).

/ WATERMEYER ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)FORTH BANK.
AHELTEMPLAR
(Bombed 1/3)
(contd.)

WATERMEYER is to tow AHELTEMPLAR to Methil where she is to anchor the night. WATERMEYER will be required to tow AHELTEMPLAR to Leith on 3/3 on receipt of orders from N.O.I.C. Methil. Escort is to proceed in execution of previous orders as follows:-
(C.in C. Rosyth 1725/2).
WATERMEYER has taken over towing.
(SPEEDWELL 1735/2).
When FORTH BANK passes ~~in company~~ ^{in company} proceed to Londonderry. (C.in C. Rosyth 1846/2 to WOOLSTON).
Air attack imminent on AHELTEMPLAR.
(Rosyth W/T 2007/2).

Convoy W.N.91.
PENNINGTON COURT
(British, 6098
tons)
(Bombed 1/3.)

Your 2105/1. Confirm that 2 ships in ~~company~~ ^{company} were hit. FORTH BANK in ~~company~~ ^{company} and AHELTEMPLAR in ~~company~~ ^{company} are only casualties located.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0016/2 to CURACOA).
CURACOA 0155/2. PENNINGTON COURT now in company with ~~company~~ ^{company} reports she was hit by bomb. Damage above water. She made no S.O.S., no assistance required.
(HASTINGS 0900/2 (C.in C. Rosyth 1039/2 to Adty.).

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2)

Your 1935/2. After oiling return to base. SUPERMAN should contact LEEDS CITY about 1200/3. (C.in C. W.A. 0224/3 to WINCHELSEA). Proceed forthwith to assist LEEDS CITY in 54° 32' N. 11° 56' W. at 0340.
WINCHELSEA is standing by.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/2 to SUPERMAN).
Tow has parted for third time after LEEDS CITY had been in tow two hours. Neither ship has any more wire suitable for towing. My position 54° 45' N. 011° 40' W.
Request tug may be sent as soon as possible. MAN ON WAR now in company. WINCHELSEA will have returned to Londonderry p.m. today fuel.
(WINCHELSEA 1301/2).
Your 1301/2. MAN-O-WAR should remain with LEEDS CITY unless essential to return to harbour. (C.in C. W.A. 1612/2 to WINCHELSEA).

/ My 1115.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2)
(contd.)

My 1115. Position of LEEDS CITY at 1301 was 054° 45' N. 011° 40' W. MAN OF WAR now in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1639/2 to SUPERMAN).

LEEDS CITY escorted by MAN OF WAR is in position 054° 42' North 011° 30' West now drifting in 120° direction at about one knot. Ship is floating well and easily salvageable in present weather conditions, tug SUPERMAN not joined, request information as to her position. Intend leaving this position at 0001/3 and making for Londonderry to refuel. (WINCHELSEA 1935/2).

Daylight
Operations
in S.W.
Approaches.

It is interesting to see how in little over ten days daylight reconnaissance carried out by this unit has developed into a systematic and dangerous offensive against shipping in St. George's Channel and our South Western Approaches. Details and dates. (Cheadle 0345/2).

A/C over
Cork.

Following received at 0709 A - W D DE A - G Q Unidentified A/C over Cork at 0700 hours going in a Northerly direction. G 2 C Annon. (C.in C. Plymouth 0709/2).

EMPIRE SIMBA
(Bombed 1/3).

My 1731/1 and my 2145/1. Sailed tug GOLIATH to position. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0845/2). See also 1043/2. Page 50.

VICEROY.

Your position at 0825 has been reported by enemy aircraft. (D.C. 0921/2 to VICEROY).

SIMALOER.

(Dutch, 6533 tons) Bombed in 56° 40' N. 10° 46' W. at 0824/2. G.M.T. (Lyness T.O.R. 0925/2) (Burnham Radio 0940/2). Prepared to abandon ship at 0840 G.M.T. (Lyness T.O.R. 0941/2). Proceed to assist SIMALOER bombed and abandoning ship at 0833/2 unless in contact with MEMPHIS. (C.in C. W.A. 1001/2 to COREOPSIS).

/ Aircraft Report SIMALOER...

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)SIMALOER
Contd.-

Aircraft Report SIMALOER was in 056° 45' N. 010° 18' W. at 1335/2. Some Survivors were rescued by CLAN CAMERON. (C.in C. W.A. 2312/2).

MELMORE HEAD
(Bombed 26/2)

Investigating abandoned ship named MELMORE HEAD still seaworthy and capable of salvage, 265° LUPIN 66 miles. Request instructions. (MANSFIELD 0930/2).

My 0930. Boarding party from (ROCKINGHAM ?) reports MELMORE HEAD's Boiler room full of water, otherwise seaworthy. (MANSFIELD 1030/2).

Request you will sail NORTHERN SPRAY and MASTADONTE forthwith to assist MELMORE HEAD floating well in 55° 53' N. 10° 54' W. at 0930/2. MANSFIELD standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1337/2 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Request you will sail KINGCUP to R/V with Tug THAMES in 000° Tory Island Light 10 miles at 0800 to-morrow and escort her to assist MELMORE HEAD. MASTADONTE and NORTHERN SPRAY have already sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1843/2 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

You are to R/V with KINGCUP 000° 10 miles from Tory Is. Light at 0800 tomorrow and proceed with her to assist MELMORE HEAD. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1905/2 to THAMES).

My 1337/2. For position 55° 53' N. Read 54° 53' N. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2301/2 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

WOOLSTON.

One aircraft in sight - approx. course 090 degrees approx. height 1,000 feet, my position 57° 53' N. 1° 53' W. (WOOLSTON 0933/2).

STORAAS
bombed.

(Norwegian Tanker, 7886 tons). STORAAS damaged by near miss. TULIP standing by. (VANOC 1100/2).

EMPIRE
SIMBA
bombed
1325/1.

(1) EMPIRE SIMBA. Form I.D.A.A. particulars. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1043/2).

Lerwick.
ARIEL and
KIRKWOOD attacked.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.).Lerwick.
ARIEL and
KIRKWOOD
attacked.

An enemy A/C identified as a JU.88 approached Shetland from westwards at 0840 and came in over Scalloway Lerwick and Bressay. Then circling left handed. The E/A came south down centre of the harbour at about 100 feet machine gunning ARIEL's Guns' crew and dropping 2 bombs which fell 150 yards ahead of the ship. Going south he machine gunned Kirkabister Lighthouse then made off first towards Sunburgh and then our eastwards. During the attack fire was opened by S/S GANNET, Cable ship ARIEL, Boom Drifters and examination drifter, and by Knabb A/A gun and some hits were probably scored by L.M.G. Fire. The fighters were over Lerwick seven minutes after the enemy aircraft attacked ARIEL but failed to make contact. There were three minor casualties amongst ARIEL Guns' crew. Probably splinters from cannon shell. Otherwise no damage.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1111/2) (A.C.O.S. 1837/2).
ARIEL bombed machine gunned Lerwick harbour.
(Lyness 1119/2).

KIRKWOOD arrived 1015/2nd. Subsequently attacked by enemy aircraft and sustained slight damage which will cause delay in discharge.

(S.T.O. Lerwick 1825/2).

At 1210 Skerries Coast Watching Station reported 3 aircraft thought to be German flying S.W. at 1220 these aircraft identified as DO. 17 flew low around Anderhill Bressay, and came in on the harbour from the east dropping 3 sticks of 2 bombs each on shipping and scoring 2 near misses on Collier KIRKWOOD. The aircraft were engaged by Bressay A/A Battery and by all L.M.G. in harbour. The aircraft turned north and made away to Eastward. Fighters arrived from Sumburgh at 1227 but failed to make contact. There was one slight casualty in KIRKWOOD. Extent of damage to vessel will be reported when ascertained but no water is being made.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1517/2).

DOUGLAS.

One aircraft approx. course 000° height 5000 feet, my position 59° 37' N. 7° 16' W.
(DOUGLAS 1122/2).

/ KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2) ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed 22/2).Report from Captain Kay on salvage.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1140/2).RESOLUTION.Enemy Aircraft are active in your vicinity.
(D.C. 1140/2 to RESOLUTION).
Your position has been reported by enemy
aircraft. (D.D.I.C. 1327/2 to RESOLUTION).Convoy
W.N. Even.Fighters being sent to an even numbered
W.N. convoy. (Lyness 1320/2).Unknown
Vessel.Automatic AAAA Signal heard 1402 G.M.T.
strength 2/3 bearing from G K Z 23 R 5
degrees. (Humber Radio 1408/2).ROTULA
(Dutch Tanker,
7981 tons)
bombed 1/3 and
abandoned.At 1315/1 in 52° 20' 30" N. 5° 29' W.
bombed and machine-gunned by A/C.
Abandoned. On fire aft. Anchored in
52° 20½' N. 05° 29' W.
17 missing including 4 Hollanders and
13 Chinese.
Form I.D.A.A. particulars.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1745/2).Convoy
E.N. Odd.Fighters being sent to Convoy ^{"Usage"} ~~USAGE~~.
(Lyness 1824/2).
Dangerous derelict approx. 052° 31' N.
005° 20' W.
(Unknown Ship 2049/2 to Adty.).Convoy
F.N. Even.One enemy aircraft in sight approx. course
300 degs, approx. height 2,000 feet of
convoy ~~at~~ my position 52° 25' N. 2° 1' E.
(PYTCHLEY 2130/2).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
Z.M.E. 21.My 0937/1. Weather still unsuitable.
Operation postponed. (PLOVER 1027/2).S.N.4.

It appears from daily disposition signals that U-Boats may be passing through deep water between S.N.5 and S.N.3. I suggest S.N.4 should be laid in the next operation. (C.in C. H.F. 1045/2).

Blyth.

At 1010/2/3. One Green Mine exploded by S.A. Gear in 103° Blyth East Pier Light 2 miles. (P.M./S.O. M.Shields 1115/2).

Falmouth.

Port of Falmouth open for vessels up to 18 ft. draught. A dangerous area exists within 2 1/2 cables West Narrows Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1120/2).

Firth of
Forth.

Firth of Forth latest searched Approach Channel as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/2).

Spurn Point.

The following three mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1845/2.).

Enemy Intelligence.Seven M/V's.

Aircraft report seven merchant ships steering north at 1006 position 054° 50' N. 007° 20' E. (F.O.S. 1236/2) (H.Q.B.C. 0020/3).

Naval
Movement.

W/T Intelligence suggest possible movements of naval units northwards on Norwegian coast in near future. (D.D.I.C. 1850/2).

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.Secret Envelopes.

B.H.X.106 and 107. Reported interval of some hours between conference and time of sailing during which masters remained on shore with secret envelopes in their possession. Secret envelopes should be issued as near to the time of sailing as practicable, when masters should be transported to their ships and thereafter no communication with shore permitted. (D.T.D. 1211/2 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

Limitation to 40 Ships in W. App.

In future no outward convoy is to exceed 40 ships without my permission. (C.in C. W.A. 1216/2, to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

Vesca Signals. Routes.

Vesca signals are arriving very corrupt. Please endeavour to ensure correct cyphering. Your 1020/1. Routes or sections of routes should NOT be left to Master's discretion vide A.M.1818/27/1 to C.in C. A.W.I. para. 1. (D.T.D. 1335/2, to Consul, Montevideo). Please instruct N.C.S.O. Colon reference A.M.1619/23 and 1933/29/1. (Instructions to N.C.S.O.'s and S.T.O.'s re VESCA signals). (D.T.D. 1357/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Reporting of Independent Ships.

A.M.1818/27/1/41. Request arrangements so that homeward bound independent M/Vs break W/T silence if they are going to be more than 3 hours early or six hours late in crossing Lat. 51° N. or long. 25° W. (C.in C. W.A. 1957/2 to Admty.).

Metal Cargoes.

As soon as composition of convoy is known, names of ships carrying full cargoes of metal or heavy ore which are likely to sink quickly on being torpedoed will be signalled to F.O.I/c Greenock for information of rescue vessels. Signal will be in following form "HEAVY H.X.111 SYLVIA DE LARRINAGA EMPIRE PANTHER.etc." (D.T.D. 2117/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys.

F.N.81.421 No ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0001/2 0940/2) 1 from Tyne (C.in C. Rosyth 1229/2 to WESTMINSTER, VERDUN, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1739/2).

F.S.84.424 Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0939/2) Position, 12 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1447/2) All arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1943/2).

E.N.78. All 7 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1005/2).

E.N.80)
W.N.93) JASON as additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1023/2) E.N.80, 0800/3, escorts, 18 ships, codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1115/2) VANITY as addl. A/A escort to E.N.80. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1912/2) Cancel my 1912 and 1914. VIVIEN and VANITY to escort E.N.80.

W.N.89. Non-arrival 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1024/2).

W.N.92. Position (A.C.O.S. 1033/2).

E.N.79. Your 1246/1. HUGH WALPOLE to escort Loch Ewe Section. (Lyness 1100/2) E.N.U.79, 1100/3, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1125/2) E.N.79 position (A.C.O.S. 1310/2).

F.N. and
F.S. Additional escorts (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1152/2).

C.E.27. Time table. (C.in C. Nore 1224/2).

F.S.85.425 Numbers joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 1231/2) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/2 List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1736/2) 7 ships did not sail from Methil (C.in C. Rosyth 1553/2) 7 ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708/2 C.in C. Rosyth 2157/2) 8 ships from Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C.in C. Rosyth 1909/2).

/ F.N. 19.

War Diary.

2.3.1941.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.19.419 Arrived 1245/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1252/2).
Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1729/2).

F.N.22.422 1113/2, 23 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1356/2)
List (1438/2) 1 ship sailed for Grangemouth.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1551/2) 10 ships from
Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/2 C.in C.
Rosyth 2155/2).

W.N.94. Escorts. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1445/2).

W.N.91. Arrived 1445/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1446/2).

Methil. Anchorage Return (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/2).

F.N.16.416 Non-arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1608/2).

10 M.V's Sailed, escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth
1707/2).

W.N.93. 1947/2, escorts, 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde,
2049/2).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C.293. My 1002/28. For 0030/3 read 0100/4.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1004/2) Escorts for
O.B.C.293 and O.B.O.293 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
1745/2).

O.G.53. Arrivals. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/2).

H.X.109. Estimate 24 hours late. (C.in C. W.A.,
1021/2) MALLOW to escort Liverpool portion
(MALCOLM, 1739/2) Air escort (C.in C.
Rosyth 1750/2, 2018/2) DOUGLAS meeting
(DOUGLAS, 2158/2).

S.C.22. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1150/2)
1 arrival (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1205/2).

H.X.113. Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax,
1506/1).

O.B.U.292. 1500/2 unescorted, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Aultbea 1556/2).

S.L.65. SHEFFIELD's 2300/1. Fast and slow portions
to re-unite and subsequently split at R.V. in
my 1905/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1621/2 to DIDO).

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.64. HARTLEBURY, PLM 17, GAIRSOPPA and SIMALOER all had to leave Convoy due to lack of fuel. The two latter were subsequently sunk, GAIRSOPPA by U/B 50' West of Fastnet and SIMALOER by bombing 100' N.W. of Bloody Foreland. Remainder of S.L.64 all arrived safely. (D.T.D. 1646/2 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

S.L.70. BIRMINGHAM to escort (D.O.D.(F) 1649/2). See Operations Volume.

→ H.G.57
O.G.54. Estimated 0500/13 ROCHESTER will bring back H.G.57 and LA MALOUINE is to act according to orders in my 1625/1 (Escort 0954). Detailed orders will be issued by F.O.C.N.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1721/2, to LA MALOUINE).

O.G.54. Sailing telegram (C.in C. W.A., 1713/2).

→ H.G.57. Re orders to ROCHESTER. (C.in C. W.A. 1726/2 to F.O.C.N.A.).

S.L.65 F.
S.L.65 S. My 1905/1. DIDO, PHILANTE, BRIGHTON, BROADWAY, ROCKINGHAM, MANSFIELD, VANOC, VOLUNTEER, WALKER, escort S.L.65 Fast. CAMITO, CAVINA, ZAMLEK, proceed with S.L.65 fast. PEGASUS, CALDWELL, TULIP, SUNFLOWER, DIANELLA, escort S.L.65 slow. (C.in C. W.A., 1808/2, to DIDO).

O.B.291. FLEETWOOD to remain with. (C.in C. W.A., 1937/2).

H.X.109 U. Arrived 1730/2 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1953/2).

O.B.292. List. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1954/2).

O.B.M.293. Sailed 1934/2. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2010/2).

H.X.110. AUBRETIA sailed to meet. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2015/2).

H.X.111. Heavy (D.T.D., 2304/2).

War Diary.

2.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.7.
Speed of Ships.

Reply to Adty. 0422/1.
(P.S.T.O. Clyde 1028/2 to Adty.).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHMORE

Admiralty 2247/28. A/S Escort.
(a) O.R.P. GARLAND escorting STRATHMORE
from Liverpool.
(b) OTTAWA, ASSINIBOINE, CHURCHILL escorting
REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA from Clyde.[^]
(c) VANSITTART, WIVERN, CHARLESTOWN,
LANCASTER to R/V 0800/5 in position 225°
Oversay Light 6 miles.
(C.in C. W.A. 2144/2).

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.RICHMOND HILL
(British,
7500 tons)

Your 1940/1. Proceed with PRUDENT to estimated position RICHMOND HILL 061° 30' N. 017° 55' W. at 0001/2. RESTIVE has been ordered to rendezvous you in this position. (C.in C. W.A. 0134/2 to PETUNIA). Estimated position of RICHMOND HILL at 0001/2. Proceed to this position to rendezvous with PETUNIA and PRUDENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0205/2 to RESTIVE).

KELLETT

Have been in collision with Trawler NORTHERN REWARD in 057° 40' N. 001° 43' W. Am badly damaged on waterline on port side. Am proceeding to Peterhead escorted by ROSS. (KELLETT 0418/2). Following Damage sustained as result of collision with NORTHERN REWARD. No apparent damage below waterline. Estimate repairs to render ship seaworthy for fair weather passage can be carried out at Peterhead in two or three days. (KELLETT 1101/2). *See also next page*

BEAVERBRAE

Arrived for D G repairs. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0859/2).

COTSWOLD

Following damage sustained in collision with Trawler ~~Saint~~ DONATS near 59 A Buoy at 1959/1. Not making water abaft number 4 bulkhead but docking considered necessary. Ship is with F.S. No. 424 and 12 knots can be safely maintained into present wind and sea. (COTSWOLD 0940/2).

ST. DONATS.

(M/S Trawler) Sank at 0015 today in 53° 29' N. 01° 06' E. Was reported in collision with COTSWOLD at 2023 approximately yesterday. No casualties. (F.O. Humber 1012/2).

TAKU

Indicate your position. (ENCHANTRESS 1054/2 to TAKU). Do not reply to ENCHANTRESS 1054/2 until after dark tonight. (C.in C. W.A. 1224/2 to TAKU.).

/ PERSIER. ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

2.3.1941.

Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)PERSIER.

(Belgian S.S.) Ashore east of Vik. Master reports consider ship could be saved if good tug available. Only tug available Iceland River tug TANGE. As trouble previously experience with her consider it dangerous to send her to south coast she is also urgently required full time Reykjavik. Rescue Tug essential which could also attempt salvage SONJA MAERSK. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1239/2).

NOSS HEAD.

Raft and two bodies now identified as members of crew S.S. NOSS HEAD of Leith, sailed Leith 26/2 for Kirkwall, washed ashore at Deerness P.M. 1st March. Raft marked NOSS HEAD Leith found Tarracliffe Bay A.M. to-day. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1500/2).

GEORGETOWN.

Intend to sail GEORGETOWN p.m. tomorrow in accordance with Admiralty's 1927/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1616/2.). A.M. 1927/1 plus is cancelled. Further signal will be made. (D.O.D.H. 1857/2 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

NORTHERN
REWARD

Has arrived Aberdeen after collision with KELLETT. Damage extensive above water line on either side of stern. Vessel does not require immediate docking. Repairs can be effected during refit. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1812/2). *See previous page*

OURAGAN.

AMBUSCADE's 1605. Condenser trouble continues. Returning to base. E.T.A. 1200/3. (OURAGAN 2205/2).

SUFFOLK.

Details of damage to Turbines. Proposals. Request approval. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2240/2.).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.FIRE Drake.
(aground
1/3).My 1616/1. FIRE Drake returned to Gibraltar at 1850/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0002/2 to Admty).S.S. GUINE.My 1844/1/3. GUINE arrived Funchal 1/3 and left same day for St. Vincent, C. Verde Is.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1036/2).S.L.S.64.
Survivors.My 1735/28. ARDEOLA sailed 0900/2 with 82 survivors S.L.S.64. Due Gibraltar 1600/3.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1104/2).STRATHMORE
SHEFFIELD.Admty 1103/27. 500 Naval ratings being sent in STRATHMORE. (Details). Requested you will arrange for as many of the relieved ratings as possible to be sent home in the ship. F.C.Force H. requested to arrange for SHEFFIELD to escort STRATHMORE as far as R/V with A/S escort in N.W.Approaches.
(D.C.D.(F) 1251/2 to F.O.C.N.A. F.O. Force H).S.S.
BELGIQUE.My 1208/8 and subsequent signals. Cargo consists wheat and barley underneath. There is a shortage of cattle fodder in Gibraltar and H.E. asks that 100 tons barley be left in ship when unloading in Spain and brought back to Gibraltar for discharge there.
(F.C. Gibraltar, 1510/2 to Admty).ARK ROYAL.Intend proceeding sea in ARK ROYAL at 1330/3 until P.M./4 for flying exercises.
(F.O.Force H, 1551/2 to Admty).Air
Operations.Daily Summary. Area covered 2° W., to 10° 30'W. Flying curtailed by weather.
(200 Group, 1725/2).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.→ W.S.6.

Arrival 0900/2. BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE, CATHAY with Convoy W.S.6. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0927N/2 to Admty). Re stronger escort after Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 1649/2 to C.in C's E.I., S.A) See Operations Volume.

LANCING.

Overdue shipping my 1912/1 Norwegian LANCING arrived Port Stanley. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1007/2).

ROXBURGH
CASTLE.

Overdue shipping ROXBURGH CASTLE due Capetown 27/2 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1040/2).

VIVA.

Overdue shipping, Norwegian VIVA, due Capetown 27/2 from Trinidad not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1042/2).

→ CATHAY,
CHRISTIAN
HUYGENS.

Your 2307/19. After CORNWALL has joined W.S.6., CATHAY may be detached as necessary to provide escort for CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (D.O.D.(F) 1625/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.PROTECTOR.

Could be most usefully employed in assisting to clear Suez Canal. May she be retained for the present. (C.in C. Med., 1108/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

→ W.S.6.

Your 2337/28. This was confirmed in my 1633/24. (Re high explosives). (D.T.S.D. 1212/2 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Valona
Bombed.

Operational Summary No.265 up to 1200 hours 2/3/1941.
9 Blenheims escorted by 9 Hurricanes bombed Valona. Bombs bursting among barracks North East of Jetty, on munition dump and military stores, other buildings also hit.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1229/2).

→ UPHOLDER.

Sail 1830/3 and after exercising proceed through 035° 35' 014° 08' and 034° 10' 012° 05' to carry out offensive patrols in area G.034° 10' 101° 40' - 000° - 50 - 70.
(Comdr. (S) 1, 1247/2 to UPHOLDER, amended 1222/3).

Aircraft, situation
in Med.

C.in C. Med. 1412/2 See Mediterranean Volume.

→ UPHOLDER.
UNIQUE

Cancel my 1012/27 UPHOLDER sailing p.m./4 to operate in area G in my 1247/2 to UPHOLDER. Continue patrol in area V South of 34° and West of 012° 20'.
(Comdr. (S) 1, 1420/2 to UNIQUE).

Malta Air Report.

Combined service report Malta up to 1600 G.M.T. 2/3. 0810 - 0910 G.M.T. approx. 20 enemy aircraft probably all fighters with 1 JU. 88 circled island. JU.88 flew across island but dropped no bombs.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/2).

Suez Canal
Mines.

Admty. 1756/28 para one: (a) Yes, improvised S.A. Sweepers commenced operating 1/3 (c) all sweeping vessels have tried Lewis gun fire in the vicinity of mines without result. (d) After first attack D.W.1. Aircraft exploded four mines. No further success has been obtained despite repeated sweeping for both red and blue mines. Aircraft continue to sweep daily. There is no intention of giving up this sweep until it has been proved to be ineffective. (e) S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is investigating this.

/para.2.

WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Suez Canal
Mines.
(Contd.)

Para.2. This has been tried but is only effective in depths up to 20 feet.

Para.3. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is considering these proposals.
(C.in C. Med., 1704/2 to Admty).*GASTORCA.*MALLORCA *intended*
*see pages 98, 174.*Your 2358/1 (Funeral of King of Spain). Request route and speed may be communicated to authorities addressed in order that immunity may be assured.
(D.C.D.(F) 1742/2 to N.A.Madrid).A.S.16.Your 1112/2, sailing of A.S.16 has been postponed 24 hours.
(N.A.Athens, 1751/2 to C.in C. Med.)French
Shipping,
East Coast
of Tunis.

Your 1112/22. Considered undesirable to ask French Govnt., to notify movements of their ships since the enemy would probably learn of the notifications and act accordingly. Following note to French Govnt., is under consideration by the Cabinet.

You will be informed as soon as action can be taken in accordance with note.
(Head of M. 1800/2 to C.in C. Med.)Greece.Following from Chiefs of Staff, No.63 to C.in Cs. Med., and M.E. If he has not already done so, we suggest C.in C. M.E. should reply direct to Sir Michael Palairet, Athens, in answer to para.1 and 2 of Athens telegram No. 291 dated 1/3 and repeat to us.
(1st S.L. 1845/2 to C.in C. Med.)Tripolitania.Appreciation of military and air situation.
(C.in C. M.E. to W.C. 1910/2).
(Original in Lion copy only).Air Attacks
on TERROR
22/2, 23/2.

Details. (C.in C. Med., 1728/2).

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1910/2nd. March.

2.3.41
Sunday

FROM: C. in C. Middle East,

Date: 3.3.41.

Recd: 0120.

64^A

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

Tripolitania - Military Situation

IMMEDIATE.

O/45279 cipher 2/3. 53929 (M.O.5) 27/2.

Libya
Libya

1. Latest information indicates recent reinforcements to Tripolitania comprise two Italian Infantry Divisions, two Italian Motorised Arty. Regts. and German Armd. Troops estimated at maximum of one Armd. Bde.Gp. No evidence of additional M.T. landed and enemy must still be short of transport. Latest air reconnaissance however shows considerable increase in M.T. on Tripoli-Sirte road.

2. Tripoli to Agheila is 471 miles and to Benghazi 646 miles. There is only one road and water is inadequate over 410 miles of the distance these factors, together with lack of transport, limit the present enemy threat. He can probably maintain up to one Inf Div. and Armd. Bde. along the coast road in about three weeks and possibly at the same time employ a second Armd. Bde, if he has one available across the desert via Hena dn Marada against our flank.

3. He may test us at Agheila by offensive patrolling and if he finds us weak push on to Jadabya in order to move up his advanced landing grounds. I do not think that with this force he will attempt to recover Benghazi

4. Eventually two German Divisions might be employed in a large scale attack. This with one or two Inf. Divs would be the maximum maintainable via Tripoli. Shipping risks, difficulty of communications and the approach of hot weather make it unlikely that such an attack could develop before the end of the summer. Effective interference by sea with convoys and by air with Tripoli might extend this period.

5. Cyrenaica Garrison will shortly consist of 3 Armd. Bde. 9 Aus. Div. 3 Indian Motor Bde. Latter two incompletely trained and equipped. Additional A/Tk units are urgent requirements because one Inf. Bde. Coy. only at present available. Am withdrawing some from Sudan.

6. The Italian Air threat to Cyrenaica is at present almost negligible. On other hand Germans already well established in Central Mediterranean and have now available for operations against Malta, sea communications, Cyrenaica and for defence of their convoys and Tripolitania approximately 170 dive bombers 90 fighters 60 reconnaissance 18 transport aircraft 180. These strengths can and are likely to be increased. From bases in both Tripolitania and Sicily heavy scale air attacks are being carried out on our forward troops, bases and line of communication in Cyrenaica. Aerial mine laying ports especially Tobruk particular menace. In view of other commitments our own air forces permanently available to counter German land and air activities against Cyrenaica and to provide support for our land forces are not likely to exceed 1 fightersquadron 1 medium bomber squadron 1 army co-operation-squadron, though bombing effort will be augmented periodically by heavy bombers working from Malta and Cyrenaica. For time

/being.....

being however second fighter Squadron destined for Greece has been retained Cyrenaica. Also with other commitments A.A. defence is inadequate.

7. As regards Egypt air attacks from west now unlikely in immediate future but German and Italian aircraft especially former operating from Mandible are becoming increasingly active in Eastern Mediterranean and are succeeding for present at any rate in virtually closing canal by aerial mines. Alexandria and Delta area also within easy reconnaissance and bombing range from Mandible. Therefore until Mandible liquidated must maintain strong air defences in Egypt. One fighter squadron only available whole area. Special measures including fighters and balloons having to be taken in canal zone. Necessary also divert portion heavy bomber effort from other most important tasks for reduction air threat Egypt by bombing air bases Mandible.*

8. German parachute troops might be landed on our L.S. of C in combination with Armd. forces. I do not anticipate that parachutists will be used with the scale of attack likely to be developed in near future but they are a possible accompaniment of a large scale attack at later date.

9. Paras 6 and 7 above were drawn up by A.O.C. in C.

1910/2.

Received from War Office by Hand 1150/3.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D.(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.O.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.(1)

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A.S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Captain.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.

N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Commander Wilson.)

(* Mandible. code for air bases, Dodecanese)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Sweeping
Greek and
Turkish
harbours.

Your 1001/27/2. It does not appear appreciated that likelihood of being able to spare craft from Med. / Station resources for sweeping Greek and Turkish harbours is extremely small, and that if such action has to be taken it can only be at the expense of Alexandria and Canal Area for several months to come. The Turks should there-fore be encouraged to develop their own minesweeping resources to maximum.
(C.in C. Med., 2330/2 to Admty).

East Indies.Enemy
Vessels
in Yemenite
Waters.

Reply to C.in C. E.I. 0614/16. Policy. (Head of M., C135/2) See Operations Volume.

RAMB I
(~~captured~~).
sunk

Your 1553/28 re RAMB I. (1) No definite information obtained yet. (2) It appears orders were to be transmitted by Genoa. (3) PEARLEAF has arrived with prisoners, further interrogation proceeding.
(C.in C. E.I., 0514Z/2 to Admty).

*See also next page*B.N.18.

Sailing from Aden of Suez portion B.N.18 is temporarily delayed. In order to minimise congestion at Aden, ships from Colombo, Kilindini, Bombay, and Persian Gulf due to proceed Aden to join B.N. convoys for Suez are not to be sailed until further orders.
(C.in C. E.I. 0550Z/2 to N.C.S.O's).

HECTOR.

My 0822/24. HECTOR is to leave Aden p.m./6 and proceed Bombay at 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0639Z/2).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)HAWKINS.

To leave Aden a.m./5 and proceed at 21 knots to Port Victoria, Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. 0718Z/2 to HAWKINS).

U.S.9.

Following transports sailed in U.S.9. Part one 26/2, from Bombay. List. (S.S.T.O. India, 0901Z/2 to P.S.T.O.Egypt)

Ex-Italian Prizes, DURMITOR.

My 1106/26/2. (to N.C.I.C. Kilindini only) (1) As regards crews comply with my 0632/2. (2) British Masters and Officers to be asked (a) if they will volunteer to take ex-Italian prizes to Bombay with normal rates of pay. (b) If they will volunteer for permanent service in same ships when put in to service, subject if necessary to concurrence of owners of their late ships (3) Subject to numbers available, complete 4 prizes to steaming complement and sail them to Bombay as soon as possible after conclusion of prize-court proceedings. (4) LEONARDO DA VINCI should be provided with officers and crew sufficient to get ship into serviceable condition as soon as possible. (5) Officers arriving Mombasa from Durban Bombay and Aden are urgently required to return to their proper duties. (6) Yugo-Slav DURMITOR at Kismayu should be steamed as soon as possible with own crew under armed guard to Mombasa for prize court proceedings. (C.in C. E.I., 1202Z/2 to N.C.I.C. Kilindini.)

RAMB I.
(Sunk 27/2).

Description of incident.

(C.in C. E.I. 1218/2.) *See previous page.*

Your 1148/26. It is now desired that ADRIA, MANON and LEONARDO DA VINCI should be sailed for Bombay and ERMINIA MAZZELLA and SAVOIA for Durban.

Request probable dates of sailings. (D.T.D. 1328/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

Freighters to cease activities.

Decided that disguised freighters are to cease activities forthwith, hoist White Ensign and pendant, crew to wear uniform only, for the following reasons:-

(i) When Germans realise that freighters are operating against them they may, as retaliation, attack British ships and possibly all ships at long range, sink them outright and even leave crews in open ocean.

(ii) As freighters have not made any contacts, the risk to British shipping is not considered justifiable.

2. Freighters have been informed and directed to proceed as follows:-

CITY OF DURBAN to Mauritius, to complete with coal and then to Durban for Docking.

CAPE SABLE to Colombo.

BOTLEA direct to Colombo.

KING GRUFFYD to remain at Durban.

3. Freighters have been ordered to keep guns concealed both at sea and in harbour, but in event of contact with enemy raider to act offensively, selecting most suitable time at which to disclose offensive armament.

6. So that the future employment of these ships may be decided, Cs-in-C., East Indies and South Atlantic, are to report any proposals for employing them on their stations. Appears possible they might be useful as convoy escorts in Red Sea and to assist in rounding up enemy merchant ships breaking out of Massawa.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2116/2/3/41 to Cs.-in-C., E. I. and S. A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Air Report,
Massawa
bombed,
Submarine
claimed
sunk.Operational Summary 265 up to 1200 hours
2/3/41. 3 Blenheims bombed submarine
base Massawa, 3 bombs hitting jetty while
others burst very near. One R/C
Blenheim located and sank submarine near
Dahlak Island. Photographs confirm
exact position unspecified but will be
ascertained from unit.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1232/2).Navigation
Lights.My 2006/1. Dimmed navigation lights are
to be exhibited by merchant vessels on
E.I. Station in following areas. In all
other areas merchant vessels are not
to burn navigtn: lights except to avoid
collision.
(C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/2 to E.I.Station).Massawa
bombed
by F.A.A.(1) Five Albatrosses from FORMIDABLE
attacked Northern Harbour Massawa shortly
after dusk 1/3. (2) Bombs dropped on
small floating dock believed to contain a
submarine. Explosion observed. Remaining
bombs not observed owing to searchlights.
(3) All aircraft returned, no casualties.
(C.in C. E.I. 1802/2 to Admty).Disguised
Freighters.To cease activities forthwith.
Future employment. (A.C.N.S.(F) to
C.in C. E.I. etc., 2116/2).
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.LARPOOL.

My 1430/27/2 and your 1239/1 LARPOOL arrived Halifax 1/3 and is proceeding to St. Johns Newfoundland to discharge and load.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1104/2 to Admty).

PRINCE
ROBERT.

Your 0022Z/1. See my 1559/28. Essential PRINCE ROBERT returns to Esquimalt. On arrival at Esquimalt C.O.P.C. Esquimalt report earliest date she can arrive at Suva having completed refit.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1243/2 to N.B. Wellington).

DRAMATIST.

My 1217/26. (LUNULA and DRAMATIST not arrived). British ship DRAMATIST delayed by weather arrived Barbados 1/3.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1257/2).

P.A.C. Rocket
Device.

My 1056/12/1 and C.in C. W.A. 1616/26. I am still without information as to the P.A.C. Rocket Device. Useful technical instruction could doubtless be given by N.C.S.O. Bermuda if details were available.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1526/2 to Admty).

S.S. TREVILLEY
S.S. RAIN.

My 1253/1. TREVILLEY arrived at Colon 1/3 March. Ref: 1310 Ministry of Shipping 5/2 EMPIRE RAIN not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1702/2).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Japanese
Fleet.Japanese combined Fleet are exercising
near 28° N., 130° E.
(C. of I., Far East, 0527Z/2 to Admty).PANANG.*N.T. in W.D.*
My 0309/1. PANANG is to be sailed
to Calcutta.
(F.O. Malaya, 0959Z/2 to N.C.I.C. Penang).Australia.W.F.
Messages.W.F.67. Following W.F. Messages are in
force.
(A.C.N.B., 0206Z/2 to Admty etc.)Ships for
East Indies.Your 0738Z/1. (Not to Admiralty)
Concur. In view of Naval Board
Melbourne's 0737Z/26 (Placing of certain
ships under East Indies command).
request you will issue necessary orders.
(A.C.N.B. 0306Z/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.ARKADIALeft Istanbul 1/3 for Braila.
(Galata 1117/2).LEESEE

Message 2000/28 (Re German ship LEESEE)
from British Consul Vigo is being repeated
to you. (H.W.R. 1940/2, to F.O.C.N.A.).
Reason to believe LEESEE may have left as
early as 24/2 and joined the PLUS and Italian
ships CLIZIA and CAPO LENA when they sailed
from Bilbao 24/2. (D.S. 545).
Reported from Vigo that LEESEE sailed 28/2,
destination unknown.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2111/2, to N.A. Stn.).

BRAKE.BRAKE left Ferrol 2/3 0002, destination
unknown. (Coruna, 2125/2).RAMB I.Reply to 1553/28.
(C.in C. E.I. 05142/2) See East Indies.ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.DERNAArrival 2/3 from Genoa.
(Barcelona 1307/2.).PASUBIOSailed 1/3 for Fiume.
(Susak T.H.I. 1050/2.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.MONTAGEL
and 1 ship.

St. Thomas Virgin Islands 25/2 for Casablanca
8 knots possibly along 024° N.
One unknown French from Fort de France 24/2
Casablanca 14 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/2 to N.A. Stn.). *See Page 180.*

VILLE DE
STRASBOURG

Intercepted, escorting her to Durban
Speed 9 knots Too rough to board.
026° 30' S. 047° E.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1603/2, to C.in C. E.I.).
SHROPSHIRE's 1603/2. VILLE DE STRASBOURG
should be sent to Simonstown if practicable.
(C.in C. S.A., 2017N/2 to C.in C. E.I.).
SHROPSHIRE's 1603Z/2 is passed to you.
(C.in C. S.A., 2030/2 to Admty.).
My 1603Z/2. French ship VILLE DE STRASBOURG
Hove to. Will not move. Standing by.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1815Z/2, to C.in C. E.I.).

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA

F.O.I.C. Simonstown 2138/1 and CORNWALL
0725/1. My 1031/1 asked Trawler to be sent
to escort ship to Simonstown. Intend ship
shall be diverted to Capetown as proposed
and request early decision about requisition.
(C. in C. S.A., 1727/2, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN
(torpedoed
19/2).Norwegian, 7034 tons, straggler from
Convoy H.X.107. Survivors landed Liverpool
report that this vessel was torpedoed and
sunk approx. 35⁰ miles N.W. of Ireland at
2130/19. (D.O.R. 2/3).HUNTINGDON.)
BRITISH)
GUNNER.)
MANSEPOOL)
(torpedoed)
24/2)

All now presumed lost. (D.S. 545.).

CADILLAC
(torpedoed 1/3)British tanker, 12062 tons, in Convoy H.X.109.
My 2301/1 Searched area of burning wreck for
U-Boat until 0130 without result. Five
survivors from CADILLAC on board. Returning
to Convoy. My p.c. and s. are 059° 48' N.
011° 20' W. 131⁰ ten knots, (weather).
(MALCOLM, 0411/2, to C.in C. W.A.).
Whiteley Aircraft at Daylight will search
area between 59.41 N. 09.46 W. and 60.20 N.
12.18 W. for U-boat reported by MALCOLM
2300/1 and to locate damaged ship.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0546/2).
Your 0546/2. S.S. CADILLAC cargo petrol
torpedoed and burnt 060° 20' N. 012° 18' W.
by 0314/2. Five survivors seriously injured
on board MALCOLM. Escorts MALCOLM, MALLOW,
have not found ? No star shell remains.
Request night air escort with parachute flares
from dark today Sunday. Initial position to
be signalled when convoy located.
(MALCOLM 0746/2, to C.in C. Rosyth).
Has CADILLAC sunk? (C.in C. W.A. 0940/2 to
MALCOLM).
My 0746/2. Request aircraft detailed for
night escort duty may be instructed to
release flares in accordance with C.in C.
W.A.'s 1622/25/10 on seeing rocket fire or
merchant ship in flames. Aircraft to burn
downward recognition lights after releasing
first flare to indicate position for signal
from surface ships. Consider U-boats are
firing at about 1000 yards range.
(MALCOM, 1002/2 to C.in C. Rosyth)./ CITY OF CALCUTTA
(sighted U/B 1/3) ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)CITY OF
CALCUTTA
(sighted U/B
1/3)

Report your position course and speed.
(A.C.W.A. 0751/2, to CITY OF CALCUTTA).
Your 0940/2 CADILLAC still burning when
last seen 0230/2 in 060° 20' N. 012° 18' W.
Regained touch with MALLOW at 1015 in
059° 10' N. 009° 45' W. MALLOW adjacent to
s.s. CADILLAC port (corrupt group) ship of
line reports gained contact and delivered
attack on doubtful contact at 2309/1.
Also investigated ICELANDIC as far as
possible burning navigation lights close to
position of attack on CADILLAC. This is
second occasion on which (? amalgamated)
ships showing lights were within a few miles
of a ship torpedoed.
(MALCOLM, 1129/2, to C.in C. W.A.).
Cancel my 1250/1. Request you will sail
tugs ST. OLAVES and SEAMAN as soon as
possible to assistance of S.S. CADILLAC in
60° 20' N. 12° 18' W. at 2301/1.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1405/2, to N.O.I.C.
Stornoway).

Unknown Ship.

Following has been read.
SSSS Unknown ship 60.09 N. 10.29 W.
followed by submarine.
(Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 1552/2 1655/2).

Submarines Reported.1325.

53.10 N. 26.43 W. ORCADES sighted submarine,
visibility good, cloud base 5000 feet.
(ORCADES 1325/2).
53.10 N. 27.43 W. ORCADES sighted submarine,
visibility good, cloud base 5000 feet.
1325/2. (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, No T.O.O./2).
ORCADES 53.10 N. 27.43 W. cancel my SSSS
1315/2 (Valentia Radio, 1346/2).

/ 1412.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.2.3.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

1412. One U-boat 20 miles astern. Request confirmation that air night escort with flares will be available to illuminate in the event of attack. Require BURNHAM or DOUGLAS by 2000 today to ensure success of counter attack. My p. c. and s. 058° 58' N. 009° 56' W. 100° 9.5 knots MALLOW and four ships in company. (BLUEBELL, 1412/2, to C.in C. Rosyth).
1412. 59.05 N., 10.30 W., MALCOLM reported U/B 20' astern. (B.2) (D.S. 545).
1652. 60.09 N., 10.29 W., unknown ship made S.S.S.S. signal. (B.1) (D.S. 545).
2326. Possibly 60° N., 9° W., position indefinite. (A.1) (D.S. 545).
1837. S.W. of Ireland, no fix, very indefinite (A.1) (D.S. 545).
2354. 54° - 55° N., 15° - 20° W., position indefinite (A.1.) Italian. (D.S. 545).
1518. By D/F at 1518 B.S.T. U/Boat in area 60 miles radius of 50° N. 15° W. (D.D.I.C. 1711/2.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.German

One 60° 04' N. 11° 12' W. 1035/2.
 One in same area.
 One N.W. Hebrides.
 One N.W. Bloody Foreland.
 One 30 miles of 56° N. 15° W.
 One 54° 20' N. 14° 50' W. 1130/1.
 Three Ireland - Brest.
 Possibly one 58° 22' N. 33° 21' W. 0730/1.
 6 or 7 more in N.W. Approaches positions cannot be estimated.

Italian

One 48° N. 15° W. 2139/1 en route Bordeaux.
 Two in N.W. Approaches.
 One near Madeira 24th may be en route Freetown area.
 One S.W. Freetown.
 (D.D.I.C. 1347/2, F.O.S., 1522/2, to TAKU).

War Diary.

2.3.1941.

Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.

1035.

Am over enemy submarine in position 60.04 N., 11.12 W. "fix" within half an hour of 0800. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate nil hits. Enemy submarine was on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 285 estimated speed ten knots. (A/C "U" 1035/2, to Wick). One Hudson leaving Wick as soon as possible to hunt S/M reported by A/C in 60° 04 N. 11° 12 W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1154/2).

2330/1 by
S.S. MERCHANT.

S.S. MERCHANT Centre ship of line reports just missed ramming U-Boat at 2330/1 but fired 60 machine gun bullets into conning tower, and hull. At this time escort was searching near CADILLAC 4 miles astern. Convoy on E.S. diagram No. 3 since 2100/1. (MALCOLM, 1307/2, to C.in C. W.A.). Position 60.16 N., 12.07 W., 300' Butt of Lewis 210' (D.S. 545).

1440.

1 submarine bearing 230° distance 2 miles course 270° my position 199 Munken Rock (Faeroes) 120.
(VASCAMA, 1440/2, to Scapa W/T)
Position 59.29 N., 8.05 W., 282° N. Rona 70'
VASCAMA - A/S.T. (D.S. 545).
Position 199 M K (2 corrupt groups) opened fire on submarine on surface. Submarine submerged. Motor ship in vicinity apparently stopped. (VASCAMA 1442/2 to S.O. Trawlers N.P.).
Am accompanying motor ship. Submarine probably hunting her, my p. c. and s.
199 M K N 128 152° 10 knots auxiliary patrol in company. (? Magneto) contact spring of alternator broken by gunfire concussion beyond repair. (VASCAMA, 1535/2, to S.O. Trawlers, N.P.). (NOTE. MKN = Munken Rock (Faeroes)).
VASCAMA's 1442/2 - 1 Sunderland from Sullom Voe taking off 1715 E.T.A. position 59° 28' N. 08° 08' W. about 1900 to carry out hunt. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1640/2).
My position Cape Wrath 92 no further sign of S/M. Am escorting Dutch PRINS MAURITS towards Cape Wrath. Aeroplane patrolling overhead. Request instructions. (VASCAMA, 1715/2, to S.O.T., N.P.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3. 3. 1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Search
for enemy
merchant
vessels
off Brest.

During a special P.R.U. sortie to Brest aircraft reported one large merchant vessel escorted by 6 smaller ships (later shown by photographs to be one 500 ft. tanker and 6 smaller merchant vessels) about 20 miles west of Ushant steering 295° at 1700 today. Aircraft search was impracticable and in the belief that the enemy might be intending to lay mines between Land's End and the Scilly Is. orders were given to D.5, who was at sea carrying out exercises with JUPITER, JACKAL, KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIR, and KIPLING to proceed to a line Ushant - Land's End and sweep northwards to intercept the enemy if they returned to Brest. RIPLEY was to establish an East and West patrol 10 miles either side of position 49° 48' N. 5° 56' W. Fighter protection was arranged for tomorrow morning. JERSEY was unable to sail with D.5 owing to a damaged rudder.

MALCOLM,
BURNHAM,
BRIGHTON
damaged.

MALCOLM returned to harbour today with all her boats lost or stove in, mainmast carried away and other damage from heavy weather. Further damage was sustained during last night when BURNHAM sheered alongside. BURNHAM also lost all her boats, starboard anchor and all E.R. ventilating cowls; searchlight stand and boat skids were wrecked and port forecastle door stove in. She suffered further damage in collision with MALCOLM. BRIGHTON is returning with 19 survivors of BALTISTAN (torpedoed 27/2 west of Ireland), with her forward compartments flooded.

British Air Activity.

41 Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the ADMIRAL HIPPER (cruiser) at Brest last night. Bomber Command consider the cruiser was hit. Six Blenheims attacked targets at Rotterdam, Calais and IJmuiden. All the normal patrols were flown today and the Norwegian coast was searched from Trondheim to Bergen. A special R.C. was made to Trondheim; W/T intercepts indicated a possible move of naval units from Trondheim, probably southward. A/S patrols were flown in the Minches, Rathlin Island to Minches, north of Londonderry, west of Ireland, and south-east of Iceland.

War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Operations.

Enemy air attacks in the Southern Irish Sea are increasing and the assembly of over 50 H.E.111's in the Brest area indicates the likelihood of further heavy attacks. Shipping is to be routed through the most dangerous area (between line joining Holwick Light to Lundy and latitude of Skerries) during darkness. Slow, small or unimportant ships must continue to proceed independently; the remainder are to be routed to Milford Haven for onward routeing in the next O.E.M. convoy. The advisability of ships proceeding from ports north of the Irish Sea joining southbound convoys, in order to economise air escorts, is being considered. No.19 Group Coastal Command will assist as far as possible with air escorts, but No. 10 Group cannot at present afford any protection in this area.

S.S. PORT TOWNSVILLE was bombed and set on fire today about 14 miles west of St. David's Head and sank later. M/V RIPLEY was attacked shortly afterwards, but no report of damage has been received.

A/P trawler COBBERS was bombed and sunk off Lowestoft today.

Slight damage by small H.E. bombs was caused to Manston Aerodrome landing ground today.

Mining.

Minelaying by a few aircraft last night is suspected off Falmouth.

Swansea, Tyne and Blyth were closed this evening, and restrictions were imposed in Firth of Forth. Port Talbot was closed at 2131 after being opened at 1841 to ships with I.C. engines.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Mining
raid on
Suez Canal.

Five or 6 enemy aircraft believed to be German raided the Canal from 1915 to 2030 today, dropping 10 or 12 mines 3 of which exploded on the bank and the remainder fell, unexploded, in the Canal. It had been hoped to start traffic between Bitter Lakes and Port Said tomorrow. M. A/S B. No. 3 (damaged by mine in Canal 28/2) was refloated today and towed to Suez.

War Diary.

3. 3. 41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Instructions
for Convoy
Escorts
during
Air Attacks.

C. in C. W.A. 0237/3, 1846/3.

Exchange of
A and B.
Destroyers.

My 1246/16/2 and R.A.(D) H.F. 1115/15/2. Destroyers of 4th escort group expected to be available for 7/3 are BOREAS and ACHATES. It would be much appreciated if ACTIVE could be retained to assist in escort duty from 7th to 13th March approximately. (Capt. D. Greenock 1249/3, to C. in C. W.A.)

Flag of
R.A.D.
to TYNE.

Flag of R.A. (D) has been transferred to H.M.S. TYNE a.m. today. (R.A.D. 1349/3.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUSE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1155/3) At 2330/3. (D.C. 2334/3.)

Movements.

PETUNIA.

My 1801/2. Approved to proceed to Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A. 0235/3, to PETUNIA.)

UNDAUNTED.

UNDAUNTED escorted by GLEANER leaves Bell Rock 0930 and proceeds to 0600 May Island 7 by 1130 to exercise in the vicinity with GLEANER and Trawlers until 1600, when she proceeds to Methil. (C. in C. Rosyth 0304/3.)

5th D.F.

Request you will sail 5th D.F. P.M. to-day for exercises off Dartmouth tomorrow, using them to cover shipping on passage if required. (C. in C. Plymouth 1014/3, to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/REPULSE.....

MOST SECRET.3. 3. 41.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements Contd.REPULSE.

Departure at 1000/3, REPULSE, NAPIER, ZULU, and BOADICEA. (C. in C. Rosyth 1030/3, and 1114/3.)

RESOLUTION.

Arrived escorted by KELVIN, KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL, JERSEY, JUPITER, TYNEDALE, CLEVELAND. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1130/3.)

SUNFISH
URGE.

SUNFISH and URGE are to leave their patrol position after dark on 5th and are to proceed down coast diving by day as far as Stadtlandet. Thence returning to base as ordered by Captain (S). (F.O.S.1213/3.)

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1407/3.)

UNBEATEN.

My 0940/2. Amend route as follows. (S.5. 1215/3, to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/4 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1749/3.). Departures QUORN, WHITSHED and SPEEDY at 1835. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1841/3.)

O.21.
O.23.

Convoy H.G.54 from Southward and ARAWA with two large merchant ships from Northward (? may) pass in the vicinity of Netherlands S/M O.21 and Netherlands S/M O.23 during tonight 3rd to 4th. (C. in C. W.A. 1853/3.)

Orders to
URGE.

Admiralty 2157. This a repetition of A.M. 1954/3 to submarines on patrol. Re possible movement of enemy unit from Trondjem. Do not leave patrol line ordered in Capt.(S) 9 number 9 P.O. 41 on this account. (F.O.(S) 2204/3, to URGE.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

3.3.1941.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out, zero hour 0045/4. (V.A. Dover 1421/3).

P.Y.A.

Operation P.Y.A. tonight. Two Motor launches eastward of Channel between 54 F and 55 buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1717/3 to VICEROY, etc.).

Interception of Enemy M/V.

Sailed JUPITER, JACKAL, KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIRE, KIPLING. JERSEY defective. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/3). Proceed to Westward at best speed. Orders follow. (C.in C. Plymouth 1914/3 to D.5.). Proceed at best speed towards 49° 20' N. 8° 40' W. Orders follow. (C.in C. Plymouth 1952/3 to RIPLEY). My 1914 and 1952. Aircraft report one large merchant vessel escorted by six smaller ships about 20 miles West of Ushant steering 295° at 1700. A.S.V. fitted aircraft is searching. (C.in C. Plymouth 2014/3 to D.5., RIPLEY). My 2014. Aircraft search impracticable. Possible enemy may be intending to lay mines between Land's End and Scilly Isles. RIPLEY is to establish an east and west patrol 10 miles either side of position 049° 48' N. 005° 56' W. 5th D.F. to proceed to line Ushant - Land's End and sweep northwards with object of intercepting enemy if he returns to Brest. (C.in C. Plymouth 2224/3 to D.5., RIPLEY) My 2224. Fighter protection will be arranged as follows. (C.in C. Plymouth 2234/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).
See British Air Activity.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.

On 2/3 one Blenheim carried out a weather reconnaissance and attacked List seaplane base from 100 ft., bombs being seen to fall in the centre of the target area. This aircraft also attacked a convoy of seven merchant vessels of 2/4,000 tons moving North in 54° 50' N. 7° 20' E., but results were not observed.
(H.Q.E.C. 0020/3).

Escorts.

Expect escort by Whitley A/C from 0230 till 0830, then by Ansons till 1615, then Hudson till dusk. My 1942/2 is cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0208/3 to AMBUSCADE).

Patrols.

Air Patrols 3/3. ^{"Trost" "Stab"} ~~PROST STAB~~ Recco Trondheim. (C.in C. Rosyth 0738/3). Patrols "Trost" and "Stab" nothing sighted in extreme visibility. Trondheim reconnaissance not completed as no cloud cover.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1504/3). Patrols ST 2 at 0900 and STI at 1430 for 4/3.
(N.A. Station, Stornoway 1630/3).

Portsmouth.

Three important Naval Units are now berthed in Portsmouth Dockyard for repair and refit.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1213/3 to H.Q.F.C.).

Brest.
Rotterdam.
Calais.
Ijmuiden.

Night 2/3 March. ^{ADMIRAL} The HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) at Brest was attacked with S.M.P. Bombs by 41 aircraft. Details of hits claimed. Six Blenheims attacked docks and oil storage at Rotterdam and docks at Calais and Ijmuiden. At Rotterdam bursts were seen across the docks and red fire started amongst high buildings. (H.Q.B.C. 1542/3).

Search for m.v's.

PL/G5/3/3. One Hudson fitted with S E to take off immediately to carry out search for enemy M.V's reported by Spitfire in Form Orange (PR) STE/4/3/3. Aircraft to search from 48° 34' N. 6° W. to following positions. Force to be attacked and reported. No own sea forces in area.
(Plymouth 2004/3 to St. Eval).

/ Fighter Protection
for D.5. ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

3.3.1941.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Fighter
Protection
for D.5.

My 2224. Fighter protection will be arranged on the assumption that D5 will pass through 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 0800/4 on passage to exercise area. RIPLEY proceeds execution of previous orders at 0730/4. Code word for D5 will be ~~RECRUIT~~ "Recruit".
(C.in C. Plymouth 2234/3 to D.5., RIPLEY).

Enemy Air Activity.ROTULA
bombed 1/3.

GOLIATH reports wreck of ROTULA with stern on bottom and bows visible in approx. 52° 24' N. 05° 24' W.
Intend sending A/P trawler ARMANA to endeavour to sink wreck tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0008/3).
In position 052° 23' N. 005° 28' W.
sank burning derelict by gunfire. Identity not established.
(COSSACK 1215/3).
My 0008/3. ARMANA reports she has sunk wreck. Oil still blazing. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1450/3.).

ATHELTEMPLAR
(Bombed 1/3)

Anchored in Methil Roads with ATHELTEMPLAR and tug. (SPEEDWELL 0847/3.).
S.S. ATHELTEMPLAR arrived Methil in tow of tug WATERMEYER 0845 today with skeleton crew from SPEEDWELL on board. 16 survivors landed at Methil. will leave for Leith at noon in tow of WATERMEYER and Naval Control tug CERVIA.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1110/3).

ARIEL
(Attacked 2/3)

My 1111/2 and 1512/2 ARIEL definitely claims following damage E.A. Rear Gunner of J.U.88 killed and damage to machine. A good burst from twin Lewis caught cockpit of 2nd D.O.17 head on. A small strut fell from aircraft on to ARIEL's Deck. Captain's report states that the cool and steady fire maintained by ARIEL's Lewis Gunner was probably responsible for ineffective bomb aiming.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 0959/3).

/ Convoy W.N.91
/ (Bombed 1/3)
PENNINGTON COURT

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
W.N. 91.
(Bombed 1/3)
PENNINGTON
COURT.
2 Ships
Kites carried
away.

S/S PENNINGTON COURT in W.N. 91 arrived Methil
Ship is damaged above water but in no need
of assistance. No casualties. (N.O.I.C.
Methil 1004/3).
Two ships in W.N. 91 report having their
kites carried away by attacking aeroplanes.
Report by letter follows. (N.C.S.O. Methil
1141/3).

EMPIRE SIMBA.
(Bombed 1/3).

Following from A/S Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
begins:- Position 53° 01' N. 004° 58' W.
escorting Liverpool EMPIRE SIMBA in tow of
EMPIRE HENCHMAN and GOLIATH. Engine and
boiler room flooded. 1120/3 ends.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1232/3).

MELMORE HEAD.
(Bombed 26/2)

Aircraft report MELMORE HEAD in 054° 25' N.
10° W. at 1030/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1246/3 to
NORTHERN SPRAY, KINGCUP).
My 1246/3. This position of MELMORE HEAD
is confirmed by second aircraft. (C. in C.
W.A. 1722/3).
Your 1413/3. Unable to find MELMORE HEAD
in position. Request instructions. Have
now 3½ days bunker. (MASTADONTE 2200/3 to
F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Provided MELMORE HEAD is in tow and escorted
by NORTHERN SPRAY or KINGCUP and your assist-
ance is no longer required return to London-
derry to fuel. When completed join S.L. 65.
(C. in C. W.A. 2346/3 to MANSFIELD).

PORT TOWNSVILLE
bombed.

(British, 8661 Tons) 51° 46' N. 5° 46' W.
PORT TOWNSVILLE two aircraft. (PORT
TOWNSVILLE 1250/3).
AAAA. 51° 57' N. 5° 45' W. PORT TOWNSVILLE
bombed. Note corrected position.
(PORT TOWNSVILLE 1256/3).
LA MOQUEUSE reports two ships bombed, one
of them on fire approx. 300° St. Davids Head
15 miles. Tug ABELLE 21 proceeding to them
and rescue tug SEINE will be ordered to
assist on arrival off St. Annes at about
1830. LA MOQUEUSE has survivors and wounded
on board. She has been ordered to remain
by vessels. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/3).
My 1801. Ship on fire is PORT TOWNSVILLE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1924/3).

/LA MOQUEUSE.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).PORT TOWNSVILLE
bombed.
(contd).

LA MOQUEUSE returned Milford Haven with survivors of PORT TOWNSVILLE. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2247/3).
My 1801 and 1932/3 PORT TOWNSVILLE is only ship bombed. Cancel reference to two ships. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2252/3).
PORT TOWNSVILLE bombed and machine-gunned at 1350/3 in 52° 5' N. 5° 24' W. Ship set on fire amidships. Abandoned. 2 Passengers killed, 2 injured. 3rd officer shot through ankle. 67 crew landed and 9 passengers including casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2357/3).

Off Wick.

One enemy aircraft shadowing distance 1 mile in 58° 24' N. 2° 30' W. course 330, speed 8 knots. (S.O. 5th M/S F. 1311/3).

RIPLEY,
in V. 4997 km

In 52° 10' N. 5° 47' W. RIPLEY attacked at 1342/3. (Seaforth Radio, Recd. 1449/3).

COBBERS
sunk.

(A/P Trawler) Sunk by enemy aircraft about noon to-day near A buoy. Four survivors and nine bodies including Skipper landed Lowestoft. Two missing. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1625/3).

BLANKHOLM.
SURINAME.
(Bombed 26/2).

Following two ships ex convoy O B 290 arrived at Ponta Delgada 3/3 for repairs to damage sustained in bomb attack. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1637/3).

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2).

LEEDS CITY was reported by aircraft in 54° 28' N. 11° 06' W. at 0750 today and by another aircraft in 54° 15' N. 11° 22' W. at 0948. Continue search. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1734/3 to SUPERMAN).

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

Convoy ^{"Pilot"} ~~Pilot~~ is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 018° height 6000 ft. from 52° 16' N. 1° 57' E. (VICEROY 1902/3).

Convoy "Paddle"
PADDLE.

Fighters have left for convoy ^{"Paddle"} ~~PADDLE~~. (Rosyth 1922/3).

Manston
bombed.

At 1710 enemy aircraft dropped 14 H.E. bombs near Manston aerodrome. Apparently objectives Manston Aerodrome landing ground. No damage to buildings and no R.A.F. casualties. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 2143/3).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Off
Tintagel.

In 050° 42' 30" N. 004° 58' 30" W. explosion occurred consistent acoustic mine. No apparent damage. (COSSACK 0731/3). Your 0731/3 was any column of water seen if so what height. (C. in C. Plymouth 1016/3 to COSSACK)

S.N.4. and
Rona/Faroes
Minefield.

C. in C. H.F. 1045/2. Concur this field should be laid at an early date. Suggest further that, to catch submarines which pass in deep water to the Southward of S.N. four, consideration be given to the laying of additional field in the North Rona - Faroes mine field as follows. (R.A.M.L. 0935/3). Your 1045/2. Concur R.A.(M) is requested to arrange accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H. 1142/3 to C. in C. H.F).
Adty 1142/3 and C. in C. H.F. 1524/25/2. Propose to sail with four minelayers for S.N. four at 1130/9 and lay p.m./10. (position) (R.A.M.L. 1902/3).

Sweep in
Harwich
Area.

Intend sailing six fleet minesweepers S. O. SELKIRK, at 0830 tomorrow to carry out sweep of 202 Q Z S. Details. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1026/3).

Near Smalls.

S.S. SATURNUS (Dutch) for Barry Docks reports floating mine at 1015/2. 52° N. 5° 50' W. near Smalls. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1035/3).

ZME. 21.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 to-day for operation Z.M.E. 21 to lay at 0001/4 returning on completion about 0520/4. (PLOVER 1057/3).

Liverpool.
Precautions
in Moelfre
Bay.

Reference A.M. 2355/25/12, Q Z Y 182 and A.M. 1240/26/2. Anchorage is now permitted in an area in Moelfre Bay as follows. Approach to and departure from area must be as follows. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1702/3).

/Port.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Port Talbot.
Swansea.

My 1150/28. Ships fitted with I.C. Engines may now enter and leave Port Talbot. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1841/3). On account of suspected minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Swansea or Port Talbot until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2131/3).

Tyne.

Port of Tyne closed owing to enemy minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2045/3).

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed due to enemy minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2128/3)

Firth of
Forth.

Following is closed due to probable enemy minelaying; 175 QZS No. 1 reflector buoy to east Inchkeith Gate. (C. in C. Rosyth 2212/3)

Enemy Intelligence.Unknown
Vessel.

One unknown vessel reported by RDF 146° St. Albans Head 15 at 0245 course east. (Portsmouth W/T 0300/3).

Brest.

Air reconnaissance A.M. today showed ADMIRAL HIPPER still in dock at Brest. (D.D.I.C. 0945/3).

At 2130/2, two Ships about 9000 Tons in Rade Abri, one stationary and one moving slowly West (H.Q.B.C. 1542/3).

Possible movement
from Trondheim.

W.T.I. indicates a possible movement of naval units from Trondheim probably southwards. (D.D.I.C. 1954/3).

War Diary..

3.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Irish Sea,
Routes.

Air attacks on shipping in Southern Irish sea are increasing. Most dangerous area is considered to be between line joining Holwick Light to Lundy and latitude of Skerries. Shipping is to be routed as follows:

(A) independently routed ships with sufficient speed to be sailed so as to pass through dangerous area in dark.

(B) Slow, small or unimportant ships must continue to proceed independently.

(C) remaining ships to be routed to Milford Haven for onward routeing in next O.B.M. convoy. (C. in C. Plymouth 1850/3 to N.C.S.O's etc).

Economising
Air Escorts.

My 1850/3. Assembly of 52 H.E. 111's in Brest area and recent air attacks on ships in southern Irish sea indicate likelihood of further heavy attacks there. 10 Group cannot at present afford any protection in this area. 19 Group will assist us as far as possible with air escort. Evident that ships must proceed in convoys or Groups to economize in air escorts. Request you consider advisability of ships proceeding from ports in your command joining southbound convoys, if necessary calling at Holyhead to facilitate junction. (C. in C. Plymouth 1856/3 to C. in C.W.A).

Bofors Guns
in M.V's.

Bofors guns now being mounted in ocean-going merchant ships. Ammunition used is self destroying at 2500 to 3500 yards. Proposed that present orders regarding opening of fire by merchant ships on aircraft should stand, result briefly being that the master opens fire on any aircraft not recognised as friendly which approaches within 1500 yards. Anticipated that first ships to mount these guns will be proceeding to sea during the next few days. (D.T.D. 1940/3 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (contd).Coastal Convoys.

6. M.V's. "Range", Escort. E.T.A. (C. in C. Plymouth 0108/3).

3. M.V's Following being escorted by A/C (C. in C. Rosyth 0240/3).

3. M.V's. "Obstacle", 0305/3, escort (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 0317/3).

E.N. 79. E.T.A. Loch Ewe section. (HUGH WALPOLE, 0830/3).

F.S. 25.425 42 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/3) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1625/3) List to London (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1648/3).

W.N. 92. Arrived 0900 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1002/3).

W.N. 93. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1013/3).

F.N. 25.423 3/3, 23 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1052/3) List (1236/3)
1 ship sailed (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1521/3)
Ships joining (N.C.S.O. Humber 1706/3).

F.N. 22.422 List (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1055/3) Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1232/3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1716/3).

5 M.V's. N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2248/2. Additional escorts (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1056/3)
"Range", 5 M.V's sailed (N.C.S.O. 1929/3).

E.N. 80. 0800/3, escorts, 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1109/3) List (1112/3)

E.N. 78. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1210/3).

/F.N. 16.....

War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).F.N. 16, 416
F.N. 18, 418

Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Methil 1220/3).

E.N.U. 79.

1200/3. Unescorted, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1220/3) List (1533/3).

F.N. 21, 421

Arrived 1345/3. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1418/3). Tyne ship arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/3).

W.N. 93 (0)

(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1430/3) Sailed 1445/3, escort, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1545/3).

C.E. 27.

Escorts (C. in C. Portsmouth 1447/3 amended 1503/4).

F.S. 26, 426

Sailed 1400/3, 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1535/3) 2 ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708 /3) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1717/3) Ships from Tyne & Humber (C. in C. Rosyth, 2200/3) 2 ships only from Blyth (closed) (C. in C. Rosyth 2244/3).

11 M.V's.

Sailing 1730/4. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1606/3, 1836/3).

F.N. and
F.S.

Amending 1650/21/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 1705/3) Escorts (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2316/3, amending his 1152/2)

F.S. 21, 421

My 1321/28, YEWTREE now arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1709/3).

E.N. 70 U.

Arrived 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1716/3).

W.N.U. 93.

1430/4, unescorted, 9 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1916/3).

/E.N.U. 80.....

War Diary.3.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

- E.N.U. 80. 2100/4, unescorted 7 ships 5 for Oban 2 for Belfast (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2003/3, amended 1205/4).
- E.N. 81. VALOROUS additional A/A escort (C. in C. Rosyth 2225/3) GLEANER additional A/A escort (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/3).
- F.S. 27 417 Sailed 2300/3, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2351/3).

Ocean Convoys.

- H.X. 109 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0936/3) Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1001/3) 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1648/3) arrivals (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1714/3 2007/3).
- H.X. 110 When clear report p.c. & s. (C. in C. W.A. 1001/3 to RAMILLIES).
- O.G. 55. 1 A/A sloop to escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1014/3).
- O.B.M. 294 1945/4, LEEDS UNITED (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1030/3).
- B.H.X. 113 Draft, corrections (Bermuda 1229/3).
- H.G. 54. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty (D.T.D. 1336/3).
- S.C. 23 41 hours late. (ASCANIA 1400Z/3) Amending 1938/1 (D.T.D. 1711/3).
- O.B.C. 294 0130/6, 8 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1405/3).
- H.G. 55. Left, escort SCARBOROUGH, PANDORA, etc. (S.O.I. Gib, 1432/3).

/O.B.O. 293.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

O.B.O. 295. 0730/4 5 ships, escort (N.C.S.O Oban 1530/3).

O.B. 293 Sailed WOLVERINE escort (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1550/3) Sailed 1550/3, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1618/3) List (1619/3)

S.L. 65. }
S.L.S. 65. } Final destinations (D.T.D. 1624/3, 1625/3, 1626/3).

H.X. 113 Destinations (D.T.D. 1730/3).

O.B. 291 Estimated time of passing S.L. 65 and S.L.S. 65 (C. in C. W.A. 1755/3).

S.C. 22 2 arrivals (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1815/3).

O.B.U. 293 1040/5, unescorted, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2005/3) Cancel my 2005/3 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1203/4).

H.X. 110 2 ships to join (D.T.D. 2256/3 to F.O. Iceland).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

STRATHMORE.
REPULSE.
FURIOUS.
ALCANTARA.

Intend sailing S.S. STRATHMORE escorted by P.S. GARLAND at 1530/4 to r.v. with REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA and escort from Clyde and Londonderry at 0800/5 in 225° Oversay 6 miles. Speed 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0926/3).
N.C.S.O. Mersey 1019/2. Form of this message is not understood. Assume para (e) refers to standard repeat standard route. Adty. 2247/28/2 part one. It is observed REPULSE convoy may pass O.G. 54 at a distance of under 10 miles a.m./7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1248/3).

War Diary.

5.5.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LADY LILLIAN.

(A/S Trawler) Cancel my 2558/2. LADY LILLIAN returned with asdic out of action. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0035/3).

MALCOLM.

Following damage sustained in heavy weather. Following damage sustained due to BURNHAM sheering alongside at 0117/3. (MALCOLM 0204/3).

BURNHAM.

Following damage sustained with MALCOLM. Following damage previously sustained in gale. My position 058° 27' N. 006° 04' W. proceeding to Londonderry, speed 9 knots. (BURNHAM 0403/3) (C. in C. W.A. 0822/3).

PERSIER.

(Belgian, 5582 Tons) Belgian Consul Reykjavik reports Belgian s.s. PERSIER stranded near Portland (Dyrholae). Crew 44 so far 35 saved. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 1130/3).

MARTINET,
sunk.

(Sailing Barge) MARTINET reports striking a submerged object about one mile off-shore East of Bawdsey on Wednesday February 26th. Barge sank later and is lying in a position close to southward of Hook Whiting Buoy in 5 fathoms of water. Skipper could not give more definite position of object. (N.C.S.O. London 1245/3).

OURAGAN.

Clyde arrival with condenser defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1335/3).

Unknown
Vessel.

Automatic S.O.S. signal heard at 1413 G.M.T. strength 1/2 no bearing obtained 1413/3. (Cullercoats 1413/3).

MAURITZ.

Swedish, 1480 Tons) Arrived Stornoway ex convoy E.N. 79 bound for Oban. Damaged in collision. Being repaired at Stornoway and on completion will be sailed to Loch Ewe. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1531/3).

/JERSEY.....

War Diary.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

JERSEY.

My 1903/3. Arrangements are being made to dock JERSEY to make good damage to rudder which it is expected will take 14 days. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2113/3).

BRIGHTON.

My position 2230 051° 18' N. 012° W. Proceeding Plymouth with BROADWAY 20 knots. Keeping water down. (BRIGHTON 2235/3).

SLUGA.

(M/S Trawler)
(~~Whaler~~) Has damaged her propeller necessitating dry docking and shipping of spare. Arrangements for docking will be made when dock is available. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2214/2).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LEYLAND.

Departure to relieve ERIN escorting
Cable ship MIRROR.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 0900/3).

PANDORA.

At 1200/4. PANDORA with H.G.55.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1528/3).

Air
Operations.U/Boat
Bombed.

Suspected U/Boat bombed off Spartel.
Nil result. Area covered 2°W., to 7°
30'W.
(200 Group 1700/3).

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 3/3 0750 French Armed Trawler
LA SETOISE, escorting French ships
FORT DE SEVILLE, CHENONCEAUX, AISNE,
ROUBAISEN all light passing East to West.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1705/3).

ASAKA MARU
loading
from
French ships.

N.A.Lisbon 1721/23 and F.O. telegram 2058
/12. British Consul Bilbao reports
ASAKA MARU, arrived Bilbao 25/2, has
loaded heavy cases Ex French ship
PRESIDENT LAVIT which arrived from Bayonne
24/2. Cases said to contain either
coastal guns or steam power plant. French
ship COURONNE arrived Bilbao 26/2 went
alongside ASAKA MARU and proceeded to
tranship cargo. ASAKA MARU said to be
awaiting arrival of further French ships
from France with cargoes for transhipment.
(N.A.Madrid, 1713/3 to D.N.I.)

BELGIQUE.

Your 1510/2. Sale of cargo completed,
100 tons barley excluded from sale. Ship
should be sent Cadiz for discharge.
As she may proceed thence to Huelva for
cargo endeavour arrange transport of
reserved barley from Cadiz to Gibraltar.
(D.T.D. 2213/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Submarine
reported
off Cadiz
1/3.

N.A.Madrid 2300/3. See U/Boat Campaign.

South Atlantic.SAVA.Overdue shipping, my 1055/1 SAVA arrived Durban.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0949/3).ROXBURGH
CASTLE.Overdue shipping cancel my 1040/2, ROXBURGH CASTLE arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0951B/5).Enemy Unit.D/F bearings indicate enemy surface unit within 100 miles of 022° N., 040° W., at 1857Z/2.
(C.in C. S.A. 1037N/3).CLAN OGILVY.Submarine report, 1900Z/28.
(C.in C. S.A. 1046/3). See U/Boat Campaign
*Page 109.*BRITISH
CAPTAIN.Your 1838/1. Tanker BRITISH CAPTAIN arrived Freetown 25/2 and sailed for U.K. in Convoy S.L.67 as reported in my 1258/1.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1049/3 to D. of S.T.)QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Please pass following to C.in C. S.A. Your 2231/23/2. Having fuelled am (? proceeding) Deception Island. Whale Factory ships working in vicinity of (? 065°) South 054° West (? and are) continuing fishing until early April.

Ref: 1248Z/25/2 from N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands strongly urges catcher mentioned be kept.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1114Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)BARONESA.

Route confirmed as follows. Am making investigation into cyphering of VESCA telegrams from here.
(Montevideo 1537/3 to Admty).

Duala.

From Governor Cameroons to General de Gaulle. (refers to closing Frontier with Spanish Guinea).
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1555/3 to W.O).

SIAM II.
collision.

Ex Danish M.V. SIAM II in collision in convoy damage bow and stem mostly above water line, will do necessary temporary repairs Freetown and advise expected delay later.
(M.S.R. Freetown, 1626/3, to M. of S.)

BIRMINGHAM,
S.L.70.

Admty: 1649/2. BIRMINGHAM should leave Capetown about 23/3 for Freetown to escort S.L.70.
(C.in C. S.A. 2125N/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.Net
for
Suez Canal.

Your 1129/25/2. Net can be made in India. Ref: 1752/1 from Admty. do you wish investigation to be proceeded with.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0545/Z/3 to C.in C. Med.)
See also pp 98, 99.

ROVER.

C.in C. Med., 1552/28, and 1646/2. Sail from Alexandria at 1200/4 for Port Said to arrive 1000/5. After docking and removal* Fessenden sail for Suez as directed by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area thence to join C.in C. China routed as ordered S.N.O. Red Sea and C.in C. E.I.
(Capt: S.1, 0911/3 to ROVER).

** S/M listening apparatus.*BARBETTE.

H.M.S. BARBETTE was officially transferred to Turkish flag today 3/3 in presence of Turkish Consul General from Alexandria.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1139/3).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Suez Canal.

Definite indication of exact position of all mines, is required. Experimenting with nets on surface and bottom, to indicate position of mines, not to catch mines. This is only method which can be put in hand at once and will give quick results. Estimate worst part of canal i.e. where bottom is rocky, can be netted by 1/5 and whole canal by 1/6. If experiments successful intend to put scheme in hand. Estimated cost. Requesting covering approval.

(C.in C. Med., 1145/3 to Admty). *Approved,*
(S.M.S., 2011/13/3).

Orders for UPHOLDER.

My 1247/2. For March 4th read March 3rd. (Comdr. S.1, 1222/3 to UPHOLDER).

Funeral of King of Spain .*See pages 29, 64.*

Admty. 1742/2 MALLORCA leaves Valencia 2000 /3 proceeding weather permitting direct to Cape Corso when she will receive routing instructions from Italy. Speed 13 knots. (N.A.Madrid, 1233/3, to C.in C. Med., etc.)

G.C.B. for Admiral Cunningham.

In recognition of successful operations of the Mediterranean Fleet under your command the King has approved your promotion to G.C.B. Gazette notice 4/3. (Congratulations)
(1st Lord, 1532/3 to C.in C. Med.)

B.N.17.

Convoy B.N.17 arrived Suez/2/3 and 3/3. less Greek ALFIOS.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1747/3).

Italian Claim Submarines Sunk.

Italian Communique 1200/3.
"In the Mediterranean it is certain our torpedo boats have sunk two enemy S/MS." No date or place given.
(D.N.I. 1752/3 to C.in C. Med., Capt: S.1).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Small
U/Boat
at Tobruk.

Information from most secret sources (B.3.) states Italian U/Boat with structures carrying human torpedoes (of type used in attack on Gibraltar)* on deck in sunk in Tobruk Harbour. Italian divers have probably worked on submarine and torpedoes possibly removed.
(D.N.I. 1803/3 to C.in C. Med.)

* 30.10.40

Mining
of
Suez
Canal.

Situation 1900/3 one mine known to be at km. 140.2 still unlocated. Intend starting traffic between Bitter Lakes and Port Said tomorrow after sweeping both acoustic and magnetic. M.A.S.B. No.3. refloated and towed to Suez.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1941/3.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.(Intercepted by SHROPSHIRE 2/3). See
French Merchant ships. *Page 107.*W.S.5.B.X.Bombay 3/3 arrivals 0345Z INDUS, 0525Z
CAPETOWN, ENTERPRISE 0089 with W.S.5.B.X.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0526Z/3.Disguised
Freighters.Admty. 2116/2. I can usefully employ
these ships in Red Sea to augment patrols
for interception of escaping merchant
ships from Massowa and Assab and for
co-operation with Army on Eritrean Coast.
My 1240/16 refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 0602Z/3 to Admty).LEANDER
CANBERRA,
search for
raider.My 1534/1 para.2 and my 1958/1. Commencing
dawn/4 LEANDER and CANBERRA are to carry
out search of area enclosed by latitudes
007° S., and 012° S. and longitude 059°
30' and 062° 30' as ordered by LEANDER.
This area is to be searched as fully as
possible launching aircraft during daylight
hours 4th and 5th and 6th. During night
ships should stand off from banks and
reduce speed to save fuel. Ships are to
leave the area so as to arrive Seychelles
p.m./7 for fuel.
(C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/3 to Force V).KIONGA.C.in C. E.I. 1030/3. See Italian Merchant
Ships. *Page 106.*B.M.4,
B.M.5,
2, M.T. Ships.My 1122/14 and my 1342/24. Dates for
leaving Bombay.
(C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/3 to F.O.C.R.I.N.,
C.in C. China, HECTOR, ANTENOR).Armed
Raider.My 0810/1. Further description of raider
is as follows:
(C.in C. E.I. 1358Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Navigational
Lights in
East Indies
Command.

My 1416/2 is being passed to you with reference to my 1522 7th Jan.

(2) Request adjacent stations will conform.

(C.in C. E.I. 1412Z/3 to Adjacent Stations).

Italian
Prizes.

Your 1148/26. and 1202Z/2 and Admty 1328 /2. No objection to crew ex-French S.S. COMMISSAIRE REMAL being employed to man an Italian prize. Red ensign should of course be flown.

(D.O.D.(F) 1738/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

Submarine
Sunk by
R.A.F. 1/3.

C.in C. E.I. 1748/3. See U/Boat Campaign.

Air Operations.

Daily Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 3/3. Fighter abortive due weather and all other operations abandoned.

(A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/3 to Air Ministry).

U.S. Convoy.*See page 33.*
A.C.N.B. 0538/1. Request your remarks, in respect to the passage up the Red Sea and handling these ships at Suez, on assumption. (a) Convoy leaves Sydney late March. (b) Substituting ISLE de FRANCE for ACQUITANIA and omitting NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
(D.O.D.(F) 2341/3 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C Med.)China.MICHAEL
LIVANOS,
ELISAVET.

Greek ships, due 28/2 and 26/2 from Nagasaki and Yokohama respectively not arrived Singapore.

(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0711Z/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (Contd.)FERNGLEN
BONNEVILLE.Have you news of Norwegian Ships
FERNGLEN, BONNEVILLE, Osaka?
(D.T.D. 1341/3 to Consul-Gen: Kobe).LETITIAAmerica and West Indies.Your 0557/1. Details of damage.
(R.A.3.B.S. 0937/3 to Admty).H.X.113.Intend sailing ALAUNIA, FENNEL, and
BITTERSWEET as ocean escorts to H.X.113.
ALAUNIA has been ordered to leave
Convoy in 025° W., and proceed
Hvalejordur reporting expected time of
arrival when well clear of Convoy.
Corvettes ordered to proceed Clyde with
their section of Convoy.
(R.A.3. 1059/3).Trinidad
Loop
Defence.Reply to Admty. 1655/1.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1106/3).RONIN.Have you received cancellation of Admty.
1118/1/2. (re facilities to be afforded
Panamanian RONIN at Dominion or
Colonial port).
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1123/3 to N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa). Reply. No.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2120/3).B.H.X.113.Departure. Ocean Escort PRINCE DAVID
returning to Bermuda by 12/3 .
(Cdre i/c Bermuda, 1243/3 to Admty etc.)CLAVELLA
PAGASITIKOS.Dutch CLAVELLA returned from B.H.X.110
for engine repairs, Greek PAGASITIKOS
returned from S.C.23 upon receipt of
raiders signal when not in contact with
convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1326/3 to Admty,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (contd:)ROSEVILLE.Have you any news of Norwegian ship
ROSEVILLE?
(D.T.D. 1340/3 to Consul, Los Angeles).VAN KINSBERGEN.Leave Trinidad 5/3 and proceed to
Curacao to carry out 14 day Gunnery
Training. Report in due course date
you will be ready to leave Curacao.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/3 to VAN KINSBERGEN)PRINS WILLEM II.
EMPIRE RAIN.Ministry of shipping 1130/5/2. Dutch
PRINS-WILLEM II not arrived. My 1702/2
British ship EMPIRE RAIN arrived
Kingston Jamaica today.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 2026/3, 2036/3.Convoys.Halifax 3/3 convoy arrivals.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 2320/3 to Fairmiss).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.A.M.C.'s.

Your 0539Z/26/2 (2 A.M.C.'s sailing from Australia early June. 11 knots suitable speed). First sentence as received refers to two A.M.C.'s. Is this correct? Your 1216/21/2 still not received. (D.O.D.(F) 1642/3 to A.C.N.B.) Reply 0214/7.
(A.M.S. *Australian Minisweepers, intended*)

New Zealand.M/V SUFFOLK
report.

Your 1308/28. (SUFFOLK reports intercepted on 600 metres could any British or Allied ship have been near the position). Estimated distances of nearest vessels TARANAKI 800 miles NORFOLK 900, FRANK SEAMAN 800, PORT CAMPBELL 1300, ACADIA 1200. (N.Z.N.B. 0418/3 to Admty).

MONOWAI
NORDNES
KAGGERAK.

Departure Suva 0200Z/3 MONOWAI escorting NORDNES and SKAGGERAK. E.T.A. Nauru p.m.Z/8 (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0839Z/3 to Admty etc.)

MONOWAI
AWATEA.

Suva arrived MONOWAI escorting AWATEA. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 1045Z/3 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.3. 3. 41.
(Monday)WAR DIARY.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.BRAKE.

Tanker BRAKE reported to have sailed from Ferrol 2/3., destination unknown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0537/?3. to N.A. Station) F.O.S.,
1314/3 to OLYMPUS).

TANNENFELS.

Had following cargo on board on leaving Kismayu.
(C.-in-C., E.I., 0724Z/3. to Admiralty).

LECH.

Loaded German cargo steamer arrived 0630 today,
details later.
(N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 0815/3. to Admiralty).
(Sol Montevideo 1241Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 0815/3, Steamer's name LECH. Informed ship
sailed from Bordeaux 1/2 and is fully loaded with
cargo for Rio de Janeiro, including 3 aircraft
in cases on deck.
(N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 0914/3).
(Sol Montevideo 1344Z/3. to R.A.S.A.D.)

SAVONA.
SPEZIA.
LIVORNO.

1/3 arrivals SAVONA, SPEZIA, LIVORNO.
2/3 departure LIVORNO for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2230/3)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.LELLO.

1384 tons (reported in D.S. of 7/2 believed sunk). No confirmation from F.O.C.N.A. or C.in C. Med. Known she left Genoa 18/1 and no further report received, though previously every movement reported of her progress from Genoa to Barcelona, Valencia, and Marseilles, and voyages were frequent. (D.S. 545).

SNIA AMBA.

2352 tons. Previously reported torpedoed about 4/11/40. Italian prisoners confirm ship sank outside Benghazi. (D.S.545).

LIGURIA
SERENITAS.

15354 tons) Both reported by prisoners sunk 5171 tons) at Tobruk. (D.S.545).

5 Transports.

The Popolo d'Italia acknowledge sinking of 5 troop transports in Mediterranean between November, and February, according to a broadcast to U.S.A. on 28/2. (D.S.545).

KIONGA (German)
Salvage Tug 192 fitted
as Mine Sweeper.

My 0726/1. KIONGA is sunk in Kismayu. Was fitted as Minesweeper but not minelayer. (C.in C. E.I. 1030/3).

MOST SECRET.3.3.1941.
Monday.WAR DIARY.FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.

My 1808/2. Part one of 1144/3.
After boarding VILLE DE STRASBOURG in bad and deteriorating weather SHROPSHIRE reports master, officers and crew refuse to work ship to Durban, Master wishing to wireless circumstances to Madagascar. Ship bound for Dakar with 42 passengers including three Army Officers and few sick Reservists, (cargo). Have instructed SHROPSHIRE to explain to Master that his attitude renders ship liable to seizure under International Law and to make every effort short of using force, to induce master to work ship under armed guard to Durban or Simonstown and that master is not to signal Madagascar.

(C.in C. E.I. 1142/3 to Admty).

My 1144/3 part two. (3) If persuasion fails, undesirable for SHROPSHIRE to provide steaming party as she is already short of 65 men left at Durban sick. If ship is to be sent in, intend to sail RANCHI from Durban 4/3 with as many extra hands for steaming party as N.C.I.C. Durban can provide, to relieve SHROPSHIRE so that her refit is not further delayed. (4) Request very early confirmation that, in spite of consequent interference with operational requirements, ship is to be taken in, in order to avoid precedent being created.

(C.in C. E.I., 1144Z/3 to Admty).

Captain VILLE DE STRASBOURG after further persuasion has agreed to proceed to Durban under my escort. Stipulating no armed guard which I agreed to as I intend escorting. My p.c. and s. are 026° 10'S., 047° 15'E, 255°, 9 knots.

(SHROPSHIRE, 1355Z/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

COURONNE)
PRESIDENT LAVIT)

At Bilbao.

(N.A. Madrid, 1713/3. see North Atlantic).

My 1144/3. SHROPSHIRE is being passed to you. RANCHI with steaming party will leave Durban a.m. 4/3 and relieve SHROPSHIRE as soon as possible.

(C.in C. E.I. 1744Z/3 to Admty).

Your 1142/3. Confirmed that ship is to be taken in.

(D.O.D.(F) 2233/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.3.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

ARIZONA.

Report received that S.S. ARIZONA leaving Marseilles 4/3, for New York with transshipment at Martinique. Ship accepting cargo without navicert.
(D.D.I.C. 1842/3 to S.O.(I) Gib., C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.BALTISTAN
(torpedoed
27/2).(Description of damage) ~~See Casualties~~.
Have 19 survivors of S.S. BALTISTAN.
(BRIGHTON, 0820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)CADILLAC
(torpedoed
1/3).My 0742/3 return through position 60° 20'
N., 12° 18' W., where S.S. CADILLAC was
torpedoed at 2301/1.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1121/3 to RESTIVE
PRUDENT).
Request latest information of CADILLAC.
(SEAMAN 1155/3 to Admty).
(W.D. Note See F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1550/3).Tactics
Against
U/Boats.In order to sight any U/Boat attacking
from or escaping to rear of convoy,
instructions given in Western Approaches
C.I Section G, parts IX X XI and diagram
13 are to be modified forthwith as follows:
(details 2 and 3).
(4) These ships should not act as rescue
ships until chance of U/Boat still being
present seems remote.
(C.in C. W.A. 1927/3 to W.A.Command-Area).Submarines
Reported.

1900/28.

Submarine reported from CLAN OGILVY in
position 007° 18' N., 014° 26' W., 1900Z/28.
Consider doubtful.
(C.in C. S.A. 1046/3 to Admty).

1025.

My 1025/3 not to ASCANIA. Possible that
a German U/Boat has reported Convoy H.X.110
or S.C.23 or ENCHANTRESS.
(D.D.I.C. 1103/3 to RAMILLIES, ASCANIA,
ENCHANTRESS, H.Q.C.C.)

2027.

It is probable you are being shadowed by
enemy submarines.
(C.in C. W.A. 2027/3 to AMBUSCADE).1000/1.
off Cadiz.Vice Consul Heulva reports.- British ship
EMPIRE STRAIT reports at 1000/1 between
Cape Trafalgar and Cadiz ten miles off coast
he heard horn blowing two long blasts
first ahead then astern five minutes later

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.3.1941.
Monday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)1000/1
off Cadiz.

later fog cleared away there was no vessel in sight. Master believed horn to have been blown by enemy s/m. Message ends.
(N.A.Madrid, 2300/3).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.GERMAN.

One 59° 40'N., - 60° 20'N. 9° W - 10° W.
One 59° 10'N., - 59° 40'N. 8° W - 9° W.
One 59° N., - 59° 30'N. 10° W. - 11° W.
One S.E. or E. of Rockall.
One S.W. of Rockall 56° N. - 56° 30'N.,
15° W., 16° W.
One 54° N., - 55° N., 15° W. - 17° W.
One 30 miles of 52° 30'N., 16° W. 1117/3.
6 or 7 more in N.W.Approaches.
3 patrolling approaches to English Channel
may now return to Lorient.

ITALIAN.

One 54° 30'N., 17° 30'W. 2354/2.
Two more in N.W.Approaches.
One S.W. of Freetown.
(D.D.I.C. 1408/3).

Submarines
Attacked.Submarine
sunk by
R.A.F.
1/3 in
Red Sea.

My 2036/1. photograph confirms direct hit and subsequent disappearance of U/Boat and presence of two large patches of oil. Further investigation asked for. Have requested H.Q.M.E. to with-hold publication in press for present.
(C.in C. E.I. 1748/3).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
PYA.

M.L's 110 and 106 left Yarmouth at 1925 today to patrol to prevent minelaying by E/Boats.

Search for
Enemy Merchant
Vessels off
Brest.

At 0106 today Captain D.5. and RIPLEY were informed that it was considered the enemy merchant vessels sighted off Ushant yesterday were standing out to sea before proceeding up Channel. Captain D.5. was ordered to intercept and RIPLEY to patrol as previously ordered. Captain D.5. returned to Plymouth this morning, without having sighted the enemy ships.

Operation
"Claymore"
(Attack on
Lofoten
Islands)

C.in C. Home Fleet reported this operation completed this evening. Fish Oil Plants were destroyed, nine merchant vessels totalling 18000 tons including a fish oil factory ship, one armed and one unarmed trawler were sunk, prisoners were taken and Norwegian volunteers embarked. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties. See Capt: (D) 6, 1804/5, 1821/5, 2025/5.

British Air Activity.

During the passage of Channel convoys through the Straits of Dover a small striking force is to be held in readiness to attack enemy gun positions should they open fire. The scattered dispositions of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known.

/7 Aircraft.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

7 Aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched to attack the ^{4.3.1941}HIPPER (cruiser) at Brest last night. 6 Wellingtons attacked Boulogne Docks.

No Bomber Command operations were arranged for tonight, owing to unfavourable weather on the Continent.

Enemy Air Activity.

Trawler EAST COAST was damaged by air attack today near the Fastnet and was beached at Kinsale.

Cardiff was attacked last night by about 200 enemy aircraft. No serious damage was caused in the docks and there were no naval casualties.

Mining.Operation
Z.M.E. 21.

PLOVER last night laid mines in St. George's Channel.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected from the Forth to the Wash and in the Bristol Channel. Two small vessels, RUTH and ANGLIAN COAST were slightly damaged by mines this evening off Liverpool. The port is closed during dark hours.

/ANONITY

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (Contd.)

ANONITY (motor vessel 303 tons) sank following an explosion off Skegness Pier this morning. The Boston pilot cutter LYNDIS KITWOOD is reported badly damaged but was taken to Boston and placed on slip. Mines were detonated off Falmouth.

In the Firth of Forth, the alternative convoy anchorage, Aberlady Bay is closed on account of suspected enemy minelaying. Firth of Forth is open subject to restrictions.

Cardiff was closed at 0007 today. Tyne and Blyth were opened this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

A force of 14 Blenheims escorted by 28 fighters was despatched today to attack 6 Italian warships bombarding the coast road near Valona. No direct hits were obtained. An engagement ensued with the fighter escort of the warships.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.COBURG
and
KETTY
BROVIG
sunk.

CANBERRA and LEANDER, who were yesterday ordered to search an area in the Indian Ocean sighted a supposed raider, accompanied by a trawler at 1205Z today in position 8° 40'S., 61° 25'E. CANBERRA opened fire at 1800 yards and by 1225Z both enemy vessels were on fire. The tanker was found to be ex Norwegian KETTY BROVIG which reported being attacked by a raider on 2/2 west of the Seychelles; she took scuttling action and was left in a sinking condition. The other vessel was found to be the German S.S. COBURG and had no guns; she sank at 1349Z.

The COBURG had left Morona about 22/2.

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

ACTIVE

Your 1249/3. ACTIVE is to join Home Fleet when BOREAS joins my Command. (C.-in-C., W.A. 0950/4).

S/M's for
A/S Training.

Your 1208/3 passed to Admiralty. Fully appreciate importance of this training but commitment can only be met by taking a submarine away from A/S training. Admiralty has matter under consideration and will, I understand, issue a priority list giving the order in which the various demands for submarines to fulfil A/S and A.S.V. training and practice requirements should be met by the limited number of submarines available. Hope to discuss these points with you tomorrow. (F.O.S. 1041/4 to C.-in-C., W.A.)

MISTRAL

Your 1950/1. It is considered advisable to keep MISTRAL at six hours notice for active service until experience shows the time required to return from Gunnery firing area and disembark training classes. (D.O.D.(H) 1239/4 to CARDIFF).

Firing at
Unseen
Targets.

Your 0034/23/2 para. 2. Request you will indicate your requirements for discussion with Air Staff. (D.T.S.D.1637/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
DELUGE

At 1130/4 (D.C.1152/4) At 2330/4 (D.C. 2350/4).

Movements

WOLSEY
VANITY

C.-in-C., Rosyth 0105/4.R/V with me off Dunnet Head at 0630/4. Intend to proceed by searched channel. (WOLSEY 0335/4 to VANITY).

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Continued)

OTUS

Intend to sail OTUS from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day at 1700/5 via Needles Channel to ~~R~~ 110° Berry Head 3 miles with an M.L. at 0830/6. (S.5 1102/4).

LONDON

C.-in-C., H.F. 1801/1. E.T.A. Kinmaird Head 1000/7. (C.-in-C., Nore 1130/4 to R.A.D., H.F.)

PRINCE OF WALES

Your 1600/3. Approved subject to concurrence of C.-in-C., H.F. (Controller 1258/4 to PRINCE OF WALES).

REPULSE BOADICEA

Arrived REPULSE escorted by NAPIER and BOADICEA. Sailed BOADICEA in accordance with R.A.D.'s 0915/28. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1435/4).

Northern Patrol

Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1450/4).

S/M's

Positions at 0800/5 and Movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1642/4).

REVENGE

Your 1823/3. Programme approved. Essential to adhere to dates.
2. Ship will be required to sail from Clyde about (date) with ultimate destination Halifax.
3. Request you will therefore sail REVENGE for Clyde as soon as she is ready.
4. On arrival at Halifax REVENGE will rejoin Halifax escort force under orders of R.A. 3rd B.S. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1648/4 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth).

Operations

RIPLEY

Will be patrolling to south of Wolf Rock tonight. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0052/4 to LORD HAILSHAM).

/Interception of Tanker
and 6 M/V.'s.

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations (Continued)Interception
of Tanker
and 6 M/V's.

My 2224/3. Photograph shows that ships were one 500 feet tanker and 6 smaller Merchant Vessels.
2. Now consider that these were standing out to sea before proceeding up Channel.
3. Captain (D) 5 proceed to intercept. RIPLEY proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0106/4 to (D) 5) My 0106. D.5 reports nothing sighted. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 1111/4).
Arrived 1320 JACKAL, JUPITER 1516 KASHMIR 1545 KELLY 1625 KELVIN, KIPLING. (C.in C., Plymouth 1704/4).

Q.A.

Operation Q.A. will be carried out tonight from 2030 to 2230. (C.-in-C., Nore 1029/4). My 1029. Operation Q.A. cancelled owing to weather. (C.-in-C., Nore 1737/4).

N.C.

Operation N.C. will be carried out, zero time 0130. (V.A., Dover 1436/4). Harwich 4/3 departures M.T.B.'s 31, 22, 32 at 1837. (F.O.i/c Harwich 1843/4).

P.Y.A.

Departures M.L.'s 110 and 106 at 1925 to carry out operation P.Y.A. (N.O.i/c Yarmouth 1928/4).

"Claymore". LOFOTEN ISLANDS RAID. landing March 4/0645

CLAYMORE

vide p 152, 189

Operations ~~CLAYMORE~~. Successfully completed. (C.-in-C., H.F. 2320/4).

Report in M 04545/41 - Destroyers Somali, Bedouin, Tatar, Eskimo, Legion under command of Captain C. Caslon. Transport Queen Emma - Princess Beatrix.

British Air ActivityFighter
Protection

My 2111/28. Request Pocket from 0900-1600 today. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 0624/4). My 1152/25, and H.Q.F.C. 1922/27 neither to you. Escorted group of M.V's leaves Falmouth P.M. 5/2 and will be in Channel 180 Q Z S from 1730/5 to 1930/5. Another escorted group arrives A.M./6 and will be in Channel between 0730/6 and 0930/6. Request trial may be made of providing fighter patrol over Channel as long as possible during one or both of these periods, and that cover may be provided during remainder of time. (C.-in-C., Plymouth 1826/4 to A.O.C. 10 Group).

/TAKU.

MOST SECRET.4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity (Cont'd.)TAKU

1 (one) Sunderland Aircraft may be expected about noon today. (C.in C., W.A. 0818/4 to TAKU, etc.)

Patrols.

Air Patrols today ~~FAIR~~ ^{"Fair"} ~~TROST~~ ^{"Trost"} ~~STAB~~ ^{"Stab"} ~~BERT~~ ^{"Bert"}
(C.in C., Rosyth 0850/4).

Straits of Dover.

During passage of Channel convoys through Straits of Dover a small Striking Force is to be held in readiness to attack enemy gun positions should they open fire. The scattered disposition of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0914/4 to Detling).

Own A/c fired on.

Your 1507/27. Following report from F.O.i/c Yarmouth begins:
"Bofors Battery at Lowestoft opened fire at 1848 and one drifter in harbour followed with short burst of M.G. Fire was not opened by any guns at Yarmouth.
2. Aircraft was evidently off Lowestoft and not Yarmouth". Ends. (D.of L.D. 1233/4 to Air Ministry).

Escort for ARROW.

Expect escort 1 Anson aircraft from 1600 4th until dusk. (C.in C., Rosyth 1308/4 to ARROW).

STRATHMORE
REPULSE
FURIOUS
ALCANTARA

My 2248/28 para. 1. Amend position B to read 55° 40' N., 8° 30' W. (D.O.D.(H) 1330/4 to H.Q.C.C., and H.Q.F.C.)

*See also p. 129.*Enemy Air Activity.MELMORE HEAD
(Bombed 26/2)

Your 2200/3. Endeavour to contact MELMORE HEAD reported by aircraft in 54° 37' N. 9° 32' W. at 1800/3. (F.O.i/c Greenock 0118/4 to MASTADONTE).

/ Your 0640.

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Cont'd).

MELMORE HEAD
(Bombed 26/2)

Your 0640. Proceed to Loch Foyle with MELMORE HEAD who should be anchored unless considered necessary to beach. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1234/4 to THAMES).

PORT
TOWNSVILLE
(Bombed 3/3)

My 2247/3. At 0045/4 PORT TOWNSVILLE was in about 52° 6' N., 5° 23' W. Badly on fire and listing. A/P Trawler ARMANA and Tug ABELILLE 21 standing by. Rescue tug SEINE not yet joined. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 0155/4).

My 0155 and my 0200. A/P Trawler ARMANA reports PORT TOWNSVILLE sunk at 0225/4. Tugs are being recalled. Request my 0200 be cancelled. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 0316/4).

EMPIRE
STEELHEAD

My 1522/27/2. Essential repairs will be completed P.M. 8th and vessel ready to proceed under own steam. Request destination be communicated and escort arranged. (F.O.i/c Invergordon 1159/4).

Enemy A/c.

An enemy report was sent at 1132 by Stavanger to German aircraft probably on patrol. (D.D.I.C. 1217/4).

Convoy
E.N. Even.

Air attack imminent. (Lyness 1220/4). Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of ~~PADDLE~~. (Lyness 1225/4). Negative enemy air attack on Convoy ~~PADDLE~~. (Lyness 1325/4). Fighters being sent to even numbered E N Convoy. (Lyness 1415/4).

KINGSTON
HILL.
(Bombed 22/2)

Salvage completed and ship ready for towing. Will only require short dry dock at a later stage. (N.O.i/c Aultbea 1225/4).

SIMALOER
(Bombed 2/3)

My 1234/4. As soon as MELMORE HEAD can be safely left request you sail THAMES and KINGCUP to assist SIMALOER abandoned in 56° 35' N., 10° 18' W. at 0855/4. Tugs SCHELDE and MASTADONTE are proceeding to Londonderry and can be used to assist MELMORE HEAD. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1247/44). Cancel all previous instructions. KINGCUP and SCHELDE are to proceed forthwith to R/V at entrance of Loch Foyle and then proceed in company to assist s.s. SIMALOER. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1710/4). Cancel my 1247/4. (F.O.i/c Greenock 1720/4).

4. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Cont'd.)

Cardiff
bombed.

Cardiff was subjected to air attacks between 2000/3 - 0100/4. About 200 A/c believed Heinkel 111's engaged. These attacked singly but in two separate waves. Very many incendiaries and a number of H.E.'s were used but few flares. Some fifty fires developed of which seven were large but all were under control by midnight. Much damage in centre of City and railway traffic interrupted. No serious damage in docks although traffic is delayed at Rumney Wharf due to an U.X.B. on the east side of East Dock and communications in docks received damage. Civilian casualties. No Naval casualties. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 1705/4).

Thames
Estuary.

Pyrotechnics and flares observed in region of Thames Estuary on night of 3/4 March as follows. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1305/4).

EMPIRE
SIMBA
(Bombed 1/3)

EMPIRE SIMBA arrived and docked. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1810/4).

LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2)

Position fix at 1923 15 miles 240° Tory Islands, LEEDS CITY in tow of SUPERMAN, MAN O'WAR Escort. Weather favourable. (MAN O'WAR 1945/4).

Mining.

Cardiff.

On account of minelaying no ships are to enter or leave Cardiff until further orders. (F.O.i/c Cardiff 0007/4).

Z.M.E. 21.

Operation Z M E 21 completed. (PLOVER 0540/4). Particulars. (PLOVER 1600/4.)

Firth
of
Forth.

Cancel my 2212/3. Between 02° 45' W. and the East Gate Inchkeith all traffic is to use the south side of Q Z S 175. The north side of QZS 175 between above positions remains closed. (C.in C., Rosyth 1042/4). Due to suspected enemy minelaying alternative convoy anchorage Aberlady Bay (R.G.S.129) is closed. (C.in C., Rosyth 1244/4).

Thames
Estuary.

My 2244/2/2. A.A. ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m./5 until further notice. Orders for engaging aircraft are as in your A257 of 6/2/41. (C.in C. Nore 1052/4 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Invergordon
Minefield.

Control for Inner Controlled Minefield now completed and Minefield in operation. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1105/4).

ANONITY
(Motor Vessel,
303 Tons) sunk
~~BOSTON~~ Boston
Pilot Cutter
damaged.

*LYNDIS KITW

Motor vessel reported sunk following an explosion 1-1/2 miles E.S.E. of Skegness Pier at 1028 today. Motor boat in attendance and lifeboat going to assistance. (F.O. Humber 1211/4)
My 1211. Name of vessel sunk ANONITY.
*Boston Pilot Cutter badly damaged and in sinking condition. Pilot killed. (F.O. Humber 1530/4).TEVIOT BANK.

Will load on 6/3 and will be in all respects ready for sea on completion of loading. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1405/4).

Enemy
Minefields
off
Norwegian
Coast.Your 1117/15/2 appears to cover Russian minefield laid off Petsamo prior to April 1940. Conflicting reports are, however, emanating from Oslo of German mines off Norwegian Coast. Request you will endeavour to clarify position particularly.
(1) Whether new minefields have been laid or whether Oslo notices are re-issue of former information consequent upon resumption of traffic.
(2) Actual part of Norwegian coast mined.
(3) Whether safe water is within 3 miles of coast, or outside 3 miles. (D.D.I.C. 1550/4 to N.A. Stockholm).Tyne

Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1611/4).

Moelfre Bay.

Navigational precautions. (D.T.D. 1803/4).

Clyde Area.
Fitting of
Sweepers with
S.A. Gear.

The intensity of minelaying attacks by enemy aircraft has recently increased. The approaches to the Clyde have not yet been heavily mined, but, should this occur, the local S.A. Minesweeping forces are inadequate, no sweeper fitted with S.A. (A) Mark II being yet in operation.

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Clyde Area.
Fitting of
Sweepers with
S.A. Gear.
(contd).

Your six Oropesa Trawlers should be fitted in addition to ships named in your 1140/27. Four A frames have been supplied by D.N.C. and 2 more will be sent mid-March. The early fitting of sweepers with S.A. gear Mark II of utmost importance and local construction must be used to supplement supply of A frames and boxes, as has been done in other Commands. (A.C.N.S.H. 1814/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Falmouth.

Two Mines detonated by S.A. Gear today as follows.

(3) One mine exploded spontaneously at 1758 in 50° - 08' N.Z. 05° - 01' 50"W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1821/4).

Blyth.

Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1830/4).

Liverpool.

Instructions for entering or leaving. (D.T.D. 1959/4).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.ADMIRAL
HIPPER.
SEYDLITZ.Enemy Intelligence.

Following from Navy Department dated March 3rd stated to be reliable. ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER docking at Bremen to repair damage. SEYDLITZ recently completed. (N.A. Washington, 1655/4).

ADMIRAL Comment by D.N.I. the report regarding HIPPER is not considered likely but further information has been requested. One HIPPER Class cruiser believed SEYDLITZ was located at Bremen on 26th February. SEYDLITZ should be ready to begin trials now.

E/Boats.

Suspected E/Boats vicinity of Letman Bank.
(C.in C. Nore, 2105/4).

1 Enemy M.T.B. bearing 050 distance 1 mile course unknown my position 52° 32'N., 2° 6'E.
(Capt: D.21 2140/4).

E/Boat suspected in position 10 miles 075° from Lowestoft at 23 45 course unknown.
(C.in C. Nore, 2359/41).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4. 3. 1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.S/M's
with H.G.
Convoys.

In addition to my 1152/2/4, following instructions have been given to escorts and Commodores of H.G. convoys. If you concur request these instructions may be passed to C. in C. W.A. for information of O.G. convoys. (S.8,0932/4, to F.O. (S)).

General.
Dangerous
area, South
Irish Sea.

My 1850/3. Ships not to be sailed through dangerous area without air escort. N.C.S.O.'s to report names of vessels already sailed which are expected to be in area today. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0942/4) Cancel my 0942/4 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1004/4.)
My 1850/3. Report names of vessels already sailed which are expected to be in dangerous area today. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1014/4.)
Your 0942/4, GLAMORGAN COAST E.T.A. Liverpool Q.Z.S. 211 at 0800/5. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1022/4.)

Fighter
Escorts.

It is imperative that Fighter Command, in addition to Coastal Command, should be kept fully informed of the movements not only of convoys but also of all independently routed ocean going ships within range of fighter protection. (D.T.D. 1549/4 to F.O.I.C.'s and N.O.I.C.'s.)

Use of
W/T
Receivers.

(D.T.D. 1805/4, to A.I.G. 84.)

Coastal Convoys.
F.N. 22.422

Arrived 0915/4. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0936/4.)
Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/4.)

F.S. 26.426

19 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/4.)
Absentees (0952/4.) 13 ships from Tyne and Tees did not sail. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1044/4.) Delete WITHERINGTON from escort (C. in C. Nore, 1424/4.). No ships from Humber-fog. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1730/4.)

/F.N. 16.....

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Coastal Convoys Contd.

F.N.16. 416
F.N.18. 418

Reply to Admty: 1713/3. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0954/4).

E.N.80. Position. (A.C.O.S. 1020/4). 1 ship ex H.X.109 for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1105/4).

W.N.94. 0955/4. Escort to, Corvette MAYFLOWER for Methil and Tyne. No M.V's sailed. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1035/4, 1118/4). W.N.94 (0). No ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1127/4).

W.N.93. 1 ship with Govt. stores. (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1040/4.) 1 ship for (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1158/4) Position. (S.O. of Escort 1510/4).

E.N.81. 0100/5. Escorts. 25 ships. Codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1043/4).

F.N.23. 423 List. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1046/4) 6 from Tyne, 2 from Middlesbrough. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1245/4).

F.S.25. 425 Position. 37 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1049/4). Arrived except HELMOND. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1620/4).

F.N.26. 426 BERKELEY as additional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 1120/4).

5 M/V's. 1929/3, arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1136/4).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

E.N.U.80.

Amending 2003/3 - 7 ships, 5 for Oban
1 for Liverpool, 1 for Belfast.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1205/4 amended
1439/4). 2115/4 unescorted, 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2205/4). List.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2231/4).

8 M/V's.

E.T.A. Dartmouth 0745/5. (N.C.S.O.
Portsmouth 1207/4). Sailed less 1
(N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1943/4).
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2003/4).

F.S.27.427

12 ships from Methil did not sail.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1231/4) 5 from
Sunderland, 12 from Middlesborough.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1243/4). Sailed 1530/4
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1535/4). 4 ships from
Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1712/4).
List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1801/4).

Channel.

W.Channel night report. (C.in C.
Plymouth, 1434/4, amended 2130/4).

C.E.27.

List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1457/4.)
Sailed, amending 1447/3 re escorts.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/4). E.T.A.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1617/4).

W.N.U.93.

1500/4, unescorted, 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1531/4).

11 M/V's.

N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1606 and 1836/3.
Escorts. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1538/4).

E.N.79.

Arrived less MAURITZ. (N.C.S.O. Oban,
1545/4).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Coastal Convoys.
(contd).8.M.V's. E.T.D. 1915/5, E.T.A. 0745/6. Escorts
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2201/4).F.N. and F.S. Additional escorts, amending 1152/2
(F.O.I.C. Harvich 2214/4).Ocean Convoys.O.B.C. 293. 0215/4, escort ARBUTUS, 15 (N.C.S.O. Clyde
0216/4) List (0930/4).H.X. 109 1 Arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0820/4) 1 Arrival
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1201/4) 2 Arrivals (N.C.S.O.
Clyde 1455/4) 1 Arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey
1702/4).O.B.O. 293 Sailed 0730/4, escort CAMELIA 5 list (N.C.S.O.
Oban 0906/4).S.L. 65. Not met. Weather (VANOC, 1000/4) Amending
1 destination (D.T.D. 1951/4).H.G. 55. List (F.O.C.N.A. 1039/4) 3rd Escort Group
to meet (C. in C. W.A. 1738/4). Time and
date of R.V. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636/4 to Admty).

S.L. 67 ARETHUSA to escort (F.O.C.N.A. 1118/4).

O.B. 293 WOLVERINE to rejoin (C. in C. W.A. 1120/4).

S.L. 66 MALVERNIAN to join, position, route.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1140/4).

O.G. 54. P.c. and s. (LINCOLN 1201/4).

O.B.U. 293 Cancel my 2005/3 (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1203/4).

/S.C. 23.....

War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

- S.C. 23. KING SOL, LADY LILIAN to meet, 41 hours late. (C. in C. W.A., 1438/4) Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1856/4 to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc) My 1938/1, delete 1 ship (D.T.D. 1944/4)
- S.L.S. 65. A/C report of position (C. in C. W.A. 1507/4 to PEGASUS, CALDWELL) Amending destination (D.T.D. 1604/4 C. in C. W.A. 1804/4 to VANOC, etc).
- H.X. 111 Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D. 1710/4).
- H.X. 110. Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1820/4 to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HARVESTER).
- H.G. 54. WOLSEY and VANITY to meet (C. in C. W.A. 1838/4) Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1929/4 to BROKE, ST. KENAN, SALADIN, etc).
- O.G. 55. 7 Turkish ferry boats to join (C. in C. W.A. 1909/4).
- H.X. 108 6 hours late at R.V. (D.T.D. 1945/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- H.X. 107. Scattered by gale 4 - 5/2 and hurricane 10 - 12/2. BLACK OSPREY and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN torpedoed and sunk. TARIA bombed 300 miles S. of route, now arrived damaged. EMPIRE BLANDA and EDWY R. BROWN not yet accounted for. (D.T.D. 1948/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- S.C. 22. On time at R.V. no stragglers. Marine Casualty KERVEGAN. Bombed and sunk in Irish Sea, ROTULA. EMPIRE SIMBA (joined from H.X. 108) bombed and damaged in Irish Sea. (D.T.D. 1949/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd)

O.B.M. 294. List (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1950/4).

O.G.M. 55. 1700/6, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 8 (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1950 /4).

O.B.M. 294 Sailed 1921/4 LEEDS UNITED, 10.
(N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1950/4).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

REPULSE.
FURIOUS.
STRATHMORE.
ALCANTARA.

My 2247/28 para. 1. Amend position B to read 55° 40' N. 8° 30' W. and position D to read 40° 00' N. 19° 00' W. (D.O.D.H. 1529/4).
Sailed STRATHMORE Ocean Escort O.R.P. GARLAND 1730. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1805/4).

See p. 118

W.S.7.

Following are proposed embarkation arrangements.
2. Request confirmation that this Programme can be maintained. (D. of S.T. 2534/4).

4.3.41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.RESTIVE.

Now towing RESTIVE. Request escort. Proceeding Stornoway. My position is 060° 15' N., 012° 15' W. (PRUDENT 0835/4.)

BROKE.

Your 2256/3. Check valve on third boiler still defective but boiler can be used in an emergency. Vessel may have to return to Belfast on completion of present duty. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0944/4.)

TAKU.

If not in contact with TAKU report your position after dark tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1238/4, to ENCHANTRESS.)
If not in contact with ENCHANTRESS or GLADIOLUS report your position after dark tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1245/4, to TAKU.)

CITY OF CALCUTTA.
(British,
8063 Tons.)

Your 1301/4. Attempt to find CITY OF CALCUTTA. (C. in C. W.A. 1407/4, to HURRICANE.)
Position of CITY OF CALCUTTA at 0900/4. 50° 40' N., 9° 20' W. Estimated speed 12 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 2302/4.)

RODNEY.
(Fishing
Vessel.)

(?CAREDA)
British Fishing Boat CAREDA reports she sunk fishing vessel RODNEY of Grimsby at 0500/3. G.M.T. by collision. Approximately 150 miles S.E. Vestmann Islands. 2 hands of crew of 11 saved. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1643/4.)

SKJOLD

(Danish, 1345 Tons). Sunk in collision with ROEBUCK off Hamble River. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1753/4.) SKJOLD has been beached on East Side of entrance to Hamble River. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1924/4.)

WIVERN.

WIVERN has wire round propeller. Probably unable reach Oversay R/V in time. (Capt. D. Londonderry 2340/4.)

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LOUIS CHARLES
SCHIAFFINO.

Vichy French, 3089 tons, bound from Algeria to a French port, was torpedoed and sunk in error by A/C marked with black crosses one mile from Algerian Coast on 26/2. Crew saved. (D.S. 546, 4/3) (T.D. Casualty Section 4/3).

French Convoys

French armed trawler LA SETOISE passed Gibraltar westbound at 0750/3 escorting French M.V.'s FORT DE SOUVILLE, 5229 tons, CHENONCEAUX, 14,825 tons, *AITREE (N.T. in Lloyds) and ROUBAISIEU, 3152 tons. French sloop minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 0955/2 escorting French M.V. BENTY, 3078 tons. (D.O.R. 4/3).
Signal on Page 95. * AISNE

H.G. Convoys

Instructions to escorts re submarines employed with H.G. convoys. (S.8, 0934/4) See Shipping and Convoys.

BELGIQUE.

Your 2213/3? as stated in my 1202/8 ship can not be docked laden. She should return to Gibraltar with barley, dock and then proceed to loading Port. Ship is being sailed for Cadiz forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A., 0942/4 to Admty).

My 1202/8 my 1200/19 and my 1215/26. I am unaware of reason for long delay of BELGIQUE at Gibraltar. Continued presence of ships known to be loaded with a large cargo of grain which no attempt is being made to discharge in sight of countryside where people are literally starving to death daily and with whom we are trying to cultivate friendly relations is not likely to further this object nor is grain likely to improve. I am informed a considerable portion of CRARDA's cargo discharged at Algericas has so (?deteriorated) that it had to be washed before it could be fed to cattle. (F.O.C.N.A. 1630/4 to Admty).

S/M
Recognition
Signals.

Daylight grenades, night grenades and flashing signals are in future not to be used by allied submarines to identify themselves to British aircraft. Identification flare is only recognition signal which can be used. Submarines on surface outside sanctuaries whose movements have not been promulgated and who do not exhibit correct identification flare should be attacked. Above procedure is to come into force at 0001 G.M.T/6/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1216/4 to N. Atlantic).

/RENOWN.....

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

RENOWN
exercises.

RENOWN and 6 destroyers proceed to sea for exercises and firings at 0830/5 returning 1300/6. (S.O. Force H., 1221/4).

Spanish
Arrest of
British
Seamen.

3 seamen (names) of ARGUS arrested by Spanish Authorities at La Linea on 31/12. Negotiations for release going on between N.A. Madrid and Spanish Authorities, and hoped to obtain release shortly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/4 to Admty).

My 1227/4 (see GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS). In view of possible movements RUDOLF ALBRECHT and Italian vessels from Teneriffe assume following patrols forthwith: MARON, V one, and REGISTAN, T one. (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/4 to MARON, REGISTAN). Unless otherwise ordered by Adty comply with my 1730/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 2036/4 to MARON, REGISTAN).

Air
Operations.

Area covered 3° 50' W. to 8° 30' W. (200 Group 1741/4).

PANDORA.
0.23.
OLYMPUS.

Position of Submarines 1200/5 and movements for 24 hours. PANDORA with H.G. 55. 0.23 p.c. and s. 042° N. 021° W. 154° 7 knots position very approximate. OLYMPUS 038° 20' N. 011° W. proceeding through 036° 35' N. 009° 30' W. to Gibraltar may be proceeding submerged by day. (F.O.C.N.A. 2316/4 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

CHATEAU-ROUX.

Your 2131/28. What Recoding Tables are held by CHATEAU-ROUX? Check and repeat position "C" received as 38° 10' N. 29° 37' W. Give time and date of arrival at 58° 15' N. (Minches) (D.T.D. 1533/4 to N.C.S.O. Freetown) Reply 1119/6.

/Dakar.....

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Dakar
Intelligence,
RICHELIEU.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar. 26/2 sailed SINAI for Casablanca. 27/2 arrived VENDOME from North 28/2 arrived HOGGAR from South. Sailed SAVOIE, ASIE and FELIX HENRI for South. 25/2 report that damage to RICHELIEU was near stern on starboard side. 21 Square metres of plates replaced by a Cofferdam. No trial run but believed three shafts serviceable and possibly fourth. (N.A. Washington 1710/4 to Admty).

U-Boats
off Freetown.

Admty 1408/3. ^{Page 110.} Request on what information presence of two Italian U-boats S.W. of Freetown is based. One was (? reported by) CLAN OGILVY on 28/2 periscope only sighted and considered doubtful, my 1046/3 refers. Have no other information. (C. in C. S.A. 1755/4 to Admty).

Bissagos
Islands.

Your 1855/3/1. Should you decide to carry out an air reconnaissance of Bissagos Islands, Portugese air space may be violated by aircraft for the purpose, but territorial waters should be respected by H.M. Ships. Should any enemy vessels be discovered in territorial waters, they may not be attacked, but a report should be made by most immediate signal. (Head of M. 1923/4 to C. in C. S.A).

PROME.
CITY OF PARIS.

Dates due at Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2352/4 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I). See Page 341.

Sunderlands.

My 2303/16/1. Owing to urgent requirements in N.W. Approaches the departure of 3 Sunderlands to Freetown to replace those damaged on passage has had to be deferred. (D.O.D.(F) 2338/4 to C. in C. S.A).

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal
Raid

About six enemy aircraft raided canal 1915 to 2030/3. First report indicates probability of six unexploded in canal between Port Said and Ismailia and one at Kharag, 140.7. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0007/4 to Admty etc).

Tripoli
Recon.
Enemy
Units.

Reconnaissance reports Tripoli (Libya) harbour 1715/3 8 large ships, 21 medium size, 24 small craft. 6 miles north of Tripoli, one ship probably cruiser 8 miles north of Tripoli. 2 destroyers and 2 large ships. 15 miles north, battleship on fire, one destroyer standing by. All ships heading for Tripoli. 50 miles 350° Tripoli 3 destroyers, 2 cruisers and 2 ships, 1500 tons, heading 130° at 1245 and 170° 1315. (Capt. S.I. 0836/4 to S/M's on Patrol).

WIDNES,
GRIMSBY,
ABERDARE,
HARROW.
SHOREHAM.

To join Mediterranean Fleet and should sail for Suez as soon as possible. SHOREHAM to remain on East Indies station for the present until a minesweep can be provided for her. Admiralty O116/15 is cancelled. Hoped to send two groups of A/S - M/S trawlers to the Mediterranean on completion of their fitting out next month. (D.M.S. 1118/4 to C. in C's Med., E.I., China).

A.N. 16.

Arrived between 2000/3 and 1100/4. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1145/4 to Admty).

ROVER
Passenger.
(S/M listening apparatus.)

Cancel my 0911/3 sailing deferred. Further signal will be made when dock ready. (Capt. S.I. 1156/4 to ROVER). (See p 97)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 267 up to 1200 hours 4/3. Reconnaissance of Tripoli, Brindisi, Valona. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1234/4).

Italian
Ships
sunk by
S/M's.

Your 1141/3 (no trace in W.R). List of 21 vessels sunk between 20/6/40 and 23/2/41 by H.M. submarines, also 8 probably sunk between 21/8/40 and 25/2/41. (Capt. S.I. 1541/4 to F.O.S) See Special Summaries Folder).

/Malte.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd)Malta
Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 hours 4/3. Recco. At sea 5 M/Vs 2,000 - 4,000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers seen at 1335 20 miles N.E. Marittimo Island Course 260° speed 5 to 7 knots. Enemy air activity, 3 alarms during daylight caused by small formations of enemy fighters. Only 1 crossed coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1615/4).

B.S.18.

1500 G.M.T. 4/3. GUNDA, NORSE LADY, ATLAS TAMAROA. Destinations. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1653/4 to Admty etc).

Mine
Clearance.

Reply to 1949/27 item 3. (N.A. to V.C.N.S. 1718/4 to C. in C. Med).

B.N. 17.

My 1747/3/3. (B.N. 17 arrived Suez 2/3 less ALFIOS) Greek ALFIOS arrived Suez 4/3 completing B.N. 17. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1733/4).

→ Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy 5 Merchant ships escorted by two destroyers sighted 20 miles N.E. of Marittimo Island course 260° speed 6 knots at 1530 B today. (Comdr. S.1. 1845/4 to UNIQUE, UPHOLDER).

A.N. Convoy.

(i) A.N. Alexandria section (ii) 2000/4 EL HAK petrol Piraeus, WARSZAWA military stores Suda Bay. (R.A. Alexandria, 2007/4 to Admty etc).

TERROR.

Intend 10/3 shall be official date for paying off TERROR. (C. in C. Med 2008/4 to Admty).

OAKFIELD,
WAR NIZAM.

Your 1658/162. ^{/ See (no. 2) Vol. 2/41 - p. 26} Regretted these ships cannot be spared for this service. (D.O.D. (F) 2106/4 to C. in C. Med).

→ UPHOLDER.

Capt. (S) 1's 0836/4. Proceed with despatch to operate in sector Y within 50 miles between bearings 320° and 030° from Tripoli main light. Cancel my 1331/3. (Comdr. S.1. 2116/4 to UPHOLDER).

/Enemy.....

War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Enemy
intelligence.

Air R.C. 4/3. (i) Palermo. (ii) Trapani. (iv) Convoy of 5 medium merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers 20 miles N.E. of Marittimo Island course 260° speed 6 knots. (V.A. Malta 2145/4).

Suez Canal.

While present enemy mining attacks continue - request brief daily report on the state of Suez Canal, in particular whether open or closed, and estimated date of re-opening. (V.C.N.S. 2147/4 to C. in C. Med).

R.M. Group
A/A Units.

Cancel Admty. 1640/17/12/40. Units of R.M. Group and Naval Personnel as in Admty 2335/26/1/41 sailed in W.S.6. Re employment. (D. of L.D. 2333/4 to C. in C Med).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
LIVERPOOL.

My 1352/30/1. and 2349/17/2. To further arrangements for repairs of ILLUSTRIOUS and LIVERPOOL, request early information when they will be ready to sail. (D.O.D.(F) 2337/4 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.WIDNES.)
GRIMSBY.)

To join Med. Fleet (See Mediterranean).

SHOREHAM.

To remain East Indies for present. (See Mediterranean).

Force Z.

Departure KANDAHAR for Force Z. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0340Z/4).

Dhow
abandoned.W.C. 38 India West Coast Dhow abandoned in approx. position 16° 12' N. 72° 54' E. dangerous to Navigation. (Navyntell, Colombo, 0522Z/4 to Admty).
4/3 arrival 0200Z YARRA, departure 0445Z FLAMINGO for Force Z, 0550Z CHANTALA for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0552Z/4).

War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd)PENSILVANIA.
SHROPSHIRE
attack on
Modun.

My 1026/17/2 PENSILVANIA now known to have been sunk by gunfire presumably from SHROPSHIRE, my 1820/13/2 (note to M.I.C.E) refers.

My 1906/23/2 SHROPSHIRE caused great damage and large number Military casualties at Modun which may well have been decisive factor in Italian decision to evacuate. (C. in C. E.I. 0732Z/4 to Admty).

HERMES.
EMERALD.

My 1534/1. HERMES is proceeding to Trincomalee 5/3 to boiler clean and exchange aircraft, my 1150/1 refers. EMERALD will escort HERMES and return to Colombo arriving 7/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1244Z/4 to Admty).

COBURG and
KETTY BRÖVIG
sunk by
CANBERRA.

My 0744/3. CANBERRA and LEANDER sighted 1 merchant ship accompanied by 1 tanker in position 008° 40' S. 061° 25' E. at 1205Z/4.

By 1225Z/4 both raider and tanker were on fire, latter sinking by stern. Intend to suppress the news for the present. (C. in C. E.I. 1259Z/4 amended 1400Z/4).

My 1259/4. Tanker reported to be ATHELKING but see my 0810/1 (W.D. Note: Later reported to be KETTY BRÖVIG, ex-Norwegian see CANBERRA, 2005/4) Merchant ship was reported to be raider but she did not reply to CANBERRA's fire at 18000 yards. Confirmation awaited. Tanker took scuttling action attempt being made to save her. For 1245 read 1225. (C. in C. E.I. 1400Z/4)
(Note by C.S.O. to 1st S.L.)

ATHELKING was captured by the enemy in September 1940)

Sighted merchant Ships COBURG and Tanker KETTY BRÖVIG ex Norwegian at 1150Z/4 and ordered them to stop. Ships separated, tanker steering south Merchant Ship north flying no colour. Engaged later at 1207Z suspected her of being a raider. She did not reply and was subsequently found to have no guns. She was set on fire amidships. I then ceased fire. Tanker was threatened with near miss bombs by aircraft and scuttled. I (?kept) out of range until both ships were abandoned and settling in order to avoid possible torpedo risk. Then closed tanker in hope of salvaging but boarding party could not stop inflow of water, engine and boiler room being completely flooded to upper deck. Subsequently fired few rounds into her and left her in a sinking condition. COBURG which was burning

/strongly.....

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

COBURG and
KETTY BROVIG
sunk by
CANBERRA. *Survivors*
(contd).

strongly amidships, sank at 1549Z: LEANDER picked up survivors. KETTY BROVIG had souvenirs of ATHEL KING, hence mistake in my 1514Z/4. COBURG left Massowa about 22/2 KETTY BROVIG possibly captured by pocket battleship about 2/2 as survivors say latter was lost in company with tanker on 13/2. Position unknown. (CANBERRA, 2005Z/4 to C. in C. E.I).

Captured
Enemy M.V's.

Your 1156/2/3. Reply re manning. (N.O.I.C. E.A. and Z., 1657Z/4 to C. in C.E.I)

China.

ABERDARE.)
HARROW.)

At Singapore. To join Mediterranean Fleet. (See Mediterranean).

ELISAVET.
MICHAEL
KIVANOS.

My 0711/3 Greek ship ELISAVET arrived Singapore 4/3, MICHAEL KIVANOS apparently diverted to Fremantle. (S.O.I. Singapore 0301/4).

D'ARTAGNAN.
Indo-China
Trade.

My 0319Z/25/2. Decoux has replied to representations as follows (1) Voyage of D'ARTAGNAN was due to a misunderstanding which he will explain separately. He has given orders that she is not in future to leave China Station and that all articles of agreement regarding navigation shall be strictly observed and applied. (2) Government of Indo China give assurance that they will keep advance party informed of progress of negotiations and explain reasons which might induce it to take steps which might appear 'A Priori' to be contrary to provisions of article 13 (3) Decoux wished to impress us that whole object of his recent negotiations Netherlands East Indies has been to enable Indo China to comply with the spirit of this article and that he is trying with the same object to develop Indo China's export trade to Countries other than Japan, beginning in the first instance with Malaya and Netherlands East Indies. (C. in C. China 0309Z/4 to Admty).

/orders.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (contd).Orders
to Shipping.

Your 1608/1. I do not consider situation permits relaxing my 0252/12/2 at any rate until Thai Indo-China dispute is settled. As far as I am aware only British controlled tanker that has been stopped going to Shanghai is VARDAAS, vide A.M. 1825/21. I am enquiring from Shanghai which does not depend solely on British Oil Companies. (C. in C. China, 0427Z/4 to Admty).

America & West Indies.TRELAWNEY.

My 1126/22/2. S.S. TRELAWNEY due New York 2/3 now overdue. Agents had private advice ship due between 3 and 5/3. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1136/4 to Admty).

HOPE RIDGE.

My 1253/1 British Ship HOPE RIDGE arrived Colon 2nd. (S.O.I. Kingston 1157/4).

BLACK CONDON
FLAMINIAN.

H.X. 112, my 1434/1 British BLACK CONDON carrying 33 bags of mail transferred from FLAMINIAN delayed here by degaussing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1508/4 to Admty).

EUGENIE
LIVANOS.

Greek Ship although requisitioned by Greek Govt. was sailed by owner on 24/2 from Norfolk for Bahia Blanca in ballast. Ship not routed as master disobeyed agent's instructions to report. Believed due Bahia Blanca 21/3. G.B.M.S. order to proceed to New York disregarded. M. of Shipping has requested naval assistance if necessary to compel ship proceed to New York. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1602/4 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D).

ADMIRAL
HIPPER.
SEYDLITZ.

ADMIRAL
Navy Dept. report, HIPPER awaiting docking at Bremen to repair damager, SEYDLITZ recently completed. (N.A. Washington, 1655/4 to Admty).

/H.X. 113.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.5.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).H.X. 113.

You may meet PRINCE DAVID escorting Bermuda portion of H.X. 113 on 6th/7th March and ALAUNIA escorting Halifax portion of H.X. 113 on 7/3. (R.A.3 B.S. 1701/4 to TRIBUNE).

RONIN.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1102/27 (Re sailings of RONIN). Presume Admty. 1118/1/2 no longer applies. Request confirmation. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2204/4 to Admty). *Reply: page 209.*
My 2220/4 Halifax convoy arrival March 4. For H.M.S. RAMILLIES read British Ship RAMILLES. 1441/5.

Australia.BATHURST.
LISMORE.

Your 1130/30/1. Request BATHURST and LISMORE be sailed for Singapore on completion of operation in Great North East Channel. They will join China Station and not proceed to Mediterranean for the present.
(D.M.S. 1119/4 to A.C.N.B)

MENTOR.

Have you any news of MENTOR?
(D.T.D. 1603/4 to A.C.N.B).

War Diary.

4.3.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REGENSBURG.

Arrived Yokohama 2/3. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0831Z/4) Last reported as having left Yokohama 20/12 (D.S. 547, 5/3).

RUDOLF
ALBRECHT.

Italian ships at Teneriffe painted upper work grey and crews talk of sailing in March. A 2 report, 14 vessels will make for Dakar. German ship RUDOLF ALBRECHT at Teneriffe is loading 200 tons of extra bunkers. A 2 report vessel apparently being fitted as supply and prison ship for raiders and that Master has been instructed to be ready to sail by 5/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1227/4 to N.A. Stn). Previous movements of RUDOLF ALBRECHT (D.S. 547 5/3);

BRAKE.

BRAKE arrived from Ferrol 2/3 loaded with petroleum. (Bilbao, 1246/4 to D.N.I).

LECH.

My 0815/3 ship has berthed alongside and commenced discharge 3,800 tons cargo. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1640/4).

SPEZIA.

Sailed today Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I 2400/4).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA.

Cape Town 3/3 arrival VILLE DE MAJUNGA with armed guard. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0730Z/4).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.SOMALIA.

Now definitely established that the second ship unaccounted for at Kismayu was SOMALIA 2699 tons, and not YAMARURI MARU which had left some time previous to capture of the port. (D.S. 546).

Ships at
Teneriffe.

See RUDOLF ALBRECHT (German Merchant Ships) List of ships at Teneriffe (D.S. 547 5/3).

PASUBIO.

Left Susak 1/3 for Fiume (D.S. 547).

PENSILVANIA.

Sunk by gunfire, presumably from SHROPSHIRE (C. in C. E.I. 0732Z/4) See East Indies.

ADRIA, MANON,
LEONARDO DE
VINCI.
ERMINIA MAZZELLA
SAVOIA.

S.O. Force W. 1109/3 not to Adty. Inform authorities that immediately the ships have been condemned in prize it is desired to sail them to Bombay and Durban in accordance with Admtly 1528/2. Expedition is essential and it is not considered formality of transferring ships to British Registry which can be completed elsewhere justifies their detention at Mombasa for this purpose. (C. in C. E.I. 1108Z/4 to N.O.I.C. E. Africa).

MAURO CROCE.

Arrived 4/3 MAURO CROCE from Genoa. (Barcelona. 1705/4).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.3.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MANISTEE
(torpedoed
23/2)

Regret to report presumed loss of MANISTEE torpedoed 2145/23 in 58° 13' N. 21° 33' W. and again at 0721/24 in 58° 55' N. 20° 50' W. CHURCHILL, LEOPARD, and HEATHER sent to assist after first attack but destroyers had to be diverted to R/V with T.C.9 HEATHER searched wide area around position of second attack from 1000/24 until dark without result. (C.in C. W.A., 1201/4 to Admty.).
Regret have nothing to add to C.in C. W.A. 1201/4. (F.O.C.N.P. 1910/4).

RYDBOHOLM
(torpedoed
26/2).

Swedish, 3197 tons, torpedoed at 0110/26 in O.B.290, at same time as DIALA, BORGLAND, and KASONGO, in 55.45 N., 14.29 W., 280° Bloody Foreland 215'. (D.S. 547, 5/3).

CLEA
(torpedoed
11-15/2).

British tanker, 8074 tons, in Govt. service, sailed from Bermuda 28/1 for Loch Ewe, and overdue there since 16/2, is reported to have been torpedoed between 11/2 and 15/2 in N.W. Approaches. (D.S. 547, 5/3).

Submarines Reported.

0050	58° to 58.30 N., 16° - 18° W.,) position indefinite (German))	
0845	59.30 N., 8° W. position) indefinite (German))	D.S. 546, 4/3.
0606	Possibly vicinity of Finisterre) position indefinite (German))	
1209	57.35 N., 18.25 W. position) indefinite (Italian))	
2145) 2111)	51.40 N., 15.40 W. position) indefinite (Italian))	D.S. 547 5/3.
2332	54° - 55° N., W. of 20° W.,) very indefinite position.) (Italian))	

/ Estimated U/B dispositions. ...

War Diary.4.3.1941
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)Estimated
U/B
dispositions.German.

1 20 miles of 59° 30' N. 8° 10' W.
 1 30 miles of 58° 40' N. 8° 20' W.
 1 40 miles of 59° N. 11° W.
 1 N.E. Rockall.
 1 30 miles of 58° 20' N. 17° W.
 2 57 degs. N. - 57° 30' N. 16° W. - 18° W.
 1 40 miles of 56° N. 15° W.
 1 30 miles of 55° 30' N. 21° W.
 1 54 degs. N. - 55° N. 15° W. - 17° W.
 1 40 miles of 53° 30' N. 18° 30' W.
 1 40 miles of 53° 30' N. 16° 30' W.
 1 off Finisterre.

Italian.

1 20 miles of 57° 30' N. 18° 30' W.
 1 51° N. 18° W. 1649/3 en route Bordeaux.
 1 54° N. - 55° N. 17° W. - 18° W.
 (D.D.I.C. 1346/4)
 (F.O.S., 1627/4 to TAKU, PORPOISE).

Freetown
Area.

Commenting on Admty. 1408/3. (C.in C. S.A.,
 1755/4 - see South Atlantic).

Submarines Attacked.

1127.

Have attacked non submarine contact in
 position 58.17 N., 2.29 W.
 (ARROW 1127/4 to A.C.O.S.).
 Your 1127/4 there is a non-sub contact 1½
 miles from your reported position.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 1334/4, to ARROW).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Search
for Enemy
T/Bs.

At 2140 yesterday CAMPBELL (Capt: D.21) reported an enemy M.T.B. east of Lowestoft, the first indication being when a torpedo surfaced 30 yards off, having passed close astern. At 2218 German T.B's LUCHS, FALKE and JOACHIM were reported off Yarmouth. Visibility at the time was bad. At 0050 today the enemy were still 8 to 10 miles off Yarmouth. WORCESTER, WHITSHED, CAMPBELL (Capt: D.21) and COTTESMORE were ordered to patrol off Aldeburgh. 3 M.T.Bs. which left Harwich at 1827/4 for patrol to prevent minelaying by enemy E/Boats were ordered to remain near the Inner Gabbard until daylight. V.4. proceeded to Gap E to attack the enemy if they returned.

U/Boat
Campaign.

It is reported that S.S. PACIFIC, ex Convoy H.X.109 was torpedoed and sunk at 2345/1 about 250 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis.

S.S. HOLMELEA which reported being gunned 28/2 is stated by survivors to have been torpedoed and sunk on 28/2, believed 260 miles West of Slyne Head.

Trade with
Sweden.

The Ministry of Economic Warfare announces a limited resumption of trade between the U.K. and Sweden, 5 Swedish ships being permitted to enter Gottenburg from oversea every month.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.

Six torpedo aircraft carried out an offensive patrol off the Dutch Coast this afternoon. Certain of the standard patrols, including two along the coast of Norway, and A/S convoy escorts, flown today. Two aircraft attacked a U/Boat 214 miles west of Achill Head today.

Six Blenheims with fighter escort carried out a most successful attack on the docks at Boulogne today.

Enemy Air Activity.

Cardiff was attacked again between 2024/4 and 0045/5, by about 100 aircraft. Little damage was done in Cardiff Docks but some damage was caused to Mountstuart Dry Docks Ltd., and to the railway station. There were no naval casualties.

Mining.

A.A. ships will be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m. today until further notice, to prevent minelaying by enemy aircraft.

Parachutes were seen to fall, objects were heard to drop, and explosions occurred last night in the Thames Estuary.

/SILVERSTONE

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (Contd.)SILVERSTONE
ROCKSTONE
STONECURE
OLSTONE.

Diesel tug SILVERSTONE and a petrol barge were blown to pieces, a paraffin barge was burnt out and sunk and an oil fuel barge set on fire and damaged when an explosion, believed to be due to a ground mine occurred in the Medway above Rochester Bridge this afternoon. The river is blocked.

LUDA LORD (M/S Trawler) was damaged this morning while detonating an acoustic mine off Plymouth.

Special instructions as to speed of ships entering Bristol Channel were issued late tonight.

Cardiff was opened to ships not fitted with I.C.engines this forenoon.

Mines were exploded off Swansea today, Harwich, and Liverpool (8).

North Atlantic.

O.B.V. CORINTHIAN intercepted the French fishing vessel BIJOU BIJON about 200 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca today and is sending her into Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Falklands Islands defences, see R.A.S.A.D
1342Z/5.

Mediterranean.Bulgaria.

Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria were
broken off this morning.

Bosphorus.

A Turkish Notice to Mariners requires
ships to follow a pilot tug in the
Bosphorus.

10 Swordfish aircraft left Malta at dusk
today for operations against Tripoli.

Air Attacks on Malta.

A Sunderland was slightly damaged by
machine gunning this morning in St.
Paul's Bay. Bombs were dropped some
distance out to sea off Delimara.
Large formations of enemy bombers
accompanied by fighters raided the island
this afternoon. Considerable damage
was done at Hal Far (which is temporarily
out of action) and some damage at
Kalafrana. Four of our aircraft were
destroyed on the ground and all others
are temporarily unserviceable. A
large number of enemy aircraft were brought
down or damaged. One Hurricane was lost.

Mining in
Suez Canal.

Traffic has been resumed between Lake
Timsah and Great Bitter Lake. It is
hoped to resume traffic between Great
Bitter Lake and Suez p.m./6. There are
probably 5 unexploded mines between Lake
Timsah and Port Said.

2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 2 mines
in the Canal today.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

From the Merchant Service Seamen released at Mogadishu it is learnt that all were captured by one raider, the ATLANTIS, a 19 knot ship, largest gun 7.9 inch. The raider's method of operating is described in signals from C.in C. E.I. today. She left Germany on 20th March, 1940. It appears that she had no bases, overhauls engines at sea, and had no supply ship or tankers but relies on victims. Her shipping intelligence is excellent and C.in C. E.I considers codes in some British ships were captured.

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE was this evening ordered to patrol off the Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica, to intercept the Italian S.S. FELLA which is reported to be preparing to sail.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.S/M's
escorting
H.G. or O.G.
Convoys.

Your 1044/2. In the event of escorting submarines in H.G. or O.G. convoys while on Home stations becoming completely separated from Convoy and escorts, request their reports may be repeated to F.O. (S) so that necessary T.B.R. can be arranged.
(F.O.S. 1614/5).

Procedure
by S/M's
escorting
convoys.

Remarks on S.8's 0932/4.
(F.O.S. 1636/5).

ARIGUANI.
MAPLIN.
PATIA.

Will be used for special trade protection duties under C.in C. W.A.
(D.O.D.(F) 1643/5).

Movements.SUNFISH.

F.O.S. 1213/3. On leaving Stadtlandet, route as follows to Gap A.0300/11. Dive by day to eastward of western limit of East Coast mine barrage. When South of 058° N., do not attack S/M's unless their hostile identity is established.
(S.6. 1155/5 to SUNFISH).

FERNIE.

Your 1100/5 received. Chasers will be operating south of Q.Z.Y.171. OTUS leaves Needles 1745 for Dartmouth routed north of Q.Z.X.267. You are to keep South of 50° 15'N., until East of 001° 30'W and then enter by Q.Z.S.169 and 111. E.T.A. Nab 0800.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1503/5 to FERNIE).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)URGE.

Capt: (S) 6's 1155/5 F.O.S. 1152/3 is confirmed. When South of 058° N., Submarines are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is certain.
(S.9. 1845/5 to URGE.)

KELLY
KASHMIR
KELVIN.

Sailed 1940.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1956/5).

Operations.

3 Enemy
Torpedo
Boats.

Enemy Torpedo Boats LUCHS, FALKE and JOACHIM reported off Yarmouth at 2218.
(C.in C. Nore, 0023/5 to Capt: (D) 21).

→ 3. M.T.B's are remaining near Inner Gabbard until daylight then returning Harwich.

(C.in C. Nore, 0035/5 to D.21).

WORCESTER and WHITSHED proceed forthwith to patrol between 54 F Buoy and Aldeburgh light buoy. CAMPBELL and COTTESMORE to Northwards of 54 F. Buoy.

(C.in C. Nore, 0049/5 to D.16., D.21).

T.B. still 8 to 10 miles off Lowestoft at 0050.

(C.in C. Nore, 0053/5).

Following received at 0055. At 2118 G. M.T. LUCHS to JOACHIM visibility already very bad. At 2158 G.M.T. LUCHS to JOACHIM stop engines.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0057/5 to C.in C. Nore) V.4. proceeding to patrol gap E. along meridian 002° 30'E., with orders to attack returning enemy M.T.B. with torpedoes.

(C.in C. Nore, 0237/5 to D.16., D.21).

→ Arrivals M.T.B's 22, 31 and 32 at 0859/5.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0902/5).

/My 2140/4

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)

My 2140/4 to Whitehall W/T. First indication of presence of E/Boat was when torpedo surfaced 30 yards on starboard quarter having passed close astern. Course was altered 120° up estimated track of torpedo and speed increased. White smoke immediately sighted ahead and the area searched with starshell without result. E/Boat fired up moon. Distance from position torpedo surfaced to smoke screen 4000 yards. On moonlight nights recommend that ships on patrol 'O' keep about 2 to 3 miles to eastward of Swept Channel. Patrol established in accordance with your 0049/5. Nothing sighted. CAMPBELL's A.S.V. was out of action from 2020.
(D.21 1255/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Q.D.

Weather permitting operation Q.D. will be carried out today by four aircraft. (C.in C. Nore, 1240/5). My 1240/5. Operation Q.D. cancelled owing to weather.
(C.in C. Nore, 1751/5).

Operation "Claymore."
CLAYMORE.

Following details amplifying my 1623/4. (Capt: D.6. 1804/5 and 2025/5).
See Operations Volume.

My 1804. Passengers disposed as follows. (Capt: D.6. 1821/5).
See Operations Volume.

Maintain W/T silence.
(C.in C. H.F. 2309/5 to Capt: D.6.)

British Air Activity.Patrols.

Air Patrols 5/3. ^{"Air"}PAIR, S.A.2.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0809/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Patrols.
(Contd.)

Following patrols are being flown today,
~~STAB, BERT PAIR.~~ "fair"
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 0942/5).
 My 0809/5. Following additional patrols
 now in operation ~~TROST STAB BERT.~~ "Bert".
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1110/5).
 My 1826/4. Second code word should be
 "Scent", not "Wheel".
 (C.in C. Plymouth, 1520/5 to A.O.C. 10th
 Group).
 Patrol S.T.2. at 0730 and S.T.1 at 1500
 for 6/3.
 (N.A.Station, Stornoway, 1640/5).

Operation "Rover"
ROVER.

C. Carry out operation ^{"Rover"}~~ROVER~~ today with
 four torpedo A/C and two A/C with bombs.
 Operation not to be carried out unless
 weather conditions are suitable. D.112/5.
 (A.C.H.Q. Nore, 1112/5 to North Coates).

Escorts.

Expect A/S air escort of Whitley aircraft
 from 2000/5 to 0800/6.
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1625/5 to BEVERLEY).
 My 1500/5. Fighter escort tonight
 for "night" 2 Blenheims on distant cover
 1745 to 1945, close cover 3 Hurricanes
 1840 to 1940 1 Hurricane 1940 to 2030.
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1716/5 to CURACOA,
 GLEANER, VALOROUS).
 Expect A/S escort from Daylight/6.
 Hudson A/C.
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1930/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Boulogne.

1. Day 5/3. Six Blenheims with fighter
 escort carried out a most successful
 attack on the Docks at Boulogne.
 Bursts were seen on target causing an
 immediate fire on east side of Harbour.
 (H.Q.B.C. 0010/6).

Enemy Air Activity.MELMORE HEAD.
(Bombed 26/2).

Arrived rescue tug THAMES with MELMORE
 HEAD in tow.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0828/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy W.N.Odd.

Fighter aircraft is being sent to the assistance of Convoy ~~MATERIAL~~ "Material" (Lyness 0923/5).

No air attack now imminent on Convoy Material and ELECTRA. (Scapa W/T 0945/5).

Fighter aircraft has been sent to assist Convoy "Material". (Plymouth W/T 1259/5).

Air Attack imminent on Convoy ~~MATERIAL~~ "Material" and fighter aircraft have been sent to its assistance. (Lyness 1456/5).

No air attack on Convoy "Material". (Rosyth 1510/5).

Fighter protection has been despatched to odd numbered W.N.Convoy. (Lyness 1851/5).

SIMALOER
(Bombed 2/3).

Your 0900/5. Proceeding full speed from Rothesay to assist SIMALOER. (THAMES 0934/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1710/4. SIMALOER reported by aircraft 56° 36'N., 09° 46'W. at 1127/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025/5 to KINGCUP, SCHELDE).

Sailed Tug THAMES from Greenock to assist SIMALOER.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1030/5).

Your 1730. Continue search. Aircraft being sent tomorrow to assist you to locate SIMALOER.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2000/5 to KINGCUP)

German
Aircraft
Signal.

Weak signal intercepted by Peterhead at 0906 may be German Aircraft homing signal. No bearings.

(D.D.I.C. 1000/5 to C.in C. H.F. and D.6.)

SALADIN.

An Air attack is imminent. (SALADIN, 1058/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)LEEDS CITY
(Bombed 26/2).If ship is seaworthy proceed to
Rothesay Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0837/5).Orkneys.Help 080° Dunnet Head 36.
(North Costes, 1430/5).Convoy
F.N.Odd.Fighter aircraft has been sent to the
assistance of Convoy ~~NUMERAL~~ "Numerals".
(Rosyth W/T 1431/5).Cardiff
bombed.Attack on Cardiff carried out by about 100
aircraft, between 2024/4 and 0045/5. Dive
bombing with engines off at about 10,000
ft. incendiary and H.E's from 50 to
250 kgs. but few flares used. Attacking
from south, leading aircraft were
deflected to westward by A.A. fire and
dropped flares and incendiaries at
Leckwith (N.W. Penarth) which reduced
effectiveness of the raid. Railway
Station and few houses in Penarth damaged.
Little damage in Cardiff docks, but some
damage to dockwalls, Nos. 1 and 2 docks at
Mountstuart Dry Docks Ltd. Civilian
casualties. No naval casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1605/5).ANCHISES.
(Bombed
27/2).Following signal has been passed by
aircraft. From REPULSE to C.in C. W.A.
ASSINIBOINE has picked up thirteen
survivors from ANCHISES. 1345/5.
(C.in C. W.A. 1826/5).Convoy
E.N.Odd.Fighter protection has been despatched
to odd numbered E.N.Convoy.
(Lyness, 1852/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Cardiff.

My 0007/4. Ships not fitted with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1100/5).

Operation
Z.M.E.22.

To be carried out on night of 6/3 or as soon after as practicable. Particulars. (D.O.D.(H) 1215/5).

A/C Minelaying
in Thames
Estuary.

Summary of Enemy Aircraft activities in Thames Estuary for night of 4/5 March. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1223/5).

Sweep in
Harwich
Area.

Details. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1639/5).

Bristol
Channel.

At 1654/4 one Mine detonated by S.A. Gear. Details. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1715/5). Instructions for ships entering or leaving Bristol Channel. (D.T.D. 2313/5).

Harwich.

One Green Mine detonated at 1510/5. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1846/5).

RUTH,
ANGLIAN
COAST.
damaged.

II

Auxiliary motor Schooner RUTH 320 tons, Wooden hull, mined in 009° Bar^A L.V. 2 cables; and M.V. ANGLIAN COAST 594 tons mined in 075° Bar L.V. 2 cables. Both at 1815/4. Slight damage in both vessels in engine room. Both now in harbour, ANGLIAN COAST having returned under own power. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1848/5).

MOST SECRET.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/5. 5 detonated by S.A.Gear, 2 detonated by ships, and one spontaneous detonation.

Particulars.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1859/5).

Plymouth.
LUDA LORD,
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.

One acoustic mine detonated by S.A.Gear at 0826/5 in 007° Breakwater Fort 7 cables (approx). LUDA LORD damaged although gear appeared in perfect order. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1907/5).

Medway.
SILVERSTONE
(Tug) and
Barge
destroyed.

At 1530 today explosion occurred, believed due to ground mine, in Medway three miles above Rochester Bridge with following results. Diesel tug SILVERSTONE and Petrol Barge completely disintegrated, crew of eight missing. Oil Fuel barge salvaged after fire extinguished, Paraffin barge burnt out and sunk.

(C.in C. Nore, 2154/5).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Convoy.

W/T.I. suggests movements of a convoy northwards from the Bight commencing shortly.

(D.D.I.C. 1912/5).

E/Boats.

W.T.I. suggest E/Boat activity in Southern North Sea tonight.

(D.D.I.C. 1949/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.Freetown
bunkers.

Ships proceeding in convoy from Freetown to U.K. west coast ports require bunkers for a voyage of 4,000 miles at a speed of 7 to 8 knots plus at least 6 days margin at that speed. Masters of ships loading cargo for U.K. to be warned accordingly. (D.T.D. 1030/5 to C.in C's).

GOONAWARRA.

Swedish motor ship, due to leave here at dawn/7. (Consul Gottenburg, 1115/5 to D.N.I.)

Trade with
Sweden.

Resumption.
(The Times, 6/3/41).

Air Attacks
Southern
Irish
Sea.

My 1850/3. To enable air escort, if available, to be provided intend to sail signals and reports of sailings are to be repeated to C.in C. Plymouth. (C.in C. Plymouth, 1138/5 to N.C.S.O's).

M/V's with
Bofors
Guns.

Certain M/V's sailing in convoy are being equipped with Bofors guns manned by A/A personnel. Following rules for opening fire at sea accepted for such vessels only. (1) Any A/C clearly recognised to be hostile is to be engaged. (2) Any A/C not recognised as friendly which approaches within 1500 yards of a ship may be engaged. Vitally important that once an unidentified A/C is within this range there should be no hesitation in opening fire. (Air Ministry, 1245/5 to Bomber, Fighter etc., Commands).

Burning
of
Navigation
Lights.

Proposed instructions for Merchant ships in Area 1 proceeding independently in Western Approaches. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1718/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)General.
(Contd.)COLLEGIAN.

Was re-routed at 1431/4 but first intimation of this received by C.in C. W.A. by telephone at 1410/5. As a result two Hudsons of 18 group carrying out Sorties in a fruitless search. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/5 to Admty). Your 1837/5, this omission was due to an oversight. (D.T.D. 2312/5).

Coastal
Convoys.

E.N.81.

0100/5, escorts, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0211/5). List (0212/5 amended 1046/5 12 from Methil not sailed, 2 additional from Aberdeen. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1215/5 to PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE) 2 from Aberdeen not sailed. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1528/5 C.in C. Rosyth, 1725/5.)

F.S.86, 426

E.T.A. Sherkingham Buoy (ATHERSTONE, 0225/5). To proceed by Q.X.172 (C.in C. Nore, 0430/5) Instructions to ATHERSTONE. (C.in C. Nore, 1430/5). Position, 11 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2215/5).

7 M/V's.

"Chain" arrived less DOROTHY ROSE. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0911/5).

F.S.27, 427

33 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/5). Sunderland ships returning, missed convoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0952/5). 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1052/5) No ships from Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1117/5 to VERSATILE) Patrol 0 to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1246/5, 2307/5). Position. (VERSATILE, 2115/5). Proceeding. (VERSATILE, 2315/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.23. 423

2 Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0953/5).
Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber,
1131/5). Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil,
1910/5).

W.N.U.94.

1330/5 unescorted, 1 ship.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1001/5). Sailed
1350/5, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea,
1435/5, 1500/5).

F.N.25. 425

EGLINTON additional escort. (C.in C.Nore,
1002/5). Sailed 0830/5, 41 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1122/5). Patrol 0
to accompany. (C.in C. Nore, 1246/5, 2307
/5). List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1328/5).
Ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber,
1744/5). Orders to EGLINTON.
(C.in C. Nore, 2111/5). Numbers joining
from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2205/5 to
MEYNELL).

W.N.93.

Position. (A.C.O.S. 1035/5). E.T.A.
(LADY ROSEMARY 1435/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).
A/C Patrol. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1459/5 to
JASON).F.N.22. 422
F.N.26. 426Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1204/5)
F.N.26. EDWARDIAN additional escort under
orders of VERSATILE. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness
1232/5).

C.E.27.

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1300/5).

5 M/Vs.

Sailing 1730/6. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth,
1501/5).E.N.82.)
W.N.95.)HASTINGS additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1611/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

F.S. 28. 428 Sailed 1400/5. 16 ships. +(N.C.S.O. Methil 1615/5) Numbers joining from Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1700/5 to WALLACE) List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1732/5). 2 from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1747/5) EGLINTON additional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2111/5). 2 from Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2204/5).

W.N. 95. A/S escort sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1800/5).

"Watch". Sailed, additions, escort. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1838/5).

"Warrant". Sailed, escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1931/5).

8 M/Vs. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1933/5).

E.N. 80. Arrived, 1 exception. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1950/5). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 2355/5).

E.N.U. 80. TIRADENTES (Norwegian) increased to full speed and left convoy. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 2035/5).

Codes. Amending his 1110/28. (C.in C. Plymouth 2158/5).

8 M/V's. "Range". E.T.D. 1900/6. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2224/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.S.29.429 Sailed 2300/5, 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2315/5). COTTESMORE
and escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2356/5,
2358/5).

Ocean
Convoys.

H.G.54. BROKE, WOLSEY and VANITY left for,
from Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry,
0015/5).

S.L.S.65. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0937/5).
Destination changed. (C.In C. W.A.
0950/5).

S.C.23. Deletion from 1856/4. (C.in C. W.A.
0945/5 to AMBUSCADE ect.)

O.B.M. 295. 1800/7, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 10 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1302/5).

B.H.X.114. List. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/5).

O.G.C. 55. 0100/8. 13. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1225/5).

H.X.113. Escorts. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 1330/5).
Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax
1349/5).(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1821/5).

H.X.110. Your 1820/4. Amendments to list.
(D.T.D. 1403/5 to C.in C. W.A.)
1 destination. (D.T.D. 1919/5).
SILVER LARCH and escort group to meet.
(F.O.Iceland, 1713/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)H.X.115.
and later
H.X.dates.

Following alterations made on account of change in outward sailings. R/V date for H.X.115 will be put forward to 29/3 instead of 27/3, thereafter odd-numbered H.X.convoys will sail at 10 day intervals e.g. H.X.117 R/V date 8/4. R/V dates for even-numbered H.X.Convoys and all SC.Convoys will be unaltered. (D.T.D. 1405/5).

O.B.293.

Orders for disposal of escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1507/5 to WOLVERINE, etc.)

H.X.111.

Orders to escort to meet.
(C.in C. W.A. 1507/5 to WOLVERINE, BEVERLEY etc.) 1 Destination altered. (D.T.D. 1645/5 to AURANIA) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1745/5 to WOLVERINE, BEVERLEY etc.) VERITY to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 2142/5).

O.B.294.

Commodore in MARWARRI returning, defective D/G. (WITCH 1531/5 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool). Suggest he pick up convoy in PERIWINKLE or MONTGOMERY. (WANDERER 1544/5) CLAN RANALD to take over duty Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1641/5). Sailed, 1700/5, 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1726/5). List. (1727/5). Escorts left. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1734/5). MARWARRI sailed to join. (N.C.O.S.Mersey 1801/5).

O.B.O.294.

0830/6, escort PRIMROSE, 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1728/5).

H.X.109.

3 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1805/5).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2043/5).

MOST SECRET.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

S.L.66.

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D. T.D. 2012/5).

S.L.65.

Norwegian MORGENEN 180 miles ahead,
investigate. (C.in C. W.A. 2211/5 to
N.O.I.C. Barry).Military
Convoys.REPULSE,
FURIOUS,
ALCANTARA.Sailed REPULSE, FURIOUS, ALCANTARA, OTTAWA,
ASSINIBOINE, CHURCHILL, in accordance
with Admty. 2247/28/2, and 1329/4/3.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0030/5).VANSITTART,
LANCASTER,
CHARLESTOWN.VANSITTART, LANCASTER, CHARLESTOWN
sailed for special convoy.
(Capt: D. Londonderry 0600/5).AUSONIA,
MONTCLARE.Admty. 1333/1. Orders.
(F.O.C.N.P., 1542/5 to F.O.Iceland).W.S.7.All messages referring to Convoy W.S.7
are to be in cypher even if sent by T/P.
(D.N.I. 1926/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.WIVERN.

My 2340. WIVERN has not yet cleared her propeller.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0800/5).
My 2340/4. WIVERN sailed. Estimate she will contact convoy daylight/6.
(Capt: D. Londonderry, 1702/5).

CITY OF
CALCUTTA.

Met at 0400. Our p.c. and s. 256°
C.W.H. 30 180° 17 knots. Request further instructions.
(HURRICANE, 0825/5).

BOTWEY.

(British 5106 tons). Ashore Loch Ewe. Believed undamaged. Hope to refloat on today's tide.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1000/5).
My 1000/5. BOTWEY refloated apparently undamaged. Will be sailed for Belfast in E.N.81.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1502/5).

NORINA.
(Boom
Defence
Vessel).

My 1115/2. NORINA returned Oban owing to defects. Intend sailing for Aultbea 0730/6.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1000/5).

MARTINI.

(Dutch 362 tons). Foundered as result of collision with tanker SEPIA at 2353/3 in 49°53'N., 04° 58'30" W. Crew picked up by SEPIA and landed Plymouth.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1011/5).

ROEBUCK.

(Balloon Barrage Vessel) Sustained serious damage to bows in collision with S.S. SKJOLD. Collision bulkhead intact. Estimated time to repair damage about six weeks.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 1011/5).

TAKU.

If ENCHANTRESS is making good progress with TAKU with tug functioning, well and good, but if not, break W/T silence after dark tonight Wednesday, reporting briefly situation.
(C.in C. W.A. 1216/5 to ENCHANTRESS).

TAKU cont:

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.TAKU, cont:

All present but tow parted. Expected to pass again in daylight. My position is 056° 03'N., 012° 40'W.
(ENCHANTRESS 2335/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

DUNVEGAN.

(British 632 tons). Left Liverpool for Fairlie on 3/3. Now more than 24 hours overdue. Request urgent steps to locate this ship which has been fitted out as a floating laboratory and is of utmost importance to this establishment. She may be adrift with an engine defect. (C.A/S E.E. 1646/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Request immediate information if anything is known of this vessel.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1907/5).

CORFIELD.

CORFIELD at anchor damaged by S.S. CORMEAD. Estimated time for repairs one week.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1850/5).

FINA.

(Panamanian, 1387 tons). Received following message from aircraft. From M/V FINA. I have sprung a leak and require immediate assistance, message ends.
(Liverpool W/T 2053/5).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.→ OLYMPUS.P.c. and s. 039° 22'N., 011° 00'W.,
180° ten knots. E.T.A. R/V 0700/7.
(OLYMPUS, 0700/5 to Capt: S.8).
*See also next page*MIRROR
Cables.Departure 0530 cable ship MIRROR
escorted by LEYLAND to resume operations
on cables near Gibraltar.
(S.C.(I) Gib., 0850/5 to Admty).ANNE BERG
boarded by
alleged
A.M.C.Finnish steamer ANNE BERG reports being
boarded by believed British A.M.C. in
35.44 N., 12.49 W. at 0830/28, name
unknown, who removed route orders from
Funchal and gave new identification
signals.
(N.A.Lisbon, n 1117/5 to Admty).REPULSE
FURIOUS
DRAGON.Admty. 2144/15/2. Orders to REPULSE
and FURIOUS after operation "Tender".
REPULSE not to accompany FURIOUS for
operation "Summer", DRAGON to be
available. Destroyer escort.
(D.C.D.(F) 1303/5 to F.O.C.N.A.
C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.BIJOU BIHON.French ketch, 65 tons, on passage to
Cape Blanco, W.Africa, was intercepted
by CORINTHIAN about 200 miles W.S.W. of
Casablanca on 5/3 and sent to Gibraltar
(D.S. 548 6/3). D.O.R. 6/3).PANDORA
O.23.→ OLYMPUS.Position of submarine 1200/6 and
movements for next 24 hours PANDORA
with H.G.55, O.23 p.c. and s 039° 50'N.,
019° 20'W. 134° 7 knots, position very
approx. OLYMPUS 036° 30'N., 009° 00'W.
proceeding Gibraltar may be diving by
day.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1311/5 to N.A.Station).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.OLYMPUS,
SCOTTISH.

Your 0700/5 acknowledge. Adjust speed to pass through position F at 0700/6 and 350 Cape Spartel 10 at 0700/7 thence proceeding unescorted to Gibraltar. Report p.c. and s. if unable to comply within one hour of time stated. Trawler SCOTTISH leaving Gibraltar 0900/6 for patrol off Lisbon is routed North of Station.
(Capt: S.8. 1330/5 to OLYMPUS).

*See also previous p. 1/c*A/C
Squadrons.

Your 1959/28/2. 800 Sqn., is required as striking force in FURIOUS. "Skuas" are in any case considered too slow for use against German aircraft.
(D.N.A.D. 1535/5 to S.O.Force H).

REPULSE
escort.

A.M. 2247/28. FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND, DUNCAN will be sailed to R/V with you during daylight 9/3 and will pass through position 037° 20'N., 014° 37'W. at 0800Z-1/9 steering 308°.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1704/5 to REPULSE).

War Diary.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.DELHIC.in C. S.A. 1141/24/2 and C.in C. E.I.
0922/26/2.DELHI's programme will be as follows
(to Singapore).
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0940Z/5).PERSEUSOverdue shipping PERSEUS due Durban 1/3
from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.I) Capetown, 1005B/5).MARPESSAOverdue shipping Dutch MARPESSA due Capetown
1/3 from Singapore not arrived.
(S.O.I) Capetown, 1006/5) (Cancelled
0946/6). *See Page 202. & 203.*STRATHALLANRequest reply to my 1801/21 (Master of
STRATHALLAN to be asked if he was near
position 19.40 N. 18.25 W. because of report
of suspicious vessel by FRIESLAND).
(C.in C. S.A., 1026/5 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).W.S.6 B.
MAURITIUSArrival 0900/5 MAURITIUS escorting WS 6B.
(S.O.I) Freetown, 1035/5, to Admty.).ABGARA.
suspicious
master.Captain of friendly ship ABGARA is anti-British
and an obstructionist.
Suggest he be removed on arrival in Canada.
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1149/5, to Admty.).Enemy M.V's.Italian ships at Teneriffe painting upper
work grey and crews talk of sailing in March.
A.2 report states vessels will make for Dakar.
German RUDOLF ALBRECHT at Teneriffe is
loading 200 tons extra bunkers. A.2 report
states vessel apparently being fitted as supply
and prison ship for raider and that Master has
been instructed to be ready to sail by 5/3.
(C.in C. S.A. 1311N/5, to S.A. Sqdn.).

/ Falkland Islands.

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Falkland
Islands.

Defences, (R.A. S.A.D., 1342Z/5 to
C.in C. S.A.). See Operations Volume.

HIGHLAND
BRIGADE,
R.A.F. personnel.

Re onward passage Takoradi.
(C.in C. S.A. 1533/5, to D. of S.T.).

Italian a/c
from Natal.

Informed by Customs Officer, Italian a/c
leaving dawn/6 with 20 kilos platinum in two
cases aboard bought in Chile.
(V. Consul, Natal, 1650/5, to Admty.).

THUNDERBOLT
attacked by
CANTON,
24/2.

Your 1301/24/2 and your 1401/24/2 to
CANTON. Was THUNDERBOLT damaged in
encounter?
(C.in C. S.A., 1707N/5 to C.in C. W.A.).

CITY OF VENICE
route.

N.T. in W.D.
Your 1907/18, two positions M were given
CITY OF VENICE causing confusion in re-
routeing. My 1858/19/1, letters S T U V W
are to be used for special positions.
(D.T.D., 1713/5 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

CITY OF PARIS

A.T. 2332/4 para.2.
Sailing orders of CITY OF PARIS state that
she is to request to leave escort when in
15° W. off Sierra Leone and if granted is to
proceed (route), to Capetown.
Ship will not call at Freetown unless
circumstances require.
(D.O.D.(F) 2310/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.M.N.B.D.O.

Has sailed in W.S.6 for M.E.
Composition, etc, ~~passed~~ by Admty.
(War Office, 0250/5 to C.in C. M.E.)

Suez Canal
Nets.

Admty.1752/1. Only method which will
quickly and definitely fix position of
mines is nets suggested in my 1145/3.
Proposals.
(C.in C. Med. 0931/5 to Admty.)
(Original in Lion copy only) - page 171A

Swordfish
operation.
Tripoli.

10 Swordfish aircraft, will leave Malta
dusk tonight to lay "~~cucumbers~~" off
Tripoli (Libya) in addition to bombing
harbour.
(Cmdr.S.1. 1024/5 to UPHOLDER)

ROVER.

N.O.I.C. Port Said 1127/4 and my 1156/4.
Intend to sail ROVER 1200/8 to arrive
Port Said 1200/9.
(Capt.S.1. 1025/5 to C.in C. Med:)

Bulgaria.

Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria have
been broken off.
(Hd. of M. 1142/5 to C. in C. Med:)

Suez Canal
Nets.

Your 0545Z/3 Net can be made in India.
Request anticipated rate of production
and estimate of cost and brief
specification of proposed net.
(C. in C. Med: 1201/5 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No.268 up to 1200
hours 5/3/41.

Suez Canal
mined.

Night 3/4. 5 or 6 enemy aircraft
believed JU.88's dropped 10 or 12 mines
in Suez Canal. 3 exploded on bank,
remainder unexploded in Canal. No damage
reported.

/Italian

FOREIGN STATIONS
Mediterranean.

8.3.41

Lion

~~Saturday~~
Wednesday.

SECRET. MESSAGE IN 0931/5/March.

171A

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 8.3.41.

Recd. 2221.

NAVAL CYPHER D BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area,
C. in C. East Indies, F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Malaya.

~~547. Admiralty. Tel.~~ 1752/1. The complexity of the
problem does not appear to be fully realized.

What is required is some means of immediate and
absolutely accurate location of mines dropped in Canal
so that they can be dealt with in as short a time as
possible say 48 hours.

Trawling, all methods of sweeping and diving are
already in operation on an ever increasing scale but these
operations take time and moreover trawling is not reliable
in lower southern part of Canal where the bottom is
rubble and boulders.

It has taken up to 14 days to search Canal by these
methods so the enemy has only to send aircraft to lay mines
about every 10 days to close Canal indefinitely. This is
actually what is at present happening.

The only method which can be thought of which will
quickly and definitely fix position of mines is nets
suggested in my 1145/3.

It is fully realised length(s) of rope required
may reach astronomical figures and that the organisation to
work them will be large, but it has been ascertained
that nets can be made in Egypt and India. A width 150
yards has been decided as it is not considered necessary to
net the shallow waters extending from Bank.

In any event it is intended to proceed with
experiment and I again ask authorities to spend sum
originally suggested on whole net if experiment proves
successful.

0931/5

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. D.M.S.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (4)
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
Naval Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Hydrog.
O.I.C. (2)
D.T.M.
D.D.T.M.
File X.

M. (2)
C.C.S.C.
D. A/S W.
D. of L.D. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.S.D. 9.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Basement
D. of N.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D. of P. (3)
D.M.I. (1)

GJ.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (contd:)Italian
Warships
bombed.

Greece. 4/3. Acting on reconnaissance information 14 Blenheims escorted by 10 Hurricanes and 18 Gladiators attacked 6 Italian Warships bombarding coast road near Himare (South of Valona). Bombs fell around ships but no direct hits. Our fighters engaged enemy force of approx. 24 G.50's and CR.42's escorting warships destroying 5 G.50's and 3 CR.42's and probably destroying 2 G.50's and 1 CR.42. 1 Hurricane was destroyed and another missing. All our bombers returned safely.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1224/5).

Italian Cruiser
sunk by
UPRIGHT, 25/2.

(ARMANDO DIAZ)

Capt.(S) 1 1555/27/2 not to Admiralty. After careful investigation of eyewitness report I am definitely of opinion that warship hit was a CONDOTTIERI "A" Class Cruiser and was sunk. Mark VIII torpedo hit between A and B turrets.

Reasons that support supposition are as follows.
(V.A.Malta. 1319/5 to C.in C. Med:)

UPHOLDER
UTMOST
TRUANT
UPRIGHT

UTMOST, TRUANT, UPRIGHT leave Malta p.m./5 as follows.

You are not to (? contact) any submarine encountered at night in your sector nor approach within two miles of boundary between sector Y and Z.
(Cmdr.S.1. 1321/5, to UPHOLDER).

Italian
Ships
Sunk.

Your 1141/3 (no trace in W.R.) 21 have been sunk. List of dates, s/m's concerned, and particulars of targets.
(Capt.S.1, 1541/4 to F.O.S. recd.1352/5)
See Special Summaries Folder.

/ SICILIA

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (contd:)SICILIA Class
transport
sunk.

URSULA reports on 22/2 sighting one transport and one merchant vessel in escort of three GENERALE Class torpedo boats and air escort. Deeply laden transport of SICILIA Class 9600 tons was hit with one torpedo and 40 minutes later was seen with deck awash and sinking on an even keel. URSULA heavily counter attacked but undamaged. Considered ship was carrying troops. URSULA reports much air activity day and night. Position of sinking not yet received but submarine was operating close to West of Tripoli. Consider policy of issuing these successes should continue.
(C. in C. Med: 1353/5).

M.V.
Crews
Unsatisfactory.

Crew of M/Ship in Eastern Mediterranean giving considerable trouble. These are mainly Chinese and Indian or from German occupied countries. Satisfactory solution is British crews for transports and store ships which have to proceed to Malta or other ports where German air activity is great.
(C. in C. Med: 1455/5 to Admty.)

Malta Air
Raids.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600/5. All times G.M.T. 0506 to 0600 1 HE.111 approached the Island from NW at low altitude. Machine gunned Sunderland at moorings in St. Paul's Bay causing slight damage. Also dropped bombs some distance out to sea off Delimara. Fighters up no results. 1505 to 1600 large formations of enemy aircraft bombers and fighters raided island. Hal Far dive bombed, considerable damage, Kalafrana some damage. Communications cut.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1615/5).

/Swordfish

WAR DIARY.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd:)Swordfish
Flight.

Proposed operations for special Swordfish flight (not required at Massawa). (Air Min, 1745/5 to A.O.C. in C. M.E.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Suez Canal
Mines.

Situation 2000/5. Two mines exploded by aircraft at Km. 20 and 38.1. One mine exploded by LL sweeper at Km. 66.4. One mine located by divers at Km. 140.7 and will be destroyed by T.N.T. charge. Traffic between Lake Timsah and Great Bitter Lake has been resumed. Intend to endeavour to dispose of mines at Km. 140.2 laid on 18/2 by a series of depth charges and to resume traffic between Great Bitter Lake and Suez probably P.M./6. Probably still five unexploded mines between Lake Timsah and Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1953/5 to Admty. etc.)

Suez Canal
Nets.

1752/1 and your 1129/25/2 and 1145/3. Necessary experiments with nets approved but results should be reported for Adty. consideration before full scheme is proceeded with. (V.S.N.S. 2007/5 to C. in C. Med:)

MALLORCA.

My 1233/3. MALLORCA leaving Valencia 3/3 for Italy. Sailing cancelled at last moment by Spanish Govt. for political reasons. (Madrid, 2057/5 to Admty.)

Malta Air
Raid 28/2.

C.A.F.O 1170/40. (a) Valetta Harbours and approaches 0515/28. About 10 enemy aircraft, type unknown approached the Island from different directions. Mines dropped over the harbour from heights varying from 300 to 1000 feet. SULTAN engaged one aircraft with .5 and L.G. One probable. 2 fell in Valetta one exploded in air. Considerable damage some casualties. (V.A. Malta, 2204/5 to Admty.)

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

German Seamen in India.

Please say whether any and if affirmative how many German merchant seamen are interned at Ahmednagar. (W.O., 0103/5 to C. in C. India).

CITY OF DURBAN
CAPE SABLE.
BOTLEA.
KING GRUFFYD.

Have been commissioned as A.M.C's and have joined East Indies Station. They are armed with 4" guns, torpedoes and Depth charges. CITY OF DURBAN and CAPE SABLE are fitted with Asdics. Speeds. (D.O.D.(F) 0118/5 to E.I. and S.A. Stations). Admty 2116/2. Decided that CITY OF DURBAN CAPE SABLE, BOTLEA and KING GRUFFYD are to join C. in C. E. Indies, who is to take them under his orders. No longer desired to keep guns of these ships concealed except as may be necessary for sea-worthiness. (D.O.D.(F) 0119/5 to C. in C.E.I.).

See also p. 177

U.S.9.

Arrival 1015Z/4 AUCKLAND, departure SYVERN, KOS 19, KOS 21, KOS 23 for U.S.9. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0330Z/5 to Admty etc).

SHROPSHIRE.

Escorting VILLE DE STRASBOURG (C. in C. E.I. 0620, 0642/5) (See French Merchant Ships). *Page 180.*

Deterrent to Scuttling.

When enemy merchant ships are intercepted by aircraft, a strong deterrent to scuttling is likely to be effected by rendering boats at the davits unseaworthy with machine gun fire. This must be attempted only if the boats are empty and personnel in merchant ships are not endangered unduly. It should be possible to give warning burst of fire to induce personnel to take cover. (C. in C. E.I. 0638/5 to E.I. Sqn).

COBURG and KETTY BROVIG.
sunk 4/3.

My 1259 and 1400/4 Tanker was ex Norwegian KETTY BROVIG not ATHELKING. CANBERRA 2005/4 is being passed to addressees of this message. (C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/5 to A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. etc) See also 1750/5. *See also p. 177*

DORSETSHIRE.

My 0510/28 and Admty 1649/2. On completion of fuelling at Seychelles DORSETSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown via Mozambique Channel. Self refit will be carried out on arrival. (C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/5 to DORSETSHIRE)

/Norwegian seamen.....

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Norwegian
seamen at
Kismayu.

Your 2146/28/2. All passengers, incapacitated seamen, and Norwegians, from TIRANNA and TALLEYRAND sailed in TIRANNA. My 0810/1 para. B refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0810/5 to Admty). *See also next page*

Derelict
large wooden
boat.

Reported in 12° 51' N. 58° 15' E. on 24/2. (C. in C. E.I. 1206Z/5).

CANBERRA.
LEANDER.

My 0744/3. Cancel para 3. CANBERRA and LEANDER are to leave the area on 6/3, having searched for as long as possible that day, and proceed to search Nazareth Bank and Cargados Carakos area on 7/3 and then proceed to Mauritius to arrive 8/3. (C. in C.E.I. 1210/5 to Force V., N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

Mogadiscio
Merchant
Service
Captives,
raider's
record.

Your 1245/28/2. From interrogation of prisoners the replies to your questions are. 1. For attacks etc. see my 0810/1. For nominal list of prisoners see my 1840/3 1842/3. 2. Yes. 3. Raider was ATLANTIS F.E.C.B. No. 81. Full speed 19 knots cruising speed 6 to 8 knots. Broadside director controlled. After gun probably 7.9. Captain Rogge efficient cautious, fighting if cornered and intends to beat raider WOLF's record of 420 days at sea. Left German 20/3 procedure one week slow hunting, two weeks conditioning. Periodically overhauls alternate engines fully taking two weeks and scraping waterline maximum speed then 8 knots, gunnery good, vulnerable points between real funnel and Samson posts abaft bridge and A.A. control platform abaft funnel. Usual disguises P. and O. colouring with dummy A/S stem gun or as Japanese freighter. Approaches leisurely by day fast by night. Aircraft reported flown as routine on Fridays if weather favourable.

/5.....

War Diary.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).Mogadiscio
Merchant
Service
Captives,
raider's
record.
(contd).

5. No bases Indian Ocean but overhauled engines on lat. 31° S. between 65° E. and 80°.

6. Several W/T installations. One set below after Samson posts near waterline. (A) (B) and (C) communicated with BRITISH COMMANDER raider.

7. No supply ships or tankers, Relied on victims for fuel.

8. None except that another was operating Indian Ocean.

Apparently none shipping intelligence excellent. CITY OF BAGHDAD and RMMEL, capture prophesied two days previously on alteration course position suspicion strong that TIRANNA and TALLEYRAND taken this way, consider codes in some British ships were captured. Note ATHELKING was machine gunned and near missed by bomb. My 0810/1 refers. (C. in C. E.I. 1220Z/5 to Admty).

CAPE SABLE
BOTLEA.Admty 2116/2 and my 0602/3. May I use CAPE SABLE and BOTLEA as proposed? They will be ready to sail p.m/6 and 12/3 respectively and I would like to get them to the Red Sea as soon as possible. (C. in C. E.I. 1254Z/5 to Admty). *See p. 175*Massawa
targets.

Decided that in attacks on Massawa floating dock should no longer be an objective as hoped this may be of use to us. Same applies to merchant shipping as far as is possible. Air Ministry is issuing similar instructions. (D.O.D.(F) 1631/5 to C. in C. E.I) (Air. Min., 1744/5 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E).

Air
Operations.

Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T./5 2 Blenheim IV provided fighter escorts to convoy and two made A/S sweeps. Other operations abandoned due weather. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1636/5).

COBURG.
KETTY BROVIG.

My 2005Z/4, Your 0800Z/5. Main items of intelligence. KETTY BROVIG captured 2/2 in 04.30 S., 50° E. Met COBURG 2/3 near position where sunk. Prisoners (numbers) in LEANDER and CANBERRA. (CANBERRA 1750Z/5 to C. in C.E.I) Original in Lion copy only.

See also p 240A

East Indies.

Wednesday

177A

1750/5th March.

MOST SECRET.MESSAGE.IN.

From H.M.A.S. CANBERRA.

Date. 6.3.41.

Recd. 1044.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) by CABLE.

Addressed C. in C. East Indies. Repeated Force V.

IMMEDIATE.

My 2005Z/8. Your 0800Z/5, neither H.M.S. LEANDER nor H.M.A.S. CANBERRA heard any W/T transmission. Following are main items of intelligence, amplifying report will be forwarded on arrival in harbour.

(a) KETTY BROVIG was captured by disguised raider named TAMESIS or TONSBURG probably former on 2nd February in 004 degrees 30' South 050 degrees East. She was manned by original Chinese crew, and Germans from TAMESIS or TONSBURG and an unnamed raider known to Germans as number 16. The Captain joined from the latter about 13th February.

(b) TAMESIS or TONSBURG was fuelled from tanker in 007 degrees 30' South 063 degrees East about 12th February and on following day met unidentified German freighter, (almost TANNENFELS p.240A) certainly number 16, and British prize SPEYBANK, renamed SPRINGBANK, and believed to carry many British prisoners.

(c) About 16th February B/ fuelled pocket battleship probably South of Saya De Malha. No report received of pocket battleship fuelling since that date.

(d) Between 26 and 28th February B/, TAMESIS or TONSBURG, SPRINGBANK, a British tanker, possibly British COURIER, and number 16 were in company in position 014 degrees South 062 degrees East.

(e) B/ met COBURG on 2nd March near position where sunk, having arrived in vicinity on 1st March. COBURG supplied some officers and men to B/, and Norwegians were transferred from the latter.

(f) TAMESIS or TONSBURG nearest resemblance REICHENFELS. Deck plating probably gives flush lines. Large gun forward and aft. Circular funnel disguised oval.

(g) Number 16 is commanded by Rogge vide History of OLE JACOBS. From souvenirs found in Captain B's cabin she is almost certainly raider referring to, Admiralty General Message 671 A. Address of crew is Feld Post Nummer 15037 repeated 15037.

(h) H.M.S. LEANDER has 15 German officers, 33 ratings, and some Norwegian survivors. H.M.A.S. CANBERRA has three German officers, 14 ratings and 33 Chinese.

(i) Copy of D.M.S. Parts one and two and confidential appendix B, letter copy number 3520 were found in B/.

1750Z/5.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain., D.O.D.(F)., D.D.I.C.

	✓ KETTY BROVIG.	Note - Passed to Admiralty
1st Lord.	D. of P. (2)	I.P. for information by
1st S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	W.D. Colombo.
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	Duty Captain.
3rd S.L.	D.O.D.(H)	Head of M.
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (4)	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.D.I.C.	D.T.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.S.D.9.	N.L.O. Australia House.
A.C.N.S.(T)	D.S.D.	D.P.D.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	N.I.D.10 pay Commodore Wilson.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.M.T.B's.

Malaya tactical appreciation, ap. I para 7. Request I may be informed if there is any prospect of me getting M.TBs. asked for. The need for them is certainly considerably more now than it was last October. (C. in C. China 0903Z/5 to Admty).

America & West Indies.PRINS
WILLEM II.

My 2026/3 Dutch PRINS-WILLEM II arrived Demerara 4th. (S.O.I. Kingston 0014/5).

IMPERIAL
MONARCH.

Colon reports British ship IMPERIAL MONARCH struck bank and beached in Panama Canal, no report on damage yet. (S.O.I Kingston, 0808/5).

HARBERTON.

Br. s.s. HARBERTON arrived Halifax 4/3 with survivors from torpedoed ships. Although ship is bound Sierra Leone, M. of Shipping suggest that having arrived in Canada she should be loaded here. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1047/5 to Admty).

German
seamen.

Request if German Merchant seamen understood to have been interned in Newfoundland have been transferred to Canada. To enable us to show courtesy to Swiss Legation also say how many are held by you as direct captors as distinct from agents for U.K. Govt. (W.O. 1620/5 to C.G.S. Ottawa).

Tankers.

My 1607/29/1. Although tanker situation may improve later, now imperative that any delay to loading or sailing shall be reported immediately to Admiralty giving (a) reason (b) probable sailing date. Tankers for whom Admiralty have given specific destinations Scapa or Clyde or a port abroad are to be sailed without waiting for d.g. repairs. Admiralty oilers whose destinations are not known should be routed to convoy assembly port for orders. 4. Admty 1913/14/1, 1856/15/2, 1831/1/3 are cancelled. (D.T.D. 1734/5 to S.N.O. Curacao, N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

/T.C.10.....

War Diary.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).T.C.10.

My 1601/18/2. Can any forecast of possible date of T.C. ten now be given. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1814/5 to Admty).

DIOMEDE.To patrol to intercept Italian FELLA (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202/5) See Italian Merchant Ships). *Page. 181.*Australia.Pocket Battleship possibly going Far East.

C. in C. China's 0251/27/2.. It seems possible that Pocket Battleship may be proceeding to Far East by way of Timor Sea and assuming a speed of advance of 15 knots she would pass through that area between 7/3 and 9/3.

Request consideration to air search of Timor Sea area from 6/3 to 10/3 inclusive. (D.O.D.(F) 0115/5 to A.C.N.B). Your 0115/5 air search from 6/3 to 10/3 inclusive will be arranged. (A.C.N.B. 1356Z/5 to Admty).

HOBART flag.

Flag of F.O.C. Australian Sqn. transferred to HOBART 5/3. (A.C.N.B. 1336Z/5).

Australian minesweeper.Asking whether Australian Minesweeper can proceed between Colombo and Aden during Monsoon season and if so by what route. (A.C.N.B. 1426/5). *See p. 203, 0214/7.*

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.3.1941.
Wednesday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.RUDOLF
ALBRECHT.Your 1227/4 has been passed to C. in C. S.A.
(D.S.O. 0008/5 to F.O.C.N.A.).ATLAS,
SPARTA,
LISBOA.Arrived 4/3. (Consul, Valencia, 2400/5)
(D.S. 549).SPEZIA.

Left Valencia 4/3 for Marseilles (D.S. 549).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.

My 1742/3 and 1744/3. On relief by RANCHI SHROPSHIRE is to proceed to Durban so as to arrive 6/3. After embarking stores and if necessary fuelling. SHROPSHIRE is to proceed Simonstown with moderate despatch. RANCHI is to escort VILLE DE STRASBOURG to Durban. (C. in C. E.I. 0620Z/5). Your 2027/2. Regret no escort available except SHROPSHIRE whose arrival at Simonstown for refit most undesirable to delay further. Suggest armed guard or steaming crew be insisted upon if ship cannot be dealt with at Durban and you have no escort available. (C. in C. E.I. 0642Z/5 to C. in C. S.A). C. in C. E.I. 0642/5 no difficulty anticipated in dealing with ship at Durban as already done with SONTAY. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1859/5). C. in C. E.I. 0642Z/5. No escort available. After ship has arrived at Durban, if you have no local vessels for escort, arrange armed guard and steaming party if required to take ship to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 2045⁴¹/5 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

*See Page 71.*BELAIN
DESNAMBUC.
WINNIPEG.

My 1246/2. Unknown ship was possibly French s.s. BELAIN DESNAMBUC. French WINNIPEG St. Thomas (Virgin Is) 28/2 Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A. 1146/5 to N.A. Stn).

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LIGURIA.

Previously rumoured sunk early January when conveying troops to Albania, now stated by Italian prisoners in Greek hands to have had 1,500 Alpine troops on board, most of whom were drowned. (D.S. 549).

FIRENZI.

Acknowledged by Popolo D'Italia to have been sunk with a loss of 200 drowned between November and February (D.S. 549).

FELLA.

Charge d'Affaires San Jose reports activities of FELLA indicating preparing to sail. (S.O.E. Kingston, 1721/5 to Admty etc).

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol off Gulf of Nicoya Costa Rica to intercept FELLA reported preparing to sail. S.O.(I) Callao pass to DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2202/5 to DIOMEDE). *Pages 149, 179*

FRISCO.

Reporting Officer.

Ceara reports Italian Tanker FRISCO preparing to leave for Natal. Captain of Port Ceara has full knowledge of this proposed voyage. (Ends) I have no previous information. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1856/5 to Admty).

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0117.)	56.30 N., 15° W. Indefinite position.	}	D.S. 547, 5/3.
0050.)			
0649.	Canaries area. Very Indefinite position.	}	
2142.	Possibly 58° - 60° N, W. of 20° W. very indefinite.	}	D.S. 548 6/3.
2108.	47° - 49° N., 10° - 15° W. position indefinite.	}	
1000/1.	36° N., 6.30 W., between C. Trafalgar and Cadiz, EMPIRE STRAIT heard Reed horn during fog. (B.5) (D.S. 548, 6/3).		

Canary Is.

D/F Bearing indicates U-Boat in vicinity of Canary Island. (F.O.C.N.A. 1109/5 to N.A. Stn).

Freetown Area.

Your 1755/4. My 1408/3 as sent read one S.W. of Freetown. Estimate was based on report by CLAN OGILVY and attack by CLEMATIS 1900/23. Your 1046/3 was received later and accordingly my 1346/4 did not estimate any U/B in Freetown area. (D.D.I.C. 1338/5 to C. in C. S.A).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

D.D.I.C. 1339/5.

Submarines Attacked.

1016 Am over enemy submarine in position 53.36 N., 16.42 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (Duty "B" 32 Sqdn., T.O.R. 1432/5).
Aircraft over submarine 53.36 N. 16.42 W. at 1016/5.
(C. in C. W.A. 1157/5 to DIDO, PEGASUS, VANOC).

/1105.....

War Diary.

5.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (contd).

1105.

Aircraft attacked another submarine 53.55 N., 15.50 W. at 1105 (C. in C. W.A. 1226/5 to DIDO, PEGASUS, VANOC.).
(D.S. 548 gives position as 53.48 N., 16.16 W and states A/C B/10 dropped 2 d/c's, A/C K/502 dropped 1 d/c at head of oil patch left by U/B after submerging).
Aircraft have attacked submarine in (positions) at 1105/5 and 1016/5 Carry out A/S sweep through these positions on your way to meet H.G. 54. (C. in C. W.A. 1242/5 to SALADIN, BROKE).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.3.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Two divisions of A.A. ships are being based at Londonderry for A.A. protection of convoys.

TAKU.

TAKU, which reported herself disabled on 27/2 was sighted by aircraft search this afternoon, about 160 miles N.W. of Malin Head. ENCHANTRESS was towing her, but the tow parted yesterday.

U/Boat Campaign.*See page 212*

CLAN MACARTHUR reported that she was being gunned 150 miles S.W. of Iceland at 0835 today. CAPE COMORIN reported being fired at in the N.W. Approaches at 2145 today. Special measures by C.in C Western Approaches to anticipate an extreme effort by Germany to cripple shipping by U/Boats provide that the present proportion of harbour time to sea time will be slightly reduced, so that one group can be spared at a time to concentrate specially on U/Boat hunting.

Shipping in the South Irish Sea.

Owing to the aircraft menace which has developed within the last few days in the South Irish Sea, and in order to economise convoy escorts, C.in C. W.A. is adopting special measures for ships of 1600 tons and above. (p.196)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.3.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.

Bad weather restricted flying. A shipping protection R/C was flown in the St. Georges Channel throughout today. A patrol was flown in the Fair I. Channel and a R/C was made from Sogne Fiord to Stavanger. Special A/S escorts were provided for the nearer convoys in the N.W. Approaches. A patrol was flown twice along the coast of Brittany.

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft was bombed today by one Dornier. No Naval damage occurred, though trawler EVESHAM in the harbour has an U.X.B. between decks.

Six bombs were dropped harmlessly in Folkestone harbour this afternoon.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft tonight was suspected between the Tyne and Flamborough Head, and between Orfordness and Yarmouth.

MEXICO
sunk.

Norwegian tanker MEXICO in Convoy F.S. 27 was mined and sunk 18 miles E of Harwich this morning.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.3.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining. (Contd.)SUN VII
sunk.

Tug SUN VII (Govt. Service) was sunk by a mine in the Thames Estuary this morning.

KERRYADO
sunk.

KERRYADO (M/S Trawler) sunk off Newhaven this morning, it is believed by a floating mine.

Cardiff was opened to ships with I.C. engines this morning. Restrictions in the Firth of Forth were removed this evening. The Tyne, Blyth and Sunderland were closed this evening.

Mediterranean.

Rules have been agreed with H.Q. R.A.F. for engagements of unseen aircraft by H.M. ships at sea in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean.

Tunis.

The French Govt. having been notified H.M. ships and aircraft are to attack without warning any ship at night south of 35.46 N., whether within or outside Tunisian territorial waters.

ANFITRITE
sunk.

GREYHOUND this morning sank the Italian U/Boat ANFITRITE which attacked the Aegean Convoy in the Kasos Straits, east of Crete.

Bosphorus.
Suez Canal.
"Lustre" Force,
Convoy to Greece.N.A. Ankara 1253/6 should be noted.
Ci C Med. 1038/6 contains details of this movement.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.3.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

FORMIDABLE, escorted by 2 destroyers, left Port Sudan this morning and is due at Suez at 0600Z/7.

Enemy
M/V's
Massawa.

C.in C. East Indies considers that in view of the prospects of salvage if scuttled in harbour, it is better to induce enemy ships to remain at Massawa.

Australia.

~~The~~^o cover the possibility of the pocket battleship from Indian Ocean having gone to the Tasman Sea, AUSTRALIA is being moved from E.Indies Station to the Fremantle Area.

MOST SECRET.6. 3. 41.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.M/L's at
Newhaven.

Your 1650. It would be appreciated if the number of boats at Newhaven could be maintained at eight and M.L.125 and 128 retained until nearer the date of arrival of M.L. 143 and 144.
(V.A. Dover 1002/6 to R.A.C.F.).

M/L's at
Plymouth.

Your 1204/4. There is an urgent requirement for M.L's for escort and patrol duties in Western Channel and it would be appreciated if 1st. Divn. of 6th M.L.F. could be retained until Dartmouth and Falmouth Flotillas are complete. (C. in C. Plymouth 1332/6 to R.A.C.F.)

A/A ships
based on
Londonderry.

Cancel my 1939/30/1. The following A/A ships are to form 1st and 2nd A/A divisions based at Londonderry:-
1st. A/A Division. PHILANTE, WESTON, EGRET, FLEETWOOD, LONDONDERRY. 2nd. A/A Division. WOOLSTON, VICEROY, WOOLSEY, VIVIEN, VALOROUS, VANITY. 2. One or two A/A ships as circumstances permit are to be detailed for each mercantile convoy by N.O.I.C. Londonderry.
3. A/A ships are to join outbound convoy at Clyde R/V and are to proceed with corvettes to meet appropriate home bound convoy. They are to leave homebound convoy at North Channel and return to Londonderry. If North Channel is made during dark hours they are to leave convoy at dark before reaching North Channel.
4. First duty of A/A ships is A/A protection of convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1630/6.)

S/M's for
A/S and ASV.
Training in
W.A. Command.

D. A/S. W. 1648/6.

Shipping in
South Irish
Sea.

Measures to be adopted to safeguard.
(C. in C. W.A. 1705/6.) See Shipping.

/LA MELPOMENE.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6. 3. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy Contd.LA MELPOMENE.

Will be based on Harwich and attached to A/S Striking Force. She is to be employed on the same duties as Corvettes but is not to be employed outside sheltered waters if warning of heavy gales is received. (C. in C. Nore 2250/6.)

Movements.MATABELE.

Proceed passing ~~HOXA~~^{Hoxa} as requisite. R/V off Rattray Head at 1000 tomorrow with LONDON escorted by MASHONA and one destroyer from Nore Command. 2. On joining relieve destroyer from Nore Command and with MASHONA provide onward escort to Scapa. (R.A.D. HF. 1547/6 to MATABELE).

TUNA
LA MOQUEUSE.

R.V. LA MOQUEUSE in 260° Trevoise Head six miles at 0715/8th. (S.3. 1425/6 to TUNA.) Sailed LA MOQUEUSE in accordance with S 3's 1419/6. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2101/6.)

KASHMIR
KIPLING.

Sailed 1900. (C. in C. Plymouth 2030/6.)

Operations.Operation
Q.D.

Weather permitting Operation Q.D. will be carried out tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1135/6.) Operation Q.D. cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 1821/6.)

Operation
N.C.

Will be carried out zero time 0315. (V.A. Dover 1218/6.)

Operation "Claymore"
~~Claymore~~
(Hofoten Raid)

Scapa arrival C. in C.H.F. in NELSON C.S.18. in EDINBURGH, KING GEORGE V, NIGERIA, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, TARTAR, LEGION, ESKIMO, MAORI, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD, PUNJABI and ECHO (? QUEEN EMMA) and PRINCESS BEATRICE. (A.C.O.S. 1401/6.)

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escorts.

Expect Air Escort about 1100.
(C. in C. W.A. 0747/6 to REPULSE.)
2 Blenheim fighters from Sumburgh may
be expected about 0830. (C. in C.
Rosyth 0750/6 to C. in C. H.F.)
Expect A/S escort 1 Sunderland now.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0804/6, to WOLVERINE, etc.)
Friendly fighters are on their way to you
now. (C. in C. Nore 1323/6 to LONDON.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SIMALOER
(Bombed
2/3.)

R.N.O. Fleetwood reports that Icelandic
Trawler ~~D~~BALDUR, landed Master 6 officers
and 32 Ratings from SIMALOER.
(C. in C. W.A. 0852/6.)

Lowestoft
bombed.

1345/6 Dornier bombed Lowestoft. No Naval
damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1329/6.)
Lowestoft attacked 1610 by Dornier. Stick
of bombs all unexploded on Railway line,
and one between decks in ^Atrawler EVESHAM
inner Harbour. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1713/6.)

Medway
bombed.

~~Medway~~
~~Medway~~ Conservancy report Channel of the
river abreast Cuxton is completely blocked
by 3 sunken barges and three or four tanks
blown out of petrol barges. Also one tug
sunk and lying bottom upwards. ~~15.15.41~~
Conservancy request immediate outside assis-
tance to clear river either by naval or
commercial sources. Wrecks are about 3
miles above Rochester Bridge. Request
immediate assistance be given to enable
river to be cleared. (C. in C. Nore 1533/6.)

/LEEDS CITY.....

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

LEEDS CITY.
(Bombed
26/2.)

Arrived Clyde Tug SUPERMAN with LEEDS CITY in tow, escorted by MAN O' WAR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1543/6.)
By magnificent team work of WINCHELSEA, MAN O' WAR, Tug SUPERMAN and s.s. LEEDS CITY the latter ship was safely brought to Port and a cargo including Locomotives valued in all at over one million pounds was saved. WINCHELSEA first took LEEDS CITY in tow until all tows were parted and she was forced to return for fuel. MAN O' WAR stood by LEEDS CITY during tempestuous weather until Tug SUPERMAN arrived to resume the tow. These efforts would have been of no avail except for the exemplary behaviour of the crew of LEEDS CITY although the engine - room was flooded to a depth of 12 feet every man remained in the ship at his post. (C. in C. W.A. 1920/6.)

KINGSTON HILL.
(Bombed
22/2.)

At Loch Ewe. Reports indicate vessel can raise steam if oil and water at present in engineroom can be got rid of. Assistance of RANGER may be necessary. Please instruct your Officers render all possible assistance avoid necessity towing this ship to repair port. (LITHGOW 1625/6 to S.V.D., Adty.).

Dover and Folkestone.

At 1140 today U.P. Battery fired two salvos of thirty rounds each at JU 88 flying at about 3000 feet. Aircraft took avoiding action. At 1625 single aircraft dropped six bombs between end of Folkestone Jetty and Blockship. Tests disclose controlled mine-field unimpaired. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1839/6.)

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

MEXICO.
(In Convoy
F.S#27.)
sunk.
Tug SUN VII.
sunk.

(Norwegian, 3017 Tons) Mined in 51° 53' N.,
1° 37' E. Ship is sinking. WITHERINGTON
standing by. (VERSATILE 0930/6.)

MEXICO mined in 100° 1.2 miles from South
East Shipwash buoy. Survivors 23. Missing
presumed killed 10. Ship still afloat
with stern well underwater. (WITHERINGTON
0950/6.)

Tug being sent from Harwich. Get ship
out of channel if possible. Buoy position
of she sinks. (C. in C. Nore 1017/6, to
VERSATILE.)

Report whether Mine is considered to have
been grounded or moored. (C. in C. Nore
1029/6 to WITHERINGTON.)

Departure Tug KENIA at 1043/6 to assist
MEXICO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/6.)

Your 1017. Trawler PAUL RYKENS is standing
by to buoy position if necessary. Salvage
appears unlikely. (SHELDRAKE 1100/6 to
C. in C. Nore.)

Arrived Sheerness WITHERINGTON 1520.
(C. in C. Nore 1634/6.)

Asking for fighter protection for KENIA with
Salvage Officer on board at 0700/7, escorted
by LE TIGER to report on condition of wreck
of MEXICO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1721/6, to
C. in C. Nore.)

At 0920 today diesel engined M/V MEXICO
sunk by mine (probably acoustic) in 105° 9
cables from S.E. Ship Wash Buoy. 21
survivors (including three injured) - landed
at Sheerness by WITHERINGTON. Believed
10 missing. Ship was in F.S:27 - wreck
fore part showing. Southend tug SUN VII also
sunk by mine at 1025 in 1.2 miles 060° North
Knob Buoy. Following six survivors landed
at Sheerness by yacht ALXOQUETTE II.
Believed five missing. (C. in C. Nore 2301/6.)

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Sweep in
Harwich
Area.

Continue to sweep to 54 B Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1113/6 to SEAGULL.).

Cardiff.

My 1100/5. Ships with I.C. engines may now enter and leave Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1143/6.)

Thames
Approaches.

CORDELA reports 3 mines detonated.
Details.(C.O.I.C. Harwich 1227/6.)

S.N.4.

Proposed alteration in siting. (V.C.N.S. 1233/6 to RAM). See Operations Volume.

Rona/Faroes
Minefield.

Your 0935/3/3/41. In view of fact that incoming trade may have to use this area laying of this field cannot be considered at present. (V.C.N.S. 1239/6 to R.A.M.)

Enemy
Mining off
Norway.

Your 1550/4, para. one. This is appreciated, but may it not be in German interest to extend the original Russian minefields in same way as British filled in gaps in German minefields off East Coast in early part of the war.

2. Apart from Press stories of floating mines off Norwegian Coast, only information received concerning the protective mining of Hardanger and Bergen Fjords - see my 1138/30/1, and 1515/23/1.

3. Only evidence of minelayer is report of **ALBATROS** (ex OLAV TRYGGVASON) which was sent to Kiel where stern was lengthened. Poop raised, a.a. guns fitted. She was at Bergen 20/2 then Haugesund where British aircraft damaged her and she is now under repair at Bergen.(N.A. Stockholm 1644/6.)

/LONDON.....

War Diary.

6. 3. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

LONDON.
M/S.
Arrangements.

Minesweeping arrangements for passage of LONDON in Thames Estuary were as follows. Sweeps were timed to take place at as short an interval as practicable before passage of LONDON. It is evident that some of the mines laid by aircraft on evening of 4/3, became active this morning. (C. in C. Nore 1750/6, to Adty.,)

KERRYADO.

(M/S. Trawler) One Chief Skipper and eleven ratings saved from KERRYADO being cared for at Newhaven. Ten believed lost. Vessel was on passage from Dover to Swansea via Portsmouth. Struck what was believed to be a mine at 1051/6. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1757/6.)
KERRYADO sank at about 1100/6 in 160° Newhaven, 8 miles. Cause of loss uncertain but believed to be floating mine. Reference V.A. Dover's 0305/6. M/ST. LOIS sank a drifting V type German mine at 1020/6 in 144°, Beachy Head 6.5 miles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1843/6.)

Firth of Forth.

Cancel my 1042/4/3. Both sides of Q.Z.S. 175 are now open. (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/6.)

Falmouth.

Mine detonated while mine recovery party was working on it. Casualties will be reported. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1844/6.)

Tyne.

Tyne closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2145/6.)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6. 3. 41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Blyth.Port closed owing to enemy minelaying.
Time of opening uncertain.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 2217/6.).Sunderland.Port of Sunderland closed owing to
suspected minelaying. (N.O.I.C.
Sunderland 2255/6.)North
Sea.At 1150/6. PRU. A/C, saw 2 Mines about
one mile apart in 52° 28' N., 3° 22' E.
(H.Q.B.C. 0012/7.)S.N.4.Your 1902/3. Concur C.S.2. in GALATEA
with AURORA will provide close escort.
Do you require additional destroyers for
your screen. (C. in C. H.F. 1843/6 to
RAML.) *See p. 86.*S.N.Your 1843/6. No additional Destroyers
required unless defects develop in those
at present doing escort duty for C. in C.
W.A. or in CASTLETON due to leave Plymouth
tomorrow. (RAML. 2138/6 to C. in C. H.F.)S.N.4.Intended to carry out as follows.
(RA.M.L. 2153/6.) See Operations
Volume.Enemy Intelligence.E-Boats.E-Boat activity suspected near Aldeburgh
L 298 at 2110/5. (C.in C., Nore 0059/6
to D.16.).BOCKENHEIM
TARONGAMy 0205/1/3 and 1609/15/1. It is reported
that Wilhelmsen ships BOCKENHEIM ex TAIPIPING
and TARONGA may leave Oslo 11/3 escorted by
armed whale catchers. Both ships well
equipped, but it is not certain whether as
ordinary A.M.C.'s or commerce raiders. B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 1130/6).Suspicious
trawler.Your 1026/6. ? 1829/6 for COLLEGIAN
intended. I am suspicious trawler reported
by COLLEGIAN. (LORD AUSTIN 2220/6 to S.O.,
Trawlers N.P.).

War Diary.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

D/G Repairs.

Your 1232/1. Only minor d.g. repairs can be carried out at Oban and Loch Ewe. Ships developing defects must not be specially diverted to these ports for repair. Ships given destinations or diversions to these ports are those intended for East Coast discharge. At present they may safely continue as far as Methil where defects will be made good. My 2008/26 is confirmed. (D.T.D. 1322/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

A/A Divisions,
Londonderry.

Organisation (C.in C. W.A., 1630/6 - see Policy).

Irish Sea Area.

In view of menace of a/c attack in South Irish Sea and to economise escorts, following measures are to be adopted for ships of 1600 tons and above. Shipping sailing independently from Liverpool and ports East of Isle of Man bound for Bristol Channel Ports or south thereof is to proceed to Holyhead and thence to be escorted to join up with the Bristol Channel portion of the next inward bound convoy. Any shipping from E.N. convoys and independent ships sailing from Clyde or Belfast bound for ports south of Liverpool proceed to Belfast thence to be sailed to join the Bristol Channel portion of the next inward bound convoy. (C.in C. W.A., 1705/6, to C.in C. Plymouth, etc.).

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.27.427

Proceeded at 2315/5. (C.in C. Nore to D.16) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1001/6) Wash ships arrived, 1 exception (N.C.S.O. Humber 1140/6) Position, 16 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1257/6) Arrived less MEXICO (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2036/6).

F.S.28.428

37 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/6) Absentees (0948/6) 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1746/6) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1942/6).

War Diary.

6.3.1941.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.23. ⁴²³ Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0949/6
N.C.S.O. Tyne 0950/6).

F.S.26. ⁴²⁶ Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber,
1001/6).

E.N.82. 0800/7. Escorts. 21 ships. Code,
"Mission". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1005/6
1 ship for. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1055/6).

W.N.96. 1000/8. Escorts. 6 ships (N.C.S.O.
Clyde, 1031/6).

E.N.81. Position (A.C.O.S. 1039/6) E.T.A.
(GAVOTTE, 1900/6).

W.N.94. Position (A.C.O.S. 1101/6).

F.S.30. ⁴³⁰ Cancelled (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).

F.S.29 ^{429 A} (S) Additional convoy 2300/7, SOUTHDOWN
(C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).

F.N.29. ⁴²⁹ Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/6).

F.N.25. ⁴²⁵ List (N.C.S.O. Humber 1202/6) Humber ships
arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1450/6).

E.N.U.81. 0400/7 unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O.
Aultbea 1224/6) 2117/6 and 2118/6,
cancelled (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 2155/6).

W.N.93. E.T.A. (LADY ROSEMARY, 1400/6) Arrived
1700/6 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1716/6).

F.S.29. ⁴²⁹ Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1504/6) COTTESMORE
to overtake (C.in C. Rosyth 1609/6)
5 ships from Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber,
1701/6) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1743/6)
Blyth absentees (C.in C. Rosyth 2035/6).

E.N.80. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1512/6).

"Warrant" Arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1700/6).

"Wheel" Sailed (N.C.S.O. Falmouth, 1801/6) List
(1814/6).

C.W.28. Sailing 9/3. Escorts. (C.in C. Nore
1820/6).

War Diary.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

"Range" Sailed less 1 tanker (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1851/6) List (1907/6).

W.N.95. 1830/6, escorts, 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1905/6).

F.N.27. 427 LA MELPOMENE to join (C.in C. Nore 2252/6, Cdre i/c Sheerness, 1105/7).

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C.294. 0204/6, NASTURTIUM, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0212/6) List (1045/6).

H.X.111. Destinations amended. (C.in C. W.A. 0902/6) (D.T.D., 1536/6).

O.B.294. PERIWINKLE sailed to overtake (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0930/6) VIVIEN sailed for (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1145/6) WITCH and WANDERER sailed for. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1438/6).

S.L.65. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1030/6) Investigate why MORGENEN left. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/6 to N.C.S.O. Belfast) Ships for Barry to be escorted. (C.in C. W.A. 1830/6 to DIDO).

S.C.25. Advance sailing telegram (S.N.O. Halifax 1229/6).

H.G.54. Destinations (D.T.D., 1230/6, 1232/6) Not met. Position (BROKE, 1358/6) Not met. (SALADIN, 1430/6) Met, also SALADIN, etc. (BROKE, 1746/6).

H.X.109. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1340/6).

H.X.110. Not met, position, weather (HAVELOCK 1402/6) Destinations. (D.T.D. 1750/6, 1753/6, 1755/6.).

O.B.289. Commodore's remarks on U/B attacks (R.A.3, 1421/6, see America and West Indies.).

O.B.C.295. 0045/9, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1515/6).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

6.3.1941.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean Convoys. (Contd.).

- S.C.23. Destinations (D.T.D., 1749/6 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1751/6 to Belfast, 1754/6 to F.O.I.C's Cardiff and Milford H.).
- O.G.55. ARAB sailed for Oban portion (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1845/6).
- O.G.M.55. 1903/6, YORK CITY, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 1920/6) List (1924/6).
- H.X.114. Destinations (D.T.D., 1942/6).
- S.L.68. Destinations (D.T.D. 1943/6).
- S.L.67. See North Atlantic, re ARETHUSA escort.

Military Convoys.

BRITANNIA Sailing date and speeds.
THEMISTOCLES (D.O.D.H. 1904/6) See Operations Volume. Page 118.
CITY OF HONG
KONG

Service Sailing dates and destinations. (D.O.D.H.
Personnel 1905/6) See Operations Volume.
Ships.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY

6.3.1941.

Thursday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.FRANKLIN.

Intend deferring sailing for 24 hours to enable effective repairs to be made. (FRANKLIN 0725/6)

DUNVEGAN.

My 1646/5. Arrived Fairlie. (Capt. A/S E.E. Fairlie 0830/6)

BALTARA
(Convoy H.G. 54)

(British, 3292 tons) Detach one Trawler to stand by BALTARA requiring immediate assistance in 051° 26' N 022° 27' W. Inform Trawler that it is extremely unlikely that a Tug can be sent. Trawler report name of when well clear of convoy. (C.-in-C. W.A. 0847/6 to SALADIN) BALTARA sinking slowly 51° 25' N. 21° 38' W. (Liverpool 1037/6.) My 0847/6 and 1209/6. Latest position of BALTARA at 1340/6 G.M.T. 050° 50' N. 022° 27' W. Drifting southerly 1½ knots. (C.-in-C. 2151/6 to SALADIN)

SONIA MAERSK

My 1200/28th. Possibility of refloating SONIA MAERSK. Am doing necessary repairs at our risk. Boiler engine room and after part now clear of water. Hole in number one hold appears repairable. (D.S.T.O. Iceland 0935/6)

FINA (Panamanian)
(S/S 1387)

Detach ROCKINGHAM to proceed to 055° 36' N. 012° 42' W. to search towards north channel for steamship FINA requiring assistance in this position at 1638/5th. (C.-in-C. W.A. 1115/6 to VANOC)

BULOLO.

Reference BULOLO which arrived yesterday and C.-in-C. S.A. 1625/7/2 and 1152/21/2. Examination indicates at least three weeks work involved. Request immediate decision whether this work should be undertaken. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/6)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.BRAKE

German tanker, now confirmed was continuously at Ferrol from 12/12/40 until sailed on 2/3/41 for Bilbao. Identification at Cherbourg on 29/12 from an a/c was therefore incorrect. (D.S. 549).

EMPIRE STRAIT.
s/m report.

N.A. Madrid 2300/3. (Report from Master of British ship EMPIRE STRAIT of Reed Horn blown during foggy period believed to be enemy s/m.) This was not a British s/m. (S.O.I.Gib.1012/6). Your 2330/5 (No trace in W.R.) ship sailed 5/3 prior to receipt of instructions with bunkers for Genoa only. Master states ship would be proceeding Yugo Slavia from Genoa. (S.O.I., Gib. 1110/6 to Admty.).

ARETHUSA
S.L.67.

Admty. 1915/22/2. On arrival at 051° 00' N. ARETHUSA estimates 450 tons of fuel remaining. From this position could proceed to Scapa Flow at 18 knots and arrive estimated 175 tons of fuel remaining. Request instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6, to Admty.).

ANNE BERG.

N.A. Lisbon reports Finnish ANNE BERG reported being boarded by believed British A.M.C. in 035° 44' N. 012° 49' W. at 0830/28 and removal of route orders from Funchal, also new identification signal. On next occasion breaking W/T silence or on arrival in harbour report if any knowledge of this occurrence.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232/6 to N. Atlantic ships).
N.A. Lisbon 1117/5.
Can you throw any light on this?
(D.O.D.(F) 2227/6 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P.)

REPULSE,
destroyer
escort,
DUNCAN
VELOX.

Admty. 1303/5.
(1) By reducing screens for REPULSE and MALAYA to minimum and assuming FAULKNER and FORESTER as previously arranged immediately require boiler cleaning on arrival, it will be possible to sail DUNCAN and VELOX to arrive Freetown three days before REPULSE is due.
Necessary to draw both shafts on FIREDRAKE estimated time one month.
FURY is refitting (estimated date to complete).
Of seven destroyers available after departure DUNCAN and VELOX, none will be available between (dates) for RENOWN, STRATHMORE, etc.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1626/6 to Admty.).

/ ARK ROYAL bombs. ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)ARK ROYAL
bombs.

My 1525/26 (bombs used by ARK ROYAL's aircraft in attack on Leghorn). Result of investigation as follows. Full written report follows. (S.O. Force H., 1626/6 to Admty.).

French
Convoys.

Gibraltar 1230/6 French survey ship AMIRAL MOUCHEZ French ships OUED TIFLET, STRABON, SINAI, PIERRE-POCHOLLE, TATIANA, all full, passed eastbound. French armed trawler LAFAYETTE French ships AISNE CRITON, three motor launches on deck, both light, passed westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1655/6, to Admty. etc.). (D.O.R. 7/3).

Operation "Ration".
RATION.

To be put into effect at earliest opportunity. It would appear that forces will be available between (dates). Request your intentions. (D.O.D.(F) 1814/6 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SHEFFIELD

A.T.1251/2 SHEFFIELD is required to act as ocean escort for MAIDSTONE and s.s. HIGHLAND MONARCH due to leave U.K. for Gibraltar about (date). SHEFFIELD should therefore be sailed to the Clyde. (D.O.D.(F) 1903/6 to F.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.PERSEUS

Your 1005/5 (Overdue Shipping) PERSEUS is at Accra. (S.O.I. Freetown 0938/6 to S.O.I., Capetown).

MARPESSA
PORT ELIZABETH

Overdue ships. Cancel my 1006/5* MARPESSA 852 PORT ELIZABETH 914. (S.O.I.) Capetown, 0946/6). *See Page 208.*

VIVA

Overdue shipping, cancel my 1042/2, VIVA arrived Capetown. (S.O.I.) Capetown, 0951B/6, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CHATEAU-ROUX.

Your 1533/4. (1) None available
 (2) Position C 038° 10' N. 029° 56' W.
 (3) Impossible to estimate within two or three days. If able to make 6.5 knots, date should be 29/3. At 6 knots date would be 31/3. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1119/6).

VILLE DE STRASBOURG

My 2045/5 and your 1859/5. Ship may remain at Durban if you are satisfied she can be dealt with satisfactorily there. Otherwise as in my 2045/5.
 (C.in C. S.A., 1705N/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA

Admty. 1653 of 23/2. Orders.
 (D.O.D.(F) 1832/6 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C. E.I.).

COMMANANT DUBOCNARKUNDA

- N.T. in W.D.
 Your 1604/4. No escorting force is available and NARKUNDA should be sailed independently. (C.in C. S.A., 1859N/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DELHI

My 0940/5, DELHI sailed from False Bay at 2000/6 for Durban. E.T.A. 0600/10.
 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2030Z/6, to Admty.).

Mediterranean.Action Against Enemy A/C's.

My 1212/26/2 and A.G.M.762 A 10/2. Following rules for engagements of unseen aircraft by H.M. Ships at sea in Eastern and central Mediterranean have been agreed with H.Q. R.A.F. (C.in C. Med., 0050/6, to Admty.).

Greece.

Re Disposal of prisoners of war in Greece.
 (W.O., 0100/6 to C.in C. M.E.).

/ Tunis.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Tunis.

My 1800/2. Notification has now been made to French Govt. H.M. Ships and aircraft should therefore attack without warning any ship at night south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside Tunisian territorial waters. Please inform H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (Head of M. 0857/6 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Mail Delayed.

Information gleaned from Press that an Air Mail to Egypt despatched from London on 10/1 has been delayed through enemy action. Request such notification may be sent by Admiralty as early as practicable as promised in your 1558/28/11/40. (C.in C. Med., 0955/6, to Admty.).

"Lustre" Force.

C.in C. Med., 1038/6 See Med. Vol.

Suez Canal mines.

5/3. One sweep by 2 D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded 2 mines in Suez Canal. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1219/6, to Air Min.).

Bosporus.

N.A. Ankara 1253/6 see Mediterranean Volume.

DELOS (German)

5/3 arrived Istanbul. (Galata 1316/6.).

RORQUAL.

Of utmost importance that no hint of nature or place of your operation should become known. Your operation should be referred to as normal patrol. (S.1 to RORQUAL, 1552/6.).

Malta.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600 6/3. Sunderland patrolled Western Ionian Sea. No ships seen. Four Air alarms to-day when small number of enemy aircraft in the vicinity. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1630/6.).

ATLAS

Left 6/3 for Marseilles. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1745/6 recd. from M. of S. at 2005.).

ATLAS
BELLONA
renamed

....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)ATLAS ✓
BELLONA
renamed
SALTA ✓
JESUS
ANTONIO

Barcelona report German S.S. ATLAS and BELLONA are now believed to be calling themselves SALTA and JESUS ANTONIO. First named also reported by other source. (C.3.) (N.A. Madrid, 1815/6, to S.O.I. Gib.).

East Indies.

Request you will comply with para. B. of my 0128/6 to A.C.N.B. (see Australia). (A.C.N.S.(F) 0129/6 to C.in C. E.I.).

COBURG
and
KETTY
BROVIG
sunk.

My 0710/5. CANBERRA 1750/5, four parts is being passed to addressees by L/T. My 0800/5 enquired if Germans were able to communicate news encountered to anyone else. Do not consider W/T conditions at time were suitable for either ship to communicate with Germany without considerable difficulty. Estimate probability of the Germans being unaware of encounter as 80%. (C.in C. E.I., 0346Z/6, to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C.O.I.S. Singapore, Admty., etc.).

FORMIDABLE
JUNO
GRIFFIN

Departure 6/3 0330Z FORMIDABLE, JUNO, GRIFFIN. E.T.A. Suez 0600Z/7. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0400Z/6, to Admty.).

Italian
preparations
to scuttle
ships at
Massawa.

(S.O. (I) Aden reports that Native Sources state Italian preparations already made to scuttle all ships including Warships at Massawa, and Italians may send families to Yemen on steamers displaying Red Crosses in which Officers would escape. C.3. (C.in C. E.I. 0402Z/6.).

RAMB I.
COBURG
KETTY BROVIG

Your 1946/3. I agree. Interrogation of prisoners gives no indication that RAMB I was co-operating with other raider. Movements of RAMB I and COBURG may indicate that remaining ships will attempt to escape if these two had been successful. Prisoners from RAMB I state that ship was prepared for scuttling and in any case ships will probably attempt to scuttle to avoid capture.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)RAMB I
COBURG
KETTY BROVIG
(contd.)

In view of possibility of salvage if scuttled in harbour, it is considered desirable to induce enemy ships to remain in Massowa. See my 0402/6/11. Your 1825/15. It might assist if capture of five ships from Kismayu is now published as well. The presence of these ships in Mombasa must be widely known now. Consider that sinking of COBURG and KETTY BRÖVIG should be withheld for the present.
(C.in C. E.I., 0412Z/6, to Admty.).

Mining in
Suez Canal.

Request reply to my 0545/3.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., to C.in C. Med. 0515/Z/6).

PROTECTOR (Lug)

Your 1108/2. Concur PROTECTOR can be most usefully employed in Suez Canal for present. Early arrival of dredger SUPERWORKER at Aden however is an urgent requirement so that PROTECTOR tows it to the Canal area now if possible. (C.in C. E.I., 0720Z/6, to C.in C. Med.).

Mogadiscio.

My 1206/27/2. Four piers exist. (details). Craft now available Mogadiscio and Merca. Shore Batteries at Mogadiscio. Indications that Field Artillery was used for coast defence purposes.
(C.in C. E.I., 0738Z/6 to Admty.).

CITY OF DURBAN.

Admty. 0119/5 and my 1258/5. Request CITY OF DURBAN be ordered to return to Mauritius forthwith. I can only communicate with her at present in M.N.C. which I wish (?to) avoid using if possible.
(C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/6, to Admty.).

Embarkation
of troops for
M.E.

Amendment to 0833/6/1.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1051Z/6, to C.in C. E.I.).

RANCHI.

My 0620/5 Para 2. After completing with fuel and disembarking steaming party at Durban, RANCHI is to proceed on patrol in accordance with my 0628/2. (C.in C. E.I., 1206Z/6).

War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)CAPE SABLE.To leave Colombo at 0330Z/7 for Aden.
Route. (C.in C. E.I., 1232Z/6.).KANIMBLA
DUNERAKANIMBLA escorting H.T. DUNERA sailed.
E.T.A. Kilindini 0500 G.M.T./12.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1407/6).CITY OF DURBAN
KING GRUFFYDYour 1254/5 and 1258/5 appear to have
crossed my 0119/5.
CITY OF DURBAN requires docking but it is
at your discretion to delay it.
KING GRUFFYD is available now.
(D.O.D.(F) 1434/6 to C.in C. E.I.).DURMITORWith a view to the possibility of
instituting Prize Court proceedings in
regard to DURMITOR request information
if available on following points.
(D.T.D. 1839/6 to C.in C. E.I.). *Reply see P.311.*W.S.5A.
W.S.5B.
U.S.9.C.in C. E.I. 1122/3, 1120/3, S.B.N.O.
Suez Canal Areas' 1148/6. Owing to
necessity for all vessels of W.S.5B to
disembark Suez all ships cannot be ready
to sail by 10th. Following are dates of
readiness to sail, weather permitting.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1841/6 to C.in C. E.I.,
etc.).ADRIA
MANON
LEONARDO DA VINCI
ERMINIA MAZZELLA
SAVOIAYour 1108/4. Unnecessary for condemnation
proceedings to be instituted. Telegram
from Governor Kenya to S. of S. for
Colonies states that prize court has
already made order for immediate
requisitioning of vessels, and
registration as British ships is being
effected. Registration should not delay
ships sailing.
(D.T.D. 1852/6 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.MARPESSA

Your 1006/5 (Overdue Shipping)
MARPESSA sailed Sabang 10/2 due
Capetown 8/3.
(S.O.I. Singapore, 0313/6, to S.O.I.
Capetown).

Indo-China.

F.E.W. 20A. Thai - Indo China armistice
now reported prolonged indefinitely.
Indo China - Great Britain Trade and
Shipping Agreement came into force 1/3.
Units of combined Japanese fleet
operating in Formosan waters.
Tokyo broadcasts to Flagships and persistent
traffic in flag officers cypher,
indicates forthcoming operations or
manoeuvres. (C.O.I.S. Far East 1015Z/6
to Admty. etc.).

Japanese Fleet.America and West Indies.ERLANGAN.

Callao reports she now has 800 tons of
coal on board.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0932/6).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
BUXTON

Admty. 1405/5 (H.X.115) and your 1800/28.
Proposed to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN to arrive
Halifax not later than 0700 Z/16.
Repairs to BUXTON unlikely to be
completed in time for her to accompany
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/6, to F.O. 3 B.S.).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Admty. 1405/5 and my 1800/28. Request
ROYAL SOVEREIGN may now be sailed to
arrive Halifax on 15/3 or not later than
0700 Q/16.
(R.A.3 1105/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

TILAPA,
speed.

N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1348/10.
Master SS TILAPA on return to Bermuda
confirms speed of ship 12½ knots.
Suspect some Marine Superintendents are
inclined to exaggerate speed of their ships
in order to obtain independent sailings.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1126/6, to Admty.).

/ Convoy
Secret Envelopes.

War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)Convoy
Secret
Envelopes.

Your 1211/3 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda.
Arrangements now being made for secret envelopes to be issued to all ships by boat immediately before sailing.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1252/6, to Admty.).

U/B attacks
on O.B.289
24/2.

Admiral Ramsey Commodore O.B.289 is convinced that S/M attacks were made from ahead and that U-boats returned to this position for subsequent attacks. He believes that in accordance with W. Approaches convoy instructions section G, front convoy was left unprotected after initial attack as local escort concentrated on searching rear and flanks with Star Shells.
(R.A. 3, 1421/6, to C.in C. W.A.).

RONIN
(Panamanian)

Your 2204/4. Cancel my 1118/1/2.
(D.T.D. to C.in C. A.W.I. 1537/6.).

Tankers.

My 1734/5. Departure from Bermuda in Convoy is as follows:- 9/3 and 15/3 thence add 10 days in each case.
Convoy cycle is not to be disclosed but ships should be sailed to arrive Bermuda with a margin of not less than 24 hours in cases where expediting your sailings would prevent missing a Convoy by a short time.
(D.T.D. 1833/6 to N.C.S.O's Trinidad, Curacao, Aruba.).

Australia.CANBERRA
LEANDER
AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY
HOBART.

Your 0736/26/2 much appreciated and has enabled CANBERRA in company with LEANDER to operate most effectively in the Indian Ocean. It seems clear now that Pocket Battleship must have moved to another area and the possibility of her appearing in the Tasman Sea cannot be ruled out.
To cover this possibility C.in C. E.I. is being directed to send AUSTRALIA to the Fremantle area and this would enable you to move SYDNEY and HOBART back to the Tasman Sea should you wish to do so.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0128/6 to A.C.N.B.).

War Diary.

6.3.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

From today signals relating to the above
are precised under the respective stations
to which they refer.

War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.General.Reply to
Intensive
Attack.

Probable that Germany will make an extreme effort now to cripple our shipping by placing larger numbers of U/Boats in W. Approaches and we must meet this effort. I therefore intend, for a period, to meet this menace with a special effort on our part. The present proportion of Harbour time to sea will be reduced slightly, so that one group can be spared at a time to concentrate specially on U/Boat hunting. I know that all in my command will realise the necessity for this special effort and give of their best.
(C.in C. W.A., 1904/6 to Capts. D., Liverpool, Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Night Attacks
on Convoys.

Our efforts to destroy U/Boats which carry out surface attacks on convoys at night have not up to date proved entirely successful. New methods must be tried out. S.O's of groups must take every opportunity of discussing this problem with their several C.O's. I have lately pointed out necessity of keeping rear of the convoy guarded, but this is not enough, and, if an escort is sufficiently strong, it is well worth reinforcing still further the rear of the convoy, so as to guard against U/Boat attack from this direction in which the efficiency of look-outs in all types of surface craft, is proverbially less efficient than on forward bearings.

S.O's of escorts should consider (A) advisability of increasing the existing arcs of star shell fire, (B) reducing distances from the P convoy to which escort vessels at present proceed after an attack, thereby reducing the risk of U/Boat returning to attack during their absence, and (C) A.S.V. Destroyers on each beam turning 180° and searching the area on either quarter of the convoy.

(C.in C. W.A., 1909/6, to Capts. D., Liverpool, Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.6.3.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.PACIFIC
torpedoed 1/3.

British (Ex-American), 6034 tons, from New York to Oban and Hull with cargo of scrap, was torpedoed and sunk about 180 miles W.S.W. of Sydero Island, Faroes, approx. 60.20 N., 12.18 W. at 2345/1. Was a straggler from Convoy H.X.109. 1 survivor has been landed at Fleetwood. (D.O.R. 6/3,) (D.S. 548, 6/3) Sole survivor landed at Fleetwood by Icelandic Trawler BALDUR. Survivor states that no boats were launched. (C.in C. W.A. 0852/6).

HOLMELEA
(torpedoed 28/2)

10 survivors landed at Fleetwood state torpedoed and sunk by 2 torpedoes at 2010/28. approx. 260 miles W. of Slyne Head. HOLMELEA, bound independently from Rosario to Hull with linseed and maize, reported she was being shelled at 0236/28. (D.O.R. 6/3) (D.S. 548, 6/3) 2 Officers and 8 Ratings landed at Fleetwood by Icelandic Trawler BALDUR (C.in C. W.A. 0852/6).

CLAN MACARTHUR
shelled

British, 10,528 tons, bound independently from Calcutta and Table Bay for Liverpool and Glasgow, reported 0835/6 she was being shelled 61.55 N., 25.12 W.

GUILVINEC
(torpedoed 19/2)

Vichy French, 3181 tons, torpedoed by an unknown s/m 170 miles from San Sebastian on 19/2. 22 of crew picked up, taken to Pasajes, 17 missing (D.S. 548, 6/3).

ANGLO PERUVIAN
CAPE NELSON
(sunk 23.2.41)

Reference 1920/5, HARBERTON arrived Halifax 4/3 with 17 survivors of ANGLO PERUVIAN and 33 survivors of CAPE NELSON torpedoed and sunk. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0858/6, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

6.3.1941.

Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1751. 56.30 N., 21° W., position indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 549).
2240. 56.30 N., 10° W., position indefinite (German) (D.S. 549).
- 2049. 55.56 N., 10.06 W., MANSFIELD obtained contact (D.S. 549).
2025. 59° N., 23° W., position indefinite (German) (D.S.549).
2007. 46.30 N., 11° W. - 8° W., position indefinite (German (D.S. 549).
- 2351/5
B.S.T. By D/F German U-Boat in area 100 miles radius from 26° 40' N. 21° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 0834/6) (F.O.C.N.A. 1028/6 to N.A. Stn.) (C.in C. S.A., 13415N/6 to MALAYA, CILICIA).
- My 2205/6. Probability is that U/B reported convoy O.B.293 or H.X.110. (D.D.I.C. 2225/6 to W. Approaches, HAVELOCK, WOLVERINE, H.Q.C.C.).
2256. An enemy Submarine has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 2256/6 to W. App. H.Q.C.C.). My 2255/6. Probable that formation reported was Convoy S.L.S.65, S.L.65, O.B.294, or TAKU. (D.D.I.C. 2311/6 to ENCHANTRESS, WANDERER, DIDO, CALDWELL, H.Q.C.C.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1332/6).

Submarines Attacked.

- 2049. At 2049/6 good contact in position 055° 56' N. 010° 06' W. (MANSFIELD, 2230/6, to DIDO).
- 0930/24. French LEOPARD attacked contact, probably a wreck (A.4) in 59.16 N., 21.18 W., 260' W.N.W. Rockall (D.S.549).

War Diary.

7.3.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

DIDO

DIDO arrived at Greenock this evening with hull defects caused by heavy weather.

S/M Patrols

Certain S/M patrols are to be reinstated. (See C-in-C Plymouth 1333/7, F.O.S.1643/7). The feasibility of operating S/M's from a certain base is to be investigated. (See Adty 1932/7).

E boat attacks on F N426 and F. S429.
S.S.DOTTEREL.
CORDUFF
BOULDER POOL,
TOGSTON,
KENTON
torpedoed.
SHELDRAKE
damaged.

In FN426 ←

RYE,
NORMAN QUEEN.

M.T.B.28
destroyed.

Convoy F N426 was attacked by E boats tonight off Yarmouth and Cromer, S.S. CORDUFF (F N426), BOULDER POOL (F N426), and TOGSTON (F S429) were torpedoed and sunk, and S.S.KENTON (F. N426), and DOTTEREL (F. N426) were torpedoed and went ashore. SHELDRAKE was damaged by the explosion of the second torpedo which hit DOTTEREL. Both SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN, escorting the convoy, engaged the enemy and believe they damaged them severely. RYE and NORMAN QUEEN, missing, are also presumed to have been sunk.

M.T.B.28 was destroyed today by fire, believed caused by petrol, at Portsmouth.

U boat campaign.
S.S.DELILIAN,
ATHELBEACH,
MIJDRECHT,
TERJE VIKEN
torpedoed.

U 70 sunk.

Convoy O B 293 was attacked by U boat early this morning about 250 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis; S.S.DELILIAN and tankers ATHELBEACH and MIJDRECHT (Dutch) and British Oil Refinery Ship TERJE VIKEN (20,638 tons) were torpedoed. MIJDRECHT states that she rammed the U boat and obtained 2 hits with her gun. ARBUTUS with CAMELIA in company this morning destroyed a U boat, believed to be U 70, 280 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis, and took 25 prisoners. This is probably one of the U boats which attacked Convoy O B 293 earlier in the day and was damaged by MIJDRECHT.

* later confirmed

War Diary.

7.3.1941
Friday

SITUATION REPORT.

Convoys

H X and S C
Convoys.

Adty 1343/7 contains a decision as to the scale of ocean escort to be provided for H X and S C Convoys.

A conference is to be held at the Admiralty on 11/3 to discuss measures for reducing convoy delays and other matters connected with convoys.

British Air Activity

All operations by Bomber Command last night and today were cancelled owing to unsuitable weather.

Bad weather considerably curtailed the operations of Coastal Command today. Beaufort aircraft attacked a 2500 ton merchant ship near the Helder early this afternoon and left it in a sinking condition. The naval dockyard at the Helder was also attacked.

In the St. George's Channel a projective AA patrol was flown throughout daylight, and in the North Channel and Minches A/S patrols were flown all day. A special A/S patrol was carried out about 170 miles north of Rockall.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on
East Coast
Convoys.

S.S. FLASHLIGHT
sunk. S.S.
AFTERGLOW,
S.S. ARLETTA.
BRACON MOOR.
DHOON damaged.

The East Coast convoys were shadowed and attacked during the greater part of today. GUILLEMOT, escorting Convoy F S428, shot down an aircraft and captured one prisoner; no ships were hit. S.S. FLASHLIGHT was sunk and S.S. AFTERGLOW damaged in Convoy F S429. S.S. ARLETTA in Convoy F N426 was damaged. Group 31 were attacked off Yarmouth and M/S Trawler BRACON MOOR was damaged. A/P Trawler DHOON was damaged off Harwich and was beached. A German bomber crashed at the entrance to the Tay after striking the mast of the fishing trawler STRATH BLANE: the trawler has a U X B on board. A/T GEORGE ROBB damaged a German aircraft off Yarmouth and the Military finished it off with Bofors guns.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Brightlingsea
attacked.

The base premises at Brightlingsea were attacked this afternoon, but the damage caused was very slight, though there were a few casualties.

Humber
attacked.

Bombs were dropped in the Convoy Anchorage in the Humber and Killingholme balloon barrage was machine gunned. No damage has been reported.

Mining.Operation
Z M E 22.

PLOVER last night laid mines in St. George's Channel.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the north east coast, and in daylight today off the Humber and elsewhere on the east coast. Mines were laid off Spurn Point at 1220 by one enemy a/c and were detonated by L.L.sweepers during the afternoon. Between 1430 and 1630 six enemy a/c were observed laying mines in the entrance to the Humber, 15 mines being seen to drop. The Humber was closed at 1805.

Mines were exploded off the Tyne and one of them damaged S.A.Trawler BADINAGE.

Several explosions were heard off Newhaven this forenoon. Mines were detonated off Sheerness and Liverpool.

Swansea and Port Talbot were opened shortly before noon; some mines were detonated this afternoon.

Mediterranean.Air attacks
on Malta.

Last night the Grand Harbour, Hal Far and other objectives were bombed by about 12 aircraft. No Government damage resulted. A further attack was made

War Diary.

7.3.1941

Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Air attacks
on Malta
Cont:-

this morning and some of our aircraft were damaged as well as some of the enemy. A second attack was made today from 1840 to 2120 and IMPERIAL, repairing at Malta, was slightly damaged and transport ESSEX, which was damaged by air attack on 16/1, received further damage.

Suez Canal.

Ten merchant ships have passed through the Canal from Suez to Bitter Lakes. FORMIDABLE has passed the wreck of the AGIOS GEORGIOS and gared up at km.139. It is considered there are still 3 mines in the Canal which it is hoped to open on 11/3.

Enemy
minelaying.

It is believed that enemy minelaying took place on 24/2 on the Cape Bon - Tripoli route.

East Indies.

From further investigation it appears probable that S.S. CANADIAN CRUISER (sunk by raider 21/2) painted U.S.A. colours on his ship after leaving Colombo.

China.

C-in-C China 14312/7 gives information of certain patrols by N.E.I. naval forces.

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Employment
of 6th M.L.F.

Ref. to C. in C. Plymouth's 1332/6, as base at Londonderry is not yet fully ready and weather conditions render operation of M.L's doubtful at present, suggest 6th M.L. Flotilla remain in South where they can be fully employed, until definitely required by C. in C. W.A. (R.A.C.F. 1250/7).

Movements.

FINA.

Your 2239/6. Owing to present sea conditions cannot contact FINA until she is East of 006° W. Am proceeding Londonderry. (ROCKINGHAM 0020/7 to C. in C. W.A).

MASHONA.

Sailed 0035/7 to R/V at 20 Buoy in accordance with your 2356/5. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0130/7 to C. in C. Nore)

OTUS.

Arrangements for sailing to Gibraltar. (S.5. 0915/7, 1403/7). Report p.c. and s. (C. in C. Plymouth 1740/7 to OTUS). *See also last page*

WALKER
O. 10.

After escorting Clyde portion ^{S.L.65} you are to escort submarine O.10 from HolyLock to Holyhead then proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1655/7 to WALKER). Adty 1648/6. S/M O ten is available to proceed to Holyhead forthwith. Request escort may be provided. (Capt. (S) 7 1021/7). Intend sailing O10 escorted by WALKER from Rothesay at 1030/8 for Holyhead E.T.A. 0730/9. N.O.I/C Greenock is requested to arrange Fighter protection during daylight hours. (Capt. S.7. 2156/7).

GARTH.
COTTESMORE.

GARTH and COTTESMORE are to proceed Rosyth forthwith and complete with fuel. (C. in C. Rosyth 1031/7).

/KASHMIR.....

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.

Arrived 0830. (C. in C. Plymouth 1222/7).

COMORIN.

Leave Convoy 2000/7 and proceed independently routed through (positions) thence through North Channel to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1241/7)

A/S patrol.

A.M. 1750/1. Until arrival of WINDERMERE and BUTTERMERE one A/S trawler is to be maintained on A/S patrol in the area bounded by Sulisker, North Rona, Cape Wrath, Butt of Lewis. (C. in C. W.A. 1306/7 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

KING SOL.

Can not make rendezvous as laid down in 0945/7 N.O. I/C. Great Yarmouth before 1615/7. Doing my utmost speed. (KING SOL 1450/7). Your 1450 report if you have not made R/V. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/7 to KING SOL).

UNBEATEN.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE will R/V with you at 0715/8 at N one. You may expect to see special illumination trials to northward of you from 0530 until daylight. Movements (?affecting) you nil. (Capt. (S) 5 1855/7 to UNBEATEN).

OTUS. *See previous page*
0. 23.

Sailing of OTUS probably delayed owing to defects. Suggest 0.23 be ordered by you to proceed direct to Gibraltar at normal speed. (F.O.S. 2131/7 to F.O.C.N.A).

Operations.

Harwich March 7th arrival M.T.B's 22, 30, 32. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0345/7).

ANNE BERG.

Your 2227/6. In view of MALVERNIAN's 1800/27 it is possible that she boarded ANNE BERG before carrying out my 2250/25. (V.A.N.P. 1128/7 to Admty).

/S/M.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).S/M patrol.C. in C. Plymouth 1333/7, 1643/7;
See Operations Volume.Projected
S/M operations.

D.O.D. (H) 1932/7. See Operations Volume.

E boat attack
on Convoy F.N.
426. See also
8/3. v. 253
DOTTEREL,
CORDUFF,
BOULDERPOOL,
TOGSTON,
KENTON,
torpedoed.
SHELDRAKE
damaged.

There are indications of E-Boats bearing 080° from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2045/7). Following has been read:- F.N.426 attached by E boats at 56 buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2045/7). My 2045 position 6 buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2054/7).

S.S. DOTTEREL hit in number two hold requires (?tug) No. 6 Buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2115/7).

One E boat 52° 28' N. 20° 3' E. ((D) 16 2159/7)

F.N.426 attacked by E-Boats. 6 buoy. (SHELDRAKE 2201/7).

Proceeding to Yarmouth with survivors one critically injured e.t.a. 2330. Request Pilot. (SHELDRAKE 2241/7)

My 2115 ship has been struck a second time. (SHELDRAKE 2140/7).

Great Yarmouth 2230/7 departure to assist S.S. DOTTEREL No. 6 Buoy Tug DIVERSION. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2240/7).

Your 2115 tug is being sent from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2149/7 to SHELDRAKE).

My 2115 Ship struck with second torpedo forward and probably aground position 052° 41' N. 001° 59' E. 3 E Boat attacks. (SHELDRAKE 2247/7).

My 2159 have lost contact. (D. 16 2218/7).

KASTELHOLM.

Finnish KASTELHOLM intercepted by VASCAMA in 63° 17' N. 16° 47' W. Eastbound attempting to pass North of Faeroes. LORD AUSTIN ordered to R.V. 0800/8 and escort KASTELHOLM to Kirkwall. (S.O.N.T. 2350/7).

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Patrols.

Today. S.A. 2, S.A. 3, Fair.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0920/7).
My 0920/7 S.A. 3 cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1146/7).

Instructions for flying of kites and balloons.

Adty 1054/27/2 para 5. Request information whether this is intended to apply to mobile balloon barrage accompanying Channel Convoys. (C. in C. Nore 1236/7).

Penalty areas.

For 24 hours commencing 0300/8, North Sea Atlantic. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/7).

Air Patrols with Convoys.

Amended procedure. (C. in C. W.A. 1840/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

^{MS}W/T GEORGE ROBB.

One German A/C shot down by A.A. Fire at 0733/7 off Yarmouth. 3 airmen picked up. Aircraft destroyed by fire. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0837/7).
My 0837/7 A/C first hit by ^{MS}W/T GEORGE ROBB finished off by Military Bofors. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1328/7).

Convoy F.S.⁴²⁸ GUILLEMOT.[^]

Help ~~COBAN~~ ^{"Oscar"} (F.S.⁴²⁸ - South of Tyne) 51° 53' N. 1° 35' E. (GUILLEMOT 0948/7).
My 0948 have shot aircraft down. (GUILLEMOT 0950/7).
My 0950 no damage or casualties, one survivor picked up. (GUILLEMOT 1023/7).

AAAA

Automatic AAAA intercepted 1111 G.M.T. bearing 055° from Humber Radio strength of Signals 3. (Lyness 1112/7).
AAAA Automatic AAAA intercepted 1128 G.M.T. bearing 061° from Humber Radio strength 2. (Humber Radio 1129/7).

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.5.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy F.S. 29
S.S. FLASHLIGHT
sunk.
S.S. AFTERGLOW
damaged.

"Boaty"
Help ~~BOOPY~~ 53° 37' N. 0° 50' E.
(PUFFIN 1220/7).
Fighter protection has been despatched to
odd numbered F.S. Convoy S. of Tyne.
(Nore W/T 1235/7).
(Corrupt group) FLASHLIGHT in 053° 55' N,
000° 51' E. suffered near miss in bombing
attack. No casualties. Request tug may
be sent immediately. Trawler AKRANES is
standing by and will endeavour to take
her in tow. (PUFFIN 1315/7 to N.O.1/c
Humber).
PUFFIN's 1315/7. S.S. FLASHLIGHT reported
sunk. Submerged wreckage reported in
53° 31' 20" N. 00° 49' 0" E.
(F.O. Humber 1724/7). "Boaty"
One enemy aircraft shadowing ~~BOOPY~~. 53°
16' N. 1° 8' E. (PUFFIN 1550/7).
AFTERGLOW leaking in engine room from
near miss in bombing attack. Pumps broke
down. Have detached her at Sheringham
Buoy for passage to Yarmouth. Trawler
LOCH ALSH is standing by. Request escort
may be sent. (PUFFIN 1740/7).
Your 1740. Can AFTERGLOW steam and what
route was she given to Yarmouth. (C. in C.
Nore 1951/7 to PUFFIN).
1 enemy aircraft shadowing even numbered
F.S. Convoy 343° 52' N. 2° E. 12.
(SHELDRAKE 1655/7). "Boaty"
Two enemy aircraft shadowing ~~BOOPY~~ in 52°
25' N. 1° 10' E.
(PUFFIN 1509/7). "Boaty"
Enemy aircraft bombing ~~BOOPY~~. My position
53° 25' N. 1° 15' E. (PUFFIN 1518/7).

Convoy F.N. 26.

One aircraft bearing 090° height less than
1,000 feet. Position 51° 47' N. 1° 31' E.
(VERSATILE 1257/7).
My 1257 D.O. 215. (VERSATILE 1300/7).
~~My 1257 D.O. 215.~~ 51° 47' N. 1° 31' E. (VERSATILE
1307/7). "Boaty"
Enemy bombing Convoy ~~BOOPY~~. (VERSATILE
1317).
My 1317. No hits. (VERSATILE 1319/7).
One enemy aircraft bearing 010° height
2000 feet in 51° 52' N. 1° 35' E.
(VERSATILE 1355/7).
Enemy A/C Height 2000 feet. 51° 55' N.
1° 40' E. (VERSATILE 1359/7, 1408/7, 1414/7).

/My.....

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy F.N. 426.
(contd).

My 1355 H.E. 111. (VERSATILE 1357/7).
My 1414 H.E. 111. (VERSATILE 1415/7).
Help ~~AGENT~~ 240 52° 2° 18. (SHELDRAKE 1409/7).
Fighters have been despatched to the assistance of Convoy ~~AGENT~~. (Nore 1445/7).
Enemy aircraft bombing in position TCLE 0044. (VERSATILE 1449/7).
Even numbered F.N. Convoy South of Tyne. (SHELDRAKE 1449/7).
My 1449 no hits. (VERSATILE 1450/7)
Convoy ~~AGENT~~ requires help position 317, 52° N. 2° E, 8. (SHELDRAKE 1615/7).
Enemy aircraft bombing ~~AGENT~~. My position 52° 08' N. 10° 53' E. (VERSATILE 1619/7).
2 Enemy A/C bombing ~~AGENT~~ No hits. (BERKELEY 1620/7).
My 1619 No hits. (VERSATILE 1623/7).
One enemy aircraft shadowing ~~AGENT~~ in 52° 13' N. 1° 56' E. course 018° speed 8 knots (BERKELEY 1659/7).
One enemy aircraft bearing 150° height 2000 ft. position T C L E 0044. (VERSATILE 1500/7).
Two enemy aircraft shadowing ~~AGENT~~ height 2,000 ft. p.c. and s. of convoy TLCE 0549, 033° 8 knots. (VERSATILE 1506/7).
My 1506 aircraft still shadowing. (VERSATILE 1526/7).

AAAA

AAAA Automatic AAAA signal heard at 1344 G.M.T. strength 2 bearing from GKZ Humber 025° and by GCC Cullercoats strength 3 bearing 149° unreliable sector. (Cullercoats Radio 1344/7).

Convoy H.G.

One enemy aircraft, bearing 270° height 1000 feet shadowing ~~AGENT~~ in 53° 35' N. 18° 41' W. Course 034°. Speed 4 knots. (LEITH 1413/7).

PYTCHLEY.

One enemy A/C bearing 210° height 1000 feet 53° 16' N. 1° 5' E. (PYTCHLEY 1500/7)

Group 31.
BRACON MOOR.

Group 31 were attacked by A/C with bomb and machine gun near No. 6 buoy at 1044 to-day Friday. BRACON MOOR sustained damage from Near Miss which will require one week to repair. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1811/7).

/DHOON.....

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

DHOON.

Harwich 7/3 departure KENIA to assistance of A/P Trawler DHOON. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1735/7).
(A/P Trawler) damaged by near miss, beached on Harwich Hard. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1915/7).

STRATH
BLANE
German A/C
destroyed.

German bomber crashed in entrance to Tay at 2020 after striking mast of fishing trawler STRATH BLANE. No survivors an UXB landed on board STRATH BLANE whose crew have been evacuated. Wreckage recovered establishes proof of nationality.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 2155/7).

Brightlingsea.

Ref. my 1805/7. To Harwich only. Base premises attacked by two Messerschmitt Aircraft at 1720 today. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 2115/7).

Mining.

Operation
S.N.4.

Adty 1233/6 just received. No practical objection to changing this position. Propose my 2153/6 be amended as follows. This allows of certainty field being laid to limit of depth. (R.A.M.L. 0049/7). Your 1233/6. No objection (C. in C. H.F. 1035/7 to R.A.(M)). Your 0049/7. Concur. (V.C.N.S. 1127/7 to R.A.(M)).

Operation
ZME. 22.

Operation Z.M.E. 22 completed.
(PLOVER 0518/7).

Sheerness.

S.A. Mines detonated as follows.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0859/7, 0905/7, 1201/7).

/Newhaven.....

War Diary.

7;3.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Newhaven
explosions.

Explosion heard at 0947 and approx. bearing and distance 150° 10 miles from P.W.S.S. Newhaven. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0950/7).

Heavy explosion in approx. same position as previously reported. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1006/7).

Further heavy explosions on bearing approx. 165° from P.W.S.S. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1020/7).

North
Shields.

Mine exploded by BADINAGE as follows. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1122/7).

S.A. Trawler BADINAGE damaged by mine exploding close astern at 0836. No casualties. Now at Shields Engineering Co. leaking. Engine feet cracked. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1027/7).

S.A. Mine exploded by UTVAER as follows. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1545/7).

Swansea &
Port Talbot.

My 2131/3 is cancelled. Ships may now enter and leave Swansea and Port Talbot. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1155/7).

Mines detonated 7/3. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1720/7, 1759/7).

Tyne.

1 Ground magnetic mine detonated 1510/7 112° N. Tyne Pier Light 6 cables. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1555/7).

Humber.

Humber is closed to navigation enemy minelaying. Anticipated time of opening noon/8. (F.O. Humber 1805/7).

At 1220 one enemy A/C laid mines off Spurn point. These were detonated by LL sweepers at 1540 between 1430 and 1630 six enemy A/C were observed laying mines in Humber entrance. 15 mines observed to drop - bombs also dropped in convoy anchorage and Killingholme balloon barrage machine gunned. Closed at 2500 prevented fighters operating or gun fire being effective. (F.O. Humber 1907/7).

The following 6 mines were exploded to-day Friday. (F.O. Humber 2135/7).

Liverpool.

7 mines detonated to 1800/7. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2138/7).

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday:

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Shipping
off Texel.

At 1140/6 in 52° 25' N. 4° 10' E. 6 small vessels in Convoy course North of West, sails set but travelling under own power. 10 miles West of above position 2 masted vessels, one flying Dutch Flag aft.

At 1320/6 in 53° 10' N. 4° 20' E. 3 vessels approx. 5,000 tons in inverted formation. (H.Q.B.C. 0012/7).

NORDBAHT.

Using signal letters previously allotted to HAMMONIA, NORDBAHT made S.O.S. in 58° 58' N. 10° 30' E. last night saying she was aground. (D.S. 549).

Minelaying
Force.

Minelayer force of 4 small tb's and 3 small minelayers left Kelliso 1700/6 course 250°. Returned to Helliso 1100/7th course 105° speed 16 knots. (SEALION 1045/7).

Miscellaneous.

Campbeltown.

Obstructions are being laid. (Details). Request all ships may be warned and instructed to pass to the northward of these obstructions (GUARDIAN 1005/7).

War Diary.

7. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Escorts
for H.X.Q.
S.C.
Convoys.

Adty., 1343/7. See Operations Volume.

Convoy
delays
Conference.

Intended to hold a Conference in Trade Division at 1500/11, and requested it may be attended by a representative on your staff and also by N.C.S.O's. The principal subject is reduction of convoy delays and includes possibility of running a coastal convoy from Southend to Clyde instead of Southend to Methil and Methil to Clyde. Also possibility of homeward bound ships in convoy bound for East Coast ports proceeding direct to Methil without calling at Oban or Loch Ewe. (D.T.D. 1507/7 to C. in C's W.A. Rosyth, Nore.

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.U. 81.

0645/7 unescorted 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 0758/7), Name (D759/7.) Arrived 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1204/7.)

F.S. 29. 429

COTTESMORE not yet detached (LONDON, 0801/7), 48 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/7, 0939/7.) COTTESMORE to detach earliest moment for F.S. 29. (C. in C. Nore to LONDON 1046/7.) Detached at 1035 (LONDON, 1223/7) List (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1229/7.) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1230/7) COTTESMORE to overtake after fueling. (C. in C. Rosyth 1620/7.)

E.N. 82.

0800/7. Escorts 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0933/7 amended 1157/7). List (1008/7.) 1 destination amended. (N.C.S.O. Lyness 1010/7). Amendments to list. (C. in C. Rosyth 1113/7.)

/F.N.25.....

War Diary.7. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.N. 25. 425

Absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0940/7.)
Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1740/7.)

→ F.N. 26. 426

EDWARDIAN additional escort. (Cdre., i/c.
Sheerness, 0941/7.) 0837/7, 28 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1116/7) 1 sailing
(N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1237/7.) BEGONIA to
R.V. (F.O., Humber, 1258/7). No ships from
Humber. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1802/7.)

W.N. 95(0).

1600/7. Escorts. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Oban, 1009/7.) Sailed 1615/7. (1650/7.)

F.S. 28. 428

Position, 30 ships for London. (N.C.S.O.
Thames, 1101/7.) Orders to escort.
(C. in C. Nore, 1207/7) Arrived all ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1929/7.)

F.S. 29A. 429A

VERONICA to join. (C. in C. Rosyth 1127/7)
Code word "Plumb". (C. in C. Rosyth,
1442/7), 14 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2357/7.)

7 M.V.'s.

(N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1133/7.) Escorts
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1237/7.) Sailed C. in C.
Portsmouth 1905/7, N.C.S.O. Portsmouth
1957/7.)

→ F.S. 26. 426

List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1139/7.)

F.N. and
F.S.Amending 1214/6, escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich,
1143/7.)

W.N. 97.

CELIA additional escort. (F.O.I.C. Greenock,
1208/7.)

C.W. 28.

Time table. Escorts. (C. in C. Nore,
1240/7.)

/7 M.V.'s...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys Contd.Coastal Convoys.
Contd.

7 M.V.'s.

Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1547/7.)

9 M.V.'s.

"Scent" Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth
2137/7.)

F.N. & F.S.

Forecast of sailing and escorts. (C. in C.
Rosyth 2213/7.)TIRADENTES.Broke away from E.N. convoy and proceeded
independently. Did Master give any indica-
tion of this intention? What speed did he
declare? (D.T.D. 1856/7 to N.C.S.O. Methil.)
Your 1856/7. Master gave no indication.
Declared 11 knots. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2116/7.)ORONTES.Request you sail ORONTES to arrive off
Avonmouth at daylight/9. My 1705/6 is to
be waived in this case. Requested arrange
fighter cover. (C. in C. W.A., 2058/7, to
F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
ORONTES is to be sailed from Clyde to
catch tide at Avonmouth at 1653/9 B.S.T.
(D.T.D. 2122/7 to C. in C. W.A.)Ocean Convoys.O.B. 293.
S.C. 23.Attacked by U/B 0450/7. See U-BOAT
CAMPAIGN. Route to avoid U/B. (C. in C.W.A.,
0755/7 to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc.,)
Destinations. (D.T.D., 1241/7. 1242/7.)

S.L.65.

E.T.A. (VOLUNTEER 1032/7) VOLUNTEER to escort
Bristol portion. (VANOC, 1158/7) Arrivals.
(N.C. S.O. Oban, 2035/7.)

S.L.67.

F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6. ARETHUSA to accompany ¹⁵
U.K. (D.O.D. (H) 1341/7 to C. in C. H.F.,
F.O.C.N.A.)

O.G.O.55.

0830/8, ARAB., 14 ships. N.C.S.O. Oban
1530/7.)

/O.G.55.....

War Diary.

7. 3. 1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.G.55. Sailed, escort EGRET, etc., (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1639/7.) Sailed 1639/7, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1651/7.) List (1652/7.)

S.C.25. Destinations. (D.T.D., 1855/7.)

O.B.M.295. Sailed 1905/7, Escort 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1906/7.) List (1910/7.)

O.B.M.296. Sailing 1620/9, Escort, 11. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1906/7.)

H.X.116. Cruiser to escort. (D.O.D.H. 1924/7.) See America & West Indies.

Military
Convoys.

BRITANNIA.
THEMISTOCLES.
CITY OF
HONG KONG.

Admty., 1904/6. Intend HILARY from Clyde for Western Patrol area S.l.shall join convoy for outward A/S escort. Request R/V and fighter protection may be arranged. (V.A.N.P. 1230/7, to A.C.W.A.) Your 1904/6. Ships will be unable to sail until 0730/12. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1310/7, to Admty.)

War Diary.7. 3. 41.
Friday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.TAKU.

(Corrupt group). If conditions permit H.M.S. TAKU is to be towed to Holy Loch. (C. in C. W.A. 0020/7 to ENCHANTRESS, TAKU.)

GENERAL BOTHA.

GENERAL BOTHA being towed southward by trawler position at 0145 20 "G" buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 0148/7.)

HOPECREST.

HOPECREST requires four tugs immediately straining badly amidships Scarweather Patch. (Portishead Radio 0650/7, Burnham-on-Sea, 0755/7.)

(? MONTANA)

Position of the vessel at the moment is such that urgent attention is necessary to avoid further complications of a various and serious nature. The first tug VICTOR made fast 10.50 a.m. MONTANA 11.20 a.m., BROCKENHURST 11.35 a.m., and HERCULANEUM at 11.45 a.m. and towing proceeded until 15.45 p.m. In my opinion at least 2 tugs should remain with the tow to assist in minimising the bumping. The towing efforts have been moderately successful, and should be continued without delay. Signed James Hardy, Master. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 2100/7.)

FRANKLIN.

London March 7th departure FRANKLIN at 0845. (F.O.I.C. London 0940/7.)

Nore ships
out of
action.

My 0720/6. Ships out of action amend dates of COTSWOLD and FRANKLIN to read 26/3, and 9/3, respectively. (C. in C. Nore 0944/7.)

DIDO.

Considered desirable before proceeding Scapa P.R.O. Glasgow should examine damage to ship structure sustained during heavy weather. Motor boat and one whaler damaged beyond local repair. E.T.A. 1830/7. (D.I.D.O. 1148/7.)

/Arrived.....

War Diary.

7. 3. 41.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DIDO cont.

Arrived DIDO with hull defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1930/7.)

BALTARA.

In company with BALTARA in 050° 21' N.,
022° 15' W., BALTARA has 14 feet water in
engine room bulkhead holding. Master
states he cannot tow North unless pumped
and wishes to be towed to Azores. Weather
moderate wind 330° force 3 barometer 30.46
falling. Can salvage tug be sent if not
request instructions. (ST. ELSTAN. 1640/7.)

SOUTHERN
ISLES.

1521/4. Owing to further defects. (?)
of SOUTHERN ISLES for P.M./8, is cancelled.
(SOUTHERN ISLES 2041/7.)

War Diary.7. 3. 1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.French
Destroyer.

French 3 funnel destroyer 14 miles off Cape St. Vincent at 1000/7 steering N. (S.O(I), Gib., 1113/7 to Admty.,) (Note:- First received as a 3 funnel ship.) S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1113/7. Is this a Warship? (D.O.D. (F) 1306/7 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1306/7. Yes. (Gibraltar 1427/7.) My 1113 French Destroyers now Marking T.23 290° Cape Espichel 8 miles steering 010° at 1500. (S.O(I), Gib., 1707/7.)

REPULSE.

My 1704/5, (5 destroyers to R.V. with REPULSE.). Delete DUNCAN. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/7. to REPULSE.)

VERBENA.
GENTIAN.

Your 1732/20/2. (Re allocation of convoys) GENTIAN not fitted for tropical service. VERBENA has these modifications and is adequately fitted for service in warm climates. Request retaining VERBENA at Gibraltar instead of GENTIAN. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/7, to C. in C. W.A.) Reply: 1255/11.

BELGIQUE.

Your 1630/4. Commerce Section tell me matter settled and ship discharging Cadiz. Delay due to need for London to lower price. (N.A. Madrid, 1235/7, to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Operation
"Ration".

Admty., 1814/6 and my 1626/6. Following destroyer commitments are impending: It will not therefore be possible to consider operation "~~RATION~~" before about (date) as far as destroyers are concerned. In view of para. 2 of Admty., 2327/19/10/40, and forces based on Casablanca and Oran it is necessary to employ a cruiser at least as support force. No cruiser will be available until return of SHEFFIELD escorting MAIDSTONE in accordance with Admty., 1903/6. Unless there are reasons to the contrary of which I am not aware propose it should be left to me to suggest date for this operation. (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/7 to Admty.)

/My 1814/6.....

War Diary.

7. 3. 1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Op: "Ration"
cont:-

My 1814/6. Operation ^{"Ration"}~~"RATION"~~ is not to be carried out without further instructions. Request report as to when you expect to have Forces available. (V.C.N.S. 1340/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ANNE BERG.

Your 2227/6. (Re boarding of Finnish Steamer ANNE BERG.). My 1232/6 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304/7, to Admty.)

ARETHUSA
S.L.67.

F.O.C.N.A. 1228/6. ARETHUSA is to accompany convoy U.K. C. in C. H.F. requested to give instructions for subsequent movements of ARETHUSA. (D.O.D. (H) 1341/7, to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Operations.

Daily Summary. Area covers 4° W., to 9° 30' W. Flying curtailed by weather. (200 Group, 1700/7.)

S.S. DERNA
(Italian.)

Departure 6/3 for Genoa. (Barcelona 1735/7.)

BRAKE
LEESEE.

Departure 6/3, German BRAKE, LEESEE, Destination not known, probably France. (Bilbao, 1832/7 1914/7.)

STRATHMORE,
SHEFFIELD,
MALAYA,
FIREDRAKE,
FURY.

Your 1626/6, Para. 4. ^(p. 20) As STRATHMORE is due 10th it was presumed that you would sail her with SHEFFIELD on 11th in order to comply with para. 3 of my 1103/27. It would appear that outward escort for them could be provided by the screen going out for MALAYA. This is first information in Admiralty of extent of damage to FIREDRAKE or FURY being out of action. (D.O.D. (F) 2032/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/0.23.....

War Diary.

7. 3. 41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

- O.23. Proceed direct to Gibraltar (route). Report if unable to comply within two hours time stated. (F.O.C.N.A. 2052Z/7, to O.23.)
- S/M's. Position of S/M at 1200/8 and movements for the 24 hours. PANDORA with H.G.55. Netherlands S/M O.21 with O.G.54, Netherlands S/M O.23 035° 40' N., 013° 20' W., proceeding through 035° N., 012° W., to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2100/7.)
- OTUS
→ O.23. Sailing probably delayed owing to defects. Suggest Netherlands O 23 be ordered by you to proceed direct to Gibraltar at normal speed. (F.O.S., 2131/7, to F.O.C.N.A.)
- HAARLEM
MIRROR
LEYLAND. Departure 1430 HAARLEM to relieve LEYLAND escorting cable ship MIRROR. Arrival 2150 LEYLAND. (S.O.I. Gib., 2300/7.)
- Escort for
REPULSE. Departures FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s. 1704/5. (S.O(I) Gib., 2316/7.)
- SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA. South Atlantic. Admiralty 1653/23/2. Request I may be informed whether ship is still to be retained at Durban. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0943Z/7, to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)
Reply p-237
- Former
Disguised
Freighters. Your 2116/2. Could be used on S.Atlantic Stations. Suggestions. (C. in C.S.A., 1239N/7 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.
- VILLE DE
MAJUNGA. Requisitioned by Union Gov., 4/3, carried following cargo (? for) (?Madagascar) Ports. From Marseilles, and Dakar. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1103/7.)

/FALSPKIB.....

War Diary.7. 3. 1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.FALSTERBO
~~FALSPKIB~~
WRAY CASTLE.Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1005/5. Swedish Ship ~~FALSTERBO~~ overdue Capetown 2/3, and WRAY CASTLE 3/3 both from U.K, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1117B/7.)PERSEUS.

Special movements forecast. Cancel my 1241/3. PERSEUS is at Accra. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1121B/7, to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

DORDRECHT.
raider
report.

R R R R Warship Raider position 6.57 N., 12. 49, W., DORDRECHT suspicious vessel. (Freetown W/T., T.O.R. 1255Z/7.) From DORDRECHT (Holland). Vessel keeps following us corrected position 6 58 N., 12. 50 W., (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1317Z/7.) If ship no longer appears suspicious you should cancel your RRRR distress message. (C. in C. S.A., 1708/7, to DORDRECHT.)

Convoy W.S.6.

Your 2017 /26. CORNWALL arrived St.Helena. Awaiting instructions. (CORNWALL, 1301Z/7, to C. in C. S.A.)

VILLE DE
STRASBOURG.

RANCHI escorting Vichy French Ship VILLE DE STRASBOURG. arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1319Z/7.)

FRISCO.

My 1856/5. Italian FRISCO is getting into condition to sail, no vital parts of machinery moved. Authorities aware of preparations and Italian Consul is reported to have undertaken to communicate with authorities before sailing. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1506Z/7, to Admty.)

EMPIRE ADVOCATE.

Has further repairs, will be delayed and sails S.L.69. (M.S.R. Freetown 1518/7 to M of S.)

/SAVORGAN
DE BRAZZA.....

War Diary.

7. 3. 1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA.

Now decided SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is to remain at Durban. Cancel all reference to her in A.T. 1832/6. (D.O.D.(F) 1636/7, to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

BULOLO.

N.O.I.C. Glasgow 2222/6. Unless contrary instructions are received from you before 0600/8 work on BULOLO will start on 8/3. (D.O.D.(F) 1705/7 to C. in C. S.A.) Admty 1905/6 and N.O. i/c. Glasgow 2222/6. Essential that either DUNNOTTAR CASTLE or BULOLO arrives Freetown by 28/3 for S.L.70. If DUNNOTTAR CASTLE cannot be sailed in time delay to BULOLO cannot be accepted and she should be sailed to arrive by 28/3. (C. in C. S.A., 1735/7, to Admty.)

RANCHI.

Sailed in accordance with C. in C. E.I., 1206Z/6. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1746Z/7.)

FAULKNOR.
FORESTER.

F.O.C.N.A. 1626/6. FAULKNOR and FORESTER will have approx., 140 boiler hours remaining on arrival Gibraltar. (C. in C. S.A., 1953N/7, to Admty.)

HIGHLAND
BRIGADE
ADDA,
CAPO OLMO
TOUAREG.

Your 1533/5. In view of urgent need for HIGHLAND BRIGADE in South America request confirmation that this move cannot be carried out with ADDA, CAPO OLMO, and TOUAREG as suggested in my 0157/14/2. Request report whether Free French and West African troops were dealt with as proposed in my 2259/21/2 as proposals for re-allocation at Durban are dependent upon numbers on board each ship. (D.S.T. 2159/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

DELHI
defects.

DELHI's 1143/1, and Adty., 1031/17/11/40, in view of N.O.I.C. Simonstown's report consider preparation should be made to re-tube all boilers completely at Singapore. (C. in C. S.A. 2347/7.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.CALCUTTA
Piraeus
Convoy.

HERO with 8 ships E.T.A. Piraeus Boom 2000/7. CALCUTTA, ILEX, and HASTY, will leave convoy at Phleva Island and proceed to Suda Bay, passing west of Belo Pulo, for fuel. E.T.A. Suda Bay 0600/8. (CALCUTTA 0654/7 to N.A. Athens, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
LIVERPOOL.

Your 2337/4. Reply. (C. in C. Med., 1047/7 to Admty) (See Mediterranean Volume).

Italian
destroyer
seen
damaged.

Photograph taken from prisoner of War show Italian Destroyer FOLGORE Class in dock with bow blown off to just forward of bridge superstructure. Date and place not known. Further enquiries being made. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1116/7). Comment by N.I.D. There is no information to suggest the identity of this destroyer or the occasion on which she was damaged.

M.T.B's.

Admty. 1557/10/2. Request following information may be signalled, of M.T.B's being sent. (C. in C. Med. 1125/7 to Admty).

UPHOLDER.

Leave patrol p.m./8 (route) arrive off Marsamxett 0700/10. (Cdr. S.1. 1205/7 to UPHOLDER).

Mining of
Suez Canal.

3 sweeps by 3 DWI Wellingtons exploded 1 mine in Suez Canal 6/3. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1219/7).

ANFITRITE
sunk by
GREYHOUND.6/3.

GREYHOUND sank Italian U-Boat ANFITRITE in position 034° 55' N. 026° 43' E. at 0715/6. U-Boat was detected by asdic at range of 900 yards. One pattern dropping on top of U-Boat who at once surfaced. GREYHOUND opened fire obtained two hits on conning tower and killed six. U-Boat surrendered but was already sinking when boarded. Some documents were obtained about which further signal will be made. 39 prisoners including all officers. U-Boat had left Leros on 4/3. Suggest issuing following communique as knowledge of this success may deter other Italian U-Boats in this area during present important period in Aegean:- On 6/3 Italian submarine ANFITRITE attempted to attack one of our (?routine) Aegean convoys. She was sunk by escort craft. (C. in C. Med., 1505/7 to Admty).

/Air.....

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air raid
on Malta
5/3.

Re Fighters (C. in C. Med 1515/7) See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta
Air Raids.

Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 7/3. Enemy air activity night 6/7. About 12 aircraft carried out individual attacks dropping bombs at St. Julians Grand Harbour Valletta Hal Far and Delimara. No Government damage.

7/3 4 JU. 88's and approximately 10 M.E. 109's came over at 1000 hrs. 7 Hurricanes up which engaged fighter formation. During this engagement 2 ME. 109's came in at 150 feet and machine gunned a Sunderland at moorings in St. Pauls Bay. Glenn Martin returning from Sicily was also attacked shot down and burnt out. Ground defences probably accounted for two of the attackers. 1500 approx. 20 enemy aircraft circled 20 miles north of Island but raid did not materialize. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1600/7).

A.N. 18.

1500/7. HELKA, ESCAUT, COMLIEBANK, HOLLANDIA, KEHREA, all for Piraeus. (R.A. Alexandria, 1801/7).

Minelaying,
Cape Bon.

Information supports opinion that enemy minelaying took place on Cape Bon Tripoli route on 24/2. Do not approach within 15 miles of Kelibia or Kuriat. Submarines Central Mediterranean should avoid Headland. (Cdr. S.1. 1921/7 to UTMOST).

Enemy
Intelligence.

Secret source considered reliable. My 1319/5 stated on 24/2 Italian cruisers ARMANDO DIAZ and ^{ARMANDO DIAZ} BAMBIANO passed Kelibia in a southerly direction. Between 10/2 and 1/3 34 cargo boats, of which five were German, passed Kelibia in a southerly direction. Troops and vehicles observed in 10 of these ships. (V.A. Malta, 1928/7).

Italian
Supply Ship
Sunk.

The Greek Ministry of Marine has issued the following *communiqué*:—
About midnight on February 23 the submarine Nereus (Lieutenant-Commander Vrasidas Rotas) met an Italian convoy in the Adriatic consisting of two supply ships, escorted by two destroyers. The Greek submarine torpedoed and sank one of the two supply ships.

The Times
7/3/41

War Diary.7.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.B.M.4.Convoy B.M.4, Karachi portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0447/7).Suez
Canal
net.

Your 1201/5 estimated Indian requirements ready for shipment within two months of placing order. Particulars. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0504Z/7 to C. in C. Med).

ERITREA.

S.O.I. Aden reports C. two that Italian escort ship ERITREA proceeded south with women and children on 21/2. Same source reports German and other ships are being cleaned up and "paint blackish" suggests movement. (C. in C. E.I. 0512Z/7).

CANADIAN
CRUISER,
use of U.S.A.
markings.

My 0512/26/2. Further investigation indicates German Claim probably correct. (2) British Ship GHARUDA passed 1000 yards from CANADIAN CRUISER on 14/2 and noticed Red and White stripes but no stars painted on side. (3) Report (B.2) states Master of Cruiser when at Kolachel boasted of having escaped raider by use of American colours on voyage to Colombo and stated intention of again using American markings when outside Territorial Waters. (C. in C. E.I. 0610/7 to Admty).

C.F.1.
HOBART.
SYDNEY.
AUSTRALIA.A.C.N.B. 0315/7 and my 1132/6 Convoy C.F.1 will now leave Colombo 0530Z/8. Rendezvous for HOBART and SYDNEY with AUSTRALIA and convoy is (position and date) Concur that modified form of convoy from rendezvous onward be used. (C. in C. E.I. 0730/7 to F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn).
*See also p. 244*Troops
for M.E.

Your 0833/6/1 and 1051/6/3. TALAMBA will carry out this move. (S.S.T.O. India 0807Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius);

U.S. Convoy.

Your 0538/1 and Admty. 2341/3. Could ships concerned proceed from Fremantle to Suez without replenishing with fuel and water? Not more than 1,000 tons of water can be supplied to each QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH at Trincomalee without causing serious delay. (C. in C. E.I. 1010Z/7 to A.C.N.B).

/Convoy.....

FOREIGN SECTIONS.
East Indies.

7.3.41 2408
Friday. Lion.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE IN 1805/7/March.

From H.M.A.S. CANBERRA. Date 9.3.41.

Recd. 0132.

NAVAL CYPHER C BY T/P.

Addressed C. in C. East Indies, Repeated H.M.S. LEANDER.

IMMEDIATE.

My 1750Z/5th. Further investigation shows that TAMESIS and Number 16 are the same ship. Other names are ATLANTIS and TONI. My 1750Z/5th should be amended accordingly.

? Not
H.M.S.

Part (B) Freighter was TANNENFELS. two other sources confirm SPRINGBANK carries (?prisoners)

(ii) Captain BROVIG's Cabin contained souvenirs of the following ships SCIENTIST, ATHEL KING, TIRANNA, DURMITOR. He apparently commanded latter for a month.

(iii) One prisoner states number 16 had left Germany about March 1940 and had a crew of about 150. Reliability uncertain.

(iv) Captain's Steward, an Alsatian named Peter Wolff, volunteered following information which in view of confirmation from other sources is graded A one. except where otherwise indicated.

(v) He was serving in S.S. ^C~~COMM~~^ISSAIRE RAMEL when sunk by number 16 on 20th September 1940 and was taken prisoner. He knew of the attacks on BENARTY, ATHEL KING, KEMMENDINE, CITY OF BAGHDAD, and DURMITOR, there being 9 ships attacked up to the end of October.

He was transferred to DURMITOR which was used as a prison ship. She arrived Kismayu about 27th November.

(vi) Subsequently Wolff seems to have volunteered for service as he was sent to TANNENFELS shortly before she left Kismayu on 31st January 1941. TANNENFELS met number 16 and BROVIG about 13th February and he was sent to the latter.

? Not
H.M.S.

(vii) He confirms seeing German Armoured ship ADMIRAL SCHEER and SPRINGBANK also about this time and stated that the latter was a prison ship. He saw the British tanker, reported also by Norwegian Officer, on 27th February.

(viii) He is quite definite about TAMESIS and number 16 being same ship, and supplied the other name ATLANTIS.

(ix) He also reports the following, being convinced that it is true, and he doubtless had opportunity of overhear officers conversation. No grading practicable.

(x) (a) German Armoured ship ADMIRAL SCHEER and TANNENFELS are on their way back to Germany, not necessarily in company, former being due about 1st April.

(b) Germans have captured a Norwegian whaling fleet which is operating with a raider known as number 33 to south of Cape area. Another raider, number 21, has also been there but she and the whalers, stated to be 18 in number, are believed to be about to sail for Germany independently.

Number 41 is in Pacific: the Marshall Islands Area was indicated on a chart. Note: Other prisoner reacted to name Narvik but gave no information.

(c)/.....

-2-

(c) He thought from seeing a course laid off on a chart that Brovig was to have gone to Pacific via East Indies.

(d) Wolff is very nervous of treatment he and his relatives in Germany will get if it becomes known that he has supplied information. He must have much more to give however, and Mauritius will be informed via H.M.S. LEANDER accordingly, a questionnaire being forwarded.

(xi) Your 1442Z/6 will be answered in a further message Mauritius will be supplied with Summary interrogations already made.

1805/7.

1st Lord.	D.N.I. (4)
1st S.L.	D.S.D.
2nd S.L.	D.N.A.D.
3rd S.L.	D. of L.D.
4th S.L.	D. A/S W.
5th S.L.	D.M.S.
V.C.N.S.	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (H)	I.
A.C.N.S. (T)	Duty Capt.
A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of M.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.F.S.D.
D. of P. (2)	D.D.I.C.
D.O.D. (H)	E.P.S.
D.O.D. (F)	D.T.D.
D.D.O.D. (F)	N.I.D. 10 (Paym. Cdr. Wilson)
D.P.D.	N.L.O. Australia House.

War Diary.

7.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Convoy
B.S.18.

Sailing telegram Port Sudan portion.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1115Z/7, 1117Z/7).

S.W.5 B.
S.U. 2.

P.S.T.O. Egypt 1841/6. As ocean escort cannot now be made available for ships sailing from Suez on 10/3 it is requested that all ships carrying service personnel and for families be sailed from Suez (date). (ii) Request troopships ready to sail 10/3 except ATHLONE CASTLE be sailed as convoy S.W.5B., and ships ready to sail (date) and ATHLONE CASTLE be sailed as convoy S.U.2. If families can be transferred to a ship sailing on latter date for Durban, ATHLONE CASTLE can sail on 10/3. (C. in C. E.I. 1200Z/7 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal etc).

GLASGOW.

My 1120/5. Cancel reference GLASGOW. Request GLASGOW be sailed for Aden on 8/3 at 20 knots. (C. in C. E.I. 1202Z/7 to S.B.N.O Suez Canal).

COBURG.
KETTY BROVIG.

My 1750/5. Result of further investigation and interrogation of prisoners. (CANBERRA 1805/7 to C. in C. E.I) Original in Lion Copy only.

U.S.10.

To facilitate provision of shipping for on-carriage of U.S.10. Personnel. Request whether use could be made of troop accommodation on RANGITIKI and TAMAROA en route to New Zealand from Suez to assist in any of movements referred to in my 2300/21/2. (D.S.T. 2201/7 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)

China.

Oil stocks,
Shanghai.

My 0427/4 (Maintenance of oil stocks at Shanghai) Panamanian Tanker CHINA will load Balik Papan for Texas Company Shanghai. Am enquiring whether Asiatic Petroleum Co. could send a tanker if required. (C. in C. China 0901Z/7 to Admty). See Page 441.

N.E.I. Naval
patrols.

C. in C. China 1431Z/7, 0311Z/7,
See Operations Volume.

War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.HARBERTON.

Request reply my 1047/5 as ship is being held pending instructions. (W.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1034/7 to Admty).

Delays to tankers.

Your 1734/5. Due to faulty workmanship in weldingpipes, etc. CLEODORA delayed maximum 7 days. AMASTROJ delayed 7 days for new coil, SPINANGER delayed 24 hours D.G. repairs. (Willemstad D.W.I. 1110/7 to Admty).

S.S. SUFFOLK.
"R" Report.

My 1038/27 DIOMEDE reports message cancelled. Referred to contact between DIOMEDE and BARFONN. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1115/7 to Admty etc).

H.X. and S.C. Convoys.

Re escorts (D.O.D.(H) 1343/7 to R.A.3). See Operations Volume. (Shipping & Convoys.).

Tankers.

Correcting address of 1734/5. (D.T.D. 1435/7 to S.N.O. Curacao, etc).

SURCOUF defects.French Cruiser-submarine SURCOUF^{*} arrived with serious main battery defects. Hoped ship will be ready for sea within 15 days. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1437/7 to Admty).** Halifax 3/3 - (Pink)*ROYAL SOVEREIGN H.X. Convoy.

Departure H.M.S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to overtake convoy.H.X. 113 in accordance with Admty 1154/7. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1643/7).

U.S. Coastguard Cutters.

My 1729/27 Navy Dept. are asking whether the information regarding the armament required in coastguard cutters can now be supplied. (N.A. Washington 1650/7 to Admty). Your 1729/27. Offer of coastguard cutters cordially welcomed. Vessels would be acceptable in present condition with low angle armament only, high angle armament to be fitted in U.K. Ammunition for 5 inch guns would be required from U.S.A. both outfit and reserve, including practice. (Head of M. 1815/7 to N.A. Washington).

War Diary.

7.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

VOLTAIRE.

Your 1136/5/2 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2037/2/3. Request consideration to VOLTAIRE acting as ocean escort for K.G. MELDAHL. (D.O.D. (F) 1729/7 to F.O. 3 B.S).

ANNA KNUDSEN.

Request reason for sailing to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1731/7 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

T.C.10.

Your 1601/18/2. Under urgent consideration but do not expect to be able to provide for more than 5300 personnel to sail early April. (D.S.T. 1821/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X. 116.

My 1232/15/2. One cruiser is required to proceed to approx. 50° W. to act as Ocean escort to convoy H.X. 116 leaving Halifax (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1924/7 to C. in C. H.F). Admty 1343/7. As a result of withdrawal of SEVERN from your command difficulty in fulfilling your convoy commitments for S.C. 26 and H.X. 116 will be experienced. Escort for H.X. 116 will therefore be provided by a cruiser from the Home Fleet. (D.O.D. (H) 1925/7 to R.A.3).

Australia.

MENTOR.

Your 1603/4. MENTOR arrived Sydney 24/2 due to leave Newcastle for Durban 8/3. (A.C.N.B. 0155Z/7 to Admty),

A.M.C's?

Your 1642/3. (Requesting verification of 1st sentence in signal re 2 A.M.C's sailing from Australia early June). First sentence refers to Australian minesweepers coded as A.M.S. my 1216/21 was repeated to you vide my 1426/5. (A.C.N.B. 0214Z/7 to Admty).

/SYDNEY.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia. (contd).SYDNEY.
HOBART.
C.F.I.

Admty 0128/6. It is not intended to move SYDNEY and HOBART to Tasman Sea for the present. Propose therefore that SYDNEY and HOBART R/V with convoy C.F.1 as early as possible. If you concur request R.V. to F.O.C. Australian Sqn. When escort is reinforced by SYDNEY and HOBART suggest modified form of convoy be used. (A.C.N.B. 0315Z/7 to C. in C. E.I). *See p. 240.*

Convoy.

ADELAIDE escorting ANATINA, THORDIS and CLAN MCDONALD departed Brisband for New Zealand 0431Z/7. (A.C.N.B. 1747Z/7).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

7.3.1941.

Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.DELILIAN.

(British 6423 tons), SSSS DELILIAN torpedoed 60. 28 N., 13 38 W., (Lyness, T.O.R. 0507/7.).

SSSS. DELILIAN torpedoed 60.28 N. 13.38, West 0409/7 bearing from Malin Head Radio 325°. Bearing from Wick Radio. 293° approx. (Liverpool W/T, 0515/7. T.O.R. 0616/7.). Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe daylight hunt S/M which torpedoed DELILIAN (position.). (C.in C. Rosyth, 0558/7.).

ATHELBEACH.

(British 6568 tons). The following has been read. At 0542 G.M.T. ATHELBEACH torpedoed approx., posn., 60. 30 N. 13 30 W. 2nd., torpedo. (DELILIAN via Wick Radio, T.O.R. 0644/7.).

MIJDRECHT.

(Dutch tanker 7593 tons). Following has been read:- SSSS. 60. 31 N., 13 53 W., approx., MIJDRECHT torpedoed 0632/7. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0732/7.).

Proceed in company with all despatch to position 60° 28' N. 13° 38' W., where DELILIAN, ATHELBEACH and MIJDRECHT torpedoed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0721/7, 0802/7.).

OB 293 attacked by submarine 0450 in position 060° 30' N., 013° 30' W. ATHELBEACH, DELILIAN, and MIJDRECHT and one or other torpedoed. Have attacked and lost possible submarine contact. CAMELLIA and ARBUTUS ordered to stand by for casualties.

WOLVERINE and CHELSEA remaining with convoy. (weather). (WOLVERINE, 0744/7, to C.in C. W.A.).

Request you will sail KING SOL forthwith to R.V. with ST. OLAVES and BRIGAND in position 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1430/7, and escort them to position 60° 28' N., 13° 38' W., where DELILIAN, ATHELBEACH, and MIJDRECHT have been torpedoed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0938/7 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).

/ CAPE COMORIN ...

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)CAPE COMORIN

CAPE COMORIN reports being fired at by torpedo at 2145/6 in position 056° N. 010° 05' W. (DIDO, 0945/7, to C.in C. W.A.).

KING SOL will R.V. with you in position 000° 5 miles from Butt of Lewis at 1430/7 and escort you to position given in my 0721/7 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0945/7 to BRIGAND ST. OLAVES).

ATHELBEACH
DELILIAN
MIJDRECHT
TERJE VIKEN

W A C I Section G Part 19.

(a) WOLVERINE obtained contact astern of Convoy at 0506, lost at 500 yards, pattern five dropped at 0510, contact not regained, doubtful submarine.

(b) Starboard, one rocket at 0450 red light 0451.

(c) Destroyers one ahead one astern of corvette one each beam.

(d) ATHELBEACH 71 DELILIAN 61 believed first attack in station TERJE VIKEN, 63, MIJDRECHT, 75, probably out of station. ATHELBEACH able to proceed, other 3 not known.

(e) 0450/7 observed position 060° 21' N. 013° 58' W.

(f) 328° 4½ Hurricane than 80° to port until next attack.

(g) Good, light northerly wind visibility 12 cables black cloud sleet later.

(h) Two oilers torpedoed in 7 minutes, third one hour later, fourth one hour 40 minutes later. A second torpedo at ATHELBEACH at 0645. Last two ships did not turn with Commodore. (WOLVERINE 1339/7 to Admty.).

ATHELBEACH sunk by submarine U 41* at 0600, have 35 survivors. Am proceeding with DELILIAN (torpedoed in No. 1 hold) in company. My p. c. and s. are 060° 05' 013° 12' 115° 5.5. My A/S set unreliable. (CAMELIA, 1400/7 to C.in C. W.A.).

* actually U 70

TERJE VIKEN

Torpedoed twice, left 0800 on S.E. course. (1600/7, see S/M's Attacked).

Following has been read. SSSS TERJE VIKEN sinking after two torpedoes, position approx. 59° 30' N., 12° W.

(Lyness, T.O.R. 1740/7.).

Intercepted at 1642 G.M.T. S S S S TERJE VIKEN now sinking after 2 torpedoes. Approx. position 59.30 N. 12 W. (Port Patrick Radio, 1742/7).

/ MIJDRECHT
TERJE VIKEN

....

7. 3. 41.

Friday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)MIJDRECHT
TERJE VIKEN

Am leaving MIJDRECHT (Torpedoed). Speed 9 knots bound for Clyde through Minch to assist TERJEVIKEN. My Position is 059° 20' N. 010° 30' W.
(LADY LILIAN, 1800/7, to C.in C. W.A.). Proceed forthwith to TERJE VIKEN torpedoed in 059° 30' N. 012° 00' W. at 1742/7. (A.C.W.A., 1806/7 to HURRICANE). My 0721 and 0802. Proceed through position 59° 30' N. 12° 00' W. where TERJE VIKEN was torpedoed at 1740 today. HURRICANE has been despatched to stand by. ATHELBEACH sunk. DELILIAN proceeding with CAMELIA at 5.1/2 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1955/7, to ST. OLAVES BRIGAND KING SOL.). If not in contact rejoin Convoy (O.B.293) with despatch. (C.in C. W.A., 2301/7, to CHELSEA).

Unknown Ship.

Following received:- Addressed Admiral Lyness From Wick Radio Received at 2110 G.M.T. on 435 k/cs from Naval Station Mas begins at 2047 G.M.T. heard on 500 k/cs S S S S DE G (and that was all.). Strength 2. 2210/7 Ends. (Scapa W/T - 2220/7). One ship torpedoed and sinking in 062° 57' 30" N. 001° 30' E. (BERKELEY 2317/7). My 2317 2nd Ship torpedoed. (BERKELEY 2339/7). Your 2358/7. Found large oil patch in a position to 060° 00' N. 012° 46' W. also wreckage including one boat and raft but no survivors or bodies in position 060° 18' N. 013° 41' W. Intend continuing search until dark then returning to Kirkwall. E.T.A. 0800/10. (VISENDA 1410/8, to S.O.N.T.).

Submarines Reported.

0410. Reference Adty. Message AF. Position 60° 28' N: 13° 38' W. at 0410/7 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0546/7.).
1310. U-Boat sighted by A/C in 053° 30' N. 017° 00' W. at 1310/7. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/7 to Area B).

/ 0830.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.7.3.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

0830.

Submarine sighted on surface for 5 minutes in 060° 24' N. 001° 43' W. at 0830 today. Submarine dived on a northerly course. Report graded C.3. (A.C.O.S. 1617/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1409/7.) (F.O.S., 1521/7 to S/M's Area B.).

Submarines Attacked.

2230/6.

MANSFIELD reports good contact 055° 56' N. 010° 06' W. at 2230/6. (C.in C. W.A. 0339/7, to ENCHANTRESS, TAKU, CALDWELL.).

0744.

Contact attacked by WOLVERINE (see Ships Attacked 0744/7).

U.70 sunk by ARBUTUS

In company with CAMELIA have attacked contact established position 60.15 N., 13.53 W. Request aerial co-operation. (ARBUTUS, 1030/7, to C.in C. W.A.). Submarine surface, crew abandoned submarine. (ARBUTUS, 1300/7, to C.in C. W.A.). Your 1300/7. Well done. Tugs are being sent to torpedoed ships. One Corvette is to stand by until tug arrives report situation. VISENDA has also been sent to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/7, to ARBUTUS). Sank U Boat at 1318 Captain Matz and 24 other prisoners. Have also 17 survivors DELILIAN. Returning Liverpool. All depth charges expended. TERJE VIKEN torpedoed twice was left 0800 proceeding at 8 knots, S.E. course. (? omitted 1600/7 to C.in C. W.A.). Your 1300/7. Name and Number of U/B is urgently required. (D.D.I.C. 1728/7 to ARBUTUS). Your 1300/7. Report name and number of U/Boat. (C.in C. W.A., 1801/7 to ARBUTUS). Your 1728 name partially obscure DEU only visible no number on vessel. From prisoner believed U 76, name of Captain Matz, vessel appeared new. From one diary, left Heligoland 23/2 on first trip. Same diary states U (?70). (ARBUTUS, 1845/7, to Admt.). My 1845, almost certain U 70 not U 76. (ARBUTUS, 1930/7, to Admt.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.E boat
attacks.

Measures are being taken to meet the increasing scale of E boat attack off the coast of East Anglia. These include rearrangement of convoy sailings and strengthening of escorts.

The E boat attacks on Convoys F.N426 and F.S429 which commenced early last night continued until the early hours of this morning. (Summarised in 7/3).

U Boat
Campaign.
S.S.EMPIRE
ATTENDANT,
DUNAFF HEAD
torpedoed.

Convoy O B 293 was attacked again shortly after midnight 7/8 March and S.S.EMPIRE ATTENDANT was torpedoed. S.S.DUNAFF HEAD is also believed to have been torpedoed. WOLVERINE attacked the U boat.

At 1540 BEVERLEY sighted a U boat on the surface about 200 miles N.W. of the Butt of Lewis and attacked, but her port engine broke down and she was unable to obtain a contact when the U boat dived. ABERDEEN also attacked a contact about 45 miles S.E. of BEVERLEY's attack, at 1924.

British Air Activity.

Owing to unsuitable weather all operations by Bomber Command for last night and tonight were cancelled. Two Blenheims attacked the docks at Den Helder today.

Routine patrols in the North Sea were curtailed owing to bad weather. Air escort was provided throughout the day for convoys in the N.W. Approaches. Convoy S C 23 was escorted until 2300 and F.N427 all night.

Enemy Air Activity.

Several attacks on shipping took place today in the Western Approaches. PEREGRINE II reported being bombed and

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

gunned off the Bishop Rock this morning, but no damage is reported. S.S.NURGIS (Norwegian) was sunk, MARGO slightly damaged and SLEMISH and ARTHUR WRIGHT had casualties as the result of an attack on a coastal convoy early this afternoon, S.E. of Lands End, Convoy O B 294 was attacked in the Western Approaches, but no damage is reported.

S.S.KMICIC (Polish) is reported to have been bombed today N.W. of Holyhead and had one casualty but no damage.

S.S.PRINS FREDERICK HENDRIK, a straggler from Convoy O B M 295 was hit and abandoned this morning 20 miles north of St. David's Head.

M.S./T NADINE states that she severely damaged an a/c which attacked her this morning east of Lowestoft; the plane was last seen diving towards the sea and on fire.

Lowestoft was bombed this morning by an aircraft which was shot down. No naval damage occurred.

Grail Aerodrome was slightly damaged by attack this afternoon.

Sanday Island A.M.E. station was bombed today. Some damage was caused and there were some civilian workmen casualties, but the R.D.F. gear is undamaged. Temporary A A defences are to be installed pending the consideration of permanent defences.

Mining.

Minelaying by a few enemy aircraft last night is suspected off Falmouth and Plymouth.

Parachute mines were seen and heard to drop in the Thames Estuary this evening.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mines exploded today off Tynemouth and the Tyne was closed.

The Humber was opened about noon. Several mines were exploded.

Fowey was opened after being closed for over a fortnight.

Mines were detonated off Swansea, Yarmouth, Falmouth, and a large explosion occurred in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

U. 124
7
U. 105

U boat
attack on
Convoy
S L 67
5 ships
torpedoed.

Convoy S L 67 escorted by MALAYA was attacked by 2 submarines at 0400Z today about 200 miles west of Cape Blanco. S.S. LAHORE and 4 other ships were sunk.

SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU
sighted.

At 1700 today MALAYA, escorting Convoy S L 67 about 130 miles west of Cape Blanco sighted a large German warship about 40 miles away steering 245°, and about an hour later she reported two German battle cruisers (SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU). MALAYA retired on her convoy and the enemy were lost to sight at 1829Z.

Force H raised steam, and RENOWN and ARK ROYAL left Gibraltar at 2214 with ARETHUSA, screened by VELOX and WRESTLER. Admiral Somerville ordered REPULSE and FURIOUS (escorting STRATHMORE) in to Gibraltar, the former to fuel and R.V. with him on 11/3.

(For effect of sighting of German battle cruisers on convoy escort arrangements see 9/3).

See also notes past in D.O.D.H. Signals, Vol. 29, pp 161-281

Mediterranean.

It is stated that the Italian communique today admits that "a warship of medium tonnage sank in the Mediterranean through unknown causes." This is probably the

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

vessel torpedoed by UPRIGHT on 25/2, and confirms the reasoned opinion expressed by C-in-C Med. on 5/3, that the ship sunk was a cruiser of the CONDOTTIERI "A" class.

Three Blenheims bombed Tripoli harbour last night. A further 10,000 lbs. of bombs were dropped by Wellingtons today.

Motor boat DARD (loaned by Suez Canal Co.) was mined and sunk whilst sweeping in the Canal today.

East Indies.Convoy
C.F.1.

AUSTRALIA left Colombo this morning escorting the first Colombo - Fremantle convoy, C.F.1 (empty).

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

253

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A/S
Trawlers.

Your 1623/5. Re Loss of LINCOLN CITY.
Request another A/S Trawler may be
allocated to the Orkney and Shetland
Command.
(A.C.C.S. 1246/8 to Admty).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Glasgow.

Recommendations of a meeting held on
27/2 in the preparation of a Scheme for
the quick evacuation of the Port of
Glasgow in case of need.
(F.C.I.C. Glasgow, 2303/8).

Movements.

PETUNIA.

Delayed by weather. Will not reach
063° 15'N., 022° 00'W., until 1400/8.
(F.C.Iceland, 0023/8).

ST. OLAVES.

Deck gear washed adrift quarter flooded
in heavy sea. Sheltering East Loch
Roag until weather moderates.
(ST. OLAVES 0810/8).

OTUS.

Sailing postponed at least 48 hours.
Request F.C.C.N.A. pass to S.8. and
S.O. Force H.
(S.5. 0915/7, 1617/8).

H.34.

Sheerness 8/3. Sailed with Convoy F.N²⁷
for Methil H.M. S/M H.34 at 0830. ^
(C.in C. Nore, 1010/8).

M.G.B's.

HORNET's 1926/6. Sailed 1000/8.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1011/8).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)M.G.B's.
(Contd.)My 1011/8, returned Harbour due defects and weather.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1106/8).NELSON
Flag of
C.in C. H.F.A.S. Rosyth 1232/6 and 1818/7. Intend NELSON should enter Rosyth basin 20/3 for docking and to give leave. Request more important defects be dealt with during above period. Intend to transfer my flag temporarily to KING GEORGE V.
(C.in C. H.F. 1336/8).KING SOL.Return to Loch Ewe.
(F.C.I.C. Greenock, 1501/8).TUNA.Following movements may affect you.
(Details).
(F.C.(S) 1537/8 to TUNA).FERNIE
CLEVELAND.Cancel my 1309. Intend sailing FERNIE and CLEVELAND E.T.D. 2300 E.T.A. Needles 0745/9. Route. Lights.
(N.C.I.C. Dartmouth, 1546/8).~~O10.~~Submarine ~~O10~~ escorted by WALKER may be met proceeding from Rothesay to Holyhead.
(C.in C. W.A. 1802/8 to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, NORTHERN DAWN, 1807/8 to CASTLETON, BURWELL).SEALION
orders.Do not approach within 20 miles of Stadtlandet.
(F.O.(S) 1847/8 to SEALION).
My 1847. After arrival of SUNFISH and URGE this restriction will be withdrawn by Capt: (S) 6.
(F.C.S. 1941/8th).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E/Boat
attack on
Convoys
F.N#26 and
F.S#29
7/3 and 8/3.
DOTTEREL,
CORDUFF,
BOULDERSPOOL.
TOGSTON.
KENTON,
torpedoed,
SHELDRAKE,
damaged.

5 enemy in sight bearing 280, position
52° 44'N., 2° 14'E.

(PYTCHLEY 0003/8).

My 0003 have lost contact.

(PYTCHLEY 0041/7).

F.S#29 attacked by E/Boats one mile
North Smiths Knoll.

(PUFFIN 0038/8).

Am attacking E/Boat 2 miles North of
Smiths Knoll.

(PUFFIN 0050/8).

1 M/V torpedoed sinking immediately in
approx. 305 Smiths Knoll Buoy 2 lost
contact with E/Boat am searching for
survivors.

(PUFFIN, 0105/8).

E/Boat believed damaged moved away to
N.E.

(PUFFIN, 0115/8).

My 0105. Ship torpedoed S.S. TOGSTON.
Sank immediately, have picked up 11
survivors including Master, 8 missing
believed killed in explosion. Am
proceeding to rejoin convoy.

(PUFFIN, 0140/8, 0710/8).

Intercept from Humber Radio at 0051 G.M.T.

From 51 to 10 begins: Picked up 12 men
from KENTON 1 injured man still on board
my boat cannot get alongside. Request
send assistance position off Buoy 8.

(F.O.Humber, 0152/8).

Following received addressed Falmouth
from KROOMAN. Have located steamer.

F/ounded. (as received) will return to
harbour pending further orders.

(via N.Foreland Radio, 0816/8).

~~another~~ reports thirteen survivors landed
from S.S. CORDUFF.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0915/8).

Cromer reports S.S. CORDUFF London to
Hartlepool sunk 1030 by No.8 Buoy, by
E/Boats. Lists of casualties.

(N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 0925/8).

Following received addressed Yarmouth
from KROOMAN. Have sighted S.S. KENTON
stern completely under water. Towing
operations hopeless.

(North Foreland Radio 1225/8).

/1. Ships

WAR DIARY.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)E/B Attack on
F.N. 4267
F.S. 429 cont:-

Following is information at present available of casualties due to E/Boats last night Friday Saturday.

1. Ships known to be sunk, S.S. BOULDER-POOL approx. 52° 58'N., 01° 28'E. S.S. TOGSTON approx. 305° 2 miles from Smiths Knoll Light Buoy. CORDUFF sunk at 8 Buoy.
2. Believed sunk, S.S. DOTTEREL, position unknown after being torpedoed twice.
3. Torpedoed and ashore badly damaged, 1½ miles N.W. of Mundesley S.S. KENTON.
4. SHELDRAKE port propeller and shaft damaged by explosion of second torpedo that hit DOTTEREL. One officer and one rating missing believed killed.
5. Survivors.
6. Aircraft have located boats with other survivors. Trawlers from Yarmouth searching.
(C.in C. Nore, 1308/8, F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1345/8).
Add to my 1308/8 both SHELDRAKE and PUFFIN engaged E/Boats and believe they damaged them severely.
(C.in C. Nore, 1424/8).
Great Yarmouth 1455/8 departure tug DIVERSION (late NORMAN) to help S.S. DOTTEREL reported 2 miles west of 7 A buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1505/8).
DOTTEREL ashore East Scroby salvage attempts proceeding. 16 survivors, 8 missing.
(N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 2010/8).

KASTELHOLM,
intercepted.

My position at 1000 062° 33'N., 013° 02'W. KASTELHOLM with armed guard course 102° Skopen due Mygganeas 0800/9. Am parting until relieved at 1200. Resume patrol. (VASCAMA 1030/8, to LORD AUSTIN).

CONFIDENTIAL. MESSAGE IN 2021/8/March.
From C. in C. Western Approaches. Date 9.3.41.
Recd. 0009.
P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Western Approaches (44 N)
Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, R.A.D. Home Fleet,
Admiralty, D.3, F.O.S. Home Fleet Destroyers,
15 Group R.A.F, 18 Group R.A.F, H.Q. Coastal
Command, 10th A/S Striking Force.

IMPORTANT.

442. It is intended to operate A/S Striking
Forces in Western Approaches. These striking forces will
normally be formed of available destroyers in one escort
Group, or destroyers lent from Home Fleet.

2. In first instance, striking Forces will operate
in conjunction with convoys, being additional to convoy
escort.

3. Aircraft will co-operate within their range of
endurance.

4. Object of striking Force is to destroy U-Boats.
Presence of the striking Force with convoy is also intended
to provide additional A.A. and A/S Protection when not
hunting a submarine, and may also ease problem of stragglers.

5. When Striking Force is in Company with convoy,
command of escorting forces is to be exercised in
accordance with W A C I's Volume I, Section A part III,
modified as follows.

6. Senior Officer, escort Group, will be responsible for
protection of convoy against submarine attack, and for all
routine and administrative matters concerning the convoy.
Senior Officer, striking force, will be responsible for
conduct of U-Boats hunts, and, if Senior to Senior Officer, Escort
group, for decision whether to detach striking Force for this
purpose, and for how long hunt is continued.

7. In accordance with this principle, Senior Officer,
escort group, will be responsible for stationing and handling
escort group. Ships of striking Force may be stationed in any
other positions not occupied by escort group, as ordered by
Senior Officer, Striking Force.

8. Senior Officer, escort group, is to inform S.O.
Striking Force before sailing of the position escort Group will
occupy at time of rendezvous with Striking Force by night and
day.

9. When in Focke-Wulfe Area, AA Protection of convoy
should take priority over A/S requirements by day in regard
to stationing of ships of both escort Group and Striking Force.

10. If a U-Boat is sighted or detected by ships
or aircraft in company with convoy, Senior Officer, escort
group, is authorised at his discretion to detach some destroyers
of the escort group to reinforce striking force.

11. Succeeding paragraphs refer to air co-operation when weather permits.

12. Within radius of 250 miles from Oversay two aircraft (Wellington or Hudson) will co-operate. Within radius of 340 miles from Oversay two aircraft will co-operate when available (Sunderland, Lerwick or Whitley). Beyond this distance one aircraft (Sunderland) will co-operate, up to radius of 450 miles from Oversay, which is limit of operational endurance. In all cases one aircraft only will operate with convoy at night.

13. Aircraft will be fitted A S V and will operate as follows. By night and when one aircraft only available by day, rectangular patrol will be flown around convoy at a distance of 10 miles on either beam from 15 miles ahead to 20 miles astern of convoy. When two aircraft are available by day, one aircraft will fly parallel track 10 miles on each beam of convoy from 15 miles ahead to 30 miles astern.

14. On sighting a U-Boat aircraft will attack, report position relative to convoy Commodore's ship, and mark submarine, using smoke floats and dust markers by day, flares, flame floats and firing white Very's lights by night. Aircraft will remain over U-Boat and pass information to Striking Force and also Senior Officer of Escort Group. Aircraft will be relieved from Base during hunt if necessary.

15. Aircraft ordered to carry out AA as opposed to A/S escort will fly close circuits around convoy but will not approach within 1500 yards range.

16. C. in C. Western Approaches will if necessary give orders to Striking Force on completion of hunt, if no orders are received, Striking Force is to rejoin convoy.

17. All operational signals will be addressed to Senior Officers of both escort group and Striking Force. Messages of an administrative nature concerning convoy will be addressed to Senior Officer, Escort Group, only.

18. W/T Watch. As in A C I Section W and Western Approaches message 3 IN/1806/1/3 and 34N/1620/3.

19. Communication between Striking Force and aircraft. As in Western Approaches message 34N/1620/3., ships not fitted R/T using W/T I C W on 2/410 kcs. Aircraft will reply by R/T on 2/41 kcs. if within range, otherwise by W/T on 6,400/3, 925 kcs.

20. Call signs for communication between Striking Force and aircraft. First sea call sign for appropriate numbered A/S Striking Force to be used. Code word SIEGE allotted 10th A/S Striking Force. Code word SHILLING to 11th A/S Striking Forces suffixes and call signs to be used as in A.F.O. S2/41 article 38 Part 1. Para. 5 clause (F) and (G) and part 3.

-3-

21. Aircraft detached from a convoy to work with A/S Striking Force will continue to use his convoy call sign for the period of his patrol. Aircraft sent specially to co-operate with A/S Striking Force will use the appropriate A/S Striking Force call signs.

2021/8.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C. Trade.

1st Lord.	M. (2)
1st S.L.	D.N.I. (4)
5th S.L.	D.N.A.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. A/S W.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.S.D.
Naval Sec.	D.T.D. (4)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (M)
D. of P. (3)	E.P.S.
Ops. (4)	W/T Room (2)
O.D. (5)	I.P. (3)
O.I.C. (2)	W.D.
D.S.D. 9.	A.H.Q.H.F.
	D. of L.D. (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

2357/8 March

IN.

From C. in C. Western Approaches

Date 9.3.41.

Recd. 0439

NAVAL CODE K BY W/T.

Addressed D.3, H.M.S. VERITY, H.M.S. ECHO, H.M.S. ELECTRA
H.M.S. HELIOTROPE, H.M.S. ARABIS, H.M.S. VIOLET, NORTHERN GEM.
repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, F.O.C. Destroyer Flotillas
IMPORTANT. 15 and 18 Groups, R.A.F.

Following is Summary of orders for A/S Striking Force.

(A) Striking Force will operate in conjunction with Convoy and Convoy escort.

(B) Object to destroy U-Boats.

(C) ~~Wania~~ company with Convoy Command of Escorting Force as in company with Convoy Command of Escorting Forces as in W.A.C.I.'s modified as follows begins.

(D) Senior Officer Escort Group is responsible for protection of Convoy against submarine attack and for administrative matters concerning Convoy.

(E) S.O. Striking Force is responsible for conducting hunt and if Senior Officer Escort Group for decision to detach Striking Force and duration of hunt.

(F) Accordingly Senior Officer Escort Group will station and handle Escort Group ships of Striking Force to be stationed in positions not occupied by Escort Group as ordered by Senior Officer Striking Force.

(G) Within bombing range anti-aircraft protection of Convoy to take priority over anti-submarine requirements by day.

(H) S.O. Escort Group is authorized to detach some destroyers of Escort Group to reinforce Striking Force at his discretion if U-Boats detected by ships or aircraft with Convoy.

(I) Aircraft may co-operate up to 450 miles from Oversay as in my 1840/7.

(J) On sighting U-Boats aircraft will report position relative to Commodore marking position by smoke float and dust marker by day, flare flame float and firing white "Very Light" by night.

(K) If no orders received on completion of hunt Striking Force to rejoin Convoy.

(L) Wireless Watch as in W.A.C.I/W and Western Approaches Messages 31 N/1806/1/3 and 34 N/1620/3.

(M) Communication between Striking Force and Aircraft as in Western Approaches Message 34 N/1620/3, ships not fitted radio telephony using wireless telegraphy I.C.W. on 2,410 kilocycles per second. Aircraft will reply by radio telephony on 2,410 kilocycles per second if within range otherwise by W/T on 6,400/3 925 kilocycles per second.

(N) Call Sign for (M) First Sea Call Sign for appropriate numbered A/S Striking Force to be used. Code Word SIEGE allotted tenth A/S Striking Force and "SHILLING" to 11th A/S Striking Force. Suffixes and Call Signs to be used as in A.F.O. S 2/41/38 Part 1 (one) Paragraph 5 Clause E (F) and (G) and Part 3.

(O) Aircraft detached from Convoy to work with Anti-submarine Striking Force will continue using Convoy Call Signs for period of patrol. Aircraft sent specially to co-operate with Anti-Submarine Striking Force will

use/.....

use appropriate Anti-Submarine Striking Force Call Signs.

2557/8

Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (E).
- C.B.C. to 1st S.L.
- Ops. (4).
- O.D. (5).
- O.I.C. (2).
- D.A.S.W.
- D.S.D. 9.
- D.N.I. (4).
- M (3).
- D.F.D. (4).
- D.F.D. (M).
- D.N.A.D.
- Air Branch.
- D.S.D. (2).
- D.F.S.D.
- D. of L.D. (2).
- A.H.Q.H.F.
- D. of P. (2)
- I.P. (3).
- W.D.
- F.C. (5) by courier.

gc.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Operation
Q.D.Weather permitting operation Q.D. will be carried out tonight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1137/8, 1139/8).Re W/T
Watches.To be set on receipt of signal from C.in C. Nore that there is enemy E/Boat activity.
(C.in C. Nore, 1151/8).Operation D.N.

C.in C. H.F. 1531/8 see Operations Volume.

A/S Striking
Forces,
Western
Approaches.Intended to operate A/S striking Forces in Western Approaches. Details.
(C.in C. W.A. 2021/8) See Lion Copy Only.COSSACK
MAORI
ZULU.
(11th
A/S S.F.)Captain (D) 4 with COSSACK, MAORI and ZULU will operate as A/S striking force with Convoy O.B.296 returning with Convoy S.C.24. Captain (D) Liverpool to inform Captain (D) 4 of names of all ships detailed for escort in due course and to inform ships of escort group that striking force will be operating. This striking force will be addressed as 11th A/S striking force until return to Scapa.
(C.in C. W.A. 2250/8).British Air Activity.Flying of
Balloons
and Kites.A212 7/3. Ref: A269/27/2 and Admty. 1054/27. Instructions given apply to Admty. Balloons and Kites and not to Channel Convoy which will continue operation as formerly, 1230.
(H.Q.F.C. 0256/8).Attack on
Lorient
required.As there are 12 U/Boats in Lorient 6 of which are in dry dock, request Bomber Command may be asked to deliver a heavy attack at the first opportunity.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1314/8).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)A/A and
A/S
escorts.Method of operating.
(C.in C. W.A. 1734/8, 1743/8).Anti
E/Boat.
Patrols.1 Aircraft on patrol from 2200 until
2359 east of searched channels between
052° 30' and 053° N, may drop flares and
attack any E/Boat seen.
(C.in C. Nore, 2151/8).Enemy Air Activity.ST. ROGNVALD.AAAA ST. ROGNVALD 20 E. Noss.
(Portishead W/T 0226/8).
This is a British A/C dropping flares
to find his bearing. No attack made on
ST. ROGNVALD, latter did not open fire.
(C.G.Wick, 0420/8, R.A.F. L.O.Lerwick,
1615/8).Unknown.AAAA. Attacked by aircraft No. 8 Buoy.
(Liverpool, W/T 0740/8).PEREGRINE II.Position Bishop and Clerks 15 miles N.N.W.
bombed and gunned.
(PEREGRINE II 1038/8).Brightlingsea
attacked 7/3.Damage.
(Works, Shotley, 1042/8).Convoy.Fighters being sent to Convoy ^{"Mission"}~~mission~~.
(Lyness W/T 1205/8).Lowestoft
enemy A/C
destroyed.Lowestoft bombed at 1116 by enemy aircraft
which was destroyed and fell in sea,
Lowestoft 110° 6 miles. No Naval casualties
or damage.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1220/8).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Unknown ship.

Two enemy planes circling off Porthcurno.
(SCILLONIAN, 1223/8).
AAAA de GMDX Unknown ship bombed three miles south Porthcurno.
(SCILLONIAN 1227/8).

Convoy "Onset".

On enemy aircraft shadowing convoy ~~ONSET~~ in 53° 16'N., 14° 16'W.
(WANDERER 1217/8). ^{"Onset".}
Help enemy bombing convoy ~~ONSET~~.
(WANDERER 1223/8).
Long range enemy aircraft are operating in your vicinity. Attack may be expected by aircraft or U/Boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1409/8 to WANDERER).

Crail Aerodrome.

At about 1225 today a Ju 88 attacked Crail Aerodrome. Dropped two bombs near reserve hangars. Slight damage, no Service casualties.
(R.A.N.A.S. 1245/8, 1546/8 Crail, 1315/8).

Convoy O.B.M. 295, PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK hit and abandoned.

Unknown ship reports bombed 1138 today estimated 20 miles north of St. David's Head. Crew have taken to boats. Motor Launch 167 Fishguard Lifeboat and Rescue Tug GOLIATH proceeding position.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1312/8 to VOLUNTEER) and (1411/8).
A/S Trawler HUDDERSFIELD TOWN reports O.B.M. 295 attacked by single aircraft at 1130 today and suspects Dutch PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK straggler last seen in 52° 13'N., 5° 31'W. received direct hit. Attack not witnessed by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN British INVERLEN with convoy machine gunned, no damage, no casualties.

It is known PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK abandoned and on fire. This is evidently the ship referred to in my 1312/8 not to Admty.

Trawler STAR OF LIBERTY, M/L 167, Fishguard lifeboat and Rescue tug GOLIATH proceeded to search.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1545/8).

AFTERGLOW bombed 7/3.

Anchored off Yarmouth. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1345/8). Damaged under water. No casualties
(N.C.S.O. Yarmouth, 2010/8).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

FLASHLIGHT
(bombed 7/3).

Wreck of S.S. FLASHLIGHT lies in 53° 31' 22" N. 00° 48' 30" E. (F.O. Humber 1740/8).

Sanday I. A.M.E. Station.

At 1200 single enemy aircraft type unknown, dropped four bombs from very low height on Sanday Island. One bomb exploded on A.M.E. Station killing one civilian workman and injuring six, remainder UX. 12 huts damaged but R.D.F. gear undamaged. Fighters from Skaebrae endeavoured to intercept but were prevented by low cloud and poor visibility. (A.C.O.S. 1830/8).

S.S. NURGIS
sunk.

Casualties to personnel as result of enemy air action S.E. of Lands End, approx. 1330/8 S.S. MARGO, S.S. SLEMISH (Irish) S.S. ARTHUR WRIGHT (Br.). S.S. NURGIS Norwegian sunk. All crew saved. Total 14, includes 2. W(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2122/8).

Mining.

Tynemouth.

Two mines exploded spontaneously at 2112/7 off P.W. S.S. Tynemouth. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0231/8).

Operation
S.N.4.

Amend my 2153/6 as follows.
(R.A.M./L 0902/8).
Orders for GALATEA and AURORA to R/V with R.A.M.L. (C. in C. H.F. 1716/8).

S.N. 4.
S.N. 68B.

Cancel my 1142/3. Laying of S.N. 4 is to be postponed. S.N. 68B is to be laid forthwith. Arrange accordingly. (1st S.L. 2340/8 to R.A.(M)).

Humber.

Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1153/8).
The following mines were exploded by L.L. trawlers to-day. (F.O. Humber 1845/8).

/Tyne.....

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. (contd).

Tyne.

Your 1244/8 Tyne closed proceed into Hartlepool. (C. in C. Rosyth 1434/8 to KELLETT).

Fowey.

Cancel my 1802/22/2. Port of Fowey now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1603/8).

Operation
B.S.51.

1. TEVIOT BANK is now ready for service.
2. It is desired to carry out operation B.S.51 in accordance with Adty. 1528/8/2, and 96 AZ as soon as practicable.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth is request to sail 20th D.F. to Immingham to provide escort for TEVIOT BANK. (V.C.N.S. 1652/8).

Swansea.

(1) 8/3. 4 mines exploded by AKITA. Details. (F.O.i/c Swansea 1700/8, 1701/8).

Yarmouth.

L.L's detonated red mine 8/3. Position. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1830/8).

Sweep off
Beachy Head.

An exploratory sweep by seven trawlers will be carried out tomorrow from QZS 169 to 180° Beachy Head 13 miles thence to 50° 38' N. 0° 30' E. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1857/8).

Falmouth.

Position of 3 mines exploded spontaneously today. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2133/8).

Thames
Estuary.

* Outer Patrol Tug OCEAN LOVER reports that at approx. 1230 to-day a large explosion took place near west of Barrow Sand and clear of the swept channel. Ships of Convoy F.S.429 were proceeding through the channel between B5 and B4 buoys at time of explosion. Further details. (C. in C. Nore 2335/8).

* Drifter - *see list*

Enemy Intelligence.

German
Shipping.

Various intelligence. (N.A. Stockholm 1549/8) (In Lion copy only).

SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.

My 1956/8. Battlecruisers last seen at 1829Z/8 steering 245 degs. 20 knots. (D.D.I.C. 2126/8).

SECRET.

HOME COMMANDS
Merry Intelligence
MESSAGE

8.3.41
Saturday. 261A
IN.

1549/8.March.

Date: 9.3.41.
Recd: 0225.

From: N.A. Stockholm.

Inter-departmental Cypher 9. by cable.

Addressed D.N.I.

German shipping (see my 1137/23/2)

1. Swedish.

- (a) Still no evidence small vessels under 500 tons.
- (b) At Gothenburg an average of about 20 German vessels per month have entered and cleared port, though during the last two months double the normal number of ships remained in the roads for long periods. Their German port for discharge is not communicated until vessels are on homeward passage.
- (c) Some vessels were observed to arrive in Baltic, others brought mainly coal and coke. Some sailed empty whilst others were observed to embark steel pipes, S K F products and pulp. Most vessels observed were defensively armed and camouflaged.
- (d) All vessels are believed to have been routed around Jutland.
- (e) 2 or 3 masters stated that they had instructions to return to mobilization ports by mid March, amongst them MUNCHEN to Hartiansand and MULHEIM RUHR to Antwerp.
- (f) Following arrived for repair at Gothenburg in February;
MATTHIAS HUGO STINNES, *CATHARINE DOROTHEA FRIYUNGEN. B. two repeat B two.
* KATHERINA DOROTHEA FRITZEN. see Lloyd's.

2. Norwegian.

- (a) Narvik.. Reported traffic recently has been "lively". Until 5th Feb. five vessels including AGIR has sailed with cargoes of ore. Average vessel takes four or five days to load.
- (b) Tronso. Since Christmas four vessels with petrol and Benzol have arrived from Germany.
- (c) Lofoten Islands area. Reported larger and modern fishing vessels now entered carrying trade for Germany. C. three repeat C. three.

1549/8.

Advance copy Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D. 9.
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
W.D.
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (1)

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.Valuable Ships.

W.A.C.I Vol. 2. Section B. Part III.
Essential that whenever possible S.O. Escort shall ensure that these valuable ships are escorted from the outward bound to the inward bound convoy. In case rescue ships become separated from convoy and escort N.C.S.O. Clyde is to provide Masters with route instructions for return to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A., 1141/8, to Cpts. D. Liverpool etc.).

Menace of a/c attack, South Irish Sea.

My 1705/6/3. Proposed that stragglers from homeward bound convoys destined for Bristol Channel ports be directed to call at Belfast. Request N.C.S.O's overseas be instructed accordingly. (C.in C. W.A. 1156/8 to Admty.)

EXMOUTH

American Red Cross sending U.S. Govt. S.S. EXMOUTH from New York to Marseilles, due about 23/3 carrying exclusively Red Cross supplies for France and Belgium. Will fly American and Red Cross flag and will be marked with Red Cross. Side markings will be illuminated at night.
(Particulars of EXMOUTH) Course will be from New York by regular winter ocean track to Gibraltar. From Gibraltar to Marseilles, subject to local conditions. Take steps to ensure that this vessel is allowed to proceed and return without molestation.
(Air Ministry 1232/8, to A.O.C.in C. M.E.).

Navigation Lights, independent ships.

Cancel my 1718/5 and substitute proposed following signal to all British Merchant Ships in Area 1. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1654/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

East Coast Convoys, precautions against E-Boat Attack.

Increasing scale of E-Boat attack in area between Sheringham Light Buoy and Aldeburgh Light Float, together with reduced numbers of Rosyth Escort Force and Nore Destroyers, calls for drastic measures.
Considered essential to avoid a heavy concentration of shipping in this area on nights favourable to E-Boat activity and following measures are proposed:-

/ (a)

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

General (Contd.)

East Coast
Convoys,
precautions
against E-Boat
Attack.

(a) Northbound convoy will be sailed as early as daylight and minesweeping requirements allow in order that they may be as far North as possible at nightfall.

(b) Southbound convoy will be ordered to anchor between Outer Dowsing and 59 Buoy and to weigh and proceed by Q Z S 172 at such a time that they pass the Sheringham Light Buoy about two hours before sunrise. This will probably entail anchoring in Barrow Deep following night.

(c) Northbound convoy will be reinforced with destroyers on patrol O.

(d) Other light forces and auxiliary forces available will concentrate on protection of Northbound convoy. These proposals would entail,

(1) Provision of fighter protection for southbound convoy during passage from 8A Buoy to Southend in daylight.

(2) Provision of escorts from Nore resources to start F N convoy from Southend on days when the F S convoy has anchored for the night in Barrow Deep. When the convoys meet the escorts will transfer and Nore escorts will take the F S convoy to Southend.

Expect that this commitment can normally be met from Nore resources.

(C.in C. Nore, 2228/8, to C.in C. Rosyth, Admty.).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.26.426

E.T.A. (VERSATILE, 0815/8) Tyne ships to be diverted to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth 1221/8) 5 ships from Middlesbrough (C.in C. Rosyth 1321/8) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1554/8).

F.N. 27.427

LA MELPOMENE left with (N.C.S.O. Thames 0914/8) 0830/8, 27 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1026/8) List (1143/8) Patrol "O" to join. (C.in C. Nore, 1145/8) Additional escorts (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1529/8 C.in C. Nore 1343/8 C.in C. Rosyth 1803/8) Position (WALLACE, 1549/8).

2 ships for (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1620/8) Ships from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1744/8, C.in C. Rosyth 2214/8) BEGONIA to R.V. (F.O..Humber 1805/8).

7 M.V's

For onward routeing (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0954/8).

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.96 (0) 1530/8 escorts, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0930/8) Sailed 1630/8, escorts, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1820/8).

W.N.96. 0942/8, ST. LOMAN, 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/8) List (3 ships) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/8).

E.N.82. Position (A.C.O.S. 0939/8).

F.N.25.425 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Dundee 1000/28)
Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1224/8)
(N.C.S.O. Blyth 1814/8).

E.N. 83. Code "Usage") JASON to act as addl. A/A
W.N. 96. Code "Chitty" escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1001/28).

W.N.95. E.T.A. (SARABANDE 1045/8) 1 ship for.
(N.C.S.O. Lyness 1540/8) Position
(C.in C. W.A., 1640/8).

F.S.29.429 Position, 37 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1047/8) All arrived (1755/8).

W.N.97. 2030/10, "Rusty", 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1112/8) Escort (1555/8).

F.N.29.429 My 1620/7, FRANKLIN to join. (C.in C. Nore 1156/8).

E.N.83. 0230/9, escorts, 20 ships, code "Usage".
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1239/8).

2 M.V's (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1300/8).

F.S.29A.429A 9 ships join from Middlesbrough (C.in C. Rosyth 1319/8) Additional escort (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1529/8) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1553/8) Sailed from Methil 2300/7.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1556/8) 5 ships from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1746/8) Ditto at Outer Dowsing (C.in C. Rosyth 2212/8).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.81. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1347/8).

F.N.26. 426 E.T.A.)
F.S.29A. 429A off Whitley) (C.in C. Rosyth 1622/8).
E.N.83 Sails 0230/9.)
F.S.31. 431 Sails 2300/8.)

"Ounce" Postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1900/8).

F.N.28. 426 VESPER additional escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2104/8).

F.N.27. 427 Maintain W/T silence except in emergency. (C.in C. Nore, 2251/8, to WALLACE, HOLDERNESS, VANESSA).

Ocean Convoys.

S.L.S.64 My 2050/7. CAMITO reports five British one Greek Merchant seamen survivors on board (attacked by raider 12/2) WARLABY from WARLABY, SHREWSBURY and PERSEUS. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0008/8, to Admty.).

S.L.66. Meet. (C.in C. W.A., to WANDERER, MONTGOMERY, WITCH, etc., 0014/8) 8 hours late (C.in C. W.A. to WANDERER, etc., 1234/8).

O.B.293. Weather thick, convoy scattered, have dispersed. (Cdre O.B.293, 0200/8). Dispersed at 0200/8. (C.in C. W.A. 0918/8 to VERITY).

O.G.55. 0210/8, escorts 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0215/8) List (0927/8) WESTON with Clyde portion (C.in C. W.A. to EGRET, 2102/8).

Turkish Ferry Boats. Sailed 0200/8. (P.S.T.O. Clyde to D. of S.T., 0409/8).

O.B.C.296. 2300/10, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1025/8).

O.B. 296. 0100/10, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1100/8).
/O.B.U. 295.

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSShipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.U.295. 1110/10, unescorted, 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1111/8).

O.B.O.295. Your 1750/6. No ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1104/8 to Capt. D. Londonderry).

O.G.O.55. Sailed 0900/8, ARAB, 11 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1115/8).

H.X.109. 1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Barry 1230/8).

S.L.65. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1347/8 1515/8, F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800/8 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1855/8).

H.X.110. 1 destination (D.T.D., 1457/8) 1 Destination amended (C.in C. W.A. 1851/8) HX 110. Ref. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1001/23/2. (Halifax and Bermuda Convoys). Ships from Bermuda also have these instructions. (D.T.D. 1319/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.L.B.65. 0400/8, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1500/8).

B.H.X.114. Advance. (Bermuda, 1502/8).

S.C.23. Your 1128/8, HARVESTER to reinforce escort. (HARVESTER, 1559/8).

H.X.111. Not met (VERITY 1730/8) Destinations (D.T.D., 1811/8, 1814/8, 1815/8).

S.L.S.65. TULIP to escort Bristol ships. (C.in C. W.A. to CALDWELL, 1751/8) LORNASTON arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1306/8).

O.B.295. Sailed 1652/8. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1804/8) List (1805/8) NORTHERN DAWN to overtake. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1815/8).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.C.22. Congratulations on safe arrival.
 (C.in C. W.A. 1856/8 to R.A. Manners).

S.C.25. Destinations changed. (D.T.D., 1943/8).

Tankers. Destinations, repairs. (D.T.D., 1945/8
 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad).

H.X.114. Destinations (D.T.D., 1950/8).

Military Convoys.

BRITANNIA A.M. 1904/6 Par. 1. Add. From Clyde 11/3
THEMISTOCLES BURMA 12 knots for Halifax.
CITY OF HONG KONG (D.O.D.(H) 1718/8).
BURMA

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.Unknown ship.

Great Yarmouth 8/3 departure Rescue Tug KRÓOMAN at 0142 to assist unknown ship in distress in 52° 57' 30" N. 01° 30' E. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0145/8).

BERKELEY

In view of danger of entering harbour in North East gale intend proceeding with despatch, e.t.a. 1230 request pilot. (BERKELEY 0944/8 to C.in C. Nore). BERKELEY arrived. (N.O.I.C. Middlesbrough 1330/8.).

TUNA

LA MOQUEUSE has not arrived by 0900 propose proceeding independently. Suspect dome buckled, docking required to renew. (TUNA 0822/8.).
My 1425/6. LA MOQUEUSE has failed to R/V with TUNA who is now proceeding unescorted. (Capt. (S) 3 1015/8).
Captain (S) 3's 1015/8. TUNA and LA MOQUEUSE now in company. F.O.(S) pass to Captain (S) 3. (TUNA 1248/8).

FINA

Returned from O.G.54 owing to defects. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1026/8).

TAKU

Your 1033/8. My p. c. and s. (details). 3 knots maximum. Essential to call Lough Foyle to refit submarine tow pendants. Unsafe to proceed further in confined waters with only single tow pendant of original pair remaining. Endurance of remaining tug 11 days. GLADIOLUS 9 days. ENCHANTRESS must put into Lough Foyle to oil 11/3. Wind 030 Force 7. (ENCHANTRESS 1125/8, Repeated by C.in C. W.A. 1659/8).
Proceed with ELECTRA, ECHO, when ready to comply with C.in C. H.F. 1121/8. Para. 1. Continue searching to the limit of your endurance. Report intended time of sailing. (R.A.D. 1618/8 to Capt. D.3.).

Cancel my 1618/8. Proceed as requisite to comply with C.in C. W.A. 1608/8. Report intended time of departure. (R.A.D. 1828/8, to Capt. D.3.).
Scapa departure INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA, ECHO. (A.C.O.S. 2210/8).

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)BALTARA

Proceed forthwith to assist S.S. BALTARA in 50° 50' N. 22° 27' W. at 1440/6 drifting south at 1-1/2 knots. FLEUR DE LYS will R/V with you and escort you. Further signal follows.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1125/8 to ZWARTE ZEE).
Your 1640/7 tug ZWARTE ZEE escorted by HEATHER is being sent and should arrive mid-day 10/3 to tow BALTARA to U.K. Remain with BALTARA as escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1133/8 to ST. ELSTAN).
HEATHER is to R.V. with ZWARTE ZEE in 180° Mull of Kintyre 5 miles at 1430/8. Orders follow. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/8 to HEATHER).
My 1125/8 HEATHER not FLEUR DE LYS will R.V. with you 180° 5 miles from Mull of Kintyre at 1330/to-day. New position S/S BALTARA at 1640/7 050° 21' N. 022° 12' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1234/8 to ZWARTE ZEE).
Sailed ZWARTE ZEE from Campbeltown at 1230 to R.V. with HEATHER and proceed to assist S.S. BALTARA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1301/8).
Your 1133/8 and 1301/8 acknowledged BALTARA condition unchanged in 049° 58' N. 022° 25' W. at 1530 G.M.T. drifting 195° 1 knot.
Weather report. (ST. ELSTAN 1700/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

OCEAN SWELL

My 1230/7 OCEAN SWELL delayed with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1206/8).

~~Hannond Knell~~
~~Light Float.~~
Light Float.

Reported in sinking condition.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1439/8).

MONTE FARO

Received 1636 G.M.T. De GYW. S.O.S. de MONTE FARO.
Please send ship or tug. We are in collision (?) by the stern at (?) the wharf of Aguamarga. Position 36.56 N., 1.56 W. from GYW (Gibraltar).
Intercepted 500 kcs. 1949 G.M.T. De GYW. EAKO from GYW (Gibraltar) You can consider the distress call received from MONTE FARO cleared. (Burnham on Sea Radio T.H.I. 1740/8, 2021/8).

PETUNIA

Have developed another very serious hot main bearing. Maintaining 6 knots at present but duration is (corrupt group) ships in company can proceed at 11 knots. Request instructions am 140 miles from Reykjavik.
(PETUNIA 2131/8 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Azores.

Request ships calling at Azores either independently or from convoy be sent to Ponta Delgada only and not to Horta as Horta is not a routing^{point} and Consul reports that there is no accommodation available for distressed seamen. (F.O.C.N.A. 1022/8, to C.in C. S.A.).

→ 0.23.

Your 2131/7. This has been done, Netherlands submarine 0.23 arrives 10/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/8 to F.O.S.).

PANDORA
0.21
→ 0.23

Position of S/Ms at 1200/9 and movements for 24 hours:- (position) E.T.A. 0700/10. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/8).

S.L.67.
Convoy

Attacked by s/m. (MALAYA, 1540Z/8, etc.). See U-Boat Campaign.

NORD ATLANTIC.

German tanker, discharged 36 tons petrol on 7/3 believed intended for German use ashore. (D.S. 550).

DELOS

German. Left Varna 3/3 for Russian port. (D.S. 550). *Should be under Red.*

GIUSEPPINA
GHIRARDI

Italian tanker, left Varna 3/3 for Constanza (D.S.550). *Should be under Red.*

ATLANTA)
CHERCA)

Italian, cleansing propellers and bottoms during week ending 8/3. (D.S. 551).

LEESEE
BRAKE
(German)

My 1958/26. We have received further information concerning S.S. LUSAL, please note her name should read LEESEE. BRAKE arrived from Vigo 2/3. (Bilbao, 1937/98).

Spanish
Shipping.

In view of impending orange shipments from South Spain approval has been given for ships to trade as far as Valencia. Subject to your remarks it is suggested that not more than two British and Allied Ships should be at any one time in the area between Cartagena and Valencia. (D.T.D. 1953/8 to F.O.C.N.A.).

BELLONA
(German)

7/3. Departure Savona for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2330/8).

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.).German Battle Cruisers Sighted by MALAYA.Warship
sighted.

Following has been read:- One large vessel uncertain whether battleship or battle-cruiser bearing 251° 240 miles course unknown my position 115 22° N. 20° W., 25 from a fix within half an hour of 1200.

(MALAYA, 1600Z/8, to Gibraltar).

Note. - Convoy S.L.67 had previously been attacked by U/B in 20.50 N., 20.28 W. at 0400Z. (See MALAYA 1540Z/8, U-Boat Campaign)
See Page 280.

SCHARNHORST
class.

My 1600Z ? Reported to have been Battle Cruiser SCHARNHORST Class neighbourhood 137 RBCZ (22° N., 20° W.) 16 X.12.
(MALAYA, 1705Z/8, Recd: 1858.)

Enemy in sight German Battle Cruiser SCHARNHORST my position 150 RBCZ 11.
(MALAYA, 1745Z/8, Recd. 1909).

Enemy retiring Westward my position is 150 RBCZ 11. (MALAYA, 1748Z/8, Recd. 1914).

(W.R. Note: The above messages were received by Gibraltar W/T Station and passed to Whitehall.)

Position about 130 miles W. of Cape Blanco, W. Africa.

2 Battleships.

My 1600Z. Aircraft reports two Battleships. Am retiring on Convoy.
(MALAYA, 1804Z/8).

My 1804. Confirmed two German Battle Cruisers SCHARNHORST Class at present steering 245° 20 knots. (MALAYA, 1829Z/8).

Force H.

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL ready to proceed 2200. (S.O. Force H., 1830/8).

Raise steam. (V.C.N.S. 1831/8 to S.O. Force H.).

Proceed to Sea. Take REPULSE and FURIOUS under your orders, it is estimated they have 50% fuel remaining.

(V.C.N.S. 1922/8 to F.O. Force H.).

My 1830. For 2200 read 2100. Should ARETHUSA accompany RENOWN and ARK ROYAL? (S.O. Force H., 1945/8).

Your 1945/8. Yes. (D.C. 2112/8, to F.O. Force H.).

/ Informing Home Fleet, etc. ..

[Another batch of signals of this sighting is in D.O.H., Vol. 29]

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)German Battle Cruisers Sighted by MALAYA.
(contd.)Informing
Home Fleet,
etc.

Two German ships probably Battlecruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU sighted by MALAYA at 1600Z/8 in position 21° 37' N., 20° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 1956/8 to C.in C. H.F., N. Atlantic, S. Atlantic, etc.).
German Battlecruiser in 21° 37' N., 20° 20' W. at 1600 G.M.T./8. (D.D.I.C. 2012/8 to All British Merchant Vessels in Areas 1, 7, 9 and 6A).

Enemy Report.

At 1828Z/8 SCHARNHORST made a signal on U/Boat frequency evidently reporting your position. (D.D.I.C. 2022/8 to MALAYA).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
STRATHMORE

Proceed with FURIOUS direct to Gibraltar at all speed practicable.
Detach STRATHMORE to R/V with destroyers as previously arranged. (S.O. Force H., 2058/8, to REPULSE).

Force H
intentions.

Your 1922/8. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and ARETHUSA proceeding 25 knots towards Canary Is. If S.L.67 no longer threatened by dusk tomorrow 9/3 intend proceeding vicinity 039°N. 021° W. cover O.G.54 and H.G.55.
Intend REPULSE to refuel and proceed to R.V. with me 039° N. 018° W. at 1200 A/11.
FURIOUS to remain at (?Gibraltar). (S.O. Force H., 2125/8, to Admty.).
Gibraltar departures RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA to westward screened by VELOX, WRESTLER. (F.O.C.N.A. 2214/8 to Admty.).

Force H. sailed.

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Raider in
Indian Ocean.

Following description of raider which has been operating in Indian Ocean - Captain Rogge. (C.in C. S.A. 0449N/8 to S.A. Station).

FALSTERBO
ALGORAB

Overdue shipping My 1117/7 Swedish ship FALSTERBO arrived Capetown. Dutch ship ALGORAB due Capetown 4/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0958/8.).

BRITISH
ADVOCATE
overdue

Overdue shipping BRITISH ADVOCATE due Capetown 4/3 from Basra not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1020B/8).

CORNWALL

Intend sailing on completion of oiling at 1600 Z/8 in accordance with your 1307N/7. (CORNWALL, 1032Z/8, to C.in C. S.A.).

SHROPSHIRE

Arrival 8/3, to be taken in hand for refit. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1033/8).

Deception
Island.

Oil fuel installation at Deception Island has been put completely out of action. Coal destroyed. No oil in tanks and no sign of oil having been stowed or worked for a very considerable time. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1053Z/8 to C.in C. S.A.).

NEWCASTLE

Arrived Montevideo 0915Z plus 3/7. Intend departing 0900Z plus 3/8. (NEWCASTLE, 1159Z/8).

WRAY CASTLE

My 1117/7 WRAY CASTLE arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1230/8).

ASAKA ~~MARU~~
enemy
signals.

Admty. 1311/1. Station using call sign JWND communicating with Norddeich has on several days since 25/2 afforded D/F bearings from Far East and S. Atlantic Stations suggesting Canaries area while ASAKA ~~MARU~~ appears to have been at Bilbao. Request bearing from station better placed to determine latitude. As ASAKA ~~MARU~~ is expected to leave Bilbao 10/3 request bearings of JWND if possible earlier. (C.in C. S.A. 1257/8 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

86 Group.

Address Indicating Group Number 86 has been allocated to denote:-
C.in C. South Atlantic, S.O.(I) Freetown,
S.O.(I) Capetown, N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Falklands and all H.M. Ships operating in or passing through S. Atlantic Station.
(Hd. of M. 1423/8, "A" Message).

KING GRUFFYDD

Sailed 1207 G.M.T./8 in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 1836Z/7 not to Admiralty or C.in C. S.A. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1430Z/8).

THORARINN

QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1114/2/3. (Urging Catcher be detained). After consulting C.O. of QUEEN OF BERMUDA and pending further orders I have instructed Magistrate South Georgia to detain Catcher THORARINN until end of season. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1534Z/8, to C.in C. S.A.)

NORDERNEY

N.C.S.O. Para, reports has requested berth for 10/3 to load. Has painted draft mark fore and aft. (S.O(I), Montevideo, 1738Z/8).

RICHMOND CASTLE
STIRLING CASTLE
CLAN CAMERON

Routeing instructions did not include final positions J L and K reported in respective Vescas.
This caused serious confusion. Utmost care is to be taken to avoid recurrence of these omissions.
(D.T.D. 1852/8 to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

German signals.

At 1828Z/8 German Naval Enigma message 2008/8 22 was heard at Freetown. Operator reports he heard transmitter's generator slow down at end of transmission. Also heard German Unit's receiver oscillate to receive repetition from Lorient (-4 XU-Barred). (Bearing) Is it certain that this would be message referred to in your 2022/8 or could conceivably be U Boat reporting W.S.6 which had just left Freetown. (Ref. your 2022/8.). (C.in C. S.A., 1951N/8 to Admty.).

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.CONTE ROSSO

Italian, reported in American Press to have been sunk in Mediterranean while carrying troops, (unconfirmed) (D.S. 551).

SPARTA

Left 6/3 for Marseilles.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 0015/8).

Enemy Ships.

Aircraft reconnaissance 6/3 reports three ships of 3000 and one of 1000 tons half a mile off shore at Burat El Sun.
(Capt. S.1, 0903/8, to TRUANT).
4000 tons enemy merchant ship escorted by two aircraft passed Kelitra Roads southwards at 0700B/8. (Comdr. S.1, 1255/8, to S/M's on Patrol).

A.N.F.17.

Arrived 2000/7. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 0900/8).

A.N.F.18.

0730/8. CLAN MACAULAY, CINGALESE PRINCE, SETTLER, THURLAND, DUMANA. Military Stores. DUMANA for Suda Bay, remainder Piraeus.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0955/8).

A.N.17.

Arrived 1000/8. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1100/8).

FORMIDABLE
EAGLE
ILLUSTRIOUS

Plans for. (C.in C. Med., 1110/8 to Admty.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy A.S.17.

(i) A.S.17 (ii) 1400/8. List of ships.
(N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1435/8.).

Turkish
minesweepers.

Your 2330/2, to Adty. last para. this has been, and will be done.
Commodore Minesweepers at Golcuk states total minesweepers at disposal of Navy at present time are 5 large and 2 small. No others have been taken up and apparently no other personnel has been trained beyond crews of these vessels.
(Admiral Kelly, Istanbul 1500/8 to C.in C. Med.).

ESSEX.(M/V)

Damaged further by enemy action. Endeavouring dry dock as soon as possible. (S.T.O. Malta, 1525/8 to D. of S.T.). See 1630/8.

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Taranto
Reccon.
Malta Air
Raid, 7/3.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1600/8/3. All times G.M.T. My I.161, 7/3. Glenn Martin which landed Greece reported Taranto 4 battle-ships 1 of which in dry dock 4 cruisers 7 destroyers 1 submarine 6 M.Vs. 38 seaplanes. During period 1840 to 2120 15 enemy aircraft attacked Island. Although a number of bombs were dropped several enemy aircraft missed the island. Damage H.M. Naval. Hit on store, slight damage to IMPERIAL, MESSEX damaged by 2 hits and 1 near miss. No casualties. (H.Q. Malta, 1630/8).

Spanish
Shipping.

Since bombardment of Genoa no Spanish vessel has been reported sailing to Italian ports. Many still run to Marseilles. (N.A. Madrid, 1635/8 to Admty.).

Convoy A.S.16.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1706/8).

DARD
mined.

Motor Boat DARD (loaned by Suez Canal Company for minesweeping operation) lost as result of enemy mine explosion whilst sweeping in Canal today. Casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1943/8).

"Glen"
Ships
(Force Z)

GLENGYLE, GLENEARN and GLENROY are to be administered by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. (C.in C. Med., 2356/8).

East Indies.Enemy M.V's
Massawa
Perim
Patrol.

Apart from the fact that some of the enemy M.V's in Massawa may be potential raiders it is essential that none should be allowed to escape. If there is not already one in force a Perim patrol is to be instituted even at the expense of convoy escorts. Freighters should reach Aden as soon as possible to assist in this patrol as it will probably be necessary to send FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND to Mediterranean at an early date.

(1 S.L. 0003/8 to C.in C. E.I.)
Reply: C.in C. East Indies, 1202Z/8, See Operations Volume.

War Diary.

8.3.1941.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)RAMB I.

Your 2021/7. Photographs of RAMB I on fire and sinking are to hand. Intend publishing in local papers on 10/3.
(C.in C. E.I., 0522Z/8, to Admty.).

Convoy C.F.1.

Departure Colombo 0600Z/8 AUSTRALIA escorting Convoy C.F.1.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0702/8).

B.M.4.

Departure ANTENOR escorting B.M.4.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0831Z/8).

Perim Patrol.

C.in C. E.I., 1202Z/8 to Admty., amended 0450Z/11. See Operations Volume.

DURMITOR

Report particulars Crew available, quantity condition cargo, surplus bunker coal. Are stores sufficient reach Mombasa?
(D.T.D. 2036/8 to N.O.I.C. Kismayu).

China.

Meteorological War Organisation will be extended to include China, Australia and New Zealand Stations as from 0001 G.M.T./9. (Head of M. 1107/8 to C.in C's China, E.I., A.W.I., etc.).

TAMESIS

Your 1944/8. TAMESIS sails from Manila about 1800/12 for Hong Kong with Japanese and (?Shanghai) cargo. Have requested them to keep diversion as secret as possible.
(B.C. Manila 1622/8).
Norwegian TAMESIS now due at Manila with cargo for that port, Shanghai and Japan. Presume you will not allow her to proceed north of Hong Kong. Arrangements for cargo. (D.T.D. 1954/8 to C.in C. China etc.)

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.H.X. and
S.C. Convoys.

Admty. 1343/7. Request requirements cannot be immediately met. Reasons. (F.O.3 B.S. 0751/8 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

FELLAItalian ship taking water and provisions including 10 head of cattle.
(Limon, C.R., 0940/8, to Admty.).VOLTAIRE
→ K.G. MELDAHL

Admty. 1729/7 (VOLTAIRE to act as escort to K.G. MELDAHL) Unless you have already made other arrangements, suggest VOLTAIRE should proceed direct to Trinidad and commence escort from there. 0952/8.

DESPATCH

To leave Trinidad 11/3 and patrol area O, returning to Trinidad 18/3. Object is to provide cover for following important ships. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1112/8, to Cdre, W. Indies.).

H.X. Escorts.

Your 1924 and 1925/7. See my 0751/8. Could cruiser be provided for H.X.114 leaving Halifax 11/3 instead of H.X.116 sailing 21/3? (R.A. 3 B.S., 1151/8, to Admty.).

ANGLO PERUVIAN
CAPE NELSON5457 tons. 17 survivors landed Halifax. (D.S. 550.)
3807 tons. Ship lost, 4 of crew missing (D.S.550)
ANGLO PERUVIAN left Loch Ewe on 20/2 for Boston.
CAPE NELSON left Oban on 19/2 for New York.TRELAWNEY
raider
report 22/2.N.S.H.Q. 1126/22/2. S.S. LOMBARDY in vicinity reports having heard AAAA report as well as RRRR. It therefore appears possible raider was using aircraft. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1254/8.). TRELAWNEY, British 4689 tons, which left Clyde on 11/2 and has been overdue at New York since 2/3, is now presumed lost. She made raider distress signal 22/2 in 47.12 N., 48.13 W. (D.S. 552).
?40-13ANNA KNUDSEN

Your 1731/7 chiefly new crew required, also ship unarmed. Probably same action will be required for Panamanian NORVINN. (N.C.S.O. Berdmua 1355/8 to Adty.).

→ K.G. MELDAHL

Your 0952/8. New York reports Norwegian K G MELDAHL 11 knots expects to sail 10/3 to Takoradi direct with 55 aeroplanes. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2045/8.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

8.3.1941.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.Troop Transport.
U.S.10.Your 0538/1. Proposals.
(D.S.T., 0120/8 to A.C.N.B.).C.F.1.Departure 0815Z/7 HOBART flying flag of
F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn. and SYDNEY from Fremantle
for R.V. with convoy C.F.1.
(A.C.N.B. 0722Z/8).

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

A/S Striking Forces.

Intended to operate A/S Striking Forces in Western Approaches, in conjunction with convoys, as additions to convoy escort. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 2021/8). Original in Lion Copy only. (page 256 D)

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE ATTENDANT.

British 7524 tons. SSSS 60.42 N. 19.18 W. Torpedoed 2311 G.M.T./7. (Lyness 0032/8) In Convoy OB 293 (D.S. 550).

BALTISTAN.
(torpedoed 27/2).

Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 550).

LAHORE.
Convoy S.L. 67.
attacked by U.124
7 U.105.

British 5304 tons. Following has been read SSSS 21.03 N. 20.38 W. LAHORE, explosion 0421 G.M.T. (Portishead Radio 0615/8 also 0718/8 to Admty).

Convoy attacked by 2 submarines in position 020° 50' N. 020° 28' W. at 0400Z. 5 ships including LAHORE sunk. FAULKNER and FORESTER remain in company till 11/3. My position 021° 48' N. 019° 36' W. (MALAYA 1540Z/8 to F.O.C.N.A).

O.B. 293.

Following received from VERITY (begins) O.B. 293 attacked by U Boat position 060° 38' N. 018° 12' W. VERITY and WOLVERINE hunt contact. Two ships torpedoed. (ends). (C. in C. W.A. 0833/8 to Admty).

DUNAFF HEAD.

Attack by U-Boat on O.B. 293. (a) WOLVERINE attacked with depth charges result unknown. VERITY closed but failed to obtain contact. (b) Starboard side, correctly signalled. (c) Screen diagram No. 3. (d) DUNAFF HEAD small and probably one other. No trace of ships at daylight. (e) 0015/8 060° 38' N. 018° 12' W. (f) 266° (? 069°) 15' evasive steering (g) Sea slight, wind S.W.3, Visibility 3000 yards (h) attacked about (? 10 miles) from (? contact) broad on starboard bow. Have 39 survivors from DUNAFF HEAD. Am joining H.X. 111. (VERITY 0930/8 to Admty).

/BARON.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (contd).BARON
TWEEDMOUTH.

British 3357 tons. Following has been read:- SSSS BARON TWEEDMOUTH sighted submarine one mile E. by N. of South Rock Light Vessel. 0850/8. (Lyness 0852/8 T.O.R. 0957/8).

MIJDRECHT.

SSSS MIJDRECHT Dutch 336° 51 miles Barra Head, submarine sighted. (Wick Radio 1230/8) (Coastguard, Port Patrick 1235/8).

TERJEVIKEN.
(torpedoed
7/3).

Floating bottom up approx. position 059° 44' N. 011° 44' W. Searched area, one survivor. Now proceeding to first position after shelled derelict which is slowly sinking.
(BRIGAND 1314/8, 1650/8 to C. in C.W.A.etc).

DELILIAN
(torpedoed 7/3)

E.T.A. Butt of Lewis 0300/9. DELILIAN able to proceed to Clyde via Minches weather permitting speed of 6 knots. Request further instructions. (weather report). CAMELIA 1750/8 to C. in C. W.A.). Your 1750/8 escort DELILIAN to Clyde and land survivors. (C. in C. W.A. to CAMELIA 2245/8).

Use of P/L.

C. in C. H.F. 1923/27/2. The Additional complications involved are thought to outweigh the advantages of this proposal. Considered preferable that ships should be ordered to transmit for D/F purposes if and when advantage can be taken of such a procedure. (C. in C. W.A. 2003/8 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

0431.

U-Boat in position 021° 03' N. 020° 38' W. at 0431/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 0842/8 to MALAYA, REGISTAN).
My 0842 refers SSSS reporting explosion in LAHORE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1040/8 to MALAYA, REGISTAN).
My 0842/8 D/F bearings indicate submarine may be following convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1125/8 to MALAYA, REGISTAN).

/0850.....

War Diary.

8.3.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

- 0850. It is probable that Enemy U-boat has reported S.C. 25 convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0850/8 to AMBUSCADE H.Q.C.C.).
- 0145. 56.30 N., 15° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 550).
- 0156. 56° N., 12° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 550)
- 1036. 61.20 N., 12° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 55)
- 1330 57.36 N., 8.20 W. reported by Du. S.S. ANYDRECHT (D.S. 551).
- 1531 54° - 56° N., W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 1812. 57° - 58° N. 13° - 16° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 1910 60° - 62° N., 11° - 20° W. position very indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 1955. }
2033. } 58° - 59° N., W. of 20° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 2009 60° - 61° N., 10° - 14° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 2124. 54.30 N. - 55.30 N. W. of 15° W. position indefinite (D.S. 551).
- 0953. A/S Trawlers BRITISH GUIANA and HORNPIPE sent to investigate submarine reported off South Rock L.V. at 0953/8. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1030/8).

/1330.....

War Diary.

8.5.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

- 1330 Message A.F. position 57° 36' N. 8° 20' W. at 1230/8 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1403/8).
- 1500 Message A.F. position 60° 07' N. 11° 42' W. at 1400/8 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1553/8).
- 1938 An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report of a convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C. 1939/8).
My 1938/8. It is probable that formation reported was S.C. 23 convoy or H.X. 111 (D.D.I.C. 2001/8 to AMBUSCADE, VERITY, H.Q.C.C.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

D.D.I.C. 1345/8.

Submarines Attacked.

By WOLVERINE 0010.

U-Boat after attacking OB 293 in 060° 45' N. 019° 10' W. at 0010/18 turned course of convoy and made off at high speed before diving. Have dropped 24 d.c.'s in five attacks and am pursuing strong (corrup group) and oil tracks to southward. Lost touch with VERITY. (Weather) (WOLVERINE 0436/8 to C. in C. W.A).

0551
U. 47.

My 0436. U-Boat sighted again and strongly attacked in 060° 19' N. 019° 26' W. (WOLVERINE 0551/8).
My 0541 (? 0551) still in firm contact. Only 7 d.c.'s remaining request (?air assistance) to effect junction with other destroyers. Position 060° 17' N. 019° 31' W. visibility one mile. (WOLVERINE 0806/8)
See also VERITY 0915/8, 0930/8 under Ships Attacked.

U/B probably destroyed. Sep. 317. /Join.....

*Report that U/B sunk by WOLVERINE was U. 47 -
commanded by Prier - see diary 9-4-41, p. 304
(Confirmed by C.M.D. 6843 - Jan 1946)*

War Diary.8.3.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.0551.
(contd);
J.47.

Join WOLVERINE in hunt, I have insufficient fuel. (VERITY 1125/8 to CHELSEA). Your 0806/8 air assistance is not available on account of weather. (C. in C. W.A. 1218/8 to WOLVERINE).

WOLVERINE's 0806. Have searched 060° 17' N. 019° 31' W. Have not met WOLVERINE. My p.c. and s. is 060° 17' N. 019° 19' W. 060° 20 knots visibility 2 cables to one mile. (Weather). (CHELSEA 1230/8 to C. in C. W.A.).

1500.

Enemy submarine on surface 220° 7 miles my position 060° 12' N. 011° 30' W. (BEVERLEY 1500/8 to C. in C. W.A).

My 1500/8. Port engine out of action my maximum speed 9 knots. U-Boat is opening range. Have opened fire to make him dive. (BEVERLEY 1520/8).

My speed 12 knots. U-boat still on surface I am gaining on him slowly. Have ceased fire, range about 8 miles course 145°. (BEVERLEY, 1540/8).

Submarine has dived, am proceeding to hunt. (BEVERLEY 1620/8 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1410/8, survivors have been picked up. Join BEVERLEY and hunt U Boat in 059° 54' N. 011° 22' W. at 1620/8.

(S.O. Trawlers N.P. 1655/8 to VISENDA).

Am proceeding to BEVERLEY with all despatch.

My position is 059° 55' N. 010° 00' W.

S.C. 23 in 060° 06' N. 010° 06' W. at 1600.

(HARVESTER 1700/8 to C. in C. W.A).

My position is 059° 53' N. 010° 35' W.

BEVERLEY met, searching with AUBRETIA.

S.C. 23, 67, 120 8 miles. Anticipate

U. Boat will get away to attack convoy after dark. BEVERLEY's main bearing port shaft running and at present rate of losing oil will be immobilised in 24 hours. Am sending her to join convoy and HARVESTER will join by dark, leaving AUBRETIA to search and be joined by VISENDA. (HARVESTER 1930/8 to C. in C. W.A).

1924.

Have attacked contact in position 059° 40' N. 010° 12' W. Large air bubble 9 minutes afterwards. Contact lost am searching the vicinity. AUBRETIA in company. (ABERDEEN 1924/8).

Am rejoining S.C. 23. (ABERDEEN 2321/8 to C. in C. W.A).

My 1655/8 BEVERLEY relieved by AUBRETIA hunting U Boat in 059° 40' N. 010° 12' W. at 1924/8. (S.O.T. N.P. 2316/8 to VISENDA).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.9.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Penalty
Areas.

It has been decided to discontinue
Penalty Areas forthwith. (See 20/1/41)

Harwich was closed for a short time
this morning, owing to fog.

British Air Activity.

The escort to Convoy H.G.54 fired at the
aircraft which arrived to escort the
convoy at 2031 today, and damaged it,
in spite of the aircraft making every
endeavour to establish its identity.

Bad weather caused patrols to be
greatly curtailed today. Shipping
protective patrol was flown all day
in St. George's Channel and A/S patrols
in the North Channel and Minches.
A patrol along the Coast of Brittany was
flown twice and one towards the coast
of Norway.

63 aircraft were employed on convoy
escort duty.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.9.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy E.N.83 was attacked at 1430 and again at 2000 today off Buchan Ness. S.S. ESMOND's steering engine was put out of action and she proceeded to Aberdeen under her own power. S.S. BENGLOE had superficial damage and 7 casualties.

Convoy W.N.95 was attacked at 2033 off Kinnaird Head. No damage occurred.

M.G.B.61 received minor damage and some damage was done to the Dockyard and Naval Establishments by air raid between 2100 and 2330 today. *at Portsmouth*

Mining.

M/S Trawler GULFOSS was mined and sunk off Dungeness this morning and 3 mines were cut.

M/S Trawler HATSUSE was damaged by an acoustic mine off Plymouth this evening and was beached. There are at present only 3 L.L.Trawlers available for sweeping at Plymouth.

Operation
S.N.68B.

R.A.M.L. with 1st M.L's left Port Z.A. this evening to carry out this operation. Four destroyers and C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with NIGERIA provided escort.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.9.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Shipping and Convoys.

The sighting of the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in the Atlantic yesterday has necessitated the taking of special measures for the protection of convoys.

Protection
of H.X. and
S.L. Convoys.

The Admiralty today announced measures for the protection of H.X. Convoys whilst the German battle cruisers are at large, and also for the protection of S.L. Convoys.

B.X. and
B.H.X.
Convoys.

Until further orders all ships which would normally be sent to Bermuda for convoy to U.K. are to be routed to Halifax instead, keeping within 300 miles of coast of U.S.A. if possible.

Convoy S.L.68
held up.

The sailing of S.L.68 tomorrow from Freetown with A.M.C. escort is postponed until 12/3 when MALAYA will be available to escort the convoy.

Shipping
Turn-round
delays.

The causes of delays in the turn round of merchant shipping in ports are to be considered at a meeting at the Admiralty on 13/9.

Mediterranean.Air Raid
on Malta.

Malta was attacked at dawn today by 4 M.E.110's accompanied by one JU.88, flying just over the water. R.D.F. failed to pick them up and no alarm was given. The M.E.110's attacked the Hurricanes on the ground and burnt out one and damaged another slightly. One M.E.110 crashed and was destroyed.

In future a standing dawn patrol of Hurricanes will be flown.

/At 1005 G.M.T

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.9.3.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

At 1005 G.M.T. today Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian S.S. CAPO VITA and M/V ATTILIO DEFFENU both in the Gulf of Hammamet (Tunisia).

Suez Canal re-opened.

Traffic from Port Timsah to Port Said was opened at dawn today after several mines had been accounted for. The whole Canal was opened to traffic this evening. 42 Merchant Ships arrived at Port Said and 5 at Suez today. FORMIDABLE arrived at Port Said. Durazzo harbour was bombed last night.

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH is to provide cover for certain important ships proceeding independently from West Indian ports to Freetown and Cape Town.

RAMILLIES arrived at Halifax today with heavy weather damage.

China and Australasia.

The Meteorological War Organisation was extended to include China, Australia and New Zealand Stations today.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Firing at
Unseen A/C
Targets.

Your 1637/4. Following instructions would meet requirements of H.F. (C. in C. H.F. 1031/9 to Admty).

6th M/L F.

R.A.C.F's 1250/7. As base facilities are not yet available, 6th M.L.F. is to remain in South for the present. (A.C.N.S.H. 1113/9).

Operation
of S/M's
from a
certain
base.

F.O. Iceland 1537/9 See Operations Volume.

Bombing
Restrictions.
Amendment to
F.S.A. 4.

A. Attacks are now possible by our own aircraft on submarines on the surface at night. It is important therefore that submarines at sea should be covered by bombing restriction by night as well as by day. In order to avoid the necessity for imposing t.b.r. on occasions when the submarines are on the surface at night only, the following amendment is to be made to F.S.A.4.

B. Paragraph 3B, line one, after word "areas" insert "by day". At end of paragraph add words "submarines are not to be attacked at night". (F.O.S. 1849/9).

Penalty
Areas to
be discontinued.

My 2227/20/1. After trial of penalty areas certain disadvantages have come to light. In view of simplified recognition procedure between submarines and aircraft given in Admty message 124 A Z /19/2 and after consultation with A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command it has been decided to discontinue penalty areas forthwith. (F.O.S. 1912/9 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.Scapa.

Progress Report 9/3. (R.A. Scapa 2015/9).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.2 Battleships
for Halifax.

Request you will sail two battleships in company to Halifax. These ships should be routed so as to afford NORFOLK with H.X. 112 as much support as possible. One battleship will probably be required to sail with HX 115 due to sail (date) and the other with H.X. 116 due to sail (date). (1st S.L. 0058/9 to C. in C. H.F). Scapa departure KING GEORGE V. and RODNEY screened by SOMALI, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, TARTAR, MATABELE and ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 0740/9). E.T.A. Halifax. If necessary KING GEORGE V could be detached so as to arrive (date) (A.C.O.S. 1650/9).

M.G.B's.
60, 58.
63, 64.

HORNET'S 0706/9/3. Sailed at 0900/9/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0919/9 to V.A. Dover). My 0919/9. M.G.B. 58 returned to harbour. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1106/9). Arrived Dover M.G.B'S 60 - 63 - 64. (V.A. Dover 1330/9). Arrived Harwich M.G.B. 60, 63 and 64 at 1915. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1919/9).

UNBEATEN.

Intend sailing UNBEATEN at 1930 to-day diving by day routed as follows to N 1 buoy off Needles. E.T.A. 0745/10. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1121/9). CAMBRIDGESHIRE will R/V with you at N.1 (one) at 0715/10. (S.5 1855/9 to UNBEATEN).

20th D/F.

A.M. 1652/8. Intend to sail 20th D.F. at 1900 passing Dumpton Buoy 0700. C. in C. Nore is requested to issue routing instructions for onward passage and to arrange for Air protection from Dawn/10th. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127/9). Cancel my 1246/9. Route and speeds from Dumpton Buoy to Outer Dowsing. Convoy will be met in passage. (C. in C. Nore 2220/9 to D.20).

URGE.

Route from Lerwick. Arriving Gap A 0200/12. S/ms are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is definitely established. (S.9 1217/9 to URGE).

/H.F. Escort.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (contd).H.F. Escort
Commitments.

My 1232/15. Cancel para. 2 (d) As far as can be seen at present the following are escort commitments in the near future for Home Fleet.

(A) A cruiser with W.S.7 from U.K. to Cape sailing about (date).

(B) One Dido Class Cruiser should if possible accompany W.S.7 for first three days of passage.

(C) A battleship with T.C.10 from Halifax about (date). (A.C.N.S. H. 1243/9).

RICHMOND.

My 1104/9. Sailing of RICHMOND is cancelled. (C. in C. Plymouth 1346/9).

FERNIE.
CLEVELAND.

Cancel my 1309. Intend sailing FERNIE and CLEVELAND. E.T.A. Needles 0745/9. Route.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1546/8).

My 1546/. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2335/9)

S/M O.10.

Request you sail one destroyer from 8th escort group to R/V with Dutch S/M O.10 outside Holyhead Harbour at 1300/10 and escort latter to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1552/9 to Capt. D. Liverpool).

L.27.

Intend to sail L. 27 at 1715/10th from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day. Route to R/V Start Point at 0930/11. (S.5 2005/9).

Operations.Operation "Ounce".
~~ounce.~~

F.O.1/c Milford Haven's 2301/8 is cancelled. ~~ounce~~ sails at 0120/10. Fighter cover is requested from daylight 10th to dark 10th in same position as in F.O.1/c Milford Haven's 1326/8. (C. in C. Plymouth 0352/9 to H.Q.F.C).

East Coast
A/P Trawler
Patrol.

Request channel between 5 buoy and 52° 44' 30" N. 2° 15' E. be patrolled to-night by A/P Trawlers normally employed on F.W.P patrol to keep clear of M/S trawlers. (C. in C. Nore 1010/9).

/Attack.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).Attack by
E-Boats on
F.S.#29 and
F.N.#26 on
7/3 and 8/3.

Arrived tug DIVERSION (Late NORMAN) at 1025. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1033/9). Great Yarmouth 0th departure tug DIVERSION at 1557 to investigate S.S. DOTEREL aground east side Scroby. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1622/9).

M.T.B's off
Schelde.

Weather permitting 3 M.T.B's are to operate to-night Sunday between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions are found suitable Flushing Roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1152/9).

A/S
Striking
Force.My 2357/8. Part one. Correct:-
(A) striking force will operate in conjunction with convoy, additional convoy escort.
(B) object destroy U-Boats.
(C) when striking force is in company with convoy, command of escort force as in W.A.C.1's, modified as follows begins:-
(C. in C. W.A. 1802/9 to Capt. D.3).A/S Patrol
of Rosemary
and Lousy
Banks.

My 1306/7. Next trawler to sail is to patrol Rosemary Bank and Lousy Bank on alternate nights for period about 6 days. It is thought possible U-boats communicate with Icelandic trawlers or check position by sound on these banks. Northern Patrol trawlers patrol North West line 050° from 054° 10' N. 014° W. (C. in C. W.A. 1831/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

British Air Activity.Helder.1. Night 6/7 March. } All operations were
Day 7 March. } cancelled owing to
Night 7/8 March. } unsuitable weather
Night 8/9 March. } conditions.

Day 8 March. Two Blenheims attacked the docks at Den Helder but results were not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0002/9).

/Escorts.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (contd).Escorts.

Your 2153/6. A/S air escort arranged as follows: Amsons from Stornoway from 1200/9 to darkness/9 and from daylight/11 till arrival at Port ZA, Hudsons from Wick throughout daylight/10.

Also 2 Blenheim fighters at Sumburgh Head at readiness during daylight/10.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0152/9 to R.A.M.L).

Expect one Sunderland as A/S Air escort from about 1000.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0222/9 to WOLVERINE).

Expect Hudson Aircraft as A/S Air escort throughout daylight to-day.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0227/9 to AMBUSCADE).

Expect A/S air escort by Hudson aircraft from 0800 to 1400 and by Sunderland aircraft from 1400 to dusk.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0710/9 to RODNEY, KING GEORGE V., D.6).

Cancel my 0152/9. A/S escort by Hudson A/C during daylight 10th, by Sunderland on 11th, by Hudson until 1400 on 12th then by Anson, 2 Blenheim Fighters standing by at Sullom Voe during daylight 10th and 12th.

(C. in C. Rosyth 2202/9 to R.A.M.L.);

Straits of
Dover
Striking
Force.

During the passage of channel convoys through the Straits of Dover a striking force of two A/C is to be held at readiness to attack gun positions should they open fire. The scattered disposition of these guns does not warrant an attack being carried out unless the position of the particular battery which is firing is known. The executive order will consist of the word guns followed by the position.

(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1023/9).

Patrols.

S.A. 2 in operation now. No other air patrols ordered for to-day.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1140/9).

A/S Air
Escorts
to Convoys.

My 1743/8. Para. 3. Cancel and substitute when one aircraft is detailed to carry out A/S escort to a convoy or surface vessel it is to fly a rectangle round the convoy or vessel 10 miles from the convoy on each beam. 15 miles from the convoy ahead and 20 miles from the convoy astern. (C. in C W.A. 1155/9).

/Fighter.....

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Fighter
Protection
for KENYA.

Request fighter protection for one cruiser, from daylight/10 till arrival in harbour. Position at 0730/10 approx. 220° Eddystone 15 miles proceeding to Plymouth speed 22 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 2220/9 to H.Q.F.C).

LIM/04/9/3.

LV/G4/9/3.

Report of Aircraft D/502.

At 2031 met HG 54 55° 30' N. 12° 7' W. Immediately met with heavy A.A. and M.G fire which persisted although all cartridges used and Aldis lamp flashed continuously. Heard word Camel over R/T but could not distinguish message. Request over R/T to cease fire had no result. A/C holed in several places. 2224 landed base. (A.C.H.Q. Liverpool 2300/9).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth
bombed 8/3.

Several bombs dropped about 2000/8 in sea between Spit Fort and Harbour entrance. Also several in Harbour near Courbet at the Dolphins. Two further bombs at 0016/9 in Harbour North of Whale Island. Only bomb in dockyard referred to in my 2320. Six bombs dropped in Portsmouth City area in the 2000/8 raid. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1149/9).

Convoy
E.N. 83.

Fighters despatched to assist odd numbered E.N. Convoy. (Plymouth W/T 1250/9). Help ~~USAGE~~ 164° Tod Head 6'. 016°. 5 knots. (LADY ROSEMARY 1507/9)

A A ~~USAGE~~ LANCET. (Rosyth 1513/9).

Help ~~USAGE~~ in 57° 11' N. 1° 43' W.

(JASON 1935/9).

Following received:- Help ~~USAGE~~ ^{"Usage"} 076° Girdle Ness 10' - 016° - 6 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1944/9 to Adty).

My 1935. Convoy attacked by one Heinkel 5 bombs dropped no hits. (JASON 2001/9)

/Iceland.....

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Iceland.

Following received, from HONNINGSVAAG. Aeroplane reported heard yesterday passing low over VESLUKARI about four miles north of Vageberg flying south west at 1100/8. Identified as twin engined German monoplane. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1426/9).

PRINZ
FREDERIK
HENDRIK.
(Bombed
8/3).

Following from Norwegian POLARTANK arrived Swansea, Rescued 16 crew PRINZ FREDERIK HENDRIK noon/8 bombed and on fire Irish Channel, eight men missing. (F.O.I.C. Swansea 1445/9).

My 1545/8, Extensive search by several vessels and aircraft has revealed no trace of PRINZ FREDERIK HENDRIK or of two boats seen by aircraft to be leaving vessel about 1224/8. In view of prevailing North Easterly wind possible boats may have reached Eire. Have discontinued search at 1800 to-day. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1835/9).

My 1835/9. Arrived Tug GOLIATH. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1845/9).

Western
Approaches.

An unusual number of enemy aircraft have been reporting weather conditions in the Western Approaches today. Flights have extended to 17° W. and several reports of "No enemy naval forces sighted" made by F.W. Aircraft to West of Ireland. (D.D.I.C 1602/9).

KMICIC
(Bombed
8/3).

VOLUNTEER reports when in 52° 15' N. 5° 38' W. at 1200/8 the bombing of the Polish ship KMICIC proceeding to Glasgow. One British soldier wounded. No damage to ship. VOLUNTEER took off wounded soldier. Now landed here. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1602/9).

NADINE.

(M/S Trawler) Reports that during an attack by enemy A/C at 1142/8 in 52° 45' N 2° 12' E. the A/C was severely damaged by machine gun fire from the trawler and set on fire. The plane a Heinkel 111 was last seen diving towards the sea but was not actually seen to crash. A/T ORIZABA confirms. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1754/9).

/Scapa.....

War Diary.9.5.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).Scapa
Flow.

At about 1430 an enemy aircraft reported as a Ju. 88 crossed the Flow from Flotta to Holm Sound and out over Deerness to eastward. (A.C.O.S. 1825/9).

Convoy
W.N. 95.

Following received.
Help ~~MUSTER~~ (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2030/9).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ~~MUSTER~~ in 57° 40' N. 1° 46' W. (HASTINGS 2033/9).
My 2033. 1 AP. No hits. (HASTINGS 2050/9).
Doubtful reception of message received indicates ship in W.N. 95 possibly in distress at 2030. Report if any ship hit. (C. in C. Rosyth 2144/9 to HASTINGS).

Mining.Op: S.N. 68 B.

Cancel my 1843/6 para. 1 and my 1716/8.
2. C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with NIGERIA will be required to sail to-day to escort first M L Squadron. (C. in C. H.F. 0014/9 to C.S.18).
My 2153/6. Intend to carry out as follows. Details. (R.A.M.L. 0217/9 to Adty)
See Operations Volume.
Your 0014/9. Intend sailing for S.N. 68 B. at 1800 today. (R.A.M.L. 0312/9 to C. in C H.F).
CHARLESTON and LANCASTER expected Port ZA yesterday have reported their expected arrival at Londonderry. CASTLETON also expected last night has arrived Liverpool. Request if possible you will provide three destroyers for close screen for operation SN 68 B. (R.A.M.L. 1017/9 to C. in C. H.F).
R.A.M.L. 1017/9. Three destroyers are to be sailed to rendezvous with 1st minelaying squadron as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. H.F. 1229/9 to R.A.D.H.F)
My 0014/9 and R.A.M.L. 0217/9. EDINBURGH and NIGERIA are to R/V with R.A.M.L. at 0800/10. (C. in C. H.F. 1232/9 to C.S.18).
MAORI, ZULU sailed to comply with C. in C. H.F. 1229/9. COSSACK delayed by defects should be ready to proceed by 1900/9.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1630/9).
COSSACK sailed to join R.A.M.L.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1800/9).
Departure Port Z.A.R.A. (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, and ST. MARYS to carry out S.N. 68 B. (TRELAWNEY 1811/9).

/Sweep.....

War Diary.9.3.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Sweep of
7 Trawlers.My 1857/8. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth
0808/9).Off
Dungeness,
GULFOSS
sunk.
5 mines
cut.About 0800 to-day during exploratory
sweep M/S Trawler mined and sunk whilst
heaving in sweep in position 265° D Buoy
1.5 miles. Another mine cut in position
310° D Buoy 1.5 miles.Request Q Z X Message declaring an area
dangerous owing to mines within a radius
of 2½ miles of 50° 51' 15" N. 0° 58' 30" E.
(V.A. Dover 1142/9).My 1142. A third mine was cut in approximate
position 254 degs. D buoy 2 point 1 miles.
(V.A. Dover 1523/9).M.M/S. 1.
M.M/S. 8.M.M.S.1. M.M.S. 8 are to sail at 0800/10
and proceed by swept channels to Harwich
for onward routeing to Sheerness. Operations
on passage as follows. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth
1230/9).Approaches
to Dundee.Sail one M/S Trawler S.A. Type 11 to
arrive Eastern End of Q.Z.S. 162 at daylight
10th. She is to sweep Approaches to Dundee
before arrival of M.V. COLUMBIA. E.T.A.
early A.M. 11th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1232/9
to N.O.I.C. Leith).The Wash.Master of S.S. SIR DAVID reports that at
1430/7 while proceeding in convoy he
observed an aeroplane drop a parachute with
a large horizontal cylindrical object
attached about half a mile North Eastward
of East Dudgeon Light Buoy. (N.C.S.O.
London 1234/9).

/Thames.....

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Thames
Estuary.

Summary of explosions and aircraft activities for night 8th/9th. Parachute Mines were observed to drop in following six approximate positions. At 2145. Suspected mines exploded off Westcliffe and the Bathing pool, Southend and a third object which did not explode was heard to drop near the latter position. At 0745. A spontaneous mine explosion occurred in approximate position 090° 6 cables from Nore Light Vessel. There was great aircraft activity between 2000 and 0030 but plots gave no real indication of minelaying in other areas. Aircraft were flying above 5000 feet and only one was sighted and fired on. No pyrotechnic signals over the Estuary. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1457/9).

B.S. 51.

My 1652/8. On arrival at Immingham ships of 20th D.F. are to embark reduced outfits of Mark XVII mines for extension of line B.S. 51. (D.O.D.H. 1832/9).

S.N. 100.

Northern line cleared by M.S. 9 today. Particulars. Clearance can be completed forthwith but desired to wait reasonable time for sufficient calm to enable recovery of one or two failures. (R.A.M.L. 1939/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

Petten.

At 1307/8 A/C saw 2 M/V's one 5000 Tons, one 2-3000 Tons, steering south off Petten. (H.Q.B.C. 0002/9).

E-Boats.

Suspect E Boat in the vicinity. (N.O.I.C. Humber 0305/9 to BEGONIA). Enemy war motor boats activity eastward Great Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2233/9). Enemy t.b's reported between 54 E buoy Haisborough. (C. in C. Nore 2341/9 to PYTCHLEY, VESPER, D.6).

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/9).
Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1012/9).

War Diary.

9.3.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Protection of
E. Coast
Convoys.

Your 2228/8 agree that your proposals are the best under the circumstances. (C. in C. Rosyth 1045/9.)

VOLGA.

(Norwegian motor fishing boat) arrived here 1700/8/ from Norway with 5 men, one woman on board. Vessel required here. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1350/9.)

Conference
on shipping
delays.

A meeting will be held at Admiralty on 13/3, to consider the causes of delays in the turn round of merchant shipping in ports. It is desired to obtain local views on all known causes, whether these are Admiralty responsibility or not. 2. Request that F.O.'s.I.C., addressed, will attend or send responsible officers to represent their views. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1419/9 to F.O.I.C. London, Humber, Tyne, Greenock, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cardiff.

Sailings of
convoys to
be repeated
to C. in C.
Plymouth.

Form in which signals are to be made (C. in C. Plymouth 1902/9). See Summaries Folder.

Coastal
Convoys.
F.S. 31. 431

Sailed 2300/8, 23 ships approx. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0003/9, F.O.I/C Tyne 1642/9), 17 ships from Methil, did not sail. (C. in C. Rosyth 1149/9.)

"Ounce".

Postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 0315/9.)

"Watch".

Sailed. Ships. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1841/9.)

"Scent".

Sailed less 2 M/V's (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1922/9.)

/"Range".....

War Diary.

9. 3. 1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Ocean Convoys.

O.B.C. 295. 0155/9. HELIOTROPE, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0203/9.) List of ships and destinations. (N.C. S. O. Clyde 1129/9.)

S.L.B. 65. 0445/9. Unescorted. 1 ship. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0445/9.)

H.X.111. Met, position, weather. (CHELSEA, 0730/9.) Destroyer escorts see S.C.23.

H.X.114. Assumed RAMILLIES can escort H.X.114.
S.C.25. coupled with S.C.25. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1747/9.)

S.L.65. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Barry 0841/9.)
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1051/9.)

S.L.66F.) Escorts. (C. in C. W.A., 0949/9, to OTTAWA,
S.L.66S.) MALVERNIAN) amended 1219/9.)

B.H.X.114. Left. Escort WORCESTERSHIRE (Com. I/C. Bermuda 1213/9.)

H.X.110.U. Arrived. 0800/9. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. (Aultbea 0959/9.)

O.B.M. 295. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to escort. (C. in C.W.A., 1044/9.)

S.C.23. HARVESTER, HAVELOCK, ABERDEEN, AMBUSCADE to leave S.C.23 at daylight and rejoin H.X.111. (C. in C. W.A. 2342/9.)

S.C.23U. May meet. W.N.96. about 2000/9. (C. in C W.A., 1235/9, to AMBUSCADE, ABERDEEN, etc.,) Arrived Oban 2000/9, less GUNVOR MAERSK (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 2110/9.)

/S.L.S.65.....

War Diary.

9. 3. 1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Coastal Convoys
"Range". Contd.

E.T.A. & E.T.D. Escorts. (N.C.S.O.
Dartmouth 2136/9.).

E.N.83. 0230/9, escorts, 22 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Methil 0341/9.). List (1000/9) 8 ships
from Methil did not sail. (C. in C. Rosyth
1431/9.) Left with JASON etc. (C. in C.
Rosyth 2335/9.)

W.N.95. Position. (A.C.O.S., 0855/9.)

W.N.97. Escorts sailed. E.T.A. Clyde Boom.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0927/9.). FOWEY to join
Code "Rusty". (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/9.)

F.S. ~~29A~~. 429A Amendments to list. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0956/9.)
14 ships, 6 additional from Middlesbrough
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0958/9.) A/P trawler, patrol
to cover while at anchor. (C. in C. Nore,
1104/9.)

F.N. ~~26~~. 426 2 absentees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0957/9.)
Arrived 1100/9. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1144/9.)
Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Humber 1535/9.) Arrived
with VERSATILE (C. in C. Rosyth 2335/9.)

E.N.82U. Arrived 0230/9, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea
0958/9.) My 0959/9x 14 ships. (N.C.S.O.
Loch Ewe 1748/9.) * previously circulated
as from N.C.S.O. Aultbea.

F.N. ~~28~~. 428 Patrol "O" to escort (C. in C. Nore 1000/9)
4 M.L.'s to escort. (C. in C. Nore 1020/9.)
0849/9, 25 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1039/9.)
2 hours late, fog. (C. in C. Nore, 1506/9.)
Anchored near Sunk Buoy (PYTCHLEY 1550/9.)
No ships joining from Humber. (N.C.S.O.
Humber 1820/9.)

W.N.U.96. Sailed 1700/9. Unescorted, 13 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1012/9, 1730/9.)

/W.N.O. 96.....

War Diary.

9. 3. 1941.
Sunday.

HOMD COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

- W.N.O.96. List (N.C.S.O. Oban 1044/9.)
- E.N.84. 1 tanker for (N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1140/9),
Code word "Paddle". FOWEY to act as
additional escort (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/9.)
- E.N.81. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1146/9.)
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1236/9.)
- F.N.~~85~~.429 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1212/9.)
- F.S.~~32~~.432 →KITTIWAKE to form extra escort. (F.O.I.C.
Harwich 1331/9.) Cancelled. see "Alert".
- F.N. & F.S. Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1334/9, 1706/9.)
- C.W.28. 1345/9. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1414/9.)
List (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1558/9.) M.L's
116, 117, 120, 171, left Dover to join.
(V.A. Dover 1712/9.) M.L's 113, 118, and
? left to R.V. (N.O. i/c. Ramsgate
1740/9.)
- F.N.~~27~~.427 Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1600/9.)
BEGONIA to assist in marshalling.
(N.O.i/c. Humber 1606/9.) Cancel my 1600/9.
Nothing joined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0927/10.)
- "Alert". →Cancel my 1331/9. KITTIWAKE remain in
attendance on "Alert". (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1736/9.)

/Ocean Convoys.....

War Diary.

9. 3. 41.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys Ctd. Shipping & Convoys Contd.

S.L.S.65. My 1306/8. List (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1110/9.)

O.B.M.296(S). List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1535/9.) Sailed 1524/9. Escort LEEDS UNITED. 9 ships. (2 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1537/9.)

S.L.65.
S.L.S.65. SL. and SLS.65 successful. Speed made good of combined convoy from joining at sea on 14/2 to position of meeting local escorts on 4/3 was 5.9 knots. Many of the ships of SL.65 arrived destination with hardly any bunker coal left. Normal weather 2 gales. (D.T.D.1656/9.)

MILITARY
CONVOYS.

W.S.7. Ships and Sailing Date. Ocean, A/A. and A/S Escorts. (A.C.N.S.H. 1746/9.)
See Lion Copy only.

HOME COMMANDS
Shipping & Convoys

9. 3. 41.
Sunday

304A

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1746/9th March. OUT.

To:- C. in C. Western Approaches 763, Date 9.3.41.
C. in C. Home Fleet 383,
C. in C. Portsmouth 823,
F.O.i/c Liverpool,
F.O.i/c Glasgow,
F.O.i/c Greenock.
F.O.i/c Cardiff.
F.O.C. North Atlantic 937,
F.O.C. Northern Patrol 189,
C. in C. South Atlantic 651,
C. in C. Mediterranean 989,
C. in C. East Indies 108,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 275,
C.O.A.C. Halifax,
R.A. 3,608,
C. in C. America & West Indies 581,
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.

532

Naval Cypher (D) & (A 1)

From Admiralty,

1. W.S.7. consisting of 23 liners carrying military personnel for the Near East, and one with personnel for Halifax will be ready to leave the U.K. on March 29th, with (amended 2207/22)
2. The speed of the slowest ship is 16 knots.
3. Ships will sail from the following ports:-

Liverpool.

DUCHESS OF YORK
ORION
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
ANDES
STRATHALLEN
DEMPO
JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT
VICEROY OF INDIA,

Birkenhead.

DENBIGHSHIRE.
GLENARTNEY.

Clyde.

WARWICK CASTLE
STRATHEDEN
OTRANTO
STIRLING CASTLE
GLENORCIU
PASTEUR
ORANTES
STRATHMORE
EMPRESS OF CANADA
STRATHNAVER
ORCHADES
STRATHAIRD.

Avonmouth.

REINA DEL PACIFICO

4. GEORGIC will sail from Liverpool for Halifax.
5. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail ships and arrange R/Vs in accordance with Convoy route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
6. Ocean Escort. on leaving U.K. will be provided by REVENGE and a Cruiser from Home Fleet. Arrangements for subsequent ocean escort will be communicated later to certain addressees only.

7. A/A Escort. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to arrange for one DIDO Class Cruiser, and C. in C. Western Approaches to provide CAIRO for A/A Escort till dusk on March 25th.

8. A/S Escort. Will consist of 12 destroyers, C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to state the number he will be able to make available.

9. Main convoy conference should be held at Greenock. Both Commodores should sail in Clyde portion and arrangements should be made for C.O's of escort vessels to attend.

(ACNS.H) 1746/9)

~~D.O.D. (H)~~

Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

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.S.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.M.S.
 I.P.
 W.D.
 Duty Captain.
 Head of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 jr. D.T.D.
 N.I.D.10. (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson)

War Diary.

9.3.41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Hammond
Knoll
Light
Float.

Hammond Knoll Light Float reported sinking.
(Hydrographer 0100/9.)

PETUNIA.

N.T. in W.D.
Your 2131/8. Return to Reykjavik with
CITY OF ORAN and LOCH GARRY in company.
(C. in C. W.A. 0107/9, to PETUNIA.)

LEIV
ERIKSSON.

Standing by Norwegian LEIV ERIKSSON in
057° 45' N., 006° 40' E., who has broken
cylinders. Repairs expected by 0930
unless I make further signal.(HURRICANE
0730/9.)

BEVERLEY.

Port engine out of action, main shaft
bearing clogged. Considerable amount
of turbine oil lost below both engines
due to leak. (BEVERLEY 1140/9.)

FLIMSTON.

(British, 4674 Tons.) Dragged ashore
Seaton Sands 0430/9. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool.
1215/9.)
Crew numbering 38 taken off. No casualties
Ship cannot be refloated in existing
weather. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1720/9.)

BALTARA.

C. in C. W. A., 1207/8. ZWARTE ZEE has
broken down. Proceed forthwith to R/V.
with Tug THAMES at entrance to Loch Foyle
and escort her to assist S.S. BALTARA in 50°
21' N., 22° 12' W., at 1640/7th. ST. ELSTAN
standing by. If considered advisable
BALTARA should be towed into Bantry Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1223/9 to HEATHER.)
Request you will sail tug THAMES to await
arrival of HEATHER at entrance b Loch Foyle.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1225/9 to N.O.I.C.
Londonderry.)
Sailed HEATHER to R.V. with THAMES and
proceed in company to assist BALTARA,
where they should arrive a.m./12th.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1511/9.)
Tugs HEATHER and THAMES sailed.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 2200/9.)

/Raft off.....

War Diary.9.3.41.
Sunday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. Contd.Raft off
Hebrides.

A/C reports men on raft in 58° 04' N.,
7° 5' W., at 1200/9. (C. in C. Rosyth
1236/9.)

My 1236. Amend position to 58° 48' N.,
07° 39' W. Anson, searching vicinity
from 1310. (C. in C. Rosyth 1254/9.)
At 1145 A/C sighted raft obtained D/F fix
giving position 58° 48' N., 7° 39' W.,
Signalled to base. Man on board. Nothing could be
seen visually on this raft apart from man.
A/C was unable to drop anything to aid
man as there was no means of ensuring
that it would float. A/C received
messages indicating that it would be re-
lieved by ~~A/C~~ but as petrol was running
low 1510 returned to base. (C. in C.W.A.,
1815/9.)

WHITEHALL.

My 1210/2. WHITEHALL completed boiler
cleaning and defects made good.
Ship reverted to normal notice for steam
(Capt. D. Liverpool 1337/9.)

ENCHANTRESS.

Following received from aircraft for
C. in C. W.A., from ENCHANTRESS begins:-
My position 158° from Datum Point 56° N.,
9° W., 34 miles. Making for Lough Foyle
T O O 1021/9. Ends. (C. in C. W.A.,
1542/9.)

RAMSEY.

Has developed further defects and will
not sail for O.G.55. (Capt. D. Londonderry
2205/9.)

WHITSHED.

Condenser defect completed. Shall be
at half hour's notice from 2300.
(WHITSHED 2210/9.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticMARON

In view of F.O.C.N.P. 0940/8 last sentence of my 1212/7 no longer applies to MARON. (F.O.C.N.A. 0042/9 to MARON, REGISTAN)

→ Submarine
023.

R.V. with DELPHINIUM in position Z at 2730/10. REPULSE and FURIOUS E.T.A. Gibraltar from Westward at Daylight. (Capt. (S) 8 1030/9 to O. 23.)

→ DUNCAN
VELOX

My 1626/6 Para 1. In view of S.O. Force "H" 2125/8 intend retaining DUNCAN and VELOX at Gibraltar for the present. (F.O.C.N.A. 1052/9 to Admty.)

Submarines
Positions

→ PANDORA with H.G. 55 (b) 021 with O.G. 54 (c) 023 arrived off Spartel 0730/10. Thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058/9)

S.L.
Convoys

Decision re escorts. Arrangements (A.C.N.S. (F) 1416/9) See Operations Volume.

PRESIDENT LAVIT
VIRGO
FIDELIS (?)
(French)

Arrival 8/3 PRESIDENT LAVIT, VIRGO FIDELIS. (Bilbao 1542/9)

Bunkers for
Yugoslav Ships

N.T. in W.D.
Your 2330/5. Certain other Yugo Slav ships with ships warrants carrying stores for Swiss Govt. are applying for bunkers to Genoa and back. Intend to supply. TALAS is being supplied now. (A.S. Gibraltar 1600/9)

→ DUNCAN
and another
destroyer.

DUNCAN and one of the destroyers with you will be required to sail for Freetown p.m./10. Detach one destroyer for this duty to proceed to Gibraltar with despatch. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/9 to FEARLESS)

See next page

/Information.....

War Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic-Contd.Information
for
FURIOUS
REPULSE

Cable ship MIRROR escorted by LEYLAND is working cable 030°. Cape Malabata about 6 miles. DELPHINIUM on patrol 3 miles to 6 miles North West Spartel Trawler on patrol in Gibraltar Bay. Two yachts centre of Strait south of Europa Point. One destroyer and one sloop South East of Europa Point. (F.O.C.N.A. 1846/9)

French
Convoys

Light cruiser ALBATROS with destroyer TEMPETE and S/M parent ship JULES VERNE reported approaching Gibraltar from the east at 1127/9. French M.V's SINFRA, COLLEVILLE, and GALLIUM passed Gibraltar eastbound on 8/3. (D.O.R. 10/3)

STRATHMORE
FOXHOUND

FOXHOUND detached in accordance with your 1810/9. STRATHMORE and escort E.T.A. 0900/10. (FEARLESS 2103/9) *See previous page*

BELLONA
(German)

7/3. Departure Savona for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2330/9)

South AtlanticA/S Whalers
for Mediterranean

A/S Whalers, FALK, KLO, THORGRIM, THORBRYN, TORDONN and HEKTOR VI, are to form the 25th Auxiliary Group and are allocated to C. in C., Med. As they become available for service they are to be sailed for Alexandria. (D.A./S.W. 1112/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown) *See also p. 310.*

Convoy
S.L. 68

S.L. 68 with ^{MA} SURITIUS and CANTON due to sail from Freetown 1330/10 propose sailing be postponed unless situation regarding enemy surface units becomes more clear. (C. in C., S.A. 1315N/9 to Admty.) *Reply - See next page*

/HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic-Contd.HIGHLAND BRIGADE
W.S. 6.

Your 2159/7/3. (re urgent need for HIGHLAND BRIGADE in South America) not received and decyphered until 1000/9/3. HIGHLAND BRIGADE sailed with W.S. 6. 8/3. Move could not be carried out as suggested in your 0157/14/2. (re personnel arriving in HIGHLAND BRIGADE in W.S. 6.) All been reported. (C. in C., S.A., 1359/9 to D. of S.T.)

S.L. 68.

Your 1315/9. Concur. See a.m. 1416/9 which crossed. Request time of sailing S.L. 68 may be signalled as soon as it can be forecast. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1907/9) Your 1416/9. Intend convoy S.L. 68 shall leave Freetown 12/3. This assuming that MALAYA arrives at Freetown in time to leave a.m./14 having fuelled. She will then overtake convoy about 350 miles out. (C. in C., S.A. 1841/9 to Admty.)

*See previous page*MediterraneanEnemy
Intelligence
Taranto.

My 2210/7. (N.T. in W.R.) Photographs show that 3 large ships in outer harbour are two Italian Cruiser TRENTO Class Cruiser and one Italian Cruiser GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI Class Cruiser and not battleships They have a double line of nets round each ship. (V.A. Malta 1015/9 to Med. Fleet)

UPHOLDER
UNIQUE
Malta Mines

My 1329/5 to UNIQUE. UNIQUE delayed and may be encountered approaching Malta Only mines now in Marsamxett entrance is suspected magnetic in position 4 cables 290° from St. Elme Light. To enter pass through position 3.6. cables 285° from St. Elme Light, carry out same procedure as when leaving. (Comdr. S.1. 1038/9 to UPHOLDER)

Air Attack
on Tripoli

Operational Summary No 272 to 1200/9) Night 7/8 March. 3 Wellingtons dropped 7500 lbs of bombs on Tripoli Harbour hitting railway line along quays. Intense A.A. fire at Tripoli. 1 Wellington crashed landing at base crew safe.. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1132/9)

/Enemy M.V's.....

War Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Enemy M.V's

At 0730 B/9. ? Enemy merchant ships passed Kelibia Roads Southward 14 knots (Cdr. S.1. 1141/9 to S/M's on patrol)

S.O.S. from
CAPO VITA.
A. DEFFENU.

At 1005 G.M.T./9 Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian SS CAPO VITA in 036° 09' N 011° 07' E., A second S.O.S. was broadcast immediately after by Taranto from Italian motor vessel ATTILIO DEFFENU in same position. (C.O.S. Alexandria 1242/9)

G.A. 2.

Convoy sailing Tel (1) G.A. 2. (11) 1000/9 (List, 7 ships Alexandria) (CITY OF WINDSOR Port Said.) (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1305/9)

Whalers

My 1112/9. These whalers are similar to SYVERN and are fitting out at Capetown. First two should sail shortly but will require S.D. ratings on arrival Alexandria. Other four should sail with full crews during May and June. (D.A./S.W. 1717/9) See p. 308.

Fighter Aircraft
For Malta.

C. in C., Med. 2011/9 See Mediterranean Volume.

Suez Canal

Situation 2000/9. Whole canal is now open to traffic. 42 M.V. arrived Port Said and 5 including DERWENTHALL arrived Suez today. FORMIDABLE, CARLISLE, JUNO GRIFFIN, GRIMSBY arrived Port Said. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area 1903/9)

Air Attack
on Malta

Dawn today 4 ME 110's apparently accompanied by 1 JU 88 approached flying just over the water. Raid not picked up by R.D.F. so no alarm given. M.E. 110's attacked Hurricanes on ground at Takali firing cannon. 1 Hurricane burnt out badly and one slightly damaged. JU.88 crashed on Gozo cause unknown burnt out 4 bodies found. 2 Hurricanes will in future form standing patrol covering dawn period. 1600 hours single JU. 88 over on recco 14,000 feet. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 2125/9) Note by A.M.C.S. Last part of message corrupt, repetition being obtained.

War Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.UPRIGHT

In view of my 1141/9 to S/M's on patrol, UPHOLDER being clear of her area, UPRIGHT has liberty of action in sector Y in addition to Z from 2000B/9. (Cdr. S.l. 1212/9 to UPRIGHT)

East IndiesSupply
Base

C. in C., E.I., 0718Z/9 see Operations Volume.

U.S. Convoys
Cycle.

Reply to 2341/3. (C. in C., E.I., 1500Z/9 to Admty.)

^M
DURITOR
reply to
questionnaire

Your 1839/6. (A) stopped and armed guard put in charge. (B) Removing prisoners (C) Log and most papers destroyed by Germans prior to evacuation. (D) Master and crew were confined with British crews (E) Believed intact. All Salt. (N.O.I.C. East Africa 1620Z/9)

Raiders
intelligence
from RAMB I

My 1706/8. Following additional information received from CANBERRA (i) Meeting of COBURG and KETTY BRÖVIG was prearranged. COBURG left Massawa 21/2 with orders to proceed eastwards. Later a R.V. was arranged with BRÖVIG possibly by W/T by number 16. Master of COBURG thought he would be ordered to Japan but prisoners formed opinion that COBURG was going to Germany via Pacific graded C. 3.
(ii) Method of fuelling. ADMIRAL SCHEER took 1400 tons on 16/2.
(iii) Little or no co-operation between German and Italian ships at Massawa due to mutual dislike and distrust. Germans did not know RAMB ONE had sailed and state both RAMB ONE and RAMB TWO in harbour 21/2 Both armed. (See also my 1014/28/2. para one)
(iv) Description number 16 from Norwegian and Chinese survivors of BRÖVIG follows.
(C. in C., E.I., 1828Z/9)

War Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSChina

With recent deterioration of situation I stopped all ships of over 4,000 tons proceeding North of Hong Kong. Situation with settlement of Thailand-Indo China negotiations at Tokyo appears easier for the moment but before re-starting ships I should be grateful for your opinion. (C. in C., China, 0447Z/9 to H.M.A. Tokyo)

America & West IndiesBATORY

Halifax arrival RAMILLIES from H.X. 110 escorting SS BATORY. (S.O.(I) Halifax 1010/9)

B.H.X. 114
Delays.

BRA-KAR,
BRAKAR, HAAKON HAUAN engine defects. PRINS WILLEMM III Capt. sick. VANJA and NORVINN to Halifax for change of crew. Outward EMPIRE UNITY with steering gear. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1201/9)

Orders for
PRINCE DAVID

Enemy surface unit in estimated position 200 miles radius 026° N., 041° W., a.m/9 Proceed to patrol this area returning to Bermuda 19/3. Keep particular look out for enemy supply ship. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1242/9 to PRINCE DAVID)

H.X. 116

My 1924/7 and 1925/7. In view of my 0058/9 cruiser will not be required. (D.O.D. (H) 1244/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

H.X. Convoys

My 1343/7. Decisions re escorts. (D.O.D. (H) 1325/9) See Operations Volume

B.H.X.
Convoys

Until further orders all ships which would normally be sent to Bermuda for convoy to U.K. are to be routed to Halifax instead, routed where possible within 300 miles of Coast of U.S.A. (D.T.D. 1400/9)

/B.H.X.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West IndiesB.H.X.
Convoys-Contd.

B.H.X. Convoys will be suspended after B.H.X. 114 until further orders. All ships arriving at Bermuda for convoy are to be sailed independently to Halifax for convoy to U.K. (D.T.D. 1401/9)

Camouflage

Your 1721/17/2. Scheme may be of great value. Re further trials (D.T.S.D. 1556/9 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Orders for
CARADOC

Leave Kingston Jamaica 11/3 and proceed to patrol within 100 miles of 025° N., 065° W., arrive Bermuda 17/3. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1732/9 to CARADOC)

RAMILLIES
Defect

Your 1325 and 1747/9 my 0751/8. RAMILLIES arrived today with about 40 ft top bulge plating abreast of turret port side carried away by heavy weather. Ship now being listed for examination. Very unlikely to be available even for H.X. 115. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1744/9 to Admty.)

Telegram to 'Praximo'
PROXIMO

Your 0959/8 C.S.A.S. in Neutral Countries should address Admty copy of Vescas to ~~PROXIMO~~ LONDON. (D.T.D. 1800/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Neutral Ships
entering
British Ports
voluntarily.

Your 1244/2/2. Para 3a. H.M.G. hold that Neutral ships entering British ports voluntarily thereby subject themselves to municipal law for duration of their stay. Municipal law gives wider powers in matters of censorship and removal of aliens. Civil authorities alone are competent to administer it. To obtain these wide powers we regard calls of American Export Line at Bermuda as voluntary. Presumably it is with these ships that you are experiencing difficulties of dual control. Request details of these difficulties particularly with regard to case of EXCAMBION raised in your 1012/15/1. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1801/9 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAustraliaU.S. Convoy

Your 1010/7. Ships have not the endurance to proceed direct Fremantle Suez. Anticipate minimum requirements at Colombo and/or Trincomalee are as follows. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0548Z/9 to C. in C., E.I.)

ZEALANDIA

Departure 0235Z/8 H.M. Transport ZEALANDIA from Sydney for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B. 0722Z/9)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedMIJDRECHT
(Torpedoed 7/3)

0625 7/3. 60° 31' N., 13° 53' W.
Escort was with convoy. On surface.
Sinking unknown but seemed fast large
rusty white aft nil on fore end
one class U 37/U 44/U 64/U 68. (C.E.O.
2100/9)
Dutch tanker MIJDRECHT arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock 1710/9)

Convoy
O.B. 293
(Attacked 8/3)

Report if it is considered that any
ships torpedoed last night are still
afloat. (C. in C., W.A., 1842/9 to
WOLVERINE)

TERJE VIKEN

BRIGAND's 1650/8 C.O. reports TERJE VIKEN
will probably float for some days and
is danger to navigation. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 2040/9)

Submarines Reported2241
(South Atlantic)

My 2022/8. Enemy surface unit or
U-Boat made further signal on U-Boat
frequency at 2241 G.M.T. Bearings.
(D.D.I.C. 0050/9 to MALAYA)

0829

An enemy submarine has made a first
sighting report of a convoy or important
unit (D.D.I.C., 0829/9)
My 0829/9. It is probable that formation
reported was H.X. III Convoy. (D.D.I.C.
0841/9)

0156/8

Approx. position of U-Boat at 0156/8
was 056° 00' N., 012° 00' W., (C. in C.,
W.A. 1837/9 to EGRET)

0335

56°- 58° N., 15°- 19° W., position
indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 551)

0931

58°- 60° N., W of 15° W., very indefinite
(D.S. 551)

0859

49° N., 13° W., position indefinite
(Italian) (D.S. 551)

2018

By D/F on 5025 kc/s at 2018/9, position
of Italian U-Boat was 48° N., 13° W. The
position is only an indication of the
area. (D.D.I.C. 2120/9)

/Estimated..

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.3.1941.
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported-Contd.Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

(D.D.I.C., 1402/9)

Submarines AttackedBy ABERDEEN
and HARVESTER

My 2321. H.M.S. AUBRETIA with LADY LILIAN in company continues search. (ABERDEEN 0245/9)

BEVERLEY~~Intercept~~
~~INTERCEPT~~. Proceeding Loch Ewe report follows. (BEVERLEY 0930/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have attacked contact in 058° 39' N., 007° 10' W., which was obtained close by convoy. Oil bubbles from contact which is now stationary depth of water 70 fathoms. ABERDEEN in company, am continuing to attack. (HARVESTER 1056/9) ABERDEEN's 1924/8. Have searched area 10 miles radius 059° 45' N., 010° 12' W LADY LILIAN and VISENDA in company. Propose continuing search until 2200/9. (AUBRETIA 1300/9)

My 1056/9 Hunt abandoned contact non submarine. Rejoining convoy. ABERDEEN proceeding independently. (HARVESTER 1630/9)

My 1300. My position course and speed are 059° 40' N., 010° 12' W., 158° 14 knots. LADY LILIAN detached at 1700 to rejoin convoy. (AUBRETIA 2200/9)

By Aircraft
1428

Following received from Admty at 1435/9 U-Boat reported attacked by Sunderland in 51° 53' N., 18° 32' W., estimate 4 direct hits. T.O.O. 1428 detach one destroyer to stand by U-Boat. (C. in C., W.A., 1437/9 to WANDERER)

Your 1437/9. MONTGOMERY has been detailed. (WANDERER 1622/9)

/Aircraft...

War Diary9.3.1941
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines ^{Attacked} Reported-Contd.By AK.1428
Cont: -

Aircraft description of the U-Boat attacked in position 51° - 53' N., 18° - 28' W., at 1154/9 was as follows:- No raked stern, low in water. Conning tower as in U.37. No guns visible aft. Very effective dark green and blue camouflage. Possibly U.37 type. (Mount Batten. No T.O.O.)
Your 1437/9 propose searching area until 2200 then joining S.L. 66. (MONTGOMERY 1930/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

By MIJDRECHT
7/3.

Following received:- Master MIJDRECHT reports that at 0625 G.M.T./7 in 60-31 N 13-53 W., while acting as life saving vessel to convoy O.B.O. 293 West-bound he approached lifeboat with part of DELILIAN's crew (7) who was torpedoed while doing so, he was himself torpedoed but managed to ram submarine near conning tower and when submarine was forced to surface he opened fire with his 4" gun and had two direct hits. Submarine was last observed to be sinking stern first. 1830/9. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1901/9)

By WOLVERINE
8/3. (U.47)

My 0806/8. U-Boat probably destroyed after diving just ahead. Met H.X. 111 at 1630/8 p.c. and s. 059° 47' N., 011° 10' W., 117° 8½ knots. (WOLVERINE 2145/9)

* *confirmed - see 8/3 p 283 -*

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.41.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Attacks on
Convoys
by E boats.

WORCESTER, additional escort to Convoy F.N.28 at 0107 today off the coast of Norfolk sighted and engaged 3 enemy E boats. The enemy escaped to the North Eastward. It is believed they fired torpedoes, unsuccessfully. At 0505 SOUTHDOWN reported that she had driven off an attack on Convoy F.S.29A which she was escorting, no ships being damaged. Two torpedoes passed under SOUTHDOWN. (*Off Sheringham*)

H.R. Patrol fired on suspected E boats at 2315 today.

Sweep off
Scheldt.

3 M.T.B's carried out a sweep last night between Ostend and Hook of Holland.

Convoy C.W.28.

This convoy, which was attacked by aircraft and afterwards had 3 ships sunk by mines during last night, was intermittently shelled for two hours off Dover this evening. No damage is reported.

TAKU

(Disabled 26/2) arrived at Londonderry this morning with ENCHANTRESS, NORTHERN DAWN, MAN O' WAR, and a tug.

Strikes at shipbuilding and repairing works at Belfast and Glasgow are delaying war work.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.41.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.

C. in C. Plymouth asks that additional aircraft may be provided for regular reconnaissance of the French West coast ports, since it is probable that German cruisers are making regular use of these ports.

Owing to bad weather, the only standard patrols flown today were those in the Southern part of the North Sea. Convoy escorts were provided in the N.W. Approaches today.

Enemy Air Activity.

s.s.BUR (Norwegian) in S.L.65 B.M. was bombed this afternoon in St. George's Channel and is making for Fishguard, sinking slowly. *s.s. LIBRA was also attacked and damaged. (page 399)

*Dutch (11/v 391)
Confirmed by
BR.1337.
Page 211.

Convoy C.W.28 was attacked at 0020 today in the Straits of Dover. S.S. SYLVIA BEALE was hit but remained with the convoy.

Convoy F.S.31 was unsuccessfully attacked this evening off the coast of Norfolk.

Some bombs were dropped in Dover harbour and docks today. No Naval damage occurred.

Two large bombs fell in Chatham Dockyard at 0115 today but damage is very slight.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.41.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.Mining
between
Beachy Head
& Dungeness.

Considerable contact mining appears to have taken place recently between Beachy Head and Dungeness. S.S. SPARTA, WATERLAND and CORINIA in Convoy C.W.28 were mined and sunk early this morning off Dungeness; one ship was mined on 6/3 off Newhaven, and one yesterday off Dungeness. Mines have been swept and seen and heard to drop, and constant explosions were heard all today. 1st. M.S.F. is to carry out a sweep.

Milford Haven was closed at 0325 today and re-opened at 1530 subject to local restrictions but was closed again at 2237.

Liverpool was closed at 0235 today but was re-opened this afternoon. Wick harbour was re-opened at 0800. Sunderland, Seahaven, Tyne and Blyth are closed.

North Atlantic.

ARETHUSA, which left Gibraltar with Force H on 8/3 after SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were sighted in the Atlantic returned to Gibraltar today. REPULSE and FURIOUS arrived at 0230 and left at 2030, the former ~~for~~ ~~convoy~~ escort and the latter for operation "Pageant." *Summer*
(A/c fr. Takora 21)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.41.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Aircraft
Carriers.

FORMIDABLE arrived at Alexandria today and ILLUSTRIOUS sailed. EAGLE's beam prevents her from passing the wreck of the AGTHOS GEORGIOS until further dredging has been carried out. *Flag of R.A. MC*

Carriers were transferred from ILLUSTRIOUS to FORMIDABLE today.

Air raids
on Malta.

Malta was attacked this morning by 3 formations of enemy aircraft approaching from different sides. One Sunderland at St. Paul's Bay was destroyed and another damaged, and a petrol lighter was hit and beached. Damage was inflicted on the enemy.

Malta was raided between 2045 and 2310 today by about 20 aircraft. Severe damage was caused in the dockyard and production will be seriously affected. R.A.F. establishments were also damaged.

Owing to the persistent attacks during the last few days on Sunderlands at their moorings these aircraft are being dispersed from Malta pending decision of policy by A.O.C. in C.

At 0502 G.M.T. today Taranto broadcast an S.O.S. from Italian s.s. FENICIA in a position between Sicily and Tripoli.

Suez.

It is reported that bombs were dropped near Suez this afternoon.

SS FOUADIEH was reported bombed off Cyprus today.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

The sailing of ships from Colombo, Kilindini, Bombay and Persian Gulf for Aden, to join Red Sea Convoys for Suez, which was stopped on 2/3 owing to congestion at Aden, was resumed today.

America and West Indies.Leak in
Blockade.

C.in C. A.W.I. suggests that the U.S.A. State Department should be sounded as to the possibility of co-operation and relaxation of the situation which precludes our taking action in the neutrality zone to prevent French ships carrying food, for probable German consumption.

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Sanday Island.
A/A Defences.

Re mounting of Bofors guns as temporary measure. (D. of L.D. 1756/10 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

S/M's.

Your 1531/8. Estimated position of SEALION, UNDAUNTED, STURGEON at 0800/11. (b) Request early information as to composition and movements of your Forces in order S/Ms may be kept out of the way. (F.O.S. 1044/10 to C.in C. H.F.).

KENYA.

An Italian UB signal at 0334/10 which may have reported your p. c. and s. was re-broadcast to Italian UB's at sea one of which by D/F was in approx. 48° N. 13° W. at 2018/9. (D.D.I.C. 1133/10 to KENYA).

CAIRO.

CAIRO will be required as A.A. escort for ocean convoy sailing about 22/3 until dusk 25/3. Unless work referred to in my 1118/6 can be completed with certainty before this, it is to be deferred until CAIRO's return. (C.in C. W.A., 1146/10 to CAIRO).

MAID MARION.
LINCOLNSHIRE.

My 749/M478 of 31/1 and my 1850/3. MAID MARION and LINCOLNSHIRE are lent temporarily to Milford Haven. To escort groups of merchant ships sailing between Milford Haven and Channel Ports to or from Hartland Point. Sailings are to be arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven so as to R/V with Falmouth Hartland Group in 295° Hartland Point 8 miles at 1330 every third day first R/V being 1330 every third day first R/V being 1330/14. (C.in C. Plymouth 1618/10).

H.34.

Anchor off Methil and proceed to Rosyth A.M. tomorrow. Proceed on main motors when inside May Island. (C.in C. Rosyth 1815/10 to H.34).

/ RODNEY.
KING GEORGE V.

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.RODNEY.
KING GEORGE V.

Programme as Convoy Escorts to be adjusted as follows. (D.O.D.H. 1946/10).

Operations.SOUTHDOWN.
E-Boat attack.E boats Sheringham Buoy.
(SOUTHDOWN 0445/10).
My 0445. E-boats driven off. No apparent damage to any ships.
(SOUTHDOWN 0505/10).
My 0505. No ships damaged. Two torpedoes passed under SOUTHDOWN.
(SOUTHDOWN 0544/10).Sweep between
Ostend and Hook.Arrived M.T.B's 22, 30, 31, at 0750/10.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0751/10).East Coast
Patrols.Request A/P vessels be detailed to patrol channel near 38 and 37 C Buoys tonight, vessels moving clear of channel on approach of convoys. (C.in C. Nore 1022/10 to F.O. Humber).
My 1010/9. Request this patrol be carried out again tonight, and that F W A and F W L be adjusted to patrol channel close to Sheringham Light and Bell Buoy, vessels moving clear of channel on approach of convoy. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
Cancel my 1053/10. Patrol 0 is not to be carried out tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1215/10 to HOLDERNESS).Western Channel
Patrol.KELLY, KELVIN, KASHMIR, KIPLING are to proceed 1930/10 and patrol between the longitudes Eddystone and Scilly Isles. Ships to return to harbour by 0730/11. Object protecting merchant vessels sailing from Plymouth and Falmouth to the westward. (C.in C. Plymouth 1055/10).
Your 1055/10 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2000/10.)./ Convoy C.W.28
shelled.

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Convoy C.W.28
shelled.

No damage was done during two hours intermittent shelling. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

WASTWATER

Sailed in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1831/9 at 1240 and will remain on patrol 6 days. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1241/10).

Projected S/M
Operations.

Your 1932/7. Proposal is welcomed as offering a means to improve offensive reconnaissance in Iceland - Faroes passage and Denmark Straits. (C.in C. H.F. 1347/10 to Adty.).

Operation D.N.

My 1531/8. Operation D N will not take place unless further signal is made. (C.in C. H.F. 1917/10).

H.R. Patrol.

Following received from H.R. Patrol Begins. 2 unidentified small craft suspected E Boats heading S.W. Have opened fire 2315. Ends. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2330/10).

British Air Activity.Escorts.My 2202/9. Air escort delayed indefinitely by weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0716/10 to R.A.M.L.).
With the exception of escort for O B 295 no flying is at present possible in 18 Group area. (C.in C. Rosyth 0952/10).Iceland.

My 1741/6/2. Understand 10 Hudsons arriving shortly. Request I may be informed function of these aircraft. If for Naval Co-operation consider small operational wing H Q near F.O.i/c H.Q. essential, and operation under F.O.i/c. One Central R.A.F. H.Q. at Force H.Q. not acceptable for operation over sea. (F.O. Iceland, 1053/10).

/ 804 Squadron for
Convoy Protection. ...

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)804 Squadron for
Convoy Protection.My 1626/3/2. Re increase in complement of
804 Squadron.
(5th S.L. 1157/10 to R.A.N.A.S.).Own A/C
fired on.Whitley aircraft from Limavady reports
meeting H.G.54 at 2031/9 and being subjected
to heavy A.A. fire from escort which
persisted in spite of aircraft making every
endeavour to establish identity by firing all
cartridges and flashing Aldis lamp and using
R/T continuously which should have been
observed by firing ship. Aircraft was holed
and returned to base. Firing of an
unidentified aircraft is encouraged but
this incident might well have revealed
H.G.54 which proceeded without air escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1241/10 to LEITH).19 Group.
Proposed further
A/C.Presence of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in
Atlantic and movement of ^{hipper} HIPPER point to
probability of regular use of French West
Coast ports by German cruisers.
Difficult to get sufficient warning to
enable them to be attacked on leaving but,
if their approach can be detected the day
before, there would be a good chance of
a night attack by destroyers and the
possibility of minelaying by aircraft.
It is assumed that the cruisers will arrive
at destinations soon after daylight and air
R.C. therefore required to the Westward
before dark the previous day.
19 Group has insufficient suitable aircraft
for a regular R.C. of this nature.
Request this requirement may be met as soon
as practicable. (C.in C. Plymouth 1918/10
to Admty.).Enemy Air Activity.Convoy C.W.28
SYLVIA BEALE
(British, 1040 tons)
hit.Convoy bombed. One Merchant ship hit.
Request fighter escort from dawn till arrival.
SYLVIA BEALE received direct hit by heavy
Bomb and is still seaworthy and is with
Convoy. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10).

/ Portsmouth bombed. ...

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Portsmouth
bombed.

9/3.

Air raid on Portsmouth 2100 to 2330 IB's and H.E. Dockyard NR.2 electrical shop burnt out. H.E. near Unicorn Gate cut gas, electric and water mains. H.E. at East End of a lock damage thought to be slight. H.E. in No. 3 Basin. Several H.E. in harbour, casualties. VERNON some damage to mining tank etc. Casualties R.N.B. DOLPHIN slight damage 1 officer wounded. HORNET. Minor damage to M.G.B. 61. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0101/10). Details of Damage (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1630/10).

PRINZ FREDERIK
HENRIK

Following received. Commodore report Dutch steamer of convoy O.B.M.295 PRINZ FREDERIK HENRIK was bombed 30 miles North West Bishops and Clerks light at 1130/8. When last seen was still afloat. T.O.O. 0155 Ends. (X.D.O. Clyde 0305/10). My 1455/9. PRINS FREDERICK HENDRIK abandoned after bombing. On fire and damaged 52° 20' N. 5° 37' W. at 1125/8. 8 missing reported killed by explosion. Crew 24. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1200/10).

Convoys E.N.83
and W.N.95.

BENGLOE
 (British, 5318
 tons) gunned.
ESMOND
 (British, 4976
 tons) bombed.

Convoys EN 83 and WN 95 attacked by aircraft at 2000/9 off Buchan Ness. Details not yet known but S.S. ESMOND in EN 83 is proceeding Aberdeen under own power with 7 casualties. No other ship reported hit. (C.in C. Rosyth 0927/10). Fighters have been despatched to assist convoys ~~USRAK~~ and ~~CHEERY~~ "Cherry". (Lyness W/T 1157/10). My 0927/10. Commodore of E.N.83 reports convoy was twice attacked apparently by single A/C at 1430/9 when Vice Commodore's ship S.S.BENGLOE was machine gunned and missed by two bombs which did not explode and again at 2001/9. Commodore's ship S.S. ESMOND was target of second attack. Two bombs missed and one hit caused superficial damage and 7 casualties ESMOND entering Aberdeen now for repairs to steering engine which was put out of action. (C.in C. Rosyth 1233/10). British ESMOND bombed by German plane in 57° 21' N. 1° 38' W. at 2055/9. Seven wounded, all in hospital here. Ship now in Aberdeen for repairs. Damage not extensive. Casualty List as follows. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1636/10).

/ Convoys W.N. Even.
~~CHEERY~~ "Cherry"

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoys
W.N. Even.
CHERRY."Cherry".Fighters are being sent to the assistance of Convoys ~~CHERRY~~ and ~~CHERRY~~."Cherry". (Lyness W/T 1101/10).ARORA.
Wreckage of
Lifeboat.

Wreckage of lifeboat has been retrieved showing evidence of having been machine gunned bearing identification mark A 320 which indicates steam trawler ARORA of Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1210/10).

Convoy S.L.65.
BUR
(Norwegian,
4343 tons)
bombed.

Help convoy S.L. Position 280° 34 miles from 52° N. 5° W. (TULIP 1322/10). Sailed Rescue Tug SEINE to assist Norwegian vessel BUR in S.L.65 B.M. bombed in 52° 12' N. 05° 52' W. at 1322 today, sinking slowly and making for Fishguard escorted by TULIP. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1610/10). BUR beached in Fishguard Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1956/10).

Chatham.

After raid report 10/3 Slight damage. Details. (C.in C. Nore 1705/10). At approx. 0115/10 two bombs were dropped in the dockyard. One fell on main road 120 feet inside dockyard main gate. Large crater formed temporarily closing road. Underground services in vicinity appear intact. Adjacent underground refuge partially damaged. No casualties. Bomb believed 1000 lbs. size. Second bomb fell between Ropery and No. 2 store, Anchor wharf and is UX. Work in both Ropery and No.2. store temporarily stopped. (Supt. C.E. Chatham, 1800/10 and 1845/10).

Dover bombed.

At about 1520 today two aircraft probably fighter bombers dropped seven bombs. Five fell in harbour and docks, of which one in Granville dock reported unexploded. Two, of which one unexploded, fell in town near water front. No casualties and no damage to service property. (V.A. Dover 2031/10).

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.B.S.51.

My 1127/9. Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0033/10).
Return to Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover 0310/10 to D.20). My 0033/10. Returned. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0820/10)
My 1652/8. 20th D.F. delayed indefinitely.
Operation BS 51 is postponed.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1233/10).

S.N.68 B.

Scapa departures 2335/9 EDINBURGH and NIGERIA. (A.C.O.S. 0204/10).
Your 1050/10. First M.L. Flotilla sailed 1425/10. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Convoy C.W.28.
CORINIA
(Swedish
Tanker,
370 6303 tons)
WATERLAND
SPARTA
sunk.

2 possibly 3 ships mined in 050° 45' N. 000° 48' E. (BLENCATHRA 0210/10).
Three ships of ~~SWEDEN~~ have been mined in 50° 55' N. 0° 35' E. at 0210 hrs. Despatch one A/C at first light to search for survivors. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0312/10).
My 0310. Two ships of C.W.28 mined. Situation not clear. (V.A.Dover 0320/10 to D.20).
Following ships sunk by mines. CORINIA, WATERLAND, SPARTA. Motor launches are being sent in with survivors. (BLENCATHRA 1026/10).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed due to suspected minelaying by enemy action. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0235/10).
Port of Liverpool re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/10).

Milford Haven.

Port of Milford Haven closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0325/10).

Wick.

Wick Harbour opened 0800. (Wick 0803/10)

Thames Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated at 2038/9/3 in 107° N.E. Singles Buoy 3.4 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0921/10).

Explosions off Newhaven.

3 heavy explosions in a south easterly direction heard during the last 20 minutes. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0946/10).
Further explosions heard on same bearings. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1010/10).
Constant explosion all day in area when Mine Sweeping is taking place. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1701/10).

10.3.1941.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Sunderland.
Seaham.
Tyne.
Blyth.

Sunderland Seaham Tyne and Blyth are closed. Ships in F.N. 28 bound for these ports are to be diverted to Humber. (C.in C. Rosyth 1037/10 to FYTCHLEY).

S.N.100.

Sweeping of S.N.100 postponed. Weather unsuitable for recovery. (R.A.M. 1242/10.).

Plymouth.
HATSUSE
damaged 9/3
Two additional
LL Trawlers
requested.

M/S Trawler HATSUSE detonated acoustic mine under her bows at 1745 in approximate position 180° Penlee Point 1.2 miles, HATSUSE beached, Cawsand Bay in sinking condition. Fourteen minor casualties. M/S Trawlers LUDA LORD and HATSUSE both severely damaged and will be out of action for several weeks. At present time only three LL Trawlers are available for Sweeping at Plymouth. Request two additional LL Trawlers may be allocated as soon as possible. (C.in C. Plymouth 1257/10).

Dungeness to
Portsmouth Sweep.

All available oil burning ships of 1st and 4th M.S.F. are to be sailed so as to arrive off Dover prepared to carry out an exploratory sweep between Dungeness and Portsmouth commencing at daylight tomorrow. Names of ships available to be signalled. Further instructions will be signalled later. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1340/10). Your 1340/10 BRAMBLE (S.O.) BRITOMART SPEEDY SHARPSHOOTER HEBE NIGER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1302/10 to Admty.). Admiralty 1340/10. Route for ships. To arrive off Dover at 0530/11. (C.in C. Nore 1602/10). My 1340/10. S.O. 1st M.S.F. taking all available oil burning Minesweepers under his orders is to carry out a high percentage exploratory sweep on a two mile front along the following route. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1743/10). Request Fighter Co-operation for 7 Halcyon class minesweepers from dawn to dusk 11/3. Escort. Position at 0700 070°. Dungeness 8 miles. Speed 7 knots. (D.O.D.H. 1856/10 to H.Q.F.C.). Admiralty's 1340/10. Departures, BRAMBLE (M/S 1) BRITOMART, SPEEDY, SHARPSHOOTER, HEBE and NIGER (M/S 4). (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2146/10).

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

8th M/S.F.

Request you will sail available ships of 8th M.S.F. to Harwich as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. H. 1341/10 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Milford Haven.

Port is open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1530/10). Port of Milford Haven closed owing to minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2237/10).

Enemy Minefield off Stadlandet.

It is reported (C.2) that Germans laid a minefield off Stadlandet just before new year approximately "in the sector between N.W. and N. of Kjerringa and North of Kraakenes". Fishing is prohibited in this area. (D.D.I.C. 1638/10).

7th M/S. F.

Two ships of 7th M.S.F. are to be sailed for North Shields P.M.11th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1701/10/3 to N.O.I.C. Leith).

Dover Area.
2 Mines cut.

Clearance sweep today Monday in Q.Z.S.207 and Q.Z.X.313. Two mines cut. (V.A. Dover 1844/10).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel.

Master of s.s. GUNVOR MAERSK (Ex Dane) reports sighting suspicious vessel at 0215 G.M.T./2nd in 54° 12' N. 37° 14' W. Tried to make enemy report by W/T to Portishead but failed. When avoiding action was taken this vessel followed. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1245/10).

BOCKENHEIM.

It is reported Wilhelmsen ship BOCKENHEIM ex TAIPING and TARONGA adapted as a raider may leave Oslo 11/3 escorted by armed whale catchers. (F.O.S. 1946/10 to S/M's Area A.).

/ Darkened M/V.

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Darkened M/V.

Finnish Ship KASTELHOLM reports sighting darkened merchant vessel of about 7500 tons at about 1800 local time on 6/3 in 59° 30' N. 023° W. Ship was steering 228° but altered course to N.W. She had one funnel and appeared to have cut-away bows. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2200/10).

MATTHIAS HUSS)
STINNES)
 (5337 tons))
KATHERINA)
DOROTHEA)
FRITZEN)
 (7843 tons))

Reported (B.2) to have arrived at Gothenburg during February for repairs. (D.S. 552.).

Pyrites for Germany.

A report (B.2) states that every five days a 3000 to 6000 ton ship leaves Thameshavn in Trondheim Fiord with Pyrites for Germany. (D.S. 552).

Miscellaneous.Strikes at Glasgow.

Details. Position serious unless Government action is taken. (Clanrap, Glasgow, 1524/10 to Adty.).
 Serious delay is taking place on important war work. (Fairfield, Glasgow 1508/10 to Adty.).

War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Protection of
E. coast convoys
against E.boat
attacks.

Your 2228/8. Approved to give this proposal a trial. (D.O.D.(H) 1522/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Stragglers for
Bristol.

For N.C.S.Os. Ref. N.C.S.I.162, para. 2(b) now in course of distribution, stragglers from ocean convoys bound for Bristol Channel ports who become separated from their convoy before reaching the Irish Sea are to proceed to Belfast instead of Swansea Bay. (D.T.D. 1732/10 to A.I.G. 48).

Kites and
Balloons.

Following conditions governing the flying of Admiralty kites and balloons from ships have been agreed and come into force forthwith:- (Air Ministry 1815/10, to Commands).

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.27. 427

List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0236/10) Tyne, etc. closed. Ships to continue to Methil (C.in C. Rosyth 0625/10) Cancel my 1600/9, nothing joined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0927/10) 2 absentees (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1459/10) Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1510/10) Arrivals of escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 2331/10).

"Ounce".

Postponed, suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 0253/10).

F.N.29. 429

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore, 0735/10).

F.N.28. 428

Intend leaving for Harwich daylight. (Capt. D.16, 0617/10) SAPPHIRE to remain with rear portion (C.in C. Nore 0947/10) VESPER to leave (C.in C., Nore, 1008/10) Sunderland, etc., closed. Ships to be diverted to Humber (C.in C. Rosyth 1037/10). My p.c. and s. etc. (VESPER, 1050/10 to C.in C. Nore) Your 1050, Concur (C.in C. Nore 1221/10). Ships to anchor off Humber L.V. (C.in C. Nore 1439/10 to SAPPHIRE) If your ships have joined FYTCHLEY, return to Harwich with F.S*31 (C.in C. Nore 1533/10 to SAPPHIRE) 3 ships to join (list) (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1643/10)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.96. Position (A.C.O.S. 0810/10). May meet E.N.83 (A.C.O.S. 0844/10) Positions W.N.96 and E.N.83 (A.C.O.S. 1043/10).

"Watch". Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0853/10).

F.S. ~~31~~. 431 1 absentee (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/10)
14 ships (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0928/10) To proceed by QZS 172. (C.in C. Nore 1003/10 to WESTMINSTER) M.L's to escort (C.in C. Nore 1050/10) HOLDERNESS and COTTESMORE to join. (C.in C. Nore 1053/10).
Instructions to proceed. (C.in C. Nore 1214/10 to WESTMINSTER) E.T.A. (WESTMINSTER 1353/10) Humber ships arrived, exceptions. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1716/10).

E.N.83. Position (A.C.O.S. 1043/10).

F.S.29A. 429A Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 0958/10) Position. 14 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. 1812/10).

F.N.26. 426 Arrivals, etc. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1114/10).

E.N.84. 1100/11, escorts, 28 ships. Code "Paddle". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1201/10).

"Scent". Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1310/10).

E.N.82. 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1300/10).

W.N.95. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1418/10) (C.in C. Rosyth 2331/10).

F.S.32. 432 Sailed 1400/10, 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1427/10) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1642/10)
1 ship from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1731/10).

C.W.28. 13 M.V's arrived, 3 missing. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603/10).

W.N.U.97. 1400/12 unescorted, 24 ships (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1657/10).

"Wheel" Sailed, escorts, list (9 ships and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1831/10).

"Range". Sailed, 4 for Southampton, 1 for Cowes. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1849/10).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.10.3.1941.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

- F.N.29. 429 0730/11, ships to date 33 LE TIGER and COVENTRY CITY additional escorts. (C.in C. Nore 2058/10).
- F.S.33. 433 Sailed 2300/10, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2335/10).
- W.N.97. 2040/10, 3 escorts, 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2100/10).

Ocean Convoys.

- ? KENYA to rejoin and escort to North Channel (C.in C. Plymouth 0955/10). Am complying (C.S.10, 1055/10).
- H.X.110 B. To anchor for night. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1144/10 to HAVELOCK, 1148/10 to HARVESTER) HARVESTER rejoined (HARVESTER, 1727/10).
- O.B.U.295. 1145/10, unescorted, 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1242/10) List (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1524/10).
- O.B.298)
S.L.67.) 9th Escort Group to operate with as A/S S.F. (C.in C. W.A. 1327/10 amended 2365/11).
- H.G.54. Escorting VIZALMA to Oban, ABELIA to Clyde. (BROKE, 1330/10).
- H.G.54 B. 0730/11 unescorted, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1530/10, 2130/10).
- S.L.68. Will sail p.m./12 (C.in C. S.A., 1345N/10 to Admty.) See also South Atlantic.
- O.B.296. COSSACK, MAORI and ZULU available for. (C.in C. H.F., 1411/10) Sailed 1315/10, 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1531/10 List (1532/10) Escorts, departures, (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1705/10).
- O.B.O.296. 0400/11, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1515/10).

/ O.B.U.296.

War Diary.

10.3.1941.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.U.296. 1130/12, WHITEHALL and WINCHELSEA, 16 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1523/10).

H.G.56. List and destinations (22 ships). (? to
Admty., 1531/10).

S.C.25. Sailing telegram (34 ships) (S.C.N.O. Halifax
1439/10) LACONIA and THUNDERBOLT, ocean
escorts, left. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1532/10).

S.C.23. ABERDEEN to escort Bristol Channel ships.
(C.in C. W.A., 1545/10).

H.X.111. Met. (CHESTERFIELD, 1555/10) May meet
O.B.295 in N. Minch about 1900.
(C.in C. W.A., to CHELSEA, VERITY etc.
1602/10).

O.B.295. Estimate will meet E.N.83 at 2000/10.
(C.in C. W.A., 1559/10 to SARDONYX).

O.B.297. 0300/13, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O.
Belfast 1715/10).

H.X.111 U. Arrived 2130/10, 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe,
2259/10).

O.B.C.296. 2225/10, FREESIA, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde,
2359/10).

Military Convoys.BURMA.

Cancel my 1718/8.
(D.O.D.(H) 1237/10).

10.3.1941.
Monday.War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PRINCE OF WALES. My 1600/3. Neither Ymor B turrets are in condition to pass equipment trials 10th/11 March and trials have been postponed. But anticipate ship sailing 24/3. (PRINCE OF WALES 0905/10).

STANFORTH (British, 1817 tons). Grounded Seaton Sands 0430 approx. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0925/10).

A/P Vessel N.40. and PETWORTH. Slight collision occurred at 0710/10 between S.S. PETWORTH and A.P. Vessel N. 40. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1230/10).

EMPEROR OF INDIA. (Eagle Ship) Owing to defect sailing deferred. (F.O.I.C. London 1305/10).

^I
AUBRETIA. (Corvette) Speed reduced to 9 knots by defect. Am proceeding to Greenock E.T.A. 0400/11. (AUBRETIA 1515/10).

H.28. H.28 has sustained damage in collision with merchant ship and requires dock for repairs. She can proceed under own power. Request I may be informed of Port for repairs. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1530/10).

BALTARA
(Broke down 5/3) Screening BALTARA. Position at 1340 G.M.T. 049° 56' N. 023° 25' W. drifting 258° 8 knots. BALTARA position unchanged. (ST. ELSTAN 1900/10).

S.S. ^{CARIEDA} CORINIA My 1643/4. ^{CARIEDA} CORINIA grounded and abandoned south of Reykjavik 8/3. No loss of life Master states confidential matter on board. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1946/10).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raider Situation.North Atlantic.

* *Confirmed.*
Sunk by GNEISENAU
22/2 see BR1337 Page 47.

My 1756/27/2.

TRELAWNY attacked East of Newfoundland 22/2 may have been sunk by *SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU which were sighted by MALAYA in 21° 37' N., 20° 20' W., course 245° at 20 knots, 1700/8. Unit possibly supply ship still in area 26° N., 41° W.

South Atlantic.

No definite information but if ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER is returning to Germany, she might be approaching Ascension Area. One raider is reported escorting whaling prizes home. (D.3.) One other raider possibly still operating.

Indian Ocean.

LEANDER and CANBERRA sank COBURG from Massawa 21/2 and prize KETTY BROVIG of Saya De Malha 4/3. KETTY BROVIG captured by Raider C (see my 1951/4/1) 2/2 N.W. of Seychelles. This raider is also responsible for SPEYBANK about 31/1 and MANDASOR about 24/1 KETTY BROVIG fuelled C on 12/2 and SCHEER 16/2. Latter had probably just arrived from Atlantic, but may have been at sea since end of September. TANNENFELS from Kismayu 31/1 was in company with C but reported to be returning to Germany. (D.3.)

Pacific.

No fresh information but at least one raider believed still present. (D.D.I.C. 1738/10), (1615/12).

North Atlantic.

REPULSE.
FURIOUS.

Gibraltar arrivals.
 (S.O.(I) Gib: 0230/10).

Missing
A/C safe.

Spanish CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA reports:-
 Swordfish Aircraft and crew missing since Saturday night now safe in the ship bound for Teneriffe (Ends). Message is signed Lieutenant G.R. Bown.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 0418/10 to S.O. Force H).
 Spanish S.S. CABO IRANNA ESPERANZA has on

/board

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Missing A/C
Safe.
(Contd.)

board crew of a naval A/C rescued at sea. Report arrangements for their repatriation to Gibraltar, there should be no question of internment. Convey to Master my thanks.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1006/10 to Consul, Teneriffe).
Position where picked up. 21° 41'N., 20° 40'W., date not mentioned.
(N.A., Buenos Aires, 1645/10 to S.O.I.Gib).

S.L.67.
Escort.

On parting company from S.L.67 proceed Gibraltar through following positions: Cancel my 1204/8 to Capt: D.8. and FORESTER.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1548/10 to Capt: D.8. ASPHODEL).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
DUNCAN
FOXHOUND.

Departure in accordance with Admty. 1416/9 routed through 018° N., 020° W., E.T.A. Freetown 1400 Zone plus 1/16.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2032/10 to Admty etc.)

Op: "Summer"
(A/c for Takoradi.)South Atlantic.DAGEID.

Overdue shipping. Norwegian DAGEID due Ango - (? ANJL) 28/2 from Aruba departure 6/2 has not been reported. Enquiries being made.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 0718/10). See page 408

ANGLO AFRICAN.
MASIRAN.
PACIFIC. (Swedish).

Overdue shipping due Capetown 6/3, all not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0958B/10).

DELHI.

Your 0940Z/5/3. DELHI has leaky condenser which is being repaired. Following programme proposed.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1000B/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)L.L.Sweepers.Revised dates of completion.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1016B/10).DORDRECHT
"Q" Report.*N.T. in W.D. see page 236.*
Your 1833/9. DORDRECHT arrived Freetown
8/3. Suspicious ship reported by her
proved to be CAP DES PALMES.
(C.in C. S.A. 1115/10 to Admty).W.S.6.Transshipment is necessary at Durban for
some of the personnel in W.S.6. for the
following reasons. Proposals.
(D.S.T. 1300/10 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C.
S.A.)
Release of refrigerated ships and transfer
of personnel mentioned in my 1300/10
necessitate proposing following changes
to arrangements in your 2033/7.
(D. of S.T. 2309/10 to C.in C. S.A.)
Realised that proposals in D. of S.T's
1300/10 and 2309/10 will complicate your
escort arrangements, but hoped you will be
able to meet all requirements without de-
laying convoy. You will appreciate
that release of the meat ships is of vital
importance to this country.
(D.O.D.(F) 2353/10 to C.in C. S.A.)MALAYA
MAURITIUS
S.L.68.Your 1841/9. Concur with intended
arrangements. MALAYA expected to
arrive Freetown 13/3. She should accompany
S.L.68 to latitude of Azores proceeding
thence to Gibraltar. Request you will
sail MAURITIUS later so as to relieve MALAYA
and accompany convoy to U.K. unless fuel
considerations compel her to leave earlier.
(D.O.D.(F) 1317/10 to C.in C. S.A.)S.L.68.Your 1907/9 and my 1841/9. Convoy S.L.68
will sail p.m./12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1345N/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)S.African
Defence.

Union Director of Seaward Defence request Admiralty appreciation of Situation in Union Waters regarding (A) minelaying (b) Submarine activity and (c) raids or other sea-borne attacks in the event of Japan entering war.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1442B/10, to Admty).

German
SENTINEL II.

Your 1417/1/9/1939. Ex German cable ship SENTINEL II now SANTA ELENA after being laid up seven months now sold to Bunge Born for Argentine Brazil coasting trade.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1745/10).

DELPHINULA,
for W.S.7.

My 2109/27. TERJE VIKEN sunk. Tanker DELPHINULA being loaded with water for W.S.7.
(D. of S.T. 1752/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

PROME.

My 2332/4. Now appears possible that S.S. PROME will not arrive Freetown before 17/3.
(D.O.D.(F) 1822/10 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C., E.I.)

ABGARA.

Your 1149/5. Is there any evidence that master is taking orders from owner in Germany?
(D.N.I. 1823/10 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).

Sunderlands.

Admty. 2303/16/1 and 2338/4/3. It is hoped that two Sunderlands will leave for Freetown via Gibraltar on first suitable day after 12/3.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1901/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

FRISCO
Italian.

My 1506/7 Ceara reports appears ready for sea, customs officer remains on board day and night, full cargo 5000 tons Naphtha.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2203Z/10).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UNIQUE.

Your 1846/9. No recalling signal received. E.T.A. Marsamxett 0700 B/12 One main generator out of action. (UNIQUE 0003/10 to S.O.(S) Malta).

FENICIA.

At 0502 G.M.T./10. Taranto broadcast an S.O.S. from Italian S.S. FENICIA in position 034° 19'N., 012° 40'E. (Capt: O.S. Alexandria, 0858/10 to V.A. Malta, C.in C. Med.)

CONTE ROSSO,
CITTA DI
MESSINA,
ARMANDO DIAZ.

Following from Navy Department from U.S. Naval Attache, Rome, dated 7/3, source believed reliable. Troopships CONTE ROSSO and CITTA DI MESSINA plus light cruiser ARMANDO DIAZ sunk, both heavy loss of life including German air mechanics. (N.A.Washington, 1015/10).

KATIE MOLLER.

Collided 1127/8 with Greek S.S. SOFIA in Salamis. KATIE MOLLER holed below water, has been beached and discharging cargo into lighters. (S.T.O. Piraeus, 1028/10 to D. of S.T.)

Tripoli
Bombed.
Durazzo
bombed.

Operational Summary No.273 up to 1200/10/3. Day 8/3. 4 Wellingtons dropped 10000 lbs. of bombs on Tripoli harbour. Night 8-9/3 4 Wellingtons dropped 9750 lbs of bombs on harbour installations Durazzo starting 5 fires followed by violent explosions. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1127/10).

FORMIDABLE,
ILLUSTRIOUS,
EAGLE.

FORMIDABLE arrived Alexandria. ILLUSTRIOUS is sailing for Port Said at 1600/10 and will transit canal as soon as possible. Regret no A/S escort can be provided for onward passage. Suggest she should proceed Port Sudan to await escort. EAGLE's Beam forbids her passing wreck of AGHIOS GEORGIOS until further dredging has been carried out. (C.in C. Med., 1128/10 to Admty. etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

3424

10.3.1941

Monday.

CONFIDENTIAL.

M M S S A C M

2114/10 March.

IN.

Date: 11.3.41.
Recd: 0602.

From: C. in C. Mediterranean.

Naval Code (L) by cable.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, repeated V.A. Malta, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, R.A. Alexandria, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, Admiralty. Group 201.

IMPORTANT.

598. 2nd edition. Following movements are in progress or intended.

- (a) 7th C.S. returning to Alexandria passing west of Crete p.m. 10th.
- (b) 3rd C.S. Aegean duty.
- (c) Force "A" as required by R.A. 1st D.S.
- (d) A.N.19 leaves Egypt 11th escort [redacted]. COVENTRY [redacted]. GRINBY [redacted]. VENDORITA and Greek Destroyer SPETSAI and Greek Destroyer HYDRA to arrive Piraeus 15th via Kaso.
- (e) A.S. 18 leaves Piraeus 11th escort [redacted]. CALCUTTA [redacted]. HERO [redacted]. HASTY to arrive Egypt 14th via Kaso. Ships of 12 knots and over only.
- (f) A.G.5 leaves Alexandria 12th. Escort [redacted]. VAMPIRE [redacted]. WRITLOCK and one destroyer to be detached by C. in C. Mediterranean. To arrive Piraeus 14th via Kithera.

2114/10.

Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.

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. 8.
O.D. (5)
H. (2)
O.I.C.
Mails.
Movts.
D.S.D. 9.
D.P.S.
I.P. (3)
D.A./S.W.
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D. of S.T.
E.P.S.

*Suggest to put
in List.*

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Flag of
R.A. A/C. Carriers.

Flag of R.A. Aircraft Carriers was transferred ILLUSTRIOUS to FORMIDABLE today (C.in C. Med., 1157/10).

Minesweepers,
Turkey.1500/8. Visiting Istanbul dockyard 10/3 two out of four vessels taken over for minesweeping were seen fitting out and 13 others eventually to be taken in hand. Selected vessels said by Turkish Navy to be quite unsuitable for their work on account of their slow speed six to seven knots.
(Adm. Kelly, 1215/10 to C.in C. Med.)Eurekas.

Ref: 0901/24 from C.in C. Middle East. Shipment of Eurekas approx. date, and names of ships. (Hd. of M., 1246/10 to C.in C. M.E., C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Attacks
on
Sunderlands.

In last few days there have been persistent attacks on Sunderlands at Moorings. To-days attack burned out L.2164 and damaged T.9046. Pending decision of policy by A.O.C.in C. aircraft are being dispersed from Malta. (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1740/10).

Malta Air
Raids.
Petrol
Lighter
Beached.Malta. G.M.T. 1020/3. Three enemy formations approached from different sides. 8 Hurricanes up endeavoured to engage 3 DO. 215's which crossed South Coast but turned away before releasing bombs. Simultaneously 9 ME 109's on 2 formations made low machine gun attack on Sunderland at St. Pauls Bay. Ground defences engaged and probably shot 1 into sea and damaged 2 others. Our losses 1 Sunderland burnt out and another Sunderland temporarily unserviceable. Petrol lighter hit below waterline beached before sinking. Casualties nil.
(H.Q. Med. 1645/10).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Enemy
M/V's.

2 enemy merchant ships unescorted passed Kelibia at 1700B/10 southwards, speed 8 knots.

(Cdr. S.1. 2003/10 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Movements.

In progress or intended - 7th C.S., 3rd C.S., Force "A" convoys. A.N.19., A.S.18 A.G.5. (C.in C. Med., 2114/10). Original in Lion copy only.

Submarine
Recognition
Signals.

Day grenade, night grenade, subordinate flashing signals will not be used by submarines to identify themselves to aircraft. Consequently the identification flare is the only recognition signal used by Allied Submarines on surface to identify themselves to aircraft.

(2) Submarines on surface outside a total bombing restriction area, which does not establish correct identification flare should be attacked.

(3) Above procedure is now in force on Home, Mediterranean and North Atlantic Station.

(Air Ministry, 2200/10 to H.Q. R.A.F. Med.)

TINOS
LIVORNO
TRAPANI.Departure 8/3 German Steamer TINOS for Marseilles. 9/3 arrival, German Steamers LIVORNO, TRAPANI.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2300/10).East Indies.B.N.19.Departure AUCKLAND with B.N.19.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0430/10).

List of B.N.19, 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0650Z/10).

GRIGORIOS
C.H.Overdue ship Greek GRIGORIOS C.H. left during daylight 11/2 for Aden.
(S.C.(I) Colombo 0436/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Mogadiscio
Brava
Merca.

My 0738/6. Present situation (re harbour craft, lighters etc.) ((1) Mogadiscio. (2) Brava. (3) Merca). Details will be given (C.in C. E.I. 0736/10 to Admty). in Station Intelligence Report.

Eritrea
supply ships.

Ref: 573//13225/4 of 8/5. 1940 and subsequent communication. Supply arrangements for Eritrea likely to become acute particularly after fall of Massawa. Am endeavouring to obtain suitable supply ship but tug will also be required. DELAVAR would be most suitable. No other available E.I. Station. Can diplomatic action be taken urgently to secure use of DELAVAR. Understand that on lapse of Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Lease vessel becomes property of the Iranian Govt., who would require compensation. (C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/10 to Admty). (Repeating 0806Z/10). At least one vessel required for permanent supply work. Propose ex Italian MANON after reconditioning at Bombay be used unless another can be provided sooner. (C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/10 to D. of S.T.)

EMERALD
DAUNTLESS,
ANTENOR,
B.M.4.

My 1126/3. EMERALD is to leave Colombo 1030Z/11 and after carrying out practice is to R/V with ANTENOR and B.M.4. in 005° 40'N., 079° 06'E at 0200Z/12. EMERALD will relieve ANTENOR as escort in above position. On relief, ANTENOR is to proceed to Bombay so as to arrive a.m./15. C.in C. China, 0557/8. R/V for DAUNTLESS with EMERALD and B.M.4. is 006° 25'N. 083° 35'E. EMERALD is to leave DAUNTLESS and B.M.4. in 010°N. 092°E and is then to proceed to Colombo so as to arrive 0500Z/17. (C.in C. E.I. 0818Z/10).
✕ At 0300Z/13.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Details of
Raider.

My 1828/9. Description of raider resembles closely that of ATLANTIS given in my 1358/3 and F.E.C.B. 811 except that the stern is given as counter and not cruiser, but N.O.I.C. Mauritius has been asked to verify this by further interrogation.

(ii) In view of similarity of description which is confirmed by CANBERRA's 1805/7 passed to you in my 1706/8, it is considered practically certain that the ATLANTIS, TAMESIS, and No. 16 are the same ship. Change of appearance is effected in many ways including following:-
(C.in C. E.I. 1052Z/10).

Mine field
in Small
Bab el Mandeb
Strait.

C.in C. E.I. 1054/10. See Operations Volume.

Ex Italian
Prizes.

My 1202/2. Volunteers will take ships to Bombay. Arrangements re pay etc.
(C.in C. E.I., 1136/10 to Admty).

OBSERVER.

Have you any news of her?
(D.T.D. 1326/10 to N.C.S.O. Calcutta.)

Sailings
from Aden
to join
B.N. Convoys.

Cancel my 0550/2. Normal sailings for Red Sea convoys are to be resumed forthwith. If a number of ships of similar speed are sailed together use wide dispersion.
(C.in C. E.I. 1634Z/10 to N.C.S.O's Colombo, Bombay, etc.)

Italian
Ships
RAMB I
MONCALIERI.

My 1154/2. Conclusions are: (1) RAMB I was scuttled by two dynamite charges as well as LEANDER's fire. (2) MONCALIERI has been sunk in Massawa by bombs. (3) RAMB I left Massawa at a moments notice. Believe that, although orders had been given to raid commerce on passage, this was a test case to see if escape to neutral country such as Japan for remaining ships possible and an armed ship used for purpose. Otherwise lack of organisation, suitably trained officers, crew etc., inexplicable.
(C.in C. E.I. 1642Z/10 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.3.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Massawa.

My 1600/27/2 and 1631/5. Decided not to plant cucumbers at Massawa. Air Ministry's 1745/5 is being passed to you for information under T.O.O. 2351/10. (Head of M., 2350/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ILE DE
FRANCE.
AQUITANIA.

Your 0120/8. (Proposing use of ILE DE FRANCE instead of AQUITANIA). Earliest date ILE DE FRANCE ready to sail is (-). Sailing of AQUITANIA dependent upon (? amount) of work to be carried out while at Singapore; instructions requested. (A.S. Singapore 0328Z/10 to D. of S.T).

Your 0120/8. Concur with use of ILE DE FRANCE (A.C.N.B. 0840Z/10 to D. of S.T).

TAMESIS.

Please confirm receipt of Admty. 1954/8 (Norwegian TAMESIS due at Manila) Do you expect any difficulty in sailing ship for Hong Kong with Cargo referred to? Most desirable that Japanese and Shanghai consignee should not be informed of diversion to Hong Kong. (Cdre i/c Hong Kong 0459Z/10 to Consul-Gen., Manila).

DAUNTLESS.
ABERDARE.
HARROW.

Penang departures 9/3 DAUNTLESS. Amend my 0841/9 re movement of ABERDARE, HARROW to read Singapore departure 9/3 for Colombo via Penang and Nancowry. (S.O.I. Singapore 0933Z/10 to Admty, etc).

N.E.I.
Naval
Units.

Your 0251/27/2 and 1431Z/7/3 and my 0115/5/3. Request you signal weekly present and intended dispositions of Netherlands E.I. Cruisers, Destroyers and Submarines, and any important changes as they occur. Dutch Naval Authorities in London concur. (D.O.D.(F) 1816/10 to C. in C. China).

~~J.W.P.~~

May we be supplied with a
copy of Admty. 1247/10, referred
to in Ci C.A. and W.D. 0952/11? Former
was given a "hush" distribution, but it is
desired to notate the subject with code
time in War Diary.

Gen. H. H. Hunsford

for Head of T.S.D. H.S.
(War Diary)

109 W III

12/3/1941.

Diary

I am sorry but the distribution
did down for HUSH message does
not include War Diary & I am
therefore in a position to let you
have a copy of 1247/10.

J. Hunsford

HWSR 12 Nov 41

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

CONTE
ROSSO
CITTA DI
MESSINA
ARMANDO
DIAZ.

Following from Navy Dept. from U.S. N.A. Rome dated 7/3 believed reliable. Troop-ships CONTE ROSSO and CITTA DI MESSINA plus ARMANDO DIAZ sunk both heavy loss of life including German air mechanics. (N.A. Washington 1015/10).

Comment by N.I.D.

This information is believed to be correct. It had previously seemed probable that the cruiser sunk by UPRIGHT on 25/2 was either the ^{ARMANDO} DIAZ or the ^{ALBERTO DA} BARBIANO and it may now be considered certain that the ^{ARMANDO} DIAZ was the cruiser sunk.

The CONTE ROSSO (17,859 tons) was twice reported in the neutral press during this month to have been sunk by a mine off Sicily. C. in C. Med. reported on 17/2 that the CITTA DI MESSINA (2,472 tons) was believed to have been sunk by REGENT on 15/1 off Misurata.

BAJAMAR.
K.G. MELDAHL.

Your 1729/7 and 2207/7. BAJAMAR left New York 8/3 and will proceed unescorted, cover being afforded by DESPATCH vide My 1112/8. Decision regarding Escort for K.G. MELDAHL will be made on receipt of R.A.3 reply to My 0952/8. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1142/10 to Admty).

S.C.25.

Departure Halifax 10/3 LACONIA, THUNDERBOLT ocean escort S.C.25. (S.O.I. Halifax, 1532/10)

RAMILLIES,
RODNEY,
KING GEORGE V.

} Re escort arrangements for H.X. 114 and H.X. 115 and S.C. 25 (D.O.D. (H) 1946/10 to R.A.3 etc) See Operations Volume.

PRINCE DAVID.

Your 1241/9. Request you will postpone the entry of PRINCE DAVID into this area until the vessel mentioned in my 1247/10 (given a "hush" distribution) is clear of it. (D.O.D.(F) 1948/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

/S.C.25.....

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.C. 25.

C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1229/6. Deletions.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1721/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

French Shipments.

Evidence from Trinidad censor indicates bananas shipped French Antilles to occupied France (?plundered by) Germans. Reliable report by loyal Frenchman Martinique states Vichy promises to take estimated (? group omitted) 70 to 80 thousand tons. It is believed in Martinique that about 60% will find its way to Germany and suggested that British divert shipment to United States who would send supplies in exchange. Same applies to rum. Suggest U.S. State Dept. be sounded as to possibility of co-operation and relaxation of situation which precludes our taking action in neutrality zone to prevent French ships carrying food for probable German consumption. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1906/10 to Admty).

K.G. MELDAHL,
VOLTAIRE.

Your 1131/10 (VOLTAIRE completes refit 11/3) Norwegian K.G. MELDAHL due to leave New York 10/3 for Takoradi with 55 aeroplanes speed 11 knots and has been ordered to call at Trinidad. VOLTAIRE should proceed direct to Trinidad to provide onward escort. Report anticipated date VOLTAIRE will arrive Trinidad. My 0952/8 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2045/8 refer. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2252/10 to R.A.3 B.S.).

War Diary.10.5.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Counter-Attacks
on U/B's
attacking
Convoys
at Night.

Cancel my 1909/6 and substitute:-
Efforts to destroy U-boats which carry out surface attacks on convoys at night have not up to date proved entirely successful. New methods must be tried out. S.Os. of Groups must take every opportunity of discussing problem with their several C.Os. I have lately pointed out necessity of keeping rear of convoy guarded, bearing in mind that efficiency of lookouts in all types of surface craft is proverbially less efficient astern than on forward bearings.

2. S.Os. of escorts should consider:-

(a) advisability of increasing the existing areas of starshell fire.

(b) reducing distance from convoy to which the escort vessels at present proceed after an attack, thereby reducing the risk of the U-boat returning to attack during their absence.

(c) A.S.V. Destroyers on each beam turning 180° and searching area on either quarter of convoy and

(d) advisability of leaving one ship to search close ahead and on each bow of convoy while starshell are being fired.

3. S.O. Escort is in best position to judge direction of attack and must be free to act to best advantage under existing circumstances. Beyond certain broad guiding principles, therefore, orders laid down for the defence of convoys at night must be kept as flexible as possible.

4. Western Approaches Convoy Instructions Section G, Parts IX, X, XI, are being amended accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 1727/10 to Capts D., Liverpool Greenock, Londonderry).

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Attack on
S.L. 67 8/3.
LAHORE.
HARMODIUS.
TIELBANK.
HINDPOOL.
MARDANA,
sunk.
(U.125-7 U.105.)

My 1540Z/8 to V.A.C.N.A., at about 0240/8, after moonset FORESTER heard explosions and proceeded to Port bow of convoy then in position 20° 51' N. 20° 32' W. She sighted submarine* on surface, illuminated, opened fire, and dropped two patterns over position where submarine submerged. She considers patterns were close to submarine. Between 0251 and 0256 MALAYA saw three white rockets from Port wing of convoy. At 0259 convoy altered 40° to starboard by emergency turn. At 0303 one ship on fire seen by MALAYA on port quarter. At 0321 s.s. LAHORE made distress message repeated by shore station. At 0435 MALAYA repeated and at 0518 passed to Portishead on H.F. At 0527 FAULKNER reported both destroyers searching for survivors. At 1130/8 FAULKNER and FORESTER rejoined convoy with 316 survivors, reporting HARMODIUS, TIELBANK, HINDPOOL, MARDANA, LAHORE all sunk. D.8 considers from survivors' statements of times struck that submarine fired at each ship separately. I consider it more probable that one spread salvo was fired, ships sunk were in positions 11, 12, 14, 21, 43, Convoy not subsequently attacked. (MALAYA 1031/10). (*u105)

HUNTINGDON.
(torpedoed 24/2)

Ref. Trade Division memo 4/9/1939 (1) British ship HUNTINGDON (2) Federal Steam Navigation Co. (3) 0235 G.M.T/24/2, 58.25 N. 20.23 W. (4) and (5) not sighted (6) submerged (7) ship sunk (8) none (9) unknown (10) torpedo (11) full set of C.B's and papers dumped. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1215/10 to Admty).

TERJE VIKEN.
(torpedoed 7/3)

Arrived HURRICANE with 100 survivors from TERJE VIKEN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/10).

DELILIAN
ATHELBEACH
(torpedoed 7/3).

Clyde Arrivals. CAMELIA escorting DELILIAN and with 36 survivors from ATHELBEACH. Names. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1729/10, 2205/10).

/U.70.....

War Diary.

10.3.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

U.70
(sunk 7/3)

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1901/9. The S/M referred to is undoubtedly the U.70 subsequently sunk by ARBUTUS. ARBUTUS' report corroborates MYDRECHT'S claim to have rammed the U/B near Conning Tower which caused superficial damage to the Bridge Screen and Conning Tower casing. There is however no evidence to support the claim to 2 direct hits by gunfire. The U/B came to the surface some time after ramming but dived again and was hunted for over 2 hours and finally sunk by ARBUTUS. (C. in C. W.A. 1336/10 to Admty).
My 1336/10. Convey my congratulations to Master of MIJDRECHT on her gallant action and fine display of seamanship in ramming U70 although herself torpedoed. This undoubtedly contributed to the final destruction of the U/B by ARBUTUS. (C. in C. W.A. 1341/10)

Submarines Reported.

2109/9.

D/F Bearings at 2109/9 indicate U-Boat may still be in the vicinity of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 0138/10 to MALAYA).

2130/8.

Large submarine ? sighted on surface steering S. off Ponta Delgada, Azores, 2130/8. A.O. (N.A. Lisbon 1832/10) (F.O.C.N.A. 2214/10 to N.A. Stn).

1607

58° - 60° N. W. of 15° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

2012

48° - 49° N. 17° - 20° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

1748

48½° - 49½° N., 9° - 10° W. Very indefinite (D.S. 553).

Estimated U/B
Dispositions,

(D.D.I.C. 1418/10).

MOST SECRET.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.SITUATION REPORT.

The U.S.A. "Lease and Lend" Bill became law this evening.

Unless identified as enemy, a submarine in company with French merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French submarine.

Home Commands.Western Channel Patrol.

KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING and KELVIN patrolled last night between the Eddystone and Scilly Is.

E/Boat attack on Convoy.

E/Boats attacked convoy F.S.#32 off Yarmouth tonight and torpedoed and sank S.S. TREVETHOE.

Watch on ADMIRAL HIPPER Cruiser.

Air patrol reported various light forces near Brest this morning. Air R/C at 1230 showed a HIPPER Class Cruiser exercising in Doñarnenez Bay.

Captain D.5. (KELLY) was ordered to patrol with KIPLING, KASHMIR and KELVIN to intercept her if she sails tonight. L.27 was also ordered to patrol, and frequent air patrols were arranged.

A/A defence of Scapa.

A.C.O.S. has made serious representations as to the effect on the A.A. defence of the Fleet at Scapa, of the proposed removal by the Army of 8 3.7" mobile guns, at a time when renewed air attacks are to be expected. (See 12/3).

/U/Boat

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

U/Boat
Campaign.

It was reported today that S.S. MARSLEW was torpedoed and sunk on 23/2 in the N.W. Approaches in 59° 18'N., 21° 30'W., and that the Icelandic trawler FRODI was attacked, near the Vestman Islands (Iceland), apparently last night and apparently unsuccessfully.

British Air Activity.

Measures are being taken to ensure more efficient air protection of homeward bound merchant ships independently routed through the Minches.

Convoy escorts were provided last night in the N.W. Approaches and for all convoys in the N.W. Approaches to-day.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Boulogne, St. Nazaire and Ostend last night. Blenheims of Coastal Command attacked Cherbourg and Brest last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

Severe Air
Attacks on
Portsmouth.

WITHERINGTON was hit and beached, REVELLO was sunk, TYNEDALE and 2 M/S Trawlers were damaged, 5 other ships were slightly damaged, DOLPHIN floating dock was sunk, and considerably damage was caused to the Naval Dockyard and establishments, at Portsmouth in air attack from 2004/10 to 0200/11. Service casualties were 87 killed, 224 seriously and 168 slightly wounded.

/BARON ELGIN

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BARON ELGIN reported being attacked this afternoon N.W. of the Farne Is. There is no report of damage.

Convoy E.N.84 was attacked this evening S.E. of Aberdeen. No damage occurred.

Mining.Mining of Thames Estuary.

Extensive Mining by enemy aircraft last night took place in the Thames Estuary. Heavy explosions were heard, about 28 suspected mines were seen to drop, many premature explosions took place. The minelaying aircraft were heavily engaged by all ships from south-end to Edinburgh Channels. One enemy aircraft was destroyed by HOLDERNESS by a direct hit from one of her 4" guns.

Mining in Milford Haven.

Reports indicate that about 45 parachute mines were dropped in Milford Haven today, mostly in the convoy anchorage in the centre of the Haven. Ships for convoy are being swept or towed out today, but the port (which was closed yesterday evening) will not be opened for general traffic until sweeping has been carried out tomorrow.

Dungeness to Beachy Head sweep.

Several mines were destroyed by the special sweep carried out between Dungeness and Beachy Head.

An area in the Firth of Forth was closed this evening after a mine was today reported to have been dropped yesterday afternoon.

Tyne, Blyth and Sunderland were reopened this afternoon after several mines had been detonated.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.

Enemy aircraft last night dropped 8 mines in three separate areas of the Suez Canal, of which 3 exploded.

Italian
transport
sunk.

A message was received today that on 22/2 URSULA torpedoed an escorted armed transport of the SICILIA Class, believed to be carrying troops, off Tripoli. The ship was last seen with decks awash, sinking.

War Diary.11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Docking
of
NELSON.

My 1336/8, I intend to defer docking NELSON at any rate until after return of RODNEY about 25/3. (C. in C. H.F. 2001/11.)

Iceland.
Proposed
further
facilities
at ports.

Re acute congestion of inner harbour at Reykjavik. Ships are kept waiting for berths for several days. Repair facilities only designed to maintain local, trawler, fleet fully extended in maintaining ships for Army Services in addition. No coaling facilities available for ships which cannot enter. Suggest early provision of depot ship Hvalfjord, repair facilities to deal with A.M.Cs., escort merchant vessels. Small collier or hulk for Hvalfjord. Another water-boat 100 tons for ships at Reykjavik. (F.O.Iceland 1931/11.)

Defence of U.K.Scapa.
Removal
of A/A
Guns.

Am informed by O.S.D.E.F., eight 3.7 mobile guns to be moved from Scapa to Clyde. 2. This will seriously impair the scale of A/A. Armament which I consider necessary for the defence of the Fleet and at a time when renewed attacks are to be expected. Request I may be informed whether T.L. have concurred, and that steps may be taken to stop proposed move if possible. (A.C.O.S. 2216/11 to Adty.)

Transfers
of A/A
Guns.

O.5445/11. Following moves of Guns will take place immediately, to Clyde, Mersey, Bristol, and Swansea. (Antacor, London 1635/11, 1955/11.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.SUNFISH.

My 1729/10. Proceed to Blyth. Following movements of STURGEON and F.N#26, may affect you. (S.6. 0933/11 to SUNFISH.)

Harwich.
M/L's
sheltering.

Arrived M.L's 105, 106 108, and 110 at 0934. Sheltering. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0949/11.)

L.27.

You have been reported by enemy aircraft. (F.O.S. 1154/11, to L.27.)

REVENGE.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1303/10.
C. in C. Portsmouth to sail REVENGE for Clyde p.m./14th, providing A/A escort of two HUNTS for the whole passage.
2. C. in C. Plymouth to provide four of the 5th D.F. as A/S escort from Portsmouth to the Clyde as arranged with C. in C. Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S(H). 1302/11.)

TORBAY.

Steer 050° and dive by day after passing 25° W., Proceed subsequently to Holy Loch. C. in C. W.A. to signal route and arrange escort. (F.O.S. 1604/11 to TORBAY.)

URGE.

You may meet STURGEON travelling in Gap A. (S.9. 1645/11, to URGE.)

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

WORCESTER
Engagement
with
E-Boats
off
Southwold
on 10/3.

Following received from D.16 begins:-
 Three E-boats were sighted in close formation by WORCESTER who was zig zagging 5 miles ahead of convoy at 25 knots in 52° 19' N. 2° E., at 0107. All engaged 2 simultaneously believed one hit by Pom Pom but speed apparently not reduced. Five flashes thought to be torpedo impulse charges were seen and four subsequent explosions were heard and felt but no tracks seen. E-boats were chased in North Easterly direction for 12 minutes contact being held by A.S.V. and starshell. It is considered that A.S.V. fitted destroyer can give best protection by very broad zig zagging ahead of convoy at high speed thus flushing E-boats who may use up their torpedoes on destroyer. This is second occasion consecutively in two nights at sea in which initial high speed and unexpected course have placed E-boats at a disadvantage. 1201/10. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0810/11.)

Interception
of ^{ADMIRAL}HIPPER
(Cruiser.)

Proceed with KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING to pass through 049° 40' N., 007° W., at 1800/11. Orders follow. (C. in C. Plymouth 1220/11. to D.5.). Information of enemy (iii) Own forces. (iv) Weather forecast. (v) Object: to intercept and attack ^{ADMIRAL}HIPPER cruiser if she sails tonight. (vi) Execution: proceed westwards and thence to 048° N., 006° 30' W., by 2200/11 and patrol in this vicinity. If no contact by 0100/12 proceed Plymouth reporting p.c. and sat 0600/12. (C. in C. Plymouth 1311/11, to Capt. D.5.) My 1311: ^{ADMIRAL}HIPPER Cruiser and 3 destroyers proceeding into Douarnenez Bay at 1420/11. 4 E-boats in 48° 21' N., 5° 24' W. course 168° at 1330/11 (ii) Para 3. Hudson patrol from 48° 30' N., 006° 10' W., to 047° 20' N., 005° W., and will only drop flares if target cannot be otherwise identified. (C. in C. Plymouth 1638/11, to Capt. D.5.)

/1. Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations Contd.Interception
of HIPPER
Cruiser. Contd.Information. 1. Enemy. 2. Own forces.
7. Object. To attack and report HIPPER
cruiser if she proceeds southwards from
Brest.8. Execution. Proceed forthwith from
Dartmouth to establish a patrol to
Southward of a line joining positions
48° N., 6° 1' W., and 47° N., 4° W.
Route through 49° N., 5° W., and at least
30 miles off Ushant and Chaussee de Sein.
Passage to be made at best speed diving by
day and on surface by night at C.O.'s
discretion.9. Leave patrol as requisite to R/V in
110° Start Point 6' at 0800/19.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1838/11, to L. 27.)
Informing D.5 of movements of L.27.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1852/11, to Capt.D.5.)Convoy F.S. 32.
E. Boats off
Yarmouth.
TREVETHOE
(British,
5257 Tons.)
torpedoed.Slight indication of E Boats near Yarmouth
at 2148. (C. in C. Nore 2221/11 to Capt.
D.16.)TREVETHOE torpedoed in 52° 47' N., 1° 55' E.,
(S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn., 2346/11.).British Air Activity.Patrols.Patrols ordered for today. ^{"Bark"} ~~STAN~~ - ^{"Stal"} ~~STAN~~ -
~~STAN~~ - ~~STAN~~ - ~~HORNET~~ - SA 3- IP OP -
(C. in C. Rosyth 1206/11.)
My 1206/11. Patrols ^{"Stal"} ~~STAN~~ and
IP-OP cancelled owing to weather.
Weather permitting patrols ^{"Stal"} ~~STAN~~ and ~~STAN~~
will be flown at first light or as soon
as cloud cover permits 12/3. (C. in C.
Rosyth 1554/11.)Escort.Expect escort by 18 Group Sunderland Air-
craft from 1900 till 0100/12th. (C. in C.
Rosyth 1648/11, to ARABIS, SARDONYX, etc.)

/Rotterdam.....

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Rotterdam.

Day 11th March. 2 Blenheims successfully attacked the oil storage at Rotterdam. A direct hit was observed on the North side of Dock 7 at Rotterdam. (H.Q.B.C. 2330/11.).

Enemy Air Activity.

10/11 March 1941

Portsmouth.
Air-Raid.
WITHERINGTON
VICTORY
SHERWOOD
TYNDALE
MARSHAL SOULT
TOKYO II.
YASHIMA.
CAPE SPARTEL
OUR BAIRNS
CHASSEUR 43
damaged.
REVELLO
and Floating
Dock, sunk.

Air Raid 2004 to 0200. ¹⁰ Very large number of incendiaries and H.E. ^{11/3} Following damage. WITHERINGTON hit and beached off north corner. ^{M/S} Trawler REVELLO sunk. Power Station hit by H.E. and burnt out. Numbers 1 and 3 electrical shops badly damaged by fire. No. 1 ship shop and west end of factory damaged by fire. VICTORY ship slightly damaged by small bomb under fore foot. Coppersmith shop slightly damaged. Number of small fires in stores and Offices. A number of U X B's. DOLPHIN floating dock sunk. Minor damage in Fort. Details of other damage. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0509/11, 1259/11, 1845/11.).

Total casualties for last nights raid in Services, Portsmouth, Gosport and areas of Hants, 87 killed, 224 seriously injured, 168 slightly injured. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1831/11.)

Milford
Haven
bombed.

Enemy aircraft dropped one H.E. on Boom Defence Depot damaging roof of main boom shed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1038/11.)

BARON
ELGIN.

(British, 3942 Tons). Attacked by aircraft off 21.A. Buoy. (Cullercoats 1345/11.)

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy
E.N.84.

Enemy Bombing Convoy ~~PARADE~~^{7200L} position
56° 51' N., 2° W., (FOWEY 1940/11.)
2 Bombs no hits. (FOWEY 1944/11.)
Enemy bombing Convoy ~~PARADE~~ Position
56° 55' N., 1° 57' W. (FOWEY 1955/11.)
3 bombs. No hits. (FOWEY 1957/11.)

CATTISTOCK.

Slightly damaged by Near Miss in Thames
Estuary during Night 9/10. (D.S.11/3.).

Sheerness.

A delayed-action Bomb dropped by Enemy
A/C off Sheerness at 2040/9, caused damage
later to one of H.M. Ships. (D.S. 11/3.)

Mining.

Thames.
Estuary.
Enemy A/C.
shot down.

Following received, begins HOLDERNESS's
0130/11. Following five heavy Explosions
occurred at times indicated. Parachute
mine dropped at 0010 bearing 010°. 4 cables.
1 Ju 88 shot down by direct hit from 4 inch
seen to break up and fragments seen falling
into sea. 0130 Ends. (C. in C. Nore
0825/11.)

One red mine detonated at 1323/11, in
position 267 degrees Yantlet North Buoy,
2 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1444/11.)
Summary of aircraft activity in Thames
Estuary for night of 10th/11th March.
Between 2030 and 0130 there was extensive
aircraft mining activity chiefly in the
region of the Thames Boom, Yantlet Channel
and to the south of the Nore Light Vessel.
About 28 suspected mines were observed and
between 2340 and 0545 eight premature
explosions not connected with these were
reported. Mines appeared to have a
smaller parachute than previously, fell
rapidly and caused a splash in some cases
estimated at 25 feet high. HOLDERNESS
reports having definitely shot down a
J.U.88. Planes were heavily engaged by all
ships from Southend to Edinburgh Channels.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1643/11, and 1750/11.)

/In view.....

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Thames
Estuary
Enemy A/C.
shot down.

In view of considerable mine laying having taken place in this area last night. Diving prohibited, till area swept. (C. in C. Nore 2229/11 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Dungeness
to Portsmouth.
Clearance
Sweep.

Details of German mines cut and detonated and sweeps cut. Slow progress and loss in percentage in consequence. (S.O. 1st. M/S. F. 0933/11, 0955/11, 1012/11. My 1012. 4 more floating mines sighted. 2 further sweeps cut, anti sweeping devices strongly suspected in one case only. Due to frequent parting of sweeps Southern 12 cables only of channel ordered in Adty., 1743/10 searched to about 60% from beginning of - 000° 19' W., with occasional increase of width from Southern edge to a total of 16 cables. One further mine cut in position 050° 40' N., 000° 19' W. All Floaters sunk. Swept 5 fathoms. (depth) (S.O. 1st. M/S. F. 1903/11.) S.O. 1st. M.S.F. with available fast minesweepers is to carry out tomorrow a clearance Sweep of the area enclosed by lines joining following positions: (D.M.S. 2003/11.)

Milford Haven.

Reports indicate that about 45 Parachute Mines were dropped in Haven, mostly in Convoy Anchorage in centre of Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1038/11.) My 1038. Ships for convoy are being swept or towed out today. Port will not be opened for general traffic until sweeping has been carried out tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1512/11.)

Operation
Z.M.E.23.

Particulars. To be carried out on night of 12/3, or as soon after as practicable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/11.)

/Isle de Bas.....

War Diary.

11. 3. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Isle de Bas.
Havre / Barfleur.
Boulogne/Dieppe.

Proposed Mining programme. (D.D.O.D. M. 1237/11. See Operations Volume.)

Dartmouth
Area.

One moored mine seen by M L 153 in position 110° Berry Head 3 miles at 1030 today. Request area may be declared closed until searched. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1255/11.)

Tyne.

Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1330/11.) Details of mines exploded by S.A. Gear in Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1818/11, 1819/11.)

Blackwater
Light Vessel
(Irish
Coast.)

Trawler OCEAN SHIELD reports that at 1400/6, when one mile S.E. of Blackwater Light Vessel a plane showing British markings, dropped something making a big splash astern but did not explode. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331/11.)

Blyth.

Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1345/11.) At 1120/11, one Mine exploded by S.A. Gear in 134° 4 cables E Pier Light Blyth. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1820/11.)

Sunderland.

Port of Sunderland open. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1650/11.)

River
Thames.

Observation minefield in Lower Hope Reach completed and ready for action. (F.O.I.C. London 1745/11.)

Firth of
Forth.

SEA VALOUR reports parachute mine dropped in position 2 miles S. 20° E. magnetic from Methil Light at about 1630/10. Area one mile radius from this dangerous to navigation. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1757/11.) Area within 6 cables of 56° 09' 06'' N., 02° 58' 31'' W., is closed, due to enemy minelaying. (C. in C. Rosyth 1833/11.)

/HATSUSE.....

War Diary.

11.3.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

HATSUSE
(Mined 9/3.)

My 1257/10. HATSUSE salvaged and taken up harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 1951/11.)

Plymouth
M/Sweepers.

Your 1257/10. No LL or SA Sweepers are available from other Commands. The following LL and SA Sweepers, allocated to Swansea, should complete during this month and their arrival will allow of a redistribution of MS. forces in the Plymouth Command. (D.M.S. 2219/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Danish
Coast.

W.T.I. suggests a movement, probably a convoy, from the Bight to the Naze is taking place now. (D.D.I.C. 1130/11.)

Unknown
Vessel
on 1/3.

Master Finnish KASTELHOLM reports that he was challenged by vessel in 49° 15' N., 38° 20' W., by unknown ship at 2330 local 1/3. Master considers vessel was a warship as a searchlight was used for signals. No description of vessel could be obtained. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1147/11.)

M/V's.

5 small craft. 2 merchant vessels bearing 340°, distance 1 mile, course 040° position 48° 35' N., 5° 14' W. (Training Cd. Spare 1258/11 to 19 Group H.Q.)

4 E-Boats.

Four Enemy W.M. Boats. Bearing 020° distance 1 mile course 168° position 48° 21' N., 5° 24' W., (Training Cd. Spare 1305/11.)

4 Destroyers.....

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence Contd.

4 Destroyers.

4 Destroyers Bearing 090° , Distance 3 miles, course 070° . My position $48^{\circ} 4' N.$, $4^{\circ} 56' W.$ (Training Cd. Spare 1312/11.)

Ore Trade.

My 1549/8. In recent German Swedish shipping agreement one condition is that after February Swedish tonnage is to be used in ore trade to largest possible extent. This does not apply to Narvik. A. one.

War Rates.

2. After 13/1 war ocean rates on Swedish shipping proceeding to German North sea ports was 8% against only 3 or 4% in Baltic. A one. (N.A. Stockholm 1521/10.)

ADMIRAL
HIPPER
(Cruiser.)

Preliminary report of photographic Air R/C. at 1230/11 shows Hipper Class Cruiser in Bay of Douarnenez, exercising with one destroyer. (D.D.I.C. 1705/11.) F.O.C.N.A. 1923/11.)

Rotterdam.

At 1535/11. Blenheim observed 25 barges at Southern end of west side of Docks and one M/V in centre of dock, also two tankers on the west side of dock 6. (H.Q.B.C. 2330/11.)

SEEFRIGGA.

? SS FRIGGA

(German) A report (A.1) has been received that this Steamer was unloading at Aalesund on 10/3. (D.S. 11/3.)

War Diary.11.3.41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Miscellaneous.Strikes
at
Glasgow.

Regret to report that 62 apprentices in our establishment absent from work today in sympathy with strike movement in district. This will seriously hamper our production. (Cockburn, Glasgow 1124/11.)

Our apprentices have all ceased work and the disorganisation caused thereby will seriously delay all Government Contracts. (Ajax, Glasgow 1145/11.)

Reference apprentices' strike. The numbers out this evening are 7,135 in engineering and shipbuilding trades: a further number up to 1,000 in Port Glasgow and Greenock area may also strike to-morrow. It is understood that Admiralty are aware that Minister of Labour has appointed an independent Court of Inquiry which commences proceedings to-morrow. Submitted that measures now being taken for settlement may be founded on firm principles. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2321/11.)

War Diary.

11. 3. 41.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

VETERAN.

My 1416/10/3 and Captain(D)Liverpool
1143/3. Sailing postponed owing engine
defect. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 0914/11.)

CAPE MELVILLE.

(M/S Trawler). Sailed Tug KROOMAN at 1220
to assist CAPE MELVILLE with sweep foul
of propellor. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1238/11.)

BALTARA
(Broke
down 5/3.)

Position at 1340/11 G.M.T. 049° 46' N.,
023° 42' W. Drift estimated 225° .5 knots.
BALTARA'S condition unchanged. (ST. ELSTAN
1430/11.)

RAMILLIES.

My 1744/9. Chief Constructor confirms
ship must dock for repairs. Endeavour
being made to arrange this immediately at
St. John, N.B. Expect ship will be
unserviceable for about a month.(F.O.3.
B.S., 1701/11, to Admty.)

KENTON.
(Torpedoed
by E-Boat
7/3.)

Boarded Steamer KENTON at low water p.m.
today. Description.
(Salvage Officer, Cromer 1908/11.)

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.

Failure to
meet in-
coming convoys,
proposals.

When local escorts fail to meet an incoming convoy, procedure now in operation in my command is not entirely satisfactory in view of restrictions on breaking of W/T silence. Following amendment to W.A.C. I'S Volume 11, sec: D., part III, para., 15, clause 1. is therefore proposed. Although it is appreciated this will increase the chances of the Convoy's position being more accurately disclosed to the enemy, it is considered that this will be more than set off by the advantages of all the escorts being able to find the convoy more quickly.

(C.in C. W.A. 1345/11 to Admty.) Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1357/19).

Sailings from
Plymouth
"Slave".

To provide more protection for shipping from air attack, merchant vessels sailing from Plymouth westward are to sail in groups every three days with one A/S Trawler as escort, beginning p.m./15. LORD STANHOPE is to be detailed as escort on 15/3. She is to leave the group so as to return to Plymouth a.m./17. Permanent code word allotted to these group sailings is "Slave".
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1806/11).

Sailings
from
Iceland.

My 1359/16/1. Following information is to be included in ~~ROUTE~~ signal to Admiralty:- (1) Speed of Advance. (2) E.T.A. on Arc 150 miles from Malin Head or 58° 15'N., in Minches. ~~VESCA~~ "Vesca" signals are to include times of departure (G.M.T.) from harbour limits by utilising the numbers from 1 to 24 immediately after name of vessel. Both ~~ROUTE~~ and ~~VESCA~~ signals are to be repeated to C.in C. W.A.
(D.T.D. 1824/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)General.Independent
ships,
Minches.

To ensure more efficient air protection of homeward bound merchant ships independently routed through the Minches, Masters are to be instructed that if they will be unable to cross parallel of 58° 15'N., either within three hours of the correct time or on the correct day they are to report by V/S to Butt of Lewis Signal Station. Signal Station is to report time of passing to C.in C. W.A.

(D.T.D. 1856 /11 to A.I.G. 67, C.in C. Plymouth, A.I.G. 48).

Coastal
Convoys.

E.N.83.

Prospective sailings. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/11). Arrived 0430/11 less ESMOND. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 0520/11).

F.N.27.427

Arrived 0100/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0532/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Dundee 1145/11).

F.S.32.432

Patrol O, WORCESTER and WHITSHED with. (C.in C. Nore, 0800/11, 1017/11). 1 absentee. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0943/11). Patrol O to R/V. (C.in C. Nore, 1002/11). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1759/11).

F.N.29.429

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0837/11, C.in C. Nore, 1017/11). To sail 0930/12, escorts SOUTHDOWN, FRANKLIN. (C.in C. Nore, 1450/11).

F.N.28.428

1 Absentee. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0944/11). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0942/11, amended 1221/11). Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1708/11).

"Range".

Arrived less 1. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 0954/11).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

E.N.86. ALYNBANK as A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1005/11).

F.S.31.431 Position, 2 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1013/11). Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.C. Thames, 1519/11).

W.N.96. Arrived 0930/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1018/11).

E.N.85. H.34 to join. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1031/11).

F.S.33.T. 433T Additional slow convoy, leaves 2000/11. ships for Tyne. Escort WALLACE. Cide "Merit". (C.in C. Rosyth, 1030/11). VANSITTART to be additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1510/11). Sailed 36 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2045/11).

6. M/Vs. E.T.D. Needles. (1830, E.T.A. Dartmouth 0745/12. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1037/11).

F.S.29A. 429A 2 ships for London arrived Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1125/11). Arrived all ships except 2 at Harwich. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1456/11).

Channel. W. Channel night report. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1310/11).

F.N.30. ⁴³⁰(fast). To sail 0730/12. escorts WESTMINSTER QUORN. (C.in C. Nore, 1450/11).

F.S.33. 433 Sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1505/11). 4 ships from Humber, (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1744/11.) List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1754/11).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Coastal
Convoys.
(Contd.)

W.N.95. Non-arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1720/11).

W.N.97.(0). Sailed 1630/11, escorts, 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1745/11).

E.N.84. 1100/11, escorts 18 ships, 12 with
kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1425/11). List
(1440/11). 9 ships and trawler SIESTA
did not sail from Methil. (C.in C.
Rosyth, 1800/11). MARIGOLD to meet as
additional escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1605/
11 N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2000/11).

Iceland. 7 ships leaving Fleetwood, a.m./12.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1815/11).

E.N.85.)
W.N.98.) GLEANER as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1823/11).

W.N.97. EMPIRE STEELHEAD to join. (C.in C.
Rosyth, 1913/11).

"Scent". Sailing 1915/12, 7 ships, escorts, E.T.A.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2148/11).

"Ounce". Sailed 2230/11, escort 2 M/L's.
E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2235/11).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.23. 1, arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0130/11).
2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0145/11).
1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0220/11).
1 arrival (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0810/11.)
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1720/11).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Ocean
Convoys.
(Contd.)Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.G.54B.

0745/11 unescorted, 3 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0750/11) List.
(0830/11). 4 hours late at R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1232/11 to LEEDS UNITED).

O.B.296.

0135/11 unescorted. 1 ship.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 0140/11. Name and
BIFRA. E.T.A. (0930/11). BIFRA returned defect.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1046/11). VICEROY
left for. (Capt: D. Londonderry, 0945/11)

H.X.110.

6 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0810/11).
1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1438/11).

O.B.M. 297.

1900/11, YORK CITY, 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0845/11).
Sailed 2005/11, YORK CITY, 4 ships
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2340/11).
List. (2345/11).S.L.66.)
S.L.S.66.)Final destinations. (D.T.D. 1031/11,
1032/11, 1033/11).

O.B.O. 296.

0430/11, unescorted, 3 ships.
(N.C.S.C.Oban, 0630/11).

O.B.C. 296.

List. (4 ships). 2 others did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0914/11).

H.G.54.

Arrivals, 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea,
1050/11). 1 arrival. (N.C.S.C. Belfast
1725/11).

S.L.65.

1 arrival. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1101/11).

O.G.55.

Instructions to escorts. (C.in C. W.A.
1217/11). Sailing telegram (38 ships
including 7 for Turkey). (C.in C. W.A.
1841/11 amended 0902/12).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Ocean Convoys.
(Contd.)Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.114.

Sailing telegram, 41 ships.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1526/11).

H.X.111B.

2000/11 unescorted, 1 ship.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1500/11).
Sailed 2030/11. (N.C.S.O. Belfast,
2054/11). E.T.A. (2130/11).

H.X.112.

1 Sailing telegram as amended Admty.
(D.T.D. 1823/11).

S.C.24.

Sailing telegram as amended Admty.
(D.T.D. 1828/11).

H.G.56.

Destinations. (D.T.D. 1902/11).

H.G.58.

EGRET to bring back. Orders to be issued
by F.O.C.N.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1941/11).Military
Convoys.ANDES.ANDES in Clyde is required to embark at
Liverpool on 19/3.5. F.O.I.C. Belfast to report earliest
possible date vessel can arrive Liverpool.
(D.S.T. 0505/11).BRITANNIA,
THEMISTOCLES,
CITY OF
HONG KONG.Admiralty 1904/6 and 0047/8. HILARY is
to sail with Clyde portion for Western
Patrol area S. one.
(C.in C. W.A. 1230/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Submarines
with French
Motor Vessels.

Unless identified as enemy, a submarine in company with French Merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French Submarine for the purpose of Admiralty 2033/22/2/40, 1509/2/10/40, and 2300/14/9/40.
(Head of M., 1359/11 "A" Message home and abroad).

North Atlantic.

French
S.S. BANGKOK.

Reported to have arrived at Dakar 3/3 and will proceed to Marseilles. Cargo includes 3000 tons of rubber which is a serious German deficiency. If ship is met with and is not escorted she should be sent in.
(Head of M. 0041/11 to F.O.C.N.A., REPULSE, D.8.)
Ship is to be sent in if encountered and providing she is not escorted.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0953/11 to N.A.Station).

French ships,
passing
Gibraltar.

Passed 10/3 westward. REMOIS in ballast, JANINE, French OUED-FES, MONTAIGNE, DIVATTE, all French.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0811/11 to Admty).

REPULSE and
FURIOUS.

My 2032/10. Request you will signal REPULSE onward routing instructions from position 018° 00'N., 020° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1016/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

See p. 380.

Enemy Unit.

Ref: Simonstown bearing 312/3 at 0417/11 G.M.T. on 5995 kc/s. Bearings from Georgetown 054/2 and from Baldock 230/1 give position of enemy unit within 300 miles of 23° N., 34° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1026/11).
Informing N.A.Station.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1240/11).

/My 1026/11.

MOST SECRET.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Enemy Unit.
(Contd.)

My 1026/11. Further bearings.
Halifax 137/2. Ascension 312/2.
Suggest more likely position within 200
miles of 18° N., 40° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1331/11).
D/F indications on 10/3 of an enemy
surface unit in N. Atlantic between the
Azores and Newfoundland.
(D.D.I.C. 1608/11 to C.in C's). (F.O.C.N.A.
1753/11 to N.A. Station).

VERBENA
GENTAIN.

Your 1232/7. VERBENA is fitted M/S
and is therefore required in U.K.
GENTAIN will be relieved when suitable
ship is available.
(C.in C. W.A. 1255/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

IDA
GIANNA M.
Italian.

Telegram 36. Italian Steamer IDA is
now moored alongside Italian Tanker
GIANNA M. Italian Steamers have taken
quantity of stores and water. All
Italian Steamers have painted hulls and
funnels black, upper works dark grey,
Italian colours have been painted on
hatchways.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1720/11 to Admty).

RUDOLF
ALBRECHT.
1 Italian
ship.
Night
Atmospherics.

Information from ships boarded, RUDOLF
ALBRECHT and other ships still in port.
1 Italian ship in Rio Del Oro, 7/3.
Night atmospheric impossible. Request
repetition of Western Patrol Messages
in daylight.
(MARSDALE, 1800/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Aircraft
salved,
Teneriffe.

Your 1006/10. rescue by Spanish S.S. CABO
~~DE JERUSALEM~~ ESPERANZA. Crew of three with
aircraft arrived 1500/11. Authorities
doubtful of allowing free departure, have
referred to Madrid. Aeroplane being
landed. Can arrange repatriation of men
by a British ship but master declines to
take aeroplane owing to size.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1900/11 to F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Submarine
O.21.Position of submarines at 1200/12, and
movements O.21 with O.G.54.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2150/11).South Atlantic.ALGORAB.Overdue shipping, my 0958/8, ALGORAB
arrived at Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0940B/11).DUNKELD.Overdue shipping DUNKELD due Capetown
7/3 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1006B/11).Neutral
Submarines.Intend issuing instructions in
accordance with (5) of my 1421/N/19/2/41.
(Instruction on dealing with neutral
submarines).
(C.in C. S.A. 1052/11 to Admty).Bomber A/C
Takoradi.Following received from C.in C. S.A.
T.O.O. 1937/10, 0057/10/1. (Protection
of Takoradi from attack from seaward)
Admiralty replied that it had been
approved that up to 3 Blenheim bombers
would be retained at Takoradi for
offensive operations against enemy forces
from seaward. Large German warships
may be within reach Africa during
next few days, consider these aircraft
should be kept at readiness. (Ends).
Action being taken to comply.
(Takoradi, 1147/11 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Operation
"Pageant".Following for O.C. "Pageant" from
Air Ministry. (Instructions re landing
Takoradi). 8946/10.
(D.N.A.D. 1154/11 to FURIOUS).Independent
shipping,
Diversion.My 1905/2/2. Both routes given to
ships must be signalled to Admty.
? My 1818/27/3. Time and date of crossing
51° N., are also required. Telegraph
urgently alternative routes and date of
crossing for EMPIRE SONG, ROCHESTER
CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH, ALMKERK.
Your 0901/7 No.8 indicate letter
corresponding to position 55° 27'N.,
7° 00'W.
(D.T.D. 1318/11 to C.in C. S.A.)Action
towards
Submarines.Your 1421/19. A. Approved. See my
1359/11. B. and C. not approved.
Considered essential to preserve complete
liberty of action against unescorted
submarines outside territorial waters.
Ref: A.T. 2033/28/8/40. No actual
agreement was reached with the French
but they have usually notified movements
of their submarines in Straits of
Gibraltar though not elsewhere. A fresh
note has now been sent reminding them of
the need for notification.
(Head of M., 1400/11, to C.in C. S.A.)ANGLO
AFRICAN.Overdue shipping my 0958/10 ANGLO AFRICAN
arrived Cape Town.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1612/11).NORDERNEY.My 1738Z/8 German ship NORDERNEY has
now commenced loading.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1842Z/11 to Admty).S.L.68.Owing to change of routes and postpone-
ment of sailing, Commodore has been
instructed to R/V with local escort
at 0900 G.M.T. on 3/4 unless otherwise
ordered by Admiralty. This allows for
6 knots fixed, and could possibly be
shortened by 24 hours if weather is
favourable.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2005/11 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

REPULSE
FURIOUS.

F.O.C.N.A's 1016/11. From 018° 00'N., 020° 00' W., pass through position 011° 40'N., 018° 25'W. thence to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 2031N/11 to REPULSE FURIOUS).

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

To leave Falklands after arrival of FITZROY with mails and rejoin whaling fleet. Probably required to escort SVEND-FOYN and SOUTHERN EXPRESS either to Capetown or Freetown when these ships have completed fishing.
(C.in C. S.A. 2147/N/11 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

To appreciate considerations involved in passage of ILLUSTRIOUS to her refitting port, information requested as to present capabilities in following respects.
(D.O.D.(F) 0109/11 to C.in C. Med.)
Reply (1403/12).

TETRARCH
URSULA.

Your 0919/10. Request TETRARCH be sailed Area B. Convoys using following routes. Expect to sail URSULA 15/3 for Sicilian Channel Area.
(Cdr. S.1. 1045/11 to Capt: S.1.)

ELIZABETH
HENDRIK FISSER.

German 5145 tons. Agents at Trieste reported to owners in Emden on 5/3 that ship required docking and fumigating "first". Equipment and stores were obtainable and dock available. (D.S. 553, 11/3).

MOST SECRET.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)UTMOST
UNIQUE.

UTMOST passes through 036° 15' 013° 45' and 180° Filfola Island 5 miles. UNIQUE passes 035° 33' 014° 10' both to arrive at Marsamxett 0700B/12. (Cdr. S.l., 1102/11).

EXMOUTH,
Red Cross
supplies.

Sailing of EXMOUTH postponed until Monday 17/3. Due to arrive Marseilles about 31/3. (Air Ministry 1245/11 to A.O. C.in C. M.E.)

French
Submarines.

Your 1821/15, confirmed with the addition of (a) A.T. 2300/14/9/40 extending the instructions to aircraft and (b) unless definitely identified as enemy, a submarine in company with French Merchant ships is to be treated as an escorted French Submarine for the purpose of Admty. 2033/28/8/40, 1509/8/10/40, and 2300/14/9/40.

2. No actual agreement was reached with the French but they have usually notified the movements of their submarines in the Straits of Gibraltar though not elsewhere. A fresh note has now been sent reminding them of the need for notification and for submarines proceeding escorted on the surface. (Head of M. 1335/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Air
Raid 10/3,
damage to
R.A.F. and
Dockyard.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1600 hours 11/3. All times G.M.T.

2045 to 2310 approx. 20 enemy aircraft consisting of JU.87's Ju.88's HE.111's and DO.215's attacked the Island. The Junkers carried out shallow dive bombing on the Dockyard and the HE.111's and DO.215's bombed Luqa aerodrome and other areas from average height of 10,000 feet. Damage R.A.F. approximately 12 bombs, dope stores destroyed by fire.

/Side

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Malta Air
Raid, 10/3,
damage to
R.A.F. and
Dockyard.
(Contd.)

Side of hangar blown in. Repairable damage to Glenn Martin. U/S 1 to 2 weeks. Sick quarters damaged. Army nil. Navy. Hits on No.1 Generating Station and damage to other Dockyard buildings. (see 2143/11).

11/3. 0007 hours 1 enemy aircraft dropped bombs in sea N.E. of Island without crossing coast. Shortly afterwards 2 enemy aircraft repeated identical performance. 0823 to 0855 5 formations approached Island without crossing coast.

1017 to 1040 1 HE.111 flew over Island at 22,000 feet. Subsequently further 6 enemy aircraft approached. Enemy aircraft did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1600/11).

A.N.19.

Present position Section (ii) 1500/11. (18 ships). All for Piraeus. (S.B.N.C. Suez Canal, 1609/11).

Tripoli
UPRIGHT.

Aircraft reconnaissance 10/3 (details) (Cdr. S.1. 1631/11 to UPRIGHT.)

MARIANNA.Arrival 10/3 Italian steamer MARIANNA to load scrap iron ~~to~~ Genoa. (Cartegena, 1735/11).Tripoli
enemy convoy.

Operational Summary 274 up to 1200 hours 11/3. Day 10/3 Blenheim reconnaissance reported 17 ships between 6000 and 13000 tons in Tripoli. Convoy of 10 Merchant ships escorted by torpedo boats approaching harbour.

Air Raid
Suez.
FOUADIEH
bombed.
Canal
mined.(2) Egypt. Day 10/3. During afternoon enemy aircraft reconnoitred Port Said and reported to have dropped bombs near Suez. S.S. FOUADIEH reported bombed by three aircraft about 15 miles south east of Larnaca, Cyprus.

/Night 10/11

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Night 10/11, enemy aircraft reported as 4 or 5 dropped 8 mines in 3 separate areas of Suez Canal of which 3 exploded.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1740/11).

A.S.18.

A.S.18. Convoy telegram. 7 ships. 1630/11.

(N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1800/11).

Malta
Raid,
damage.

Night 10/11 raid by about 20 aircraft. Bombs dropped on dockyard, aerodrome and elsewhere. Severe damage to dockyard generating station now completely out of action and damage to other buildings will seriously affect production. Only one machine in new underground generating station now working.

(N.C.I.C. Malta, 2134/11 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.Perim Patrol.

Correct my 1202/8 para.2. for CITY OF DURBAN read CAPE SABLE.
(C.in C. E.I. 0406Z/11, 0450Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

German
Prisoners.

German prisoners of war from ships sunk by CANBERRA.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0424/11, 0613/11).

CAPETOWN.

Intend CAPETOWN to dock at Bombay to change propeller on her return from escorting U.S.91 about 23/3.
(C.in C. E.I. 0630Z/11 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoy
S.U.2.

My 1200/7. Ships with personnel for Mombasa and Durban will continue as a convoy after passing Aden. Remainder to be dispersed in Gulf of Aden. GLASGOW will escort Mombasa and Durban portion from vicinity of Aden to vicinity of Mombasa. Ocean route. (C.in C. E.I. 0658Z/11 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal etc.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

C.in C. Med. 1128/10. Concur in ILLUSTRIOUS proceeding unescorted to Port Sudan. S.N.O. Red Sea to arrange onward escort to Aden as soon as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 0700Z/11 to C.in C. Med.)

Possible
attacks on
U/S Convoys.

Your 1008/7 and 1500/9. If "K" class are still here air defence will be limited unless cruiser with high angle armament is provided. (S.N.O. Red Sea 0706Z/11, to C.in C.E.I.)

KETTY
BROVIG.

Re Norwegian and Chinese personnel. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0714Z/11, 0721/11).

Norwegian
Officers taken
from KETTY
BROVIG.

My 0714/11 para.(1) Names. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0721/11).

Raider.

My 1052/10 (Description of raider, ATLANTIS TAMESIS) result of further interrogation gives cruiser stern, which therefore confirms conclusion in para.(ii) of signal quoted. (C.in C. E.I. 1220Z/11).

E.Africa
Coast
Patrol.

Your 1509/6. Allocations and renaming of 4 Whalers (list). East African Patrol consists of following 8 ships of which Aranci Bay Whalers and NFOVU can be used either as Minesweepers or for patrol duties. (Names). (C.in C. E.I. 1256Z/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)B.F.184.Convoy sailing telegram 0430Z/12.
(5 ships, 4 for Aden, 1 for Durban.)
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1520/11 to Admty).B.S.19.1500 G.M.T./11. (12 ships for Aden,
Abadan, Colombo, etc.).
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1711/11 to Admty
etc.)COBURG.
KETTY
BROVIG.Your 1738/10. CANBERRA not AUSTRALIA
was in company with LEANDER. COBURG
left Massawa 21/2 and she and KETTY
BROVIG were sunk on 4/3.
(C.in C. E.I. 1820Z/11 to Admty).HONG SIANG.Have you any news?
(D.T.D. 1837/11 to N.C.S.O. Aden).China.EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.
AQUITANIA,
DANAE. (Cruiser)Singapore arrivals 11/3. Transport
EMPRESS OF JAPAN, AQUITANIA. Departure
DANAE for East Coast of Malaya.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 1027/11).CARIGNANO.
(Italian)Arrived Kobe 10/3, with 5000 tons
outgoing cargo on board.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore, 1432Z/11).

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PRINCE DAVID.

Your 1248/10. Vessel mentioned in your 1247/10 (Given a "hush" distribution) will enter area at daylight 17/3 and leave not later than p.m./18. PRINCE DAVID expected to enter area p.m./11 and leave p.m./15. Intend to adhere to this programme, unless otherwise ordered. (0952/11).

Japanese
ASAKA, MARU.

Your 1257/8 JWND at 1832 G.M.T./10 bearing 072/1 from Hartlen Point. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1157/11 to C.in C. S.A.)

Transport
of R.C.A.F.
personnel,
in A.M.C's.

Your 1256/6. (Given "Hush" Marking#.) Hoped that R.C.A.F. will reconsider their attitude observing that:- (a) Canadian Govt., permit small numbers of troops to cross Atlantic in unescorted liners. (b) Number of R.C.A.F. in any one A.M.C. is likely to be small. (c) Object of scheme is to obtain a steady flow of personnel and save shipping and escorts. (d) An escorted convoy would still be liable to surface, submarine and air attacks. (e) Risk is not considered great as up to date only one A.M.C. on convoy duty has been engaged and sunk by enemy surface raider since the war began and convoys are now escorted by units additional to A.M.Cs. (D.O.D.(H) 1603/11 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.X.114,
S.C.25,
escorts.

Admty. 1946/10 and 1041/11. MALOJA escorting H.X.114 should R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE and B.H.X.114 in (position) at 1200 G.M.T./14 (route). S.C.25 escorted by LACONIA and THUNDERBOLT (route). RODNEY is to join H.X.114 as convenient (date). (F.O.3.B.S. 1744/11 to Admty, RODNEY).

Re German
Merchant
Seamen,
ex CHRISTOPHER
VAN DORNUM.
DOORNUM.

(C.G.S. Ottawa 1527/11 to W.O.)
Received from the War Office at 1550/13.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.DUNAFF
HEAD.
(torpedoed 8/3).In convoy O.B.293, now reported to have
sunk.
(D.S.553).MARSLEW
(torpedoed
23/2).British 4542 tons. Your 1320/2/4/40. (a)
British ship MARSLEW (b) 2245/23/2.
059° 18'N., 021° 30'W. (c) Sank with
ship. (d) Ditto. (e) No, (f) ship having
broken in 2, sank quickly. (g) Chief
Officer. (h) Ship was torpedoed in
boiler room tank immediately in deep
water.(PHILADELPHIA 0930/11 to Admty).
Was bound from Liverpool for Montevideo,
in O.B.288 (D.S.554).PHILADELPHIA reports Br. EMPIRE
CHEETAH has on board 23 survivors from
ship MARSLEW sunk by enemy action.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0952/11).CLAN LAMONT.British 7526 tons. Following has been
read. S.S.S.S. 57.24N., 26.29 W.,
CLAN LAMONT sighted.(Lyness W/T TOR 0932/11).
Resolution Island reports hearing
following at 0834 G.M.T. begins -
SSSS 57.24N., 26.29 W. CLAN LAMONT
sighted - ends, bearing 82 approx.
uncalibrated.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1316/11 to Admty).

Submarines
Reported.

0644.

54° N., W. of 20° W. very indefinite
position. (D.S. 553).

0406.

51° N., 15°16'W. very indefinite position.
(D.S.553.)

0116.

47½° - 48½° N., 8° - 9° W., very indefin-
ite position. (D.S.553.)

1107.

25' radius 54.20N., 19.20 W. position
indefinite (D.S.554).

MOST SECRET.11.3.1941.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines
Reported.

1742.

55° - 56° N., 19° - 21° W. position
indefinite (Italian) (D.S.554).

1256.

About 48° N., 14° W. Very indefinite.
(D.S.554).Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1348/11).

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E. boats.

Capt. D.16 sighted E boats early this morning off Yarmouth, but quickly lost contact.

→ Watch on ADMIRAL
HIPPER
(cruiser.)

KELLY, KIPLING, KASHMIR and KELVIN returned to Plymouth at ~~10.50~~ to-day from patrol off Brest. The HIPPER class cruiser was seen by air R/C, this morning at Brest, apparently either berthing or about to leave.

See p. 397

Enemy
warships
in Bight.

Air R/C today reported several large warships in the Heligoland Bight from 0120 onwards.

A.A. defence
of western
ports of
U.K. and
Portsmouth.

The Minister of Defence has given directions that the western ports of the U.K., on which our trade depends, should receive increased A.A. defence at highest priority. The reduction of A.A. defences of Scapa must be accepted. No guns will be withdrawn from defence of the Fleet Anchorage. C. in C. Portsmouth is asking for increased A.A. defence for Portsmouth.

British Air Activity.

20 Bomber Command aircraft attacked the Deutsche Werke Shipbuilding Yard at Kiel last night. An aircraft of Bomber Command claims a probable hit on a merchant vessel off the Dutch coast north of Ijmuiden to-day.

Special patrols were flown along the French Biscay coast and in the Bay of Biscay to-day, to locate the HIPPER class cruiser in the event of her sailing. R/C and 5 PRU flights were made to Brest but were unsuccessful.

/W.T.....

War Diary

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (contd).

W/T. intelligence this afternoon suggested the movement of German Naval units from the Skagerrak northwards. Six Beaufort aircraft carried out a special sweep and at 2212 sighted 5 enemy destroyers with one larger unidentified vessel 70 miles west of Lym Fiord. An A/C claims to have torpedoed one of the destroyers.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. EMPIRE FROST in Convoy S.C. 23 bombed and sunk at 0205 S.W. of Milford Haven. A/P Vessel TYRANT was attacked at 0130 off the Strumbles but was not damaged.

SHERBROOKE reported being bombed this morning off Harwich, but no damage is reported.

S.S. ESSEX LANCE in Convoy F.S. 433 was bombed and disabled late this evening off Yarmouth.

Convoy F.N. was attacked at 2229 to-day off Orfordness. No ship was damaged.

An aircraft which attacked FOWEY'S convoy was shot down and the crew captured.

* See BR 1337.
Page 221.

Attack
Manchester,
28 sunk
aged.

* S.S. STELLA was sunk and CONTRACTOR, MARKHOR, HARDWICKE GRANGE, CORDILLERA, CLIFTON HALL, QUEEN MAUD, NOVELIST, SILVERELM and LONDON II were damaged, some slightly, in attack on Manchester area last night.

An attack with explosive incendiary bombs on the Dockyard Storage Area Frater this evening caused 3 casualties but only one slight fire.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
S.N.68B.

1st M.L. Squadron reported this operation (minelaying between Iceland and Faroes) completed, at 1147 today.

A few enemy minelaying aircraft operated off the S.W. coast last night.

MR. LINTHORST HOMAN (Dutch) was mined and slightly damaged off the Lizard this morning.

CAMROUX I was slightly damaged by a mine off Blyth to-day.

Mines were detonated to-day in the Thames Estuary, Swansea area, off the Humber and Milford Haven, several mines were found during sweep between Dungeness and Beachy Head.

Shipping.

C. in C. America & West Indies reports that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers and excessive mass oscillation results. He suggests watch to be set at staggered times after dispersal.

North Atlantic.

The Spanish authorities have ordered that the naval aircraft rescued by a Spanish ship and taken to Teneriffe is to be treated as a warship entering port for repairs and fuel, and a provisional stay of 24 hours from 1800/12 has been granted.

There are indications that the German tanker NORD ATLANTIC is preparing to sail from Vigo.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air raid
on Malta.

The torpedo depot at Misida was hit during an air raid on Malta last night.

Lemnos.

N.A., Athens, draws attention to the possibility of a German attack on Lemnos, where there is now no garrison and the landing ground is drying up.

Rhodes harbour was among the targets bombed by R.A.F. Wellingtons last night.

East Indies.

The Admiralty give notice that the small Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is dangerous to navigation and all vessels passing between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden should use the Large Strait.

Convoy.

Convoy U.S.9 $\frac{1}{2}$, 5 ships with troops for Middle East, left Bombay this morning.

China.

Four Japanese Naval Tankers have been nominated to load diesel oil at Tarahan and there is suspicion that they may be used to fuel German raiders.

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Raider
Report.

At 0517 G.M.T. Canso Radio intercepted an S.O.S. from two unknown ships attacked by warship raider.

Australia.

Australian aircraft have searched the Timor Sea in case the pocket battleship should have proceeded from the Indian Ocean to the Far East by that route.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Speed in reporting E-Boats.

Attention is drawn to the vital importance of speed in reporting E.Boats. Instructions. (C. in C. Nore 1040/12).

Clyde/Iceland Ferry Service.

My 2251/28/2.

It is under consideration to start the fortnightly ferry service between the Clyde and Iceland on 2/4. This will entail an escort commitment of 2 destroyers for the whole of every alternate week.

2. Suggest that one additional Town should be allocated to R.A.M.L. who would then provide this escort from the 17th Division. A destroyer not yet told off to an escort group would be used for this purpose. Request your views. (D.O.D/H. 1616/12 to C. in C's H.F. and W.A).

M/S Department of VERNON. Proposed removal to Scotland.

VERNON 1655/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Defence of U.K.

Sanday A/A Guns.

Your 1756/10. Understand A.M.E. Station not in action. In view of other urgent commitments diversion to ~~Adty~~ hardly appears justified. Presume however Air Ministry will say whether protection required. (Dsecoast Four 1725/12).

Your 1756/10. Air Ministry cannot agree. Request A.C.O.S. be instructed to dispose of two pdrs. now at Sanday in accordance with requirements to be signalled to him by A.A. Command. (Air Ministry 1740/12 to Adty).

/Portsmouth.....

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (contd).

Portsmouth
A/A
Defences.

The A.A. defences of Portsmouth and Southampton have been seriously depleted during the past six months. There are to-day two battleships, one wight inch cruiser, and numerous other craft at Portsmouth, in addition to the large concentration of personnel in schools and establishments. Probability of heavy bombing attacks in the coming months. Brigadier 55th A.A. Brigade informs me that he has asked for additional H.A.A. batteries and G.L. sets with Vickers Predictors, on which night shooting depends. I strongly support. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1845/12 to Adty).

Scapa
A/A
Defences.

Your 2216/11.
2. Move necessitated by direction of Minister for Defence that A.A. defence of Western Ports, on which import trade of Great Britian is dependent, should receive increased A.A. defence at highest priority.
4. Guns to be withdrawn from Orkney will be taken from Skaebrae and Hatston area which will still have light A.A. guns. No guns will be withdrawn from defence of Fleet Anchorage.
5. In view of needs of ports T.L. consider that this reduction must be accepted. (V.C.N.S. 2053/12 to A.C.O.S).

Movements.

OTUS.

My 1031/11. Postponed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1001/12).

16 Eureka.

Request you arrange to sail 16 Eureka to Brightlingsea calling at Newhaven and Dover, sailing from Warsash 15/5. (A.C.N.S. H. 1002/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/TORBAY.....

War Diary.12.5.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (contd).→ TORBAY.

F.O.S. 1804/11. TORBAY routed as follows. Escort to R/V at 056° 40' N. 010° W. at 0800/16. (C. in C. W.A. 1115/12 to TORBAY).

→ CACHALOT.
→ TORBAY.

My 1805/15/2 para. C. Delete CACHALOT. Both CACHALOT and TORBAY are to join 3rd S/M flotilla. (F.O.S. 1156/12).

REVENGE.
Escort.Adty's 1502/11. Intend to sail KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KIPLING p.m./13th to arrive ~~Nab~~ at 0730/14. Two. In view of urgent requirements for destroyers in Channel intend three of 5th D.F. shall be detached to Plymouth at darkness/15. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to issue orders accordingly and to state if time of arrival of 5th D.F. at the Nab is not convenient; (C. in C. Plymouth 1536/12).ERICA.
SNAPDRAGON.

My 1747/15. ERICA and SNAPDRAGON should be sailed in company with O.G. 56 to Gibraltar. L.L. trials should if possible be carried out before sailing. (D.O.D.H. 1809/12).

RODNEY.

1945Z/12 see H.X. 114.

PENDRECHT.

Requesting fighter cover for damaged Dutch M/V PENDRECHT. Details. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2245/12).

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Interception
of ^{330/284}HIPPER
(Cruiser.)Your 1838/11. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth
0019/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Arrived 0845 KELLY KIPLING KASHMIR KELVIN.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1056/12).TREVETHOE
(Torpedoed
by E-Boat
11/3).Sunk in 052° 46' 30" N. 001° 56' 40" E.
Have 39 survivors on board one? missing.
Am rejoining convoy. (PUFFIN 0055/12).
Tug is being sent to assist TREVETHOE.
(C. in C. Nore 0121/12 to D.16).2 E-Boats
off Yarmouth.2 enemy E-Boats position 52° 32' N. 2°
06' E. (Capt D.16 0223/12).
My 0223 lost contact (Capt D. 16 0235/12).A/P PatrolsRequest special A/P patrols quoted in my
1026/10 be operated again tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 0934/12 to F.O. Yarmouth
and 0936/12 to F.O. Humber).
Your 0934/12. Following trawlers detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1452/12 to C. in C.
Nore).ARGUS
Operation
"Winch".ARGUS is to cease training duties forthwith
and disembark training aircraft in
preparation for a ferrying trip. 2 Skuas
and 12 Hurricanes will be embarked by
lighter from Abbotsinch. No Swordfish
will be embarked. ARGUS is to be ready
to sail on 18/3. (A.C.N.S.F. 1346/12).
My 1346/12. Code name for this operation
WINCH. (D.N.A.D. 1821/12 to ARGUS).Operation
Q.D.Weather permitting operation QD will be
carried out to-day. If not possible at
sunset, operation will be carried out
later if weather improves. (C. in C. Nore
1535/12).5th Escort
Group anti
U-Boat
Operation.5th Escort Group sailing tomorrow to meet
H.X. 112 have been given discretion to
simulate presence of merchant ships within
Area 57° and 58° N. and 13° and 18° W. if
time permits on passage, with a view to
drawing attack by U Boat. Signals may be
made as from Norwegian Tanker JENNY.
Call Sign L C P E. Any distress or other
Message from this Call Sign made during
period 2000/13 and 2359/14 should be dis-
regarded. Other ruses may include oscilating
on 500 k/cs., puffs of smoke and firing
star shell. (C. in C. W.A. 1838/12).

War Diary.

12.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols ^{"Stand"} STAND and ^{"Sweep"} SWEEP commence 0330/12.
~~SEIN~~ 0540/12 ~~SEIN~~ 0700/12. ~~SEIN~~ 0730/12.
 S.A.3 1130/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0316/12).
 Patrol stand being flown 1830 to 2359.
 Norge coast sweep Hagesund to Blaavand
 by six Beauforts, 1900/12 to 0020/13.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 2005/12).

Kiel.
Bremerhaven.

On night 11/12. Twenty Wellingtons attacked the Deutsche Werke shipbuilding yards at Kiel. Many bursts seen. One large red fire observed.
 Two Wellingtons attacked the industrial centre at Kiel. Bursts seen in the town and one mile to the North West.
 Two Wellingtons attacked warehouses at Bremerhaven where bursts were seen and white smoke. (H.Q.B.C. 1700/12).

Attack on
Enemy Convoy.

Aircraft reports having attacked escorted enemy convoy of 2 destroyers and 6 merchant vessels with torpedoes 30' W.S.W. Lister at 2125/12. No hits. (Pitreavie 2125/12)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SC.23.
EMPIRE FROST.
(British, 7005
Tons)
Bombed.

* ^{? E/M} A/S Trawler ABERDEEN reports EMPIRE FROST bombed and damaged in Engine Room at 0230 in 51° 33' N. 5° 30' W. Rescue Tug SEINE and A/S Trawler LINCOLNSHIRE with ^(French) Salvage Vessel INDEFATIGABLE proceeding to assistance. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0415/12th)
 EMPIRE FROST S.C. 23 hit by bomb at 0205/12 about 15 miles S.S.E. of Milford Haven. ABERDEEN (?engage in) standing by. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1700/12).
 Following received. EMPIRE GEMSBUCK reports saving 27 crew EMPIRE FROST bombed and sunk by seaplane 051° 37' 15" N. 005° 34' 15" W. One of crew slightly injured. Captain, mate and eight of crew received by a patrol vessel. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1715/12).

** unidentified - not in Red List*

/SHERBROOKE.....

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

SHERBROOKE.
(British, 2052
Tons) bombed.

One mile North West of Rough Buoy SHERBROOKE
bombed. (Liverpool W/T 0951/12).

TYRANT.

(A/P Vessel) Reports at 0130 being attacked
by aircraft off Strumbles. Two bombs missed
no damage no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven 1136/12).

* Confirmed
by BR 133Y
Page 211

LIBRA.
(Bombed on
10/5).

* *Dutch* *M/V 391 Tons*
(~~Norwegian, 1556 Tons~~) Attacked by 2 enemy
planes in 52° 5' N. 5° 51' W. at 1645/10
damaged by near miss. Engines displaced
and 1 of crew slightly wounded. Vessel
arrived Swansea in tow. (N.O.I.C. Swansea
1746/12).

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

Help Convoy "Pilot" in 51° 59' N. 1° 44' E.
(SOUTHDOWN 2000/12).
Help convoy "~~ALPHA~~" in 52° 4' N. 1° 49' E.
(SOUTHDOWN 2229/12).
4 Bombs No damage. (SOUTHDOWN 2235/12).

Convoy F.S. 53.
ESSEX LANCE.
(British, 6625
Tons) bombed.

IMMEDIATE. If ^SESSEX LANCE is capable of
steaming she should proceed to Southend.
Report if tugs are required. (C. in C. Nore
2145/12 to COVENTRY CITY).
Two tugs leaving Yarmouth to assist ESSEX
LANCE bombed near 57A buoy. (C. in C. Nore
2217/12 to HOLDERNESS).
Departure Tug KROOMAN at 2245 and Tug
DIVERSION with Doctor at 2335 both to
assist ESSEX LANCE. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth
2340/12).
If possible anchor ESSEX LANCE till tug
arrives and remain in company. If seaworthy
order tow to Humber or Southend whichever
most expedient, report action taken. Fighter
protection arranged daylight. Code word "Alpha" (x)
~~ALPHA~~ (*). (C. in C. Nore 2345/12 to
COVENTRY CITY).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Chicken
Rock.

Master of LANCASHIRE COAST reports heard and felt a dull underwater explosion in 10 miles North West Chicken Rock, at 2020/10. Nothing was seen of any disturbance in the water. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0946/12).

S.N.68B.

Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1147/11).
Arrival Port S.A. R.A.M. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC D.4. in COSSACK, ZULU, MAORI and ST. MARYS.
(TRELAWNEY 2359/12).
NIGERIA arrived Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 2105/12).

S.N.100.

Request you will sail two trawlers from Stornoway to Port Z.A. forthwith to complete clearance of S.N.100 under the direction of TRELAWNEY.
(D.M.S. 1202/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 1202/12. Minesweeping Flotilla is at sea but orders have been given to divert two trawlers forthwith to port Z.A.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1637/12 to Admty).

Milford
Haven.

Mines detonated off St. Ann's Head. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1229/12).

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated at 1110/12 in 270° North Yantlet Gate Vessel 1 mile. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1340/12).
Summary of aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night 11/12th March.
A number of aircraft passed over the Estuary between 2030 and 2315. An explosion occurred at 2031 in approx. 095 degs. 2 miles from Shoeburyness which was a bomb or mine exploding on surface.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1715/12).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Dungeness
to Portsmouth.
Clearance
Sweep.

My 2003/11. Re berthing etc. of 1st M.S.F. (D.M.S. 1356/12).
Admty 1356/12. Report on the sweep and his intentions. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1703/12).
Your 1610/12th. Not possible to arrive Newhaven by 1900/13. Request permission to remain at Dungeness for tonight and continue clearance after arrival of stores. (S.O. 1st M.S.F. 1737/12).
Strong easterlies forecast. Proceed to Newhaven arriving 0800 tomorrow. (V.A.Dover, 2136/12 to S.O.1st M/S F.)
A.M. 1356/12. Flotilla can be berthed at Newhaven subject to state of the tide for entering and leaving. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1907/12).

Harwich
Area
Sweep.

My 1541/12/3. Intend sailing M.M.S.1 and M.M.S.8 so as to sweep ahead with S/A gear sweepers being one mile apart in line ahead thence proceeding into Sheerness. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1558/12/3).

Search
off
Needles.

Before entering by Needles Buoy Channel you are to carry out search of area bound by line joining following points. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1656/12 to BANGOR).

Barry.

Red mine detonated by double "L" 194° 1.8 miles from Barry West Pier Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1720/12).

Milford
Haven.

Four mines detonated today by M/S Trawler. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1755/12).

B.S.51.

My 1233/10. 20th D.F. are to remain under the orders of the C.in C. Portsmouth until required for operations detailed in my 1237/11.

2. C.in C. Nore is requested to provide escort for operation B.S.51 from local resources.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)B.S.51.
(Contd.)

3. If practicable S.O. of escort should be given the opportunity to confer with C.O. TEVIOT BANK prior to departure of latter from Immingham. (D.D.O.D. M. 1808/12). Admiralty's 1808/12. KITTIWAKE and F.S. LA MELPOMENE will form escort for B.S.51. (C.in C. Nore, 2200/12).

Humber.

The following four mines were exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1832/12).

Q.Z.X.313.

Clearance operation by five Oropesa Trawlers in Q.Z.X. 313 during 11th and 12th March. Nine mines found. Details. (V.A.Dover, 1937/12).

Procedure
for
minesweepers
sweeping
ahead
of convoys.

2. If you concur request you will issue the necessary instructions. (D.M.S. 2206/12 to C.in C. Nore, Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.Naval Units.
and M/V's.

W/T Intelligence suggests movement of German Naval Units from Skagerrak Northward. F.O.(S) 1946/10 may refer. (F.O.S. 1504/12 to S/M's Area A). Night 11/12 Mar. Kiel Canal, one to two miles west of Haltenau lock, 0500 hrs. large stationary Warship believed of SCHARNHORST type, ship fired at Wellington. Vlieland, 0608 hrs. large Warship steaming N.E. 10 miles off coast of Island. Heligoland, 0520 hrs. Warship one mile S.E. of harbour, S.E. end of main island steaming slowly east. Halfway between Cuxhaven and Heligoland 0510 hrs. five possible destroyers steaming East.

/at 0425/12

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Naval Units
M/V's contd.

At 0425/12 in 53° 55'N., 8° 13'E.
Convoy of nine ships heading East.
East of Holtenau Lock, large concentration of 30/40 unidentified vessels.
Wangerooze at 0400/12 three stationary ships lying N.W. to S.E. in line astern largest about 1,000 tons believed M/V's.
(H.Q.B.C. 1700/12).

Main Units.

Preliminary R/C of Kiel and Wilhelmshaven today. Results.
(D.D.I.C. 1853/12).

Enemy Coastal Routes.

Information obtained and confirmed from Officers of Finnish KASTELHOLM indicates that routes of ships bound North and South from Nordkyn to Tromso in October 1940 and said to be followed still is as follows. Pilots are taken or dropped at Honningsvaag.
(C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 2003/12).

12 E/Boats
off
Helder.

A/C reports sighting 12 E/B's 30' West of Dan Helder at 1220/12, steering South at high speed.
2 Merchant ships were also seen in the vicinity.
(H.Q.C.C. 2300/12).

BOCKENHEIM
TARONGA.

— N. T. in W.D.
My 1130/6 and 1146/12. It is now reported that one of these ships will probably leave about 20th March and that the other was bunkering on 11/3. and may leave at any moment. A.2.
(D.D.I.C. 2332/12).

Technical.Smoke
Screens
at Rosyth.

Desire to ascertain whether Rosyth Dockyard can be efficiently protected by smoke screens with the wind in the South West. Proposals for test.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1710/12).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.REVENGE
D.G.
Ranging.It will not be possible to re-range
REVENGE before sailing. Proposals.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2023/12).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.A.L.M's.

For N.C.S.O's. In future contents only of Admiralty lettered messages received in code are to be communicated and verbatim copies are never to be supplied. (D.T.D. 1249/12 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

W/T
Oscillation.

Excessive mass oscillation from ships' receivers after convoy dispersal. (See America and W.Indies).

A/A ^{defence} defects.
Loch Ewe.

To assist in A/A defence of shipping in Loch Ewe, arrange for 4 merchant ships present at any one time to act as A/A guardships at immediate notice. (C.in C. W.A. to N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1528/16).

Escort in
W.Approaches.

My 1705/6. These instructions are to be applied to all M/V's under 15 knots of 1600 tons and above and including independent M/V's routed homeward not calling at Belfast or Clyde. They do not apply to motor vessels capable of minimum 10 knots which will be provided with escort when possible. (C.in C. W.A. 1728/12 to F.O.I.C's N.O.I.C's).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.TACOMA STAR.

Now at Oban with damaged refrigerating machinery. Request she be ordered urgently to Liverpool in order to save cargo.

(D.T.D. 1357/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 1357/12. TACOMA STAR damage was to main engine.

If tomorrow's trial successful ship should proceed London if unsuccessful Liverpool escorted.

(D.T.D. 2155/12).

KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE.

Was involved on leaving harbour in a collision which involved considerable Admiralty liabilities. Report suggests incident due to turbine defects and jamming of steering gear. Request this may be investigated and report forwarded.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1620/12).

TAKU.

Add to my 1455/12. TAKU in tow of SALVONIA from Londonderry to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1701/12).

RESTIGOUCHE.

My 1201/12. RESTIGOUCHE in collision and cannot now sail.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1750/12).

BALTARA.
(Broke down
5/3).

S.S. TREVORIAN now anchoring Bangor Bay, has 12 survivors from S.S. BALTARA.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1822/12).

JERSEY.

Dockyard work unavoidably delayed. It is not now anticipated that JERSEY will be ready for sea before 27/3 at earliest.

(JERSEY 1830/12).

CARIEDA.
CORINIA.

My 1946/10. Now salvaged.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1938/11).

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raider Situation.

My 1738/10. Indian Ocean First Sentence.
For AUSTRALIA read CANBERRA.
(2) COBURG left Massawa 21/2 and was sunk
with KETTY BROVIG on 4/3.
(D.D.I.C. 1615/12).

North Atlantic.

French M.V.
escorted.

French destroyer CYCLONE Class escorting
fully laden French merchant ship THISBE in
035° 37' N. 009° 38' W. course 140° 8 knots.
(SHEFFIELD, 1000/12, to F.O.C.N.A.).

Orange Shipments,
S. Spain.

Your 1221/9. Very desirable to encourage
British trade in area and propaganda value
of appearance of Red Ensign should be great.
In event of enemy interference, obvious naval
assistance would have to come from Gibraltar,
although Valencia is nearly 400 miles off
my station.
In view of uncertainty whether any naval
forces would be available immediately,
I agree with proposed restrictions as to
number.
S.S. POLO sails for Gandia 12/3, routed in
territorial waters.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1758/12 to Admty.)
/ Repetition of 1953/8 re Shipments of oranges
from South Spain. See Page 270.

DELPHINIUM.

Intend to sail for Freetown p.m./16 for
fitting out with tropical equipment at
Simonstown, in accordance with Admty. 1747/15/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1802/12, to C.in C. S.A.).

A/C salved
at Teneriffe

See pages. 338 & 339, 10.3.41.

377 11.3.41.
437 12.3.41.

My 1900/11 Spanish Authorities have ordered
that aeroplane be treated as warship entering
port for repairs and refuel. Aeroplane and
crew have been landed. Provisional stay of
24 hours from 1800/12 has been granted pending
proof of necessity of repairs. Local
Authorities will determine length of stay
permissible after examining aeroplane a.m./13.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1858/12, to F.O.C.N.A.).

/ Your 1006/10.

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)A/C salved at
Teneriffe.
(Contd.)

Your 1006/10. Consul and pilot report plane is to be treated as warship. Captain of Port gave 24 hours to leave from 1800 but Captain General has granted extra time for retrospective repairs. New air screw essential to fly. Spanish air experts to decide tomorrow time allowable. How long to send air screw? If time necessary not granted plane could be taxied out to be picked up. British M.V. in Teneriffe destination Las Palmas, doubtful whether could hoist in plane. (N.A. Madrid, 1909/12 to F.O.C.N.A.) My 1909/12. If you think best submit you order Master British Ship at Teneriffe to embark plane. If delay in arrival of air screw is great German pressure may be too much for Spaniards. (N.A. Madrid, 2026/12).

NORD ATLANTIC.

Indications that she is making preparations for sailing.
(Consul, Vigo, 1945/12, to D.N.I.).

BANGKOK.

My 0953/11 (BANGKOK to be intercepted if not escorted). Reported BANGKOK sailed from Dakar for Marseilles on or shortly before 10/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 2107/12, to N.A. Stn.).

Enemy Unit.

My 1608/11. Further bearings on 4595 kc/s and 5660 kc/s at 2012/12 G.M.T. and 2032/12 G.M.T. respectively confirm the presence of enemy unit, probable surface craft, between Azores and Newfoundland.
(D.D.I.C. 2235/12 to C.in C. H.F. W.A. etc.).

South Atlantic.PACIFIC
MASIRAM.

Overdue shipping, my 0958/10. Swedish PACIFIC and British MASIRAM arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0932B/12).

DAGEID

Cancel my 0718/10. Stranded Malela, Congo River, 5/3. Ship not in danger and now unloading and refloating.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0946/12 to Admty.).

/ GROOTEKERK

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

GROOTEKERK

Overdue shipping. GROOTEKERK due Freetown 7/3 from Swansea 18/2 not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1027N/12).

Shipping
Diversion.

In view of recent hyper (? HIPPER) reports British ships TUSCAN STAR and ROCHESTER CASTLE have been diverted to Freetown for rerouteing. (C.in C. S.A. 1147N/12, to Admty.).

→ S.L.68.

My 1317/10 para. 3.
Request early information when and where MAURITIUS would relieve MALAYA. (D.O.D. (F) 1149/12, to C.in C. S.A.).
Reply. C.in C. S.A., 1117N/12.
See Operations Volume.

Route Positions
for M.V's.

Your 1852/8. Reply.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1139/12, to Admty.).

Shipping
Routes.

Comply with Admty. 1318/11/3/1941, to C.in C. S.A. (routes given to ships must be signalled to Admty.)
(C.in C. S.A., 1208/12, to N.C.S.O. Capetown).

ABGARA

Your 1823/10. (?Whether master ABGARA is taking orders from owner in Germany.) Master receives messages as reported in my 1149/5 ABGARA sailed today for Canada with ore. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1216/12).

→ MAURITIUS
MALAYA

MAURITIUS will escort SL 68 from Freetown until MALAYA can overtake, then return to refuel and sail to relieve MALAYA as in my 1117/12.
(C.in C. S.A., 1323N/12, to Admty.).

→ S.L.68
escorts.

Dep. 1830/12 CANTON as Ocean Escort to Convoy SL 68 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1253N/11/3. Also sailed MAURITIUS as additional escort in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1333N/12/3. Local A/S escort CALENDULA, MARGUERITE, H.M. Trawler KELT. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1845N/12, to Admty.).

/ Falklands Defences.

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Falklands
Defences.

R.A.S.A.D's 1342/5/3. I concur that defences of Falklands should be strengthened by means proposed or equivalent alternative. (C.in C. S.A., 2245/12, to Admty.).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA
and COMMANDANT DUBOC.

Cancel A.T. 1636/7. Instructions contained in A.T. 1832/6 are to stand. (D.O.D.(F) 2331/12 to C.in C. S.A., C.in C. E.I.).

Mediterranean.Convoy A.S.17.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1049/12).

Tripoli bombed.

Night 10/11 March 3 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1128/12.).

Convoy A.G.5.

Sailed 0600/12. COVENTRY for Suda Bay remainder Piraeus. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1153/12).

A.N.18.

Arrived Piraeus 11/3. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1200/12).

A.N.19.

Alexandria section. 2300/11, 1 ship Valetta, 3 Piraeus. (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1217/12).

Lemnos.

Now no garrison on Lemnos and landing ground is drying up rapidly. Have been discussing with British G.O.C. and A.O.C. possibility of German attack there. (N.A. Athens, 1253/12, to C.in C. Med., D.N.I)

ILLUSTRIOUS

Your 0109/11. Reply. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1403/12, to Admty.).

UPRIGHT.

Cancel my 1125/8. Tanker 10 miles ahead of large merchant ship passed Kelibia Roads 0915B/12 but possibly neutral. Leave patrol as necessary and proceed to position 033° 40' 012° 45'. If nothing sighted by 1200/13 proceed Malta. (Cdr. S.1, 1615/12, to UPRIGHT).

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raid.

Night 11/12. 7 to 10 enemy aircraft over. 1 bomb hit torpedo depot Misida. Casualties all civilians. (H.Q., Med., 1640/12).

Germans in Bulgaria.

Turkish General Staff report number of German Naval Officers and ratings and lorries with naval markings passing through Sofia presumably for Bourgas. (N.A. Angora, 1836/12, to D.N.I.).

Suez Canal, obstruction.

Canal Company require 15 working days from and including 13/3 to widen channel past wreck sufficient for EAGLE to pass. Work is subject to delay due to enemy minelaying. (S.B.N.O. Suex Canal, 1921/12, to C.in C.E.I.)

A.G.5.

DECOY left Alexandria 2100/12 to join convoy A.G.5. (Capt. S.1, 2121/12, to TRIUMPH).

Operation "Lustre".
CLAN MACAULAY.

Circumstances necessitating retention of CLAN MACAULAY for early stages of "~~DECOY~~" ^{Lustre} are realised, but glad if this ship can be replaced as soon as another vessel becomes available. (D.S.T. 2338/12, to P.S.T.O. Egypt.).

East Indies.

Scuttling of Italian Ships.

M.E. suggest Italian authorities in Eritrea be informed now that if any Merchant vessels are scuttled at Massowa or Assab it will not be possible for us to guarantee food through for the Civil population. Request action be taken. (C.in C. E.I., 0520/12, to Admty.)

MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

Your 0802/10/10/40 Japanese MOGAMIGAWA MARU Arrived Rangoon 12/3 detained. Investigations being made. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon, 0632Z/12, to C.in C. E.I.).

KETTY BROVIG.

Ref. 0714/11 from N.O.I.C. Mauritius (re Norwegian Officers taken from Norwegian tanker KETTY BROVIG). Request disposal Norwegian and Chinese. (C.in C. E.I., 0714Z/12 to Admty.).

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KONGSIANG.

Your 1837/11 (Request for news) Vessel arrived 19/2 report Vesca 19th. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0750Z/12.).

Operation.

Proposed against a certain enemy base. (C.in C. E.I., 0752Z/12 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.) See Operations Volume.

U.S.9½.

Bombay departure 0915Z/12 CAPETOWN escorting U.S.9½. (S.O.I., Bombay, 0916Z/12.).

RANGITIKI

Your 2201/7. RANGITIKI suitable. Is ship to be detained Bombay after completion of repairs for use of U.S.10 ? (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1223Z/12, to D. of S.T.).

SHROPSHIRE ILLUSTRIOUS

Your 1032/11. If SHROPSHIRE's aircraft cannot be repaired in time your proposal D is to be adopted. Flying Crew is being sent from U.K. for appointment as necessary on station. If possible ILLUSTRIOUS should embark one Walrus at Aden for transfer to Simonstown. (D.N.A.D. 1347/12 to C.in C. E.I.).

B.F.18½

Left 0500Z/12. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1625Z/12).

Mines, Bab-el-Mandeb.

Your 1054/10. Considered preferable not to give details you suggest and a warning in following general terms is being issued to neutral Governments:-
"The Admiralty give notice that the Small Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb is dangerous to navigation, and that all vessels passing between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden should proceed by way of the Large Strait. Vessels which disregard this warning do so at their risk and peril".
Warning will also be broadcast by B.B.C. at 1200 G.M.T./13; request you arrange for similar warning to be broadcast not before this time. (Head of M. 1836/12 to C.in C. E.I.).

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.RANTAUPANDJANG

Dutch, due Sabang 8/3 from Durban not arrived. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0735Z/12, to C.in C. China.).

AQUITANIA

My 0328/10, intend to dock AQUITANIA 14/3. If not taken in hand now for thorough overhaul vide your 0120/8 will undock 21/3 and so will not be available before ILE DE FRANCE. Request immediate decision whether thorough overhaul is to be undertaken now. (A.S., Singapore, 0748Z/12).

Japanese Tankers.

Mitsui have nominated Naval Tankers IRO, TSURUMI, SATA and ONDA to load approx. 8,000 tons each diesel oil at Tarakan between 5/4 and 16/4. Dutch Naval Authorities in London have telegraphed Naval C.in C., N.E.I., that suspicion exists they may be used to fuel German raiders.

They suggest trying to delay these tankers, or shadowing them with submarines.

Keep in touch with Dutch C.in C. and report developments.

(D. of P. 1216/12, to C.in C. China.).

Reply: 0729/25/3.

Norwegian SILJESTAD.

Have you news? Due Yokohama. (D.T.D. 1700/12, to Consul Gen., Kobe.).

America and West Indies.Raider Report.

Following from Canso Radio (begins) Intercepted at 0317 G.M.T. unknown two ships attacked by Warship Raider. Very weak signals, interference and atmospheric (ends). (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1011/12, to C.in C.A.W.I.).

PRINCE DAVID

My 1242/9. In event of an encounter with an enemy supply ship, do not break W/T silence to report until at least 500 miles clear unless assistance is required or other enemy forces are sighted.

(C.in C. A.W.I., 1012/12, to PRINCE DAVID.).

/ T.C.10.

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

→ T.C.10.

Your 0135/11, (N.T. in W.D.). Docking could be arranged in a U.S. port and completed in ample time to comply with your 2349/12. Beatty however fears that Italians may make claim on ship if she goes to a U.S. port. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1043/12, to D. of S.T.).

EMPRESS OF ASIA

/ N.T. in W.D.
Your 1043/11. Position E 58.52 N. 06.45 W. arrival 58.15 N. in N. Minch at 0600 B.S.T./17. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1048/12, to Admty.).

Curacoa
Aruba,
censorship.

Lack of censorship causing considerable concern. Suggestion. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1213/12 to Admty.). Your 1610/11 (re use of cypher to ensure security of commercial cables). Message for Notraship London 5/2, to Master BIRKENES, at Curacao, indicating destination and made in P/L, was handed to S.B.N.O. with comment 'How can London let this through'. Such lapses hamper representations referred to in my 1213/12 (re censorship in Curacoa and Aruba) (C.in C. A.W.I., 1223/12, to Admty.).

U.S. Coastguard
Cutters.

Your 1815/7. Navy Dept. now inform me with modification that offer was made under misapprehension. Matter is still under discussion. In any case, ten originally offered would not have been in addition to those referred to in Gleam telegram. My 1729/27 was drafted in collaboration with A.C.N.S. I am of opinion there has been some misunderstanding between Navy Dept. and Coastguard. (N.A. Washington, 1710/12, to Admty.).

W/T Receivers,
Oscillation.

Reported that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers, and that excessive mass oscillation immediately results. Suggest ships with re-radiating receivers be ordered to set watch at staggered times after dispersal, risk due to such ships keeping no watch for some hours being accepted. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1747/12, to Admty.).

T.C.10.

My 1821/7. In addition to BATORY only ship which can be made available for T.C.10 is GEORGIC. Proposed sailing date from Halifax of T.C.10. (D.S.T. 2349/12 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.Timor
Sea
Searched.

Your 0115/5 (search for Pocket Battleship in Timor Sea area) operation completed. 6 a/c employed. Visibility throughout excellent to seaward except 10/3 when haze restricted it to approx. 20 miles. Searches considered efficient. (A.C.N.B., 0413/12, to Admty.).

U.S.10,
ILE DE FRANCE.

In view of amended date of readiness of ILE DE FRANCE reported in A.S. Singapore's 0328/10 request report whether delay to sailing date of U.S.10. could be reduced by embarking ILE DE FRANCE at Fremantle. (D.S.T., 2334/12, to A.C.N.B.).

War Diary.12.3.1941.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.FRODI.

Icelandic 97 tons. Following received from Icelandic trawler SKAFTFELLINGUR. Met the FRODI, I.S.454 at 2000 hours, 90 nautical miles S.E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E. of Vestman Islands. She has been attacked by a U-Boat last night. (Ends). FRODI was on way to Vestman Islands. Nothing further known at present. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 0041/12, to Admty.). My 0041/12. Icelandic drifter FRODI, R.E.454, apparently had 3 attacks from German Submarine between 0440 and 0600/11. Appears to have been machine-gunned from starboard side and 1 side bridge was carried away by shell fired from port side. Captain, mate and 3 of crew killed. Chief engineer wounded. 4 unwounded survivors of crew have only vague idea of locality of attack, but it occurred about 200 miles from Reykjavik on way to Fleetwood. (F.O. Iceland, 1859/12 to Admty.).

RUNSWICK

British 3970 tons. Following from St. Paul's Island (begins) "SSSS 47° 03' N. 46° 38' W. RUNSWICK chased by submarine" Bearing 92° approx. weak signal (Ends). RESOLUTION sends similar report, submarine on surface, 1139 G.M.T. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1009/12, to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Ships Attacked.JONATHAN HOLT

Following from Philadelphia:-
Br. JONATHAN HOLT was sunk by enemy action 24/2. approx. One survivor landed here. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1716/12, to Admty.).

S/M's Reported.

1619.

D/F bearings at 1619 indicate enemy unit possibly Italian s/m was near 043° 39' N. 011° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2122/12, to N.A. Stn.).
D/F at 2026/12. Position of Italian U/Boat was 58° 30' N. 26° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2131/12).

War Diary.

12.3.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

0207. 55° - 57° N., E. of 20° W., very indefinite
(D.S. 554).

0811. 57.30 N., 17° W., position indefinite
(D.S. 554).

0715. N. of 63° N., 1° to 4° W., very indefinite.
(D.S. 554).

1910. 55° N., 20° W., very indefinite (D.S. 555)

2026. 58.30 N., 19° W., very indefinite (Italian)
(D.S. 555).

1619. 43.30 N., 11.30 W., very indefinite (German),
doubtful U/B (D.S. 555).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1311/12).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Two German
whalers
scuttled.

SCARBOROUGH reports at 1120 today having intercepted two Norwegian Whalers in 44° 50' N. 22° W. which had been taken in prize by a German Cruiser in the South Atlantic. Both Whalers scuttled themselves on SCARBOROUGH's approach; and their rescued Norwegian crews state that the ships had been fuelled at noon on the 6th March in about 27° N. 42° W. by a large German Tanker with whom a 7000-Ton Raider was in company.

On indications that the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER-class (Cruiser) may be sailing shortly from Brest, C. in C. Plymouth suggests that a strong air-attack should be made upon her forthwith.

C. in C. H.F. intends to transfer his flag to KING GEORGE V on her return from Convoy Escort duty.

RESOLUTION is to be refitted in the U.S.A. and is to be ready to leave Portsmouth as soon as possible.

German
warships
near
Heligoland.

At 0030 today aircraft sighted two 10,000 ton cruisers in line astern near Heligoland. Two 6000 ton cruisers and 5 auxiliary vessels were seen approaching the Island at 1035 today.

War Diary.

13.5.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

H.Q.C.C. considers that, with its present resources, the watch on the French West Coast ports proposed by C. in C. Plymouth is impracticable.

Flights to Brest were made at intervals today, where the ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~class~~ (cruiser) was sighted in harbour.

Seven Blenheims carried out a sweep last night to the Dutch coast, to intercept E boats which might be leaving harbour.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Hamburg, Bremen and Boulogne last night.

A Blenheim of Coastal Command bombed and secured one hit with a small bomb on a 2,000 ton merchant ship 58 miles West of Trondheim about noon today.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoys W.N. Odd, ROMNEY, and SOUTHDOWN's Convoy were bombed during today without damage; the French Salvage Vessel INFATIGABLE was attacked while disabled off the Smalls; and the British EMPIRE FROST, which had been bombed yesterday, was sunk by another bomb at 1545 today while in tow for Milford Haven.

An F.W. Aircraft is believed to have been in 45° 30' N. 25° W. at 1000 this morning probably returning to Bordeaux.

/Tanker.....

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Tanker SOVAC which was reported bombed and set on fire on 26/2 in Convoy O.B. 290 is reported to have arrived in New York on time.

Air raid
on Liverpool.
7 ships
damaged
or sunk.

Damage was caused to Naval establishments at Liverpool in air raid last night.

* S.S. MYRMIDON was sunk in dock, and WEARWOOD, GLEN ARTNEY, CATRINE, ELAX, DENBIGSHIRE, EL MIRLO and BUENOS AIRES were damaged. Floating crane MAMMOTH was sunk in dock on an even keel.

* Confirmed in BR.1337, Page 105 Damaged ^{by mine} not sunk in air raid on Liverpool.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was carried out in Liverpool Bay, off Mull of Kintyre, in the Thames Estuary and at the mouth of the Humber.

Mining of
Liverpool.

The British TACOMA CITY was mined and sunk at 1350 today in the Mersey; and at 2021 the British ULLAPOOL was mined and sunk while at anchor off the Princes Stage at Liverpool. Seven Mines have been plotted in the Mersey Channel, of which four have detonated, and it is considered dangerous to move ships into or out of Birkenhead or the South Liverpool Docks.

2 Mines were detonated to-day by Sweepers in the Tyne, 3 off Milford Haven to-day and a total of 7 yesterday.

/The.....

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (contd).

The NGATIRA was mined in the Bristol Channel and beached during this afternoon; and at 1425 S.S. SAMLANES was mined and sunk 2 miles South of the Lizard, no survivors being reported.

Oban and Falmouth were closed today.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Ration".

Operation "Ration" is to be carried out against the French BANGKOK, which left Dakar for Marseilles on or shortly before 10/3.

South Atlantic.

Meat Ships.

The Dept. of Defence, Union of South Africa, are prepared to place a camp at Durban at the disposal of the military to receive the personnel of the 4 meat ships in Convoy W.S.6. which are urgently required to load meat for the U.K.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy M.V's
sunk.

TRIUMPH reports having sunk 2 ships of 2,500 tons at anchor close inshore off Melito, near Cape Spartivento.

Suez Canal.

Adoption of a net defence scheme to indicate positions of mines in the Suez Canal was approved by the Admiralty to-day.

Malta
Mines.

Besides the 2 magnetic mines detonated on 8/3, another is in the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour. The clearance of Grand Harbour, suspended while divers worked on the ESSEX, is now being started.

Malta
Air Raid.

Only 1 enemy raider came over Malta last night, releasing bombs in the sea to the S.E.

British air
Operations.

5 F.A.A. Swordfish last night attacked shipping at Valona with torpedoes and sank one ship. R.A.F. bombed Valona and Saseno Island and aerodromes in the Dodecanese, and the harbour at Tripoli.

Coal
Scarcity.

P.S.T.O., Port Said, states that low stocks of coal and precariousness of replenishment in Mediterranean owing to uncertainty of Canal transit make the use of oil burning ships essential.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

British and Allied ships over 4,000 tons may be allowed as far north as Shanghai but not to Japanese ports.

America & West Indies.

C. in C. suggest approaching U.S.A. under Lease and Lend Bill to remove restrictions on the fuelling of British and Allied warships in U.S. ports.

D/F at 0257/13 G.M.T. place an unknown enemy unit within 300 miles of 49.00 N, 30.00 W. KING GEORGE V has been ordered to proceed towards Halifax. No confirmation has been received of the intercept by Canso Radio at 0317/12 G.M.T. of 2 ships being attacked by a raider.

Australia.

An unidentified ship was sighted in 22° 45' S 155° 32' E. (N.E. of Rockhampton, Queensland) at 0730Z/8 steering south.

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.TROUBADOUR.

When ready for sea TROUBADOUR is to join Western Approaches Escort Force. She is to be at four days' notice to proceed on foreign service. (D.O.D.H. 1217/13).

AVONMALE.
ERIDGE.

On completion of working up AVONMALE and ERIDGE will join the command of C.in C. W.A.
2. C.in C. W.A. is to be prepared to return two Wairs of the Rosyth Escort Force to C.in C. Rosyth on relief by AVONMALE and ERIDGE. (A.C.N.S. H. 1216/13).

Proposed use
of Enemy Rescue
Floats.

D. A/S. R.S. C.Cd. 1440/13.

Clyde/Iceland
Ferry Service.

Your 1616/12. I concur but S.N. programme allows about 4 days between operation and 4 destroyers are required as A/S screen for minelayers. 2 Additional destroyers will therefore be required for the ferry service. (ii) This allows little margin for refit or repairs and ~~TOWN~~ class destroyers have not proved reliable in the past, although they appear to be otherwise very suitable for these duties. (C.in C. H.F. 1923/13 to Adty.).

Home Fleet
Battleships.

Convoy escort arrangements. Number of battleships at Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 2003/13) See Operations Volume.

Loch Ewe
A/A Guardships.

To assist in the A.A. Defence of shipping in Loch Ewe request you will arrange for four of the merchant ships present at any one time to act as A.A. Guardships at immediate notice. (C.in C. W.A. 2009/12 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Convoy Escorts.
A/A armament.

I believe the effectiveness of machine gun A/A fire from escorts would be increased considerably if these ships were supplied with incendiary ammunition. Asking for supply urgently. (C.in C. W.A. 2102/13).

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Dropping of
Flares during
Invasion.

Your 1730/26/2. Concur in proposed amendment of rule and suggest that Home Forces be asked to convene a meeting to discuss details of most satisfactory method of employing flares to meet all requirements in circumstances set out. (V.C.N.S. 1318/13 to Air Ministry F.O. 6).

Scapa A/A Guns.

Reference Prime Minister's directif on Battle of Britain dated 6/3. Para 7. C.in C. F.C. withdrawing 8 H.A.A. guns from Scapa to assist in augmenting defences at West Coast ports. (Air Ministry 1740/13 to Adty.).

Portsmouth and
Southampton
A/A Defences.

Following signal (C.in C. Portsmouth 1843/12) received from C.in C. Portsmouth.
2. T.L. fully appreciate the very heavy demands which are at present being made on existing resources of A/A guns but hope that the most favourable consideration possible in the circumstances may be given to the submission of Brigadier, 35th A.A. Brigade. (A.C.N.S. [H] 1754/13 to Air Ministry).

Evacuation Scheme.
Coal Dumps at
Glasgow.

Your 2303/8. This is in hand. First cargo for Glasgow dumps is being loaded this week. (D.T.D. 1846/13 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Invasion.
Estimate of
Forces in
Commands.
Proposed
reduction of
anti-invasion
Orders.

Your 2017/12. In event of invasion it is probable that all serviceable destroyers M/S Corvettes and Sloops in Western Approaches will be required to operate in the commands, but it is clear from A.L.M./P.D. 09533/41 of 1st March that it will be for Admiralty to allocate these Forces where needed. I am unable therefore to estimate what forces will be available for any particular area.
(2) I feel strongly that a reduction should be made in the present volume of anti-invasion orders issued to ships in Western Approaches. Suggest that a standard set of anti-invasion orders, comprising all instructions which are common to all commands, should be compiled in one document, brief detailed orders particular to each individual command being included in short supplements. (C.in C. W.A. 2054/13).

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.RIPLEY.
BURWELL.

Departure RIPLEY and BURWELL to comply with N.O.i/c Liverpool 1451/10. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0358/13 to LEGION). Sailed RIPLEY in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1314/10. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1520/12.).

OTUS.

Sailed routed in accordance with S.5.0915/7. OTUS enters North Atlantic Station at 0600/17. E.T.A. Cape Spartel 0700/19 B.S.T. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1124/13). Amend times and dates in your sailing orders as follows. (S. 5. 1855/13 to OTUS).

Information to
Escorting S/M's.

C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep submarines escorting H G and O G convoys informed of movements of own and enemy forces while they are on the Home Station. (F.O.S. 1146/13).

REVENGE

My 1302/11. Concur with C.in C. Plymouth 1536/12.
2. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for the remaining two destroyers to proceed to Clyde and then to form part of the escort for the movement referred to in A.M. 1905/6 not to C.in C. Plymouth before returning to Plymouth. (A.C.N.S. H. 1208/13).
Intend to sail REVENGE escorted by KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KELVIN, KPLING, CLEVELAND, FERNIE at 0700/14. E.T.A. Greenock 0855/16. 3 of 5th D.F. will be detached to Plymouth at dark 15th. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1743/13).
My 1536/12 paragraph two. Request that KELLY, JACKAL and KELVIN may be detached in time to arrive off Eddystone 0900/16. (C.in C. Plymouth 1956/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, sailed 1920. (C.in C. Plymouth 2044/13.).

EXETER.

Your 1005/9.
Dockyard date for EXETER completion was given as 13/3. Request her sailing be expedited. It was anticipated that she would be ready to sail by 18/3 at latest. (A.C.N.S./H.) 1324/13 to C.in C. Plymouth).

RESOLUTION.

Will refit in U.S.A. and is to be ready to leave Portsmouth as soon as possible, the minimum time being spent in dock. (Controller 2052/13).

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

CAIRO

Is to proceed to Holyhead to act as A/A Guardship when all work in connection with trials at Belfast is completed. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail CAIRO from Holyhead as necessary to refuel and act in accordance with Admiralty's 1746/9. On completion of A/A escort duties, CAIRO is to return in company with local A/S escort, and proceed to Clyde, probably arriving about 29/3. (C.in C. W.A. 2059/13).

3rd M/L
Flotilla
for Gibraltar.

On completion of preparation and training referred to in A.L. M.023534/40 of 27/12/40 3rd M.L. Flotilla is to be sailed under own power to Gibraltar, routed South of Ireland. 2. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange for destroyer escort from 5th D.F. to accompany the Flotilla for the first 48 hours. C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide one corvette to escort the Flotilla to Gibraltar. 3. Intend that advantage should be taken of suitable weather conditions, particularly low visibility in the English Channel and Bay of Biscay. 4. Request you will arrange and report route selected, together with any special orders considered necessary for the operation. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2208/13).

Operations.

East Coast
A/P Patrols.

Request special A/P Patrol quoted in my 1022/10 be operated again tonight. (C.in C. Nore 0940/13 to F.O. Humber.). Request special A/P patrols quoted in my 1026/10 be operated. (C.in C. Nore 0944/13 to F.O. Yarmouth).

SCARBOROUGH.
Re-capture
of two
Norwegian
Whalers.

Have intercepted 2 Norwegian Whalers taken in prize by German Cruiser in South Atlantic. One Whaler scuttled herself and Crew are on board me. Suspect she has made enemy report. Am chasing second Whaler. Suspect 7 more chasing in vicinity. My position is 044° 50' N. (?22°) 00' W. (SCARBOROUGH, 1120/13). My 1120/13. Second Whaler scuttled herself on my approach. Have one German Lieut. Commander, seven German ratings and twenty-two Norwegians on board. Am rejoining Convoy. (SCARBOROUGH 1340/13).

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Northern Patrol.

Cancel my 1145/5/2. Direction of patrol is to North Eastward during daylight. (F.O.C.N.P. 1129/13).

Operation QD

Weather permitting Operation Q D will be carried out today. (C.in C. Nore 1417/13).

HONNINGSVAAG

HONNINGSVAAG reports all cargo landed. Both ships standing by and assisting in operations. (F.O. Iceland 1657/13). HONNINGSVAAG reports operation ashore proceeding satisfactorily but ships now icebound and cut off from land. Captain Ullring and seven men living ashore. (F.O. Iceland 2305/13).

Interception of
Enemy Coastal
Shipping.

(A) It has been reported that lights in inner lead in vicinity of Haugesund are extinguished and those on the sea board are lit. (B) Proceed forthwith to zone C 3 and patrol off Kors Fiord and Selbjorn Fiord with the object of intercepting shipping passing up coast and re-entering the inner lead or vice versa. I do not wish you to proceed south of entrance Selbjorn Fiord. (F.O.S. 1933/13 to UNDAUNTED.).

AAGOT.

Finnish, 3939 tons). Intercepted by NORTHERN CHIEF in 62° 43' N. 16° 25' W. Ship had not passed through Skopen Fiord. NORTHERN CHIEF ordered to escort to Kirkwall. (S.O.N.T. 2327/13).

British Air Activity.

Enemy Destroyer
torpedoed.

A/C reports having sighted 5 Destroyers and 1 larger unidentified Vessel in position 70' W. of Lym Fiord, steering 180°, 15 knots at 2212/12. Attacked one Destroyer with torpedo and hit was obtained amidships, followed by terrific explosion. (Pitreavie 0215/13).

Patrols.

Patrols ordered for today. ~~UNST. STAB. TROST.~~
f ~~UNST.~~ is cloud permits. S A 2 and S A 3 training patrols. (C.in C. Rosyth 0813/13).

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols.
(Contd.)

My 0813/13. "Bert" and "Stand" taking off about 2000 3 torpedo A/C carrying out roving patrol in "Hornli" area. (C.in C. Rosyth 1930/13). A/S Patrol by A/C of following Area is now being flown and will continue until daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 2148/13).

A/C 0830.

Anson patrolling vicinity 58° 28' N. 05° 28' W. to be relieved by Sunderland from Sullom Voe about 1400. (C.in C. Rosyth 1210/13).

Escorts.

Expect 1 Blenheim as close escort during daylight today. (C.in C. Rosyth 1016/13 to WINCHELSEA, etc.).

Expect one aircraft as escort from 1440 till dusk. (C.in C. Plymouth 1411/3 to BANGOR).

Albino units.

See Air Min. 1125/13, H.Q. Balloon Cmd. 1133/13.

French Coast Ports.

AP/862 13/3. C.in C. Plymouth 1918/10. Following is appreciation of aircraft role and estimate of aircraft required for proposed watch on French west coast ports.

One sortie a day would require 15 long range aircraft or 30 long range aircraft for dusk and dawn sorties to maintain effort. Dawn patrol of little purpose unless naval forces in Atlantic or Western Approaches within cruising range for interception of warships breaking out of Bay of Biscay. Regret therefore reconnaissance suggested impracticable with present resources of my command and agreed dispositions. (H.Q.C.C. 1250/13 to Adty.).

ADMIRAL
HIPPER
(Cruiser.)

ADMIRAL HIPPER, presence definitely established at Brest. Several indications show that she may be sailing shortly. Utmost importance that attack should be made now. Enemy fighters in North West France have been reinforced by 80 in last two or three days. It is essential that Skuas of 801 Squadron should be heavily supported by fighters throughout the attack. A.O.C. considers nothing less than two Beau fighter squadrons would be adequate to support Skuas in facing enemy opposition. Request urgent steps be taken to supply in order that this important attack may be carried out today Thursday. Failing this request heavy bombing attack be carried out tonight. Skuas will also be sent for moonlight attack. (C.in C. Plymouth 1350/13 to Adty.).

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Portsmouth
bombed.

At 2056 30 explosive incendiaries fell in Dockyard Storage Area Frater causing small fire in one Railway Truck which is out. 3 Employees injured. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0051/13).

ESSEX LANCE
(Bombed 12/3)

Received at 0130 from KROOMAN:- Still proceeding to position. (N. Foreland Radio 0213/13). Have located Steamer. (KROOMAN 0750/13). S.S. ESSEX LANCE abandoned in tow of tugs. Close immediately and escort to Humber. Crew are in trawler COVENTRY CITY also in company. (C.in C. Nore 0941/12 to FRANKLIN). Have ESSEX LANCE in tow making for Yarmouth pump and towage assistance required. (KROOMAN 0950/13). Tug SABINE sailed at 1050 assist tow of ESSEX LANCE. (F.O. Humber 1055/13). Doctor put aboard COVENTRY CITY. Now towing ESSEX LANCE. (FRANKLIN 1115/13). My 0941. KROOMAN reports at 0950 she is towing ESSEX LANCE to Yarmouth. If committed to this course, tow is to proceed to Yarmouth and FRANKLIN is to escort to within sight of port and then proceed to Humber. Report situation. (C.in C. Nore 1137/13 to FRANKLIN). Steamer reported sinking. Am towing towards Beach Cromer. (KROOMAN 1319/13). Steamer beached 2 miles N.W. Cromer. KROOMAN and DIVERSION returning to harbour. (KROOMAN 1610/13) (NORMAN 1520/13). S.S. ESSEX LANCE was beached North of Cromer as breaking of back appeared imminent. Engine room and stokehold being flooded no pumps available. Damage was caused by under-water detonation of A/C bombs aft, ship also was subjected to machine gun fire one casualty Chief Engineer injured by fall. Remainder of crew including service guns crew landed Yarmouth. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 2057/13).

INFATIGABLE
(French Salvage
Vessel).

Disabled 2 miles off Smalls require help immediately. (INFATIGABLE 1037/13). Attacked by A/C 2 miles off Smalls. (Burnham 1455/13).

/ FORTHBANK
(Bombed 1/3).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.

13.3.1941.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)FORTHBANK
(Bombed 1/3)

Intend to sail S.S. FORTHBANK at 1800/13 for Leith in tow of Tugs CHAMPION and HENDON escorted by A/P Trawlers ARNOLD BENNETT and LE NIVOSE as far as Troup Head. Estimated speed 7 1/2 knots. Request further escort may be arranged to take over at position Troup Head 000 four miles at 0200/14, and that air escort be provided.

(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1100/13).

F.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1100/13. One ship of 5th M.S.F. as detailed by M.S.5. is to sail as requisite P.M. to-day and R.V. with FORTHBANK and tugs 000° Troop Head 4 miles at 0200/14th subsequently escorting them to No.1. Reflector Buoy (Firth of Forth) and then return to Aberdeen. (C.in C. Rosyth 1440/13).

Your 1440/13. ROSS has been detailed for this operation. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1702/13 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Portsmouth
Air-Raid
Night 10/11.

Re casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1103/13).

One enemy aircraft. My position 51° 43' N. 4° 20' W. (ROMNEY 1105/13).

Enemy aircraft bombing.
(ROMNEY 1108/13).

EMPIRE FROST
(Bombed 12/3)

Tug GOLIATH sailed to assist EMPIRE FROST.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1151/13).

2 Enemy Planes attacked EMPIRE FROST in tow of SEINE and EMPIRE FROST sunk 1545.

No damage reported to SEINE.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1742/13).

F.W. Aircraft.

There are indications that a F.W. Aircraft was in position 45° 30' N. 25° 00' W. at 1000 probably returning to Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/13).

Convoy E.N. Odd.

Fighters have been despatched to ^{"night"} ~~night~~ and "Lancet" (Aircraft). (C.in C. Rosyth 1503/13).

/Unknown Ship.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Unknown Ship.

Received 1406 G.M.T. from unknown ship.
Plane attack 15 S.W. Smalls.
(Burnham Radio 1507/13).
Received 1407 G.M.T. 500 kcs DE MWVO. AAAA
plane flying low returning for fourth time
ends. (Burnham Radio 1508/13).

*see BR 1337 *
damaged not
sub to
Page 105.*

Liverpool.
MYRMIDON sunk
in Dock.
WEARWOOD
GLENARTNEY
CATRINE
ELAX
DENBIGHSHIRE
BUENOS AIRES
MOUNT STEWART
damaged.

Following damage caused to Admiralty
establishment by air raid on night of
March 12/13.
(S.C.E. Liverpool 1831/13).
* MYRMIDON (6278 tons) submerged in Dock.
WEARWOOD (4597 tons), GLENARTNEY (8986 tons),
CATRINE (5218 tons), ELAX (Tanker, 7403 tons),
DENBIGHSHIRE (8983 tons), and BUENOS AIRES
(Swedish, 5646 tons) damaged.
(D.C.L. 15/3) MOUNT STEWART (1099 tons)
damaged (D.S. 560).

^I
MELFORD QUEEN.
Enemy A/C
damaged.

F.O.i/c Yarmouth reports ^IMELFORD QUEEN claims
destruction of Do. 17 12/3 Details.
At least it seems most improbable that aircraft
could have reached its base.
(C.in C. Nore 1831/13).

Convoy

2 Delayed action bombs dropped on Convoy.
Apparently no damage. (SOUTHDOWN 2015/12).

PERSEUS

(Dutch 1307 tons) torpedoed and sunk by
aircraft at 2200/13 off Bardsey Island.
Crew landed at Holyhead (D.S. 560).

Mining.Liverpool.

Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0030/13).

Situation 18/13/3. Port is closed but when
essential ships may be permitted to enter or
leave so far as room allows and provided no
vessels pass to south of line Pierhead to
Woodside stage. Seven mines plotted in
channel between this line and line New Ferry
to Herculaneum. Two of these in vicinity Rock
Ferry since detonated. Two more detonated by
LL close in shore S.W. of Egremont Pier.
Consider inadvisable at present to move ships
into or out of Birkenhead or South Liverpool
Docks. No damage H.M. Ships.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1856/13).

/ Oban.

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Oban.

Port closed due to suspected enemy minelaying by enemy aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 0103/13).
Request EASTCOATES now at Rothesay may be sailed for Oban to assist Sweeping operations.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1119/13).
Your 1119/13. Approved.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1415/13).

B.S.51.

Departure LA MELPOMENE.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1015/13).

Eastern Channel Clearance Sweep

Intended 1st M.S. Flotilla should be based on and return to Newhaven each night during clearance of area given in Adty's 2003/11. S.O. 1st M.S. F. is to arrange his movements accordingly. (V.A. Dover 1104/13).

Tyne.

1 ground magnetic mine detonated red L L at 1048/13 in 045 degs. Tyne North Pier Light 13 cables. (P.M/S. O. N. Shields 1122/13).
1 Ground Magnetic Mine detonated Red L.L. at 1620/13 in 022° Roker Pier Light 5 Cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 2029/13).

Selsey. Explosion.

Loud explosion heard about 4-5 miles S.E. From Selsey lookout presumed to be a mine. No vessels near but motor vessel believed PORT LYAUTY was about 3 miles south of Selsey lookout steering eastwards and turned about steering west after explosion.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1245/13).

Milford Haven.

My 1755/12. 3 further Mines detonated 12/3. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1255/13).
Following 3 Mines detonated by Sweepers today. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1731/13).

Exmouth.

Cancel my 0312/15/2. (C.in C. Plymouth 1311/13)

NGATIRA

(British, 525 tons) Mined in 21.2' N. 3° 17.2' W. and beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1345/13).

Thames Estuary.

Night of 12/13th March.
At 2157 four dark objects were seen momentarily in the air over the South Edinburgh channel following the passage of a low flying aircraft.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1400/13).

/ Falmouth.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Falmouth.

Port of Falmouth closed due to mines. A dangerous area exists the centre of which is Lizard 180° 2 miles radius 3 miles. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1435/13).

Dangerous Area.

There is probability enemy mines in area bounded by Meridians 001° 10' E. and 002° 10' E. and parallels 059° 50' N. and 060° 18' N. Steer to leave this area 25 miles to Eastwards of you. (F.O.S. 1621/13 to STURGEON).

TACOMA CITY
sunk.

(British 4738 tons) Ex H.X.110. Sunk at 1350/13 by mine in River Mersey, 104° Rock Ferry Light, 2 and a half cables. Vessel broken in half. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1651/13).

Use of R. mines
against E boats.

Information given up to present has been too scanty to justify taking corvettes from escort duties or auxiliary patrol vessels from watching buoys and channel in order to lay these mines. Reasons. (C.in C. Nore 1706/13).

Unknown Ship
sunk.

Ship unknown mined and sunk 1425/13 in 180° Lizard 2 miles. Lizard lifeboat launched 1455 returned 1732. Reports no survivors, two damaged lifeboats amongst wreckage. Considerable amount of wreckage floating. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1818/13). See Page 460.

CACHALOT.

Will sail for patrol in Bay of Biscay about 19/3 Suggest she lay mines near 043° 37' N. 001° 33' W. (F.O.S. 1908/13).

ULLAPOOL.

(British, 4891 tons) Sunk at anchor at 2021 by mine in River Mersey off Princes Stage. Ship broken in half. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2121/13). DR. 1337. Page 48 states ex S.C. 23 from Cdr Rowbotham

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Off the Elbe.

Following received from A/C B/235 Squadron.
2 Cruisers 5 Auxiliary vessels Bearing 060°
Distant 5 miles approx. true course 160
my position 54° 12' N. 7° 55' E.
(Supt. N. Coates 0910/13).
Aircraft report at 0910/13
2 Cruisers 5 Auxiliaries.
5' 060 degs from 54° 12' N. 7° 55' E.
CO 168°, no speed given. No cloud cover.
(D.D.I.C. 1129/13).
Reference N.R.1. 1 cruiser 6000 tons
5 Auxiliaries 4000 tons were approaching
Heligoland at 15 knots. (A/C B. 235 Sqdn.
1035/13).

TAIPING.
TARONGA.

My 1504/12. It is now reported that either
TAIPING or TARONGA will probably leave
about 20/3. The other was bunkering on 11/3
and my leave at any moment. (F.O.S.1024/13
to S/M's Area A.).
Indication that ex Wilhelmien ships TAIPING
and TARONGA fitted as raiders maximum speed
21 knots equipment includes torpedo tubes
may have left Oslo proceeding northward.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1123/13) (V.A.N.P. 1645/13).

HAVDA.

Norwegian crew, leaves Trondjhem for North
Norway 14 with cargo of munitions. C.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 1211/13).

Brest.
ADMIRAL HIPPER
cruiser.

Photographic R/C of Brest A.M. today shows
tug at bow of ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER ~~Class~~ Cruiser and
protective nets slightly open. Inference
is that ship is either leaving quay or
berthing. Further R/C investigating.
(D.D.I.C. 1224/13).
Indication that ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER Cruiser may leave
Brest today Thursday. (C.in C. Plymouth
1256/13 to L.27).

Enemy Main Units.

Latest known disposition. (D.D.I.C.1229/13).

Enemy Tanker.
Raider.

My 1120/13. Norwegian crews of whalers from
factory ship PELAGOS state that whalers were
fuelled at noon on 6/3 by large German
tanker in approx. 27° N. 42° W.
Small raider 7000 tons, black hull, upper
work funnel and masts grey, raked bow,
cruiser stern, was in company tanker.
(SCARBOROUGH 1715/13) (D.D.I.C. 2104/13).
Duty H. 2 destroyers bearing 080° distance
five miles approx. course 316°. My position
48° 20' N. 5° 14' W. at 1900 - 1930.
(A/C Bomber Cd. 1932 /13 to 19 Group H.Q.)
(C.in C. Plymouth 2250/13 to D.5)
(F.O.S. 2251/13 to OTUS).

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.BALTARA
(Broke down 5/3).

My 1822/12. Third engineer and 11 men from S.S. BALTARA arrived Belfast 2100/12/3. Ship sprung a leak 2200/4/3. Above left ship 1100/7. Position then was engine room and stokehold flooded bulkhead unsafe. Remainder of crew of 28 including Master were still on board. Trawler was standing by approx. position 057° 26' N. 022° 27' W. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1020/13).

MAHRONDA.

(British, 7926 tons). Due Capetown 8/3 from U.K. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1517/12)

L.26.

L.26 delayed by defects until about 17/3. Anticipate O.24 will be ready to sail on 19/3. Propose to retain WHITE BEAR at Dundee sailing her as escort to both submarines on 19/3. (S.9. 1717/13 to S.3.).

GLENDENE

For Barry Road has defective D.G. and has been ordered to Belfast to make good defect before proceeding. (WANDERER 2350/12).

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

*ANNEBERG.

~~ANNA BERG~~

Your 1232/6 (Re report that ~~ANNEBERG~~ boarded by British A.M.C.) ~~ANNEBERG~~ Master's statement correct. (MALVERNIAN, 0105/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Rescued A/C at Teneriffe.

N.A. Madrid 1909/12 (Naval A/C crew rescued by Spanish s.s. CABO ~~ESPANOLA~~ ESPERANZA) Ref. C.A.F.O. 386/1936. Request guidance whether it is politically desirable to create precedent by attempt to gain possession of damaged A/C. Intend to evacuate crew as soon as possible. (F.O.C.N.A. 0938/13, to Admty.)

(Reply see page 501)

Flying boat attacked by enemy a/c.

London Flying boat attacked off Cape De Gata 1730/12 by Italian aircraft identified by crew as Caproni, 135. 2 Aircraft subsequently sighted off Malaga 1800, steering S. (F.O.C.N.A. 0952/13, to Admty.).

Enemy Unit.

Admty. 0855/13 (see America and W. Indies) is being repeated to you. (H.W.R. 1149/13 to RODNEY, KING GEORGE V, C.S.1., HEATHER, EGRET, SCARBOROUGH, ARETHUSA, SHEFFIELD, ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

Interception of Norwegian Whalers.

SCARBOROUGH reports having intercepted in 044° 50' N. 022° 00' W. 2 Norwegian whalers which had been taken in prize by German cruiser in Atlantic. It is suspected 7 more may be near this position. (F.O.C.N.A. 1616/13, to N.A. Stn.). See also HOME COMMANDS, Operations.

Operation "Ration", BANGKOK.

Your 2107/12. Operation ^{"Ration"}~~"RATION"~~ is to be carried out against S.S. BANGKOK. If other French M.V's are in same convoy as BANGKOK they are to be allowed to proceed. Most important to bring in BANGKOK. (1 S.L. 2255/13, to F.O.C.N.A.).

ASAKA / 1941

A.T. 1913/19/2. Japanese ship ASAKA leaves Bilbao noon/13 (Route). (D.O.D.(F) 2354/13 to N.A. Stn.) See also China Station.

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Norwegian whalers.

Interception by SCARBOROUGH of Norwegian whalers captured by Germans in South Atlantic. (See HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

ISIS ENCOUNTER

Simonstown arrived 13/3.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0633Z/13).

W.S.6.

D. of S.T's. 0140/13. Release of meat ships. Proposals. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1245B/13, to C.in C. S.A.).

MADRID (German)

Unassessed secret source reports MADRID which left Las Palmas recently is bringing German merchandise to Uruguay. She was escorted part of the way by German warship(s). Ends. Please inform me if ship has recently put to sea. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 1839/13 to Adty.).

Mediterranean.

German SPEZIA

Arrived 11/3. (Valencia, T.H.I. 0040/13).

Sailings, Mersin to Port Said.

(Saving). My T Y/3/2 21/2 (No trace in W.R.) Following results from meeting with Turkish General Staff yesterday. Trade Commissioner's approval given for three repeat three (?armed) liners to ply between Mersin Iskanderun and Port Said ships sailing under directions of British authorities at ports mentioned. (B) Each ship will be capable of loading 3000 - 4000 tons of cargo and fitted with modern derricks and winches. (C) First ship will sail in about a week remaining two as advised by British authorities. (N.A. Ankara 1024/13).

2 M.V's sunk by TRIUMPH.

TRIUMPH reports traffic, all less than 4000 tons kept one to 2 miles off shore, northbound making Stile Point or Cape Rizzuto and southbound Spartevento Cape at daylight. Convoy escorts usual A.M.C.'s, Occasional Patrols of Schooners who reported attack to M.A.S. Hunt still progressing. Sank two ships of 2500 tons at anchor close in shore off Melito 037° 55', 015° 47'. (Capt. S.1, 1041/13, to PARTHIAN) (Melito, Southern Calabria) (D.S. 556).

/ Rhodes bombed.

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Rhodes
bombed.Operational Summary No. 276 up to 1200 hours
13/3/41.Night 11/12 March. 5 Wellingtons dropped
approximately 10725 lbs. bombs on Rhodes
Harbour, Maritza and Calato Aerodromes
starting large fire each Aerodrome.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1127/13).Enemy Mines,
Malta.2 Red magnetic mines were detonated 8/3 in
entrance to Marsamscett Harbour close to Boom
1 more in entrance to Marsamscett, position
of which was not very accurately fixed.
Clearance of Grand Harbour has been suspended
while divers worked on ESSEX but is being
started. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1516/13).Salonika.Request re shipping at. (Hd. of M., to
C.in C. Med., 1538/13) (See Mediterranean
Volume.).Malta
Air Raids.Night 12/13th. 1 raider came over Island
and bombs released S.E. of Island in sea.
Day 13th no enemy activity.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1620/13).Troopships and
Coal supplies.

N. T. in W.D.

 Your 1817/11. CITY OF LONDON and CITY OF
CANTERBURY have not been recalled for reasons
given in my 1931/9 and 1211/10. Very low
stocks of coal and precariousness of
replenishment in Mediterranean owing to
uncertainty of canal transit makes use of oil
burning ships essential. My 2251/27/2 refers.
PENNLAND and CAMERONIA are standing by to
transit to Port Said immediately canal opens.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1621/13, to D. of S.T.).Nets for
Suez Canal.Experiments are being carried out before
full scheme is proceeded with.
(C.in C. Med. 1927/13).Suez Canal
Mines.Your 0931/5. Adoption of scheme approved,
provided experiments are successful.
(D.M.S. 2011/13 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Canal Situation.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

2159/13th March IN.

From C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet.

Date 16.3.41.

Recd. 0040.

NAVAL CODE (L) BY W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, Repeated N.O.i/c Malta. 184 S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, N.O.i/c Alexandria, S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, Admiralty, 201 Group.

IMPORTANT.

357. My 2114 tenth March. Add following movements. (F) H.M.S. DECOY was detailed for sailing P.M. twelfth to overhaul convoy A.M. 13th.

(G) AN.F.20 leaves Alexandria 14th, escort H.M.S. CALCUTTA H.M.A.S. STUART, H.M.S. HEReward, H.M.S. SALVIA to arrive Piraeus 17th via Kithera.

(H) A.S.19 leaves Piraeus 14th for Egypt via Kithera. Escort H.M.S. HOTSPUR H.M.A.S. WATERHEN H.M.S. HYACINTH to be joined by H.M.S. COVENTRY to join 0800 15th. A.S.P.19 breaking off 1800 16th escort H.M.A.S. WATERHEN H.M.S. HYACINTH. Remainder dispersing. H.M.S. HOTSPUR to Haifa.

(J). G.A.5. leaves Piraeus 15th for Egypt via Kithera speed 12 knots. Escort H.M.S. DECOY H.M.S. WRYNECK.

(K). Force A. will cover movements of A.N.19, A.S.19, and G.A.5 West of Kithera thence to Alexandria.

(L). 3rd C.S. (?Aegean) duty .

2159/13

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.8.
O.D.(5).
M.(2).
O.I.C.
Mails.
Movts.
D.S.D.9.
D.P.S.
I.P.(3).
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.N.I.(4).
D.T.D.(4).
D.T.D.(M)
D. of S.T.
E.P.S.

(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.)

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Canal
Situation.

Situation 2000/13. Mines suspected and depth charges at dark in deep hole in soft mud at k.m. 28. Inspection will be made at daylight by diver. No result at k.m. 139 to 141. Day on which it is hoped to open canal must be postponed until 16/3.

Diving and trawling results disappointing partly due to very soft mud at km. 28 and strong currents rocks and boulders at k.m.139 to 141. (S.B.N.O Suez Canal 2⁰15/13).

Enemy Ship.

One 3500-ton ship anchored 030° Burat 1½ miles since 8/3. ~~arrived~~ arrived 9/3. Proceeding accordance with previous orders. (TRUANT, 2141/13, to Capt. S.I.).

Enemy Ships.

Aircraft reconnaissance reports 3 small ships 2 miles off Cape Misurata steering S.E. at 1645/13. (Capt. S.I, 2159/13, to TRUANT).

Movements,
Convoys,
etc.

(C.in C. Med., 2159/13, to Med. Fleet).

East Indies.

→ W.S.6.

Proposals in para. 4 and 5 of my 1300/10 must now be modified. Request alternative proposals and remarks. (D.S.T., 0140/13, to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. S.A., etc.).

Mogadishu etc.

My 0736/10/3, para (1) Breech blocks of Coast Defence guns now found defective and unlikely guns ready for use before mid April. (C.in C. E.I., 0538/13, to Admty.).

→ W.S.6.

ELIZABETHVILLE.

N.O.i/c. Port Sudan's 1520/11 and D. of S.T's 0140/13. Orders for CITY OF CANTERBURY, CITY OF LONDON, ANSELM, ELIZABETH, and COSTA RICA. TALAMBA is to be earmarked for troop movements from Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., 0644/13, to S.N.O. Red Sea, etc.)

/ MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)MOGAMIGAWA MARU.

Cancel my 0632/12 Ship's arrival reported in error. Ship now due 16/3. (N.O.I.C. Rangoon 0804Z/13).

Raider Intelligence.

CANBERRA 1805/7. Further information re ADMIRAL SCHEER, TANNENFELS, BRITISH ADVOCATE, etc. (C.in C. E.I., 1132Z/13, to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., etc.) See Operations Volume. *Page 128.*

China.Shipping Shanghai.

My 1457/11/2 and 0323/12/2. British Allied ships over 4000 tons may now be allowed as far North as Shanghai but not to Japanese Ports. (C.in C. China, 0329/13, to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong S.O.I., Shanghai.).

ASAKA

My 1636/24. Ministry of Marine informs me ASAKA leaves 1200/13 and will return to Japan via the Cape. Speed 15 knots throughout. (N.A. Tokyo, 0953/13, to Admty.) (See also North Atlantic.).

Japanese Fleet.

My 0527/2. Exercises appear to have ceased and major combined Fleet units are in Japanese waters. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1103/13.)

Anglo-Dutch conference.

From Chiefs of Staff. Views on telegraphic report of Anglo-Dutch-Australian conference. (1 S.L., to C.in C. China, C.in C. E.I., 1206/13) See Operations Volume.

Shanghai tankers.

Your 0901/7. Panamanian Tanker THALIA has also been allocated to load for Shanghai. Request your views on a third ship. This in addition to the coastal ferry service from Hong Kong should make Shanghai position reasonably safe. (D.T.D., 1837/13 to C.in C. China.).

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Raider Report,
12/3.

Following message received from Canso Radio, Nova Scotia (begins) Intercepted at 0317 G.M.T./12. Unknown two ships attacked by warship raider. Very weak signals and atmospherics. (D.S.O. 0004/13 to LACONIA WORCESTERSHIRE, MALOJA, THUNDERBOLT, PORPOISE, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.). A.M.0004/13.

Detach KING GEORGE V to proceed with despatch towards Halifax or estimated position of warship raider should any further information be received. (D.O.D.(H) 0147/13 to RODNEY). My 0147/13. It is at your discretion to reduce speed to all convenient despatch, depending on information received and fuel considerations. (D.O.D.(H) 1822/13 to KING GEORGE V).

By D/F at 0257/13 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit was within 300 miles of 49° 00' N. 30° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0855/13 to C.in C. A.W.I., C.in C. S.A., etc.).

Your 1011/12 (Intercept from Canso Radio. Two ships attacked by Warship Raider). Request exact details of message as received by Canso Radio.(D.D.I.C. 1117/13, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Your 1117/13. My 1011/12 contains all details available. No other station in Canada intercepted this signal. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1447/13).

NYANZA.

Your 1854/12 (Requesting reason for inclusion of NYANZA in slow convoy). NYANZA arrived 31/1, speed 9 knots and was included in S.C. 21 rather than hold ship until 3/2 for H.X.107. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0929/13, to Admty.).

Fuelling in
U.S. ports.

Suggest that under Lease and Lend Bill U.S. Authorities be approached with view to modifying regulations affecting fuelling of British and Allied warships in U.S. ports. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1022/13, to Admty.).

DIOMEDE
PRINCE HENRY.

My 2241/10. After completing with fuel from BISHOPDALE on 14/3 DIOMEDE and PRINCE HENRY continue patrol off Gulf of Nicoya under orders of DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE and BISHOPDALE are to be near Gulf of Panama at daylight/18 and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1102/13, to DIOMEDE, PRINCE HENRY).

/ ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

My 1643/7. Presume you will give necessary instructions to ROYAL SOVEREIGN when to leave H.X.113 and direct subsequent movements. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1242/13, to Admty.).

Dock,
W. Atlantic.

My 1018/20/11/40. Grateful for Admiralty views as to necessity of dock of dimensions given in your 0343/28/11/1940. Complete with adequate shops for maintenance of H.M. Ships operating in W. Atlantic. Apart from difficult entrance channel St. John dock has only 14 feet above datum over sill and lowest highwater may only be 21 feet. (C.N.S., Canada, 1446/13, to Admty.).

Shipping in
20° W.

Considered probable that enemy regards the Meridian of 20° W. between latitudes of 5° N. and 60° N. as a fruitful patrol line in which much British shipping is likely to be encountered.

Shipping should therefore be routed so as to spend the minimum time on or adjacent to this line. (D.O.D.(H) 1541/13 to C.in C. A.W.I., S.A., etc. for N.C.S.O's.).

KING GEORGE V.

Request early information whether present intention is for KING GEORGE V to return to U.K. or Halifax after escorting H.X.115. If U.K. have several important items for safe transit which would be embarked. (R.A.3, 1746/13, to Admty.).

VOLTAIRE.

Movements. (R.A.3. 1801/13.).

ABGARA.

Latvian ship, sailed 12/3 Rio de Janeiro for Canada. Master reported pro-Nazi and obstructive. Stated to be receiving cabled orders from Danzig. Request investigation, action and report. (D.N.I. 2009/13, to D.N.I. Ottawa).

Tampico,
Enemy M.V's.

B.3 report states German and Italian ships have received orders to blow themselves up in harbour if they cannot get to sea should any attempt be made to take them over. (D.S. 556).

War Diary.

13.3.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Suspicious
Ship.

Unidentified ship sighted in 022° 45' S.
153° 32' E. at 0730Z/8 steering south.
Description. (A.C.N.B., 0616/13, to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.MENTOR,
(torpedoed
7/3).

Greek ship MENTOR (3050 tons) in ballast from Clyde to Takoradi hit by one torpedo fired by U-Boat in good weather and sank immediately at 1030/7 in approx. 059° 30' N. 025° 00' W. Torpedo not seen, but U-Boat observed on surface after ship had sunk was painted dark green. 22 survivors including all officers picked up by Faeroes trawler in approx. 060° 40' N. 012° 40' W. and landed at Thorshavn: remaining 7 hands lost. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1540/13, to A.C.O.S.). Had been in Convoy O.B.292 (D.S. 556).

TERJE VIKEN
(torpedoed 7/3).

Master of Icelandic ship RICHARD arrived Vestmann Aeyjor 1400/13 reports large ship sighted at 1530/11 in 059° 21' 40" N. 012° 15' 30" W. floating upside down. Empty lifeboat found bearing name TERJE VIKEN. Size of ship appears to be 8 - 10 thousand tons. 2 propellers red hull. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1807/13.).

S/M's Reported.

0830.

Am over enemy submarine in position 58.28 N., 5.28 W., submarine has now dived. (A/C Duty E., B. Comd., 0830/13, to Stornoway) Note - See also S/M's Attacked. Submarine previous reported, periscope only sighted, course 286° estimated speed 5 knots at 0830. (A/C Duty E., 0900/13, to Stornoway).

0930.

Am over enemy submarine in 61.07 N., 12.17 W. (A/C Coastal Comd., 0930/13, to No 18 Group). Enemy submarine previously reported was on surface steering 140° speed 5 knots. (A/C, Coastal Comd., 0940/13, to 18 Group). Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen in 61.07 N., 12.17 W., (A/C Coastal Comd., 0943/13, to 18 Group). Aircraft report S/M in 061° 07' N. 012° 17' W. at 0930/13. (C.in C. W.A. 1007/13, to Area A.). Position of Submarine is dead reckoning position. (A/C, Coastal Comd., 1020/13, to 18 H.Q.). Revised position of Sub. 60.58 N., 12.39 W., based on landfall. (A/C Coastal Comd., 1135/13, to 18 Group).

War Diary.13.3.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

2200/22/2. At 2200/22/2 S/M going south seen from island of Porto Santo (Madeira). (N.A. Lisbon, 1826/13, to Admty.).

0119. 60° N., 20° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 555).

0217. 62° N., 16° to 19° W., indefinite. (D.S. 555).

0357. 49° N., 30° W., very indefinite (German), doubtful U/B. (D.S. 555).

0930. 60.58 N., 12.39 W., sighted on surface by a/c. (D.S. 556).

1352. 54.25 N., 19° - 20° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 556).

1408. 53° N., 19° - 20° W., very indefinite position. (D.S. 556).

1834. 58° - 59° N., 15° - 18° W., very indefinite position (D.S. 556).

1529. 200' of 47° N., 36° W., very indefinite position (D.S. 556).

Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1353/13.).

Submarines Attacked.

0836. Following from R.A.F. Stornoway. Sighted and bombed U-Boat at periscope depth in 058° 28' N. 005° 28' W. Course and speed 286° 5 knots, at 0836 (Ends). Have sailed THIRLMERE. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1111/13).

1830. Am attacking firm contact in 054° 48' N. 001° 05' W. (VERSATILE, 1830/13.). My 1830. 4 attacks have been carried out on very good contact with no visible results. Target is estimated to have moved half mile 140° from position first reported. Contact has now been lost, am rejoining convoy. (VERSATILE, 1935/13). Your 1830 13. Non submarines are known to exist in following five positions. (C.in C. Rosyth 2000/13, to VERSATILE).

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

E Boats.

VERSATILE escorting Convoy F.S.455 was unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes by E boats at 2230 today off Cromer. At 2245 HOLDERNESS and VANESSA sighted and chased E boats 22 miles N.E. of Southwold. HOLDERNESS considers she damaged and may have sunk one of the enemy.

NELSON
at sea
covering
convoys.

C. in C. H.F. in NELSON with NIGERIA and 3 destroyers left Scapa at 1900 today to cover the convoys in the N.W. Approaches and to be in a position to intercept any enemy raiders attempting to return to Germany. After 0900 Z/17 they will patrol south of Iceland preparatory to covering Operation S.N. 69.

Shipping & Convoys.

East Coast
Convoys.

C. in C. Nore 1500/14 discusses the problem of protection of East Coast convoys against E boat attack.

W/T
Oscillation.

Ships with W/T receivers capable of radiation are not to set W/T watch except to make an enemy report or distress signal, until 4 hours after the dispersal of a convoy.

Mine Reports.

M.V's proceeding independently are to report immediately by W/T the position of any parachute mine or other suspicious object seen to drop from enemy aircraft.

U.Boat Campaign.

No ship has been reported attacked by a U-boat in home waters for about a week past since Convoy O.B. 293 was attacked on 7/5 and S.S. MENTOR was sunk 300 miles S.W. of Iceland, though LAHORE and 4 other ships were reported sunk early on 8/5 in an attack on Convoy S.L. 67 about 200 miles W. of Cape Blanco.

from O.B. 292,

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

With reference to his recent request for aircraft watch on the French west coast ports and the inability of Coastal Command to implement this, C. in C. Plymouth points out that a daily R/C by even one A/C would have a good chance of providing information of incoming ships approaching these ports.

Merchant ship sunk.

F.A.A. torpedo aircraft of the Coastal Command last night carried out offensive patrols from Lister to Horns Reef, in the Heligoland Bight, and from Zeebrugge to the Texel. A 5,000 ton merchant ship was torpedoed and sunk at 2315 15 miles north of Borkum.

Continuous R/C was carried out last night by special equipment A/C off Brest.

Enemy Air Activity.

Night attacks on shipping in the Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights.

Two survivors of trawler ABERDEEN, bombed and gunned in Cardigan Bay, were landed today.

S.S. STANLEIGH was bombed and sunk at 0100 to-day 12 miles west of Bar Light Vessel, Liverpool.

S.S. ARTEMISIA in Convoy F.N.452 was bombed and sunk off Cromer to-night.

TYR (Norwegian) was damaged at Humber L.V. but was towed to Immingham.

Drifter PEACEFUL STAR is reported sunk by air attack early this morning while fishing off Louth.

/Attack....

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Clyde.

The Clyde was attacked last night. Two destroyers in an early stage of construction GOATHLAND and HALDON were damaged at Fairfields and some damage was caused at this works and at John Browns, Clydebank and Yarrows, though the chief delay to work will be caused by shortage of Labour due to dislocation of transport and evacuation of homeless. The Admiralty oil fuel installation received damage. S.S. *CLERMISTON and *TREVARRACK were sunk and ATHENE slightly damaged.

**BR1337 states
(Damaged not
sunk.
see page 105)*

The Nore L.V. was slightly damaged by bombs early this morning. Bombs were dropped near ships in harbour at Sheerness, but no damage is reported.

Mining.

In the air raid on the Glasgow area last night parachute mines fell in the city and mines were dropped in the river which is closed to traffic.

Mines were also dropped last night in the Humber, which was closed from 0141/14 to 1120/14.

Salvage tug BULGER was mined and sunk near the Tyne whilst engaged in salving S.S. EMPIRE BREEZE.

L.L. Drifter JEANNIE LEASK was damaged by a mine off Harwich to-day.

S.S. HERPORT in Convoy F.S. ⁴³⁵ ~~453~~ was mined and sunk off the Wash this evening.

Falmouth was opened this morning.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Ration".

Admty. agree to a proposal of F.O.C.N.A that 4 British destroyers are to be considered overwhelming force versus one French destroyer or leader, but in the case of the leader it is desirable to have 6 destroyers.

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 2054/13 G.M.T. place a surface unit in North Atlantic probably between 54° N. and 58° N., with no evidence of longitude.

S.S. ASIE.
(French).

MARSDALE encountered French S.S. ASIE and a 3000 cargo ship escorted by French light cruiser ALBATROSS at 2000 to-day off Cape Ghir (Morocco), bound for Casablanca but took no action.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Activity.

D/F bearings indicated considerable enemy activity in sector 200° to 260° from Malta early this morning.

SURCOUF.

V.A. Malta, suggests the employment of the Free French S/M Cruiser SURCOUF (last reported at Halifax, N.S) to carry freight to Malta, gun and spare torpedos being landed. (SURCOUF, 2880 tons surface displacement, is the world's largest submarine).

Suez Canal.

All sweeping operations in the Canal were prevented to-day by southerly gale, sand storm and strong tide.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation
"Appearance".

KANDAHAR, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, PARVATI, NETRAVATI and tugs left Aden to-day for Operation "Appearance" off the Coast of Eritrea. At 0229G/14 KANDAHAR reported she was stopped owing to NETRAVATI's tow parting twice, and suggesting the operation be postponed 24 hours.

VILLE DE
VERDUN.

French, passed Sunda Straits yesterday en route for Madagascar, Dakar, Casablanca and Marseilles with a full cargo of rice and pepper.

China.

C. in C. China, makes further proposals for books and cyphers to facilitate Anglo-Dutch-U.S. naval co-operation.

America & West Indies.

U/B
Campaign.

There are indications that U-Boat warfare may be extended to the Western side of the Atlantic. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, has been asked to report on additional forces required to protect the approaches to Halifax, and N.A., Washington, to ascertain unofficially what the U.S. reaction is likely to be if a U-Boat began operating in the neutrality zone.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

U.S.10.

AUSTRALIA, HOBART and SYDNEY are to remain in the S.W. area until required to escort U.S.10.

A warship similar to "Tribal" class was reported to-day by a coast watcher on Keppel Island, travelling north.

War Diary.14. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Use of
Enemy
Rescue
Floats.D/AS.R.S. 31 13/3 Ref. C. in C. Portsmouth
1648/10. D.A/S. R.S. 1440/13.
(Adty. 1336/14.)Movements.5th D.F.5 vessels arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth
0903/14.)M.T.B.'s
to
Ramsgate.Intend to sail all available M.T.B.'s
fitted with silent engines to arrive
Ramsgate at daylight 17th. (C. in C. Nore
1050/14.)TORBAY.My 1115/12. TORBAY is to proceed from
057° 10' N., 013° W., direct to R/V with
TRILLIUM and WINDFLOWER at 0800/17 in
270° Barra Head Light 5 miles. Route thence
to Holy Loch. (C. in C. W.A. 1143/14.)NORFOLK.Is to leave convoys in 22° W., or at
0800/15, whichever is the later, and is
to proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1154/14 to C.S.I.)KING GEORGE V.Your 1746/13. It is the present intention
that KING GEORGE V should return to U.K.
after escorting H.X.115. (A.C.N.S.H.
1258/14.)UNDAUNTED.Unless in pursuit ~~of~~ the enemy you are
not to enter area between latitudes 061°
10' N., and 059° 40' N., and longitudes
000° 50' E., and 3° 10' E., owing to
possibility of enemy minelaying.
(S.9. 1507/14, to UNDAUNTED.)

/RODNEY.....

War Diary.

14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

RODNEY.

Request you keep R.A.(D) and F.O.18 C.S. informed of movement RODNEY and Convoy during my absence at sea.
(C. in C. H.F. 1602/14 to Adty.)

EXETER.

A.M. 1324/13. EXETER cannot proceed to the Sound until 22/3, for the following reasons. Propose therefore EXETER should sail p.m. 25th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1617/14.)

HOOD.

To proceed to Halifax as necessary to act as ocean escort to convoy HX 118 sailing from Halifax on 31/3. (C. in C. H.F.1623/14.)

L.27.

Cancel para. 9 of C. in C. Plymouth's 1838/11. You are to leave patrol after dark 17th and proceed diving by day to r.v. 180 St. Catherines 5 miles at 0645/19. Route. (S.5. 1707/14 to L.27.)

SPIREA.
GENTIAN.

My 1255/11. SPIREA probably sailing with O G 57 will relieve GENTIAN.(C. in C.W.A. 1709/14, to VACNA.).

REVENGE.

My 1743/13. Sailed. E.T.A. to read 1000/16. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1928/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

SEALION.

Following movements may affect you.
(S.6. 2215/14 to SEALION.)

War Diary.14. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.East Coast
A/P.Patrols.

Request special A/P patrols quoted in my 1022/10 and 1026/10 be operated again tonight, and until further notice. (C. in C. Nore 0920/14.)

ARGUS.

Adty., 1346/12/3. It is possible that ARGUS will not be able to carry out programme of embarkation by the specified date on account of the river being closed to all navigation until free of mines. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1228/14.)

QD.

Operation Q D will be carried out today Friday. (C. in C. Nore 1259/14.)

Interception
of Enemy
Forces.

Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in NELSON, NIGERIA, ESCAPADE, ACTIVE, and BOADICEA. (A.C.O.S. 1903/14.)

VERSATILE
attacked
by E-Boat.One E Boat in sight bearing 010, one mile, course 070, my position 056 Cromer 14 miles. (VERSATILE 2230/14.)
2 Torpedoes fired at me. No hits. (VERSATILE 2237/14.)British Air Activity.A/S Escorts.

18 Group A/S escorts today. One Sunderland to vicinity 60° 30' N., 9° 20' W. For onward bound shipping. Single sorties Hudsons to vicinity 59° 57' N. 10° 10' W., and 58° 50' N. 9° 30' W., for inward bound shipping. (C. in C. Rosyth 0552/14.)

Patrols.Following Patrols are being flown today:
~~SA 3~~ S A 3 ~~SA 3~~ T. (C. in C. Rosyth 0940/14.)

/Request.....

War Diary.14. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity Contd.Patrols.

Request following air R/C (a) R 1 and R 2, preference being given to R 2 at dawn, then evening and lastly mid-day. Starting dawn 15/3. (b) ~~R 2~~ as in your 0326/5/2. Starting 15/3. This is less important than R 2. (c) Aircraft from Iceland to watch Denmark Straits. If complete reconnaissance not practicable it should be assumed that passage will be made at night. Start patrols 15/3.

2. The object is to intercept enemy forces returning to Germany and to provide cover for convoys in North West Approaches. It is also required to provide cover for Rear Admiral M in laying S.N.69.

(C. in C. H.F. 1557/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Admiralty request patrol of Denmark Strait during daylight 15/3 and Sunday 16/3, to locate enemy vessels suspected to be breaking through to eastwards. (War Office M.O.8. 1750/14 to Iceland Force.)

Am carrying out two patrols 15/3. First patrol leaving base first light. Second patrol leaving base 1330 hours G.M.T. Further (?patrol) will be carried out on 16/3 unless receive instructions to contrary. (G.O.C. Iceland Force 2100/14.). Battle aircraft will carry out following patrol Denmark Straits tomorrow. Kaldadarnes Staalbjerghuk 065° 30' N., 024° 30' W., 066° 55' N., 027° W., to 065° N., 027° West to Kaldadarnes. First patrol leaving daylight, second patrol 1330. Similar patrols will be carried out Sunday weather permitting. (F.O. Iceland 2115/14.).

Your 1557/14. Patrols R 1, R 2 and ~~R 2~~ will be flown by Sunderland Aircraft of 18 Group to-morrow arriving at extremity at dawn. (C. in C. Rosyth 2212/14 to C. in C. H.F.).

Own A/C
fired on.

Reference our X333 (T.O.O. 1507) 27/2. Request you expedite reply. (Air Ministry, F.O.6. 1000/14 to Adty.).

/Air Watch.....

War Diary.

14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Air Watch
on French
Ports.

H.Q.C.C's 1250/13. My 1918/10 only asked for reconnaissance for incoming ships approaching French west coast ports on the assumption that they would make these ports soon after daylight.

2. A daily reconnaissance even by one aircraft would have a good chance of providing the required information. It is realized that this reconnaissance could not be completely efficient. It would also be very useful in locating shipping in the Approaches to the Bay of Biscay.(C. in C. Plymouth 1930/14.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE FROST.
(Bombed
and sunk
13/3.)

Arrived rescue tug SEINE with survivors from EMPIRE FROST. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0158/14.)

Ramsgate
bombed.

At 0040 A single enemy aircraft dropped one H.E. Bomb in a field near Allenby Road, Ramsgate. No casualties and only slight damage to property. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0722/14.)

ESSEX LANCE
(Bombed 12/3.)

Now reported by Cromer Coxswain ESSEX LANCE afloat. Immediate air protection and escort required as vessel is fully laden and open target. (Salvage Officer 0807/14 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Brest
Area.

There has been considerable G.N.A. activity during the early hours of this morning in the Brest area. At least seven aircraft have been engaged. (D.D.I.C. 0942/14.)

/Clyde

War Diary.14. 3. 1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.Clyde Shipyards
Damage in Air
Raid. 13/14.
GOATHLAND
HALDON damaged.
(Destroyers)

Main damage to Clyde shipyards in last nights raid so far reported comprises the following. (W.P.S. Scottish Area 1150/14.)

Convoy
E.N. 84.
on 11/3.

Evidence from Commodore of Convoy E.N.84, and N.O.I.C. Dundee shows strong probability that A/C which crashed off Bell Rock about 2040/11/3 from which prisoners were taken by M/S GADFLY was brought down by fouling masthead of S.S. JAMAICA PRODUCER. (C. in C. Rosyth 1435/14.)

Thames
Estuary.
Nore L.V.
damaged.

At 0044 an aircraft, which had previously been circling the area, passed at about 100 feet height from North to South over ships anchored 190° 3½ cables from the Nore Light Vessel and dropped 2 bombs causing slight damage.

At 0103 a low flying aircraft passed over Sheerness Harbour from North to South and dropped 2 bombs near ships in the harbour. No minelaying activities suspected. (SO.TLD.F.1443/14.)

Glasgow
Area
attacked.

Moderately intense air raid Glasgow area continuously from 2100/13 till 0545/14. ANTHONY reports superficial damage. No other war ships in commission have reported any damage but damage to new construction ships and ships converting if any not yet known. Naval casualties 2 slightly wounded. John Brown's, Yarrow's, and Fairfields received hits but extent of damage not yet known. Clydebank and Scotstoun suffered considerable damage. Admiralty oil fuel installation at Dalnottar and Old Kilpatrick: tanks hit. (details.) Other damage. Numerous bombs and parachute mines dropped throughout City area and 10 or 11 of these have been identified as unexploded parachute mines.

/A few.....

War Diary.14. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.Glasgow
Area
attacked.

A few mines or bombs fell in the river, and river is closed to traffic whilst being swept by skids: thereafter river will be opened but swept daily until considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1509/14, S.C.E. Glasgow 1520/14.)

ABERDEEN.

*BR. 1337 states 11/3
Bombed & machine gunned.
by a/c CRAGPOOL*

(Fishing Trawler) Two survivors Belgian Nationality ex ABERDEEN landed Barry Docks from S.S. CRAIGPOOL. Trawler bombed and machine gunned in Cardigan Bay. Remainder of crew eight British lost. (N.O.I.C. Barry 2000/14.)

Irish Sea.

Night attacks on Shipping in Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2030/14.)

Portland.

At 2230/14 enemy A/C dropped 3 H.E. bombs on foreshore below ATTACK. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2347/14.)

STANLEIGH.

(British, 1802 Tons.) Bombed and sunk at 0100/14, 12 miles West of Bar Light Vessel, Liverpool. Six survivors picked up. (D.S. 557.)

Convoy F.N. 32.
TYR.

(Norwegian, 4265 Tons.) Damaged by Near Miss at 2100/14 off the Humber Light Vessel. (D.O.R. 16/3.)

War Diary.14.3.41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Humber.

Small number of mines dropped. Humber closed. (F.O. Humber 0141/14.).
Humber is open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1120/14.).

Clyde.

River Clyde closed to all navigation above Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0718/14.).

NGATIRA.
Mined 13/3.)

My 1345/13. NGATIRA has been refloated and towed into docks at Barry. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0909/14.).

BULGER.
sunk.

(Salvage tug.) Engaged in salvaging S.S. EMPIRE BREEZE, mined in Druridge Bay and sunk. Crew all saved. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0917/14.).

Z.M.E.23.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1700 today for Z M E 23 to lay at 2225 returning on completion about 0345 15th. (PLOVER 1038/14.).

Falmouth.

Cancel my 1435/13. Port of Falmouth open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1112/14.).

BS.51.

Intend TEVIOT BANK, KITTIWAKE, and LA MELPOMENE to sail from Spurn Point at 1700/15, and take departure from 20 G buoy at 0930/16. Returning to 20G. buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1100/16. (S.O. M/L. Immingham 1135/14, and 1302/14.).

9th M/S.F.

Arrival 9th M.S.F. (6 ships.).
C. in C. Portsmouth 1157/14.).

SAMLANES.
Mined and
Sunk 13/3.)

(Norwegian, 842 Tons). My 1818/13. Vessel believed to be SAMLANES. Left Swansea noon/12th for Falmouth in company with BOTNE, parted company off Bann Shoal. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1220/14.).

/Six LL.....

War Diary.14. 3. 41.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining Contd.Six LL.
Trawlers
for
Oban.

In order to strengthen the LL M/S Force in the Western Approaches C in C Nore is requested to sail four and C in C Rosyth two LL trawlers or whalers not fitted S.A. north about for Oban. The operating bases of these ships is at the discretion of C. in C. W.A. (D.M.S. 1514/14.).

Two double L Trawlers not fitted S A are to be sailed Northabout in first available F N convoy to Methil for onward routeing to Oban as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Nore 1740/14 to F.O. Yarmouth.).

2 LL Trawlers not fitted S.A. are to be sailed northabout in first available F N Convoy to Methil for onward routeing to Oban as soon as practicable. (C. in C. Nore 2342/14 to Commodore, Sheerness.).

Plymouth.
Request for
two LL
trawlers.

Recent casualties have reduced the magnetic M/S at Plymouth. Request you will sail two 'LL(Trawlers to Plymouth as soon as convenient. (D.M.S. 1516/14 to F.O.I.C. Portland.).

Procedure
for
Minesweepers
sweeping
ahead of
Convoys.

Reply to Adty., 2206/12 and C in C Portsmouth 0205/89, of 1/1/40.(C. in C. Nore 1750/14.).

Harwich
2 Mines
detonated.
JEANNIE LEASK
(LL Drifter).
damaged.

One magnetic mine detonated by "LL" Drifter JEANNIE LEASK at 1252 in 51° 44' N. 1° 07.5'E. One mine, presumed accoustic, detonated simultaneously on starboard bow close to. Drifter making water, beached in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1938/14.).

HERPORT.

(British, 2633 Tons.). In F.S. 35. Mined and sunk in 053° 15' 25" N., 001° 05' E. Wreck dangerous to navigation. EGLINTON and BASSET picking up survivors. (VERSATILE 1945/14.). 33 Survivors on board EGLINTON and BASSET, 5 missing. (EGLINTON 2029/14, 2119/14.).

War Diary.

14. 3. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Heligoland,
Bight.

Night 12/13 March. At 0120/13 in 54° 5' N., 8° 5' E., a fast ship causing very considerable wash like a torpedo boat on course 270°. Heligoland, six miles S.S.W. at 2330 hrs., two capital ships, one possibly a battle cruiser, the other possibly a pocket battleship, appeared to be stationary as no wake was observed, heading 170°. Near to these ships were six smaller ships all stationary. On the north east side of Heligoland at 0055/13, about a dozen small ships possibly destroyers appeared to be at anchor heading south east, no wake was seen. In 53° 53' N., 7° E., at 0030/13, two large cruisers of approximately 10,000 tons in line astern heading 030° unable estimate speed, followed by an "E" boat. (H.Q.B.C. 0520/14.).

German
Main
Units.

Latest known disposition.
(D.D.I.C. 1347/14, and 1801/14.).

E-Boat.

Enemy motor torpedo boat course 120 degrees, speed 30 knots. My position 046 WBY 8. (S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn. 1507/14.). My 1507/ Did not answer challenge. Appearance British. Was unable close. (S.O. 4th Detached Sqdn., 1528/14.). Indications of E boats off Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore 2125/14.). Two E. Boats bearing 060°. My position Lowestoft 11. (VANESSA 2245/14.). One E Boat in sight bearing 130° my position 048 Southwold 22. (HOLDERNESS 2245/14.). E.-Boat in sight bearing 060°. My position Southwold 29. (HOLDERNESS 2302/14.).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.14.3.1941.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.ALYNBANK

(A/A ship). Defect has arisen. Revised date for completion cannot be given till parts are received. (A.S. Rosyth, 1300/14).

AUBRIETIA.

AUBRIETIA, speed reduced to 10 knots by M.P. Slide Valve in main engine. Request instructions.
(AUBRIETIA 2356/14).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.14.3.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.General.W/T
Oscillation.

A.M. 1805/4. Reported that when outward bound convoys disperse all vessels at once switch on their wireless receivers and that excessive mass oscillation immediately results.

Ships with W/T receivers capable of radiation are to be instructed not to set W/T watch, except to make an enemy report or distress signal, until four hours after the convoy has been dispersed, by which time the ships would be widely separated on the dispersal star.

(D.T.D. 1440/14 to N.C.S.O's.)

East Coast Convoys

Cic Nore 1500/14 see Lim C/ty.

South Irish
Sea.

My 1705/6. (sailing of shipping in South Irish Sea owing to menace of Air Attack). Ships sailed independently from Clyde and Belfast and these from E.N. Convoys on leaving Liverpool portion if capable of 15 knots should proceed independently observing that the passage should be made during dark hours in order to arrive well up Bristol Channel at daylight.

(C.in C. W.A. 1446/14).

Independently routed ships proceeding south through the Irish Sea at less than 15 knots and bound South of Liverpool are to signal by W/T to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Plymouth in M.N.C. recoded their estimated time of crossing 53° 48' N. This signal should be made when passing the Mull of Cantire, to facilitate provision of A/A escort.

(D.T.D. 1710/14 to C.in C's A.W.I. S.A. etc.)

H.X. and
S.C. Routes.

H.X.116 and subsequent even-numbered HX convoys will until further notice reduce speed of advance to that of SC convoy from overtaking until ocean escort leaves, and SC convoys are to be routed 80 miles on starboard beam of the appropriate HX convoy for this period.

(D.T.D. 1708/14 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

HOME COMMANDS

Supply & Convoys.

464A

15.3.41

File

~~1500/14th March.~~

MOST SECRET

POSTAGRAM.

IN

From C. in C., Nore.

Date: 15.3.41.

Recd: 1255,

~~Addressed Secretary of the Admiralty.~~

~~5.11.2.~~ It must be recognised that in many ways our convoys on the East Coast are even more vulnerable than those in the Atlantic.

2. The U. boat is worse in the West but it operates largely as a surface torpedo boat. It is paralleled on the East Coast by the motor torpedo boat which is just as elusive and much faster.

3. The number and nearness of the enemy bases, the continual mining and the narrow and difficult Channels of the East Coast need no emphasis. The enemy has a perfect target for 24 hours of each day, which is made worse by the deplorable fact that more than half our convoys have to travel at 6½ knots while even the so-called fast convoy moves at only 8 knots.

4. I have not in the past needed to stress these points due to our extraordinary good fortune in keeping losses down to a low level but it is now apparent that the enemy realise how easy it is to attack and we must expect that a large increase in the number of E boats operating will make our problem greatly more difficult.

5. Remedies are hard to find. If we increase the number of destroyer escorts we also provide an increase in the number of torpedo targets though any increase is of great value if the escorts are adequately armed. If we hold up convoys for one night or for two we make the situation much worse on subsequent nights.

6. Our own Motor Torpedo Boats are smaller and less seaworthy than the enemy's and far fewer in number. M.L.'s have insufficient speed and fighting power. The R.A.F. make every endeavour to help and would be of much assistance if they could send machines to patrol off the enemy ports every evening, find out their line of advance, and attack with cannon gun or other suitable weapons. Unfortunately the weather has been such that although E boats could operate, in the last fifteen nights aircraft could fly for this duty on one night only! Another solution would be to abolish the slow convoys entirely and send their cargoes across England by road and rail. No doubt difficult but better than having our cargoes sunk. It is hoped that this may be found feasible.

7. Two urgent needs at the moment are to provide A.S.V. to all escort vessels and to improve their ahead fire especially in destroyers. The provision of Oerlikon guns for all escort vessels with bridge sponsons and H.V. 2 pdr. Pom-poms instead of L.V. would be of great value.

8. I fully concur in the recommendations of C. in C., Rosyth in his letter 1055/0855 of 9th March 1941.

(C. in C., 1500/14, *5 Admiralty*)

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. (3)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I. (4)

~~Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.I.~~

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.A/S.W.

D.M.S.

I.P.

W.D.

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.14.3.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)General.
(Contd.)Enemy A/Cs.
in N.W.
Approaches.

For N.C.S.O's. Ref: A.M.S.I.311 and A.M.1713 of 29/1. Commodores of convoys and Masters are to be warned that long-range enemy F.W.200 (Condor) aircraft may be expected to operate in the area covered by a circle with a radius of 1000 miles from Bordeaux, Brest or Stavanger. This and the Sunderland are the only 4-engined aircraft at present likely to be met in N.W. Approaches.

F.W.200 (Condor) is a land plane with no structure below the level of the plane. The Sunderland is a flying boat with wing tip floats and a large hull beneath the wings.

(D.T.D. 1809/14 to A.I.G. 47 and 48).

Reporting
of Mines.

A.M. "ER". Merchant ships proceeding independently are immediately to report by W/T the position of any parachute mine or other suspicious object seen to drop from enemy aircraft. A.M.S.I.89 and "BI" are cancelled.

(D.T.D. 1836/14 to C.B.M.S. all areas).

Kites and
Balloons.

Ref: A message 1054/27/2. Instructions are not applicable to vessels in channel convoys or to mobile waterborne balloon barrages at Bristol Channel Falmouth River Tyne, Swansea and River Humber with will continue to operate as formerly.

(D.T.D. 2118/14 to "A" message).

Ocean
Convoys.

S.C.23.

41 hours late at R/V heavy weather one straggler. EMPIRE FROST bombed and sunk in Bristol Channel. ULLAPOOL mined and sunk at anchor in Mersey.

(D.T.D. 1814/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.14.3.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.110.

32 hours late at R/V with all ships, heavy weather. TACOMA CITY mined and sunk in Mersey after arrival.
(D.T.D. 1815/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.109.

Delayed two days by heavy weather and much scattered. EMPIRE TIGER foundered 26/27 /2. RICHMOND HILL broke down, now arrived Iceland. PERSIER stranded south coast of Iceland. CITY OF ORAN fuel shortage arrived Reykjavik. CADILLAC and PACIFIC torpedoed and sunk. EFFNA and AUGVALD not yet accounted for.
(D.T.D. 1816/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic.

My 1738/10. Canso Radio, Nova Scotia, intercepted weak warship raider distress signals from two unknown ships at 0417/12 B.S.T. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU not located since 8/3 and might have moved Northwestwards but distress messages were too vague to confirm this. At 1120/13, SCARBOROUGH intercepted two ex. Norwegian whale catchers which scuttled themselves 550 miles W. by N. of Cape Finisterre. They had been captured by a raider in South Atlantic. They had been fuelled by a large German tanker in 27° N. 42° W. A 7000-ton raider was in company. No news of whale refineries but they may be further North attempting to reach Germany. No news of SCHEER but informant who stated she was due to arrive Germany about 1/4 was correct about whalers returning home. Vague D/F indications of a unit somewhere to the South of Ascension on 11/3.

South Atlantic

Indian & Pacific Oceans.

No fresh information. (D.D.I.C. 1335/14 to C. in C. H.F. F.O.C.N.A etc).

Operating methods.

Following from Alsatian steward in the Indian Ocean Raider's Supply Ship (A.2).
I. Visual recognition signals between German Merchant Vessels or raiders and warships (Details).
II. All merchant raiders have numbers for example Indian Ocean Raider No. 16 South Atlantic No. 21 and No. 33, Pacific Ocean Raiders No. 41 and 3. Other numbers not known. Warships do not have numbers.
III. When calling a warship, raider or captured vessel by lamp, false names are used. These names change probably once a fortnight. Names which have been used thus recently in Indian Ocean are. (a) In German Armed Ship SCHEER-SOPHIE TSESA (Spelling of latter half uncertain) (b) For Number 16 - VILLI VILLI (c) For TANNENFELS - TONI IV. Raider 33 was working South Atlantic at the end of February and has done most damage so far. (D.D.I.C. 2117/14).

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Ration",
BANGKOK.

Your 2255/13. Request full description of BANGKOK if it is available. (F.O.C.N.A. 0918/14 to Admty). My 2107/12. Description of BANGKOK as follows. (F.O.C.N.A. 0929/14, 1612/14 to N.A. Station D.D.I.C. 1429/14 to F.O.C.N.A)

British bombs
defective.
GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE
damaged.
Embarkation
ports Bari,
Naples.

From U.S.N.A. Rome.
(1) On average 50 per cent of our bombs do not explode.
(2) (3) Cruiser ^{GIOVANNI DELLE} BANDE NERE damaged mine several weeks ago now dock Naples. This is not cruiser same class sunk recently.
(4) Navy and Air Force have lost nerve.
(5) More ships sunk en route Albania than we believe.
(6) Germans and material for Tripoli embarked BARI Naples. (N.A. Madrid 1023/14).
She is under the Italian flag

N.I.D. Comment.

Para. 2. Report from N.A. Washington on 12/2 (B.3) stated that she was at Naples repairing serious mine damage.

Convoy
H.G. 56.

Departure FOLKESTONE, OLYMPUS, escorting H.G. 56 screened by VELOX until darkness/19. GERANIUM darkness/21. VERBENA as requisite to reach Gibraltar a.m./21. Request C. in C. W.A. may repeat to F.O.C.N.A. signal concerning submarine with H.G. and O.G. convoy while on Home Station. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1616/14).

NORD ATLANTIC
GERDA VITH
(German).

My 1945/12 according to report (C.O) sailing of NORD ATLANTIC is not to take place at present. Satisfied GERDA VITH reported to be loading 300 tons of lubricating oil and therefore believed preparing to sail. (Consul, Vigo, 1100/14 to Admty).

/H.G. 56.....

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

H.G. 56.
"Ration".

Admty 2255/13. As H.G. 56 consists of over 30 ships, I intend to sail one Vee destroyer as extra escort. FAULKNER and FORESTER expected from Freetown today. Until these ships are available four destroyers only can be provided for operation "~~RATION~~. "Ration!"

Admty 1407/10/1 para 2 (d) 1. I shall consider overwhelming force to apply only to ships on the spot and not to potential support. Four destroyers to be considered overwhelming in case of escort vessels only, and not if a French destroyer or leader is escorting. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/14 to Admty).

Your 1144/14. Concur regarding potential support. Admiralty are prepared to accept that 4 British destroyers are to be considered overwhelming versus one French destroyer or leader but in the case of the leader it is desirable if practicable to have 6 of our destroyers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2102/14 to F.O.C.N.A).

My 1144. Following received from Capt. (D) 8. FAULKNER and FORESTER E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900/16. Following survivors of merchant ship, 54 officers 16 white ratings and 252 lascars. (F.O.C.N.A. 1836/14 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings from Home Stations at 2034/13 G.M.T. indicate a surface unit may be in North Atlantic probably between 54° N. and 58° N. No evidence of Longitude. (D.D.I.C. 1234/14).

RENE PAUL.

Motor vessel under Belgian flag leaving Lisbon shortly for Barcelona and Marseilles via Gibraltar on special mission. Detain her pending further signal as it is desired to delay her arrival Marseilles and it is undesirable for her to remain Lisbon. (D.E.W.D. 1407/14 to F.O.C.N. A).

/ASAKA.....

War Diary.14.5.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd);ASAKA MARU.

Request information (a) how much oil she asked for? (b) how much she actually took: (c) where she got it from: (d) if from British controlled source, on whose authority. (D.N.I. 1551/14 to N.A. Lisbon).

H.G. 56,
escort.

Departure FOLKESTONE, OLYMPUS, escorting H.G. 56 screened by VELOX until darkness 19/3, GERANIUM darkness 21/3, VERBENA as requisite to reach Gibraltar a.m./21. (S.O.I. Gib. 1616/14). *p. 468*

RENOWN &
ARK ROYAL.

Operations Vol. p. 123.
A.T. 1416/9. To leave convoy S.L. 67 at dusk 19/3 and proceed at best speed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 2006/14 to F.O. Force H).

LIVORNO
SPEZIA
(German).

13/3 departure LIVORNO 14/3 SPEZIA both for Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 2030/14).

Escorted
French
Ships.

French ship ASIE and 3000 tons cargo ship escorted by Fr. Light Cruiser ALBATROS in 030° 20' N. 010° 17' W. at 2000/14 bound for Casablanca 10 knots. Allowed to proceed. B.N. 749 undecypherable. (MARSDALE 2100/14).

OCTANE.
SUROIT.

Your 1100/15/2. French tanker OCTANE to be sailed in Convoy destination Swansea where she will be requisitioned. Will telegraph again regarding SUROIT, Chief Engineer sails from U.K. 16/3. (D.S.T. 2107/14 to F.O.C.N.A).

French
Convoys.

Gibraltar Q755/14 Bosnia, armed trawler L'AJACCIEUNE escorting French merchant ships BOURGES, ST. LOUIS, PLATON, in ballast and IMERETHIE II, Laden, passed west bound. 1431 unknown French trawler escorting French Merchant ships BRESTOIS, GABRIEL, GUIST'HAU, ASTREE, ROUBASIEN all laden passed east bound. (S.O.I. Gib., 2115/14).

/French.....

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd)

French merchant ships.

Revised orders from French Admiralty for scuttling or immobilization of Merchant ships to avoid capture by H.M. Ships. (D.N.I. 2222/15 to C's in C. Abroad).

South Atlantic.

MAHRONDA.
ELENI.

Overdue shipping my 1517/12. MAHRONDA arrived Capetown. Greek ELENI due Capetown 10/3 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 0928B/14).

CAP DES PALMES.

My 2357/18/2. CAP DES PALMES sailed for U.K. in S.L. 68. (C. in C. S.A. 0937/14).

Convoy Stragglers.

Your 1238/26/2 and N.C.S.O. Freetown's 1203/27/2. Request reasons for vessels dropping out of convoy owing to shortage of bunkers may be carefully investigated by Ministry of Shipping and any information obtained passed to N.C.S.O. and M.S.R. Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 0939/14 to Admty).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.

My 1935/7. To be sailed in accordance, with Admty 1832/6/3 para 1. (C. in C. S.A. 1001/14 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MALAYA.
WISHART.

Departures ^{Simonstown} 0930/14 MALAYA, WISHART, in accordance with C. in C. S.A's 2015N/13/3. (C. in C. S.A. 1035N/14 to Admty).

W.S.6.
fuelling.

Your 0140/13. To avoid considerable delay in fuelling W.S.6. at Durban, request furnace oil tanker may be detached for fuelling ships direct. (F O.I.C. Simonstown 1048B/14 to D. of S.T).

/AINDERBY.....

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

AINDERBY.

British ship AINDERBY Santos departure 23/2 due Freetown 10/3 has not arrived. (S.O.(I). Freetown 1258/14).

MADRAS CITY.
suspicious
warship
18/2.

Your 1523/9 (W.R. unable to trace) Master MADRAS CITY reports: Just before daylight 18/2 he was challenged by a ship flashing "What Ship". MADRAS CITY turned away and flashed his signal letters G B P B, challenger thereafter continued flashing what ship and MADRAS CITY replied G B P B on each occasion until day broke when warship closed MADRAS CITY and could read name on bows. (N.C.S.O. Lagos 1400/14 to Admty).

Africa
Coast
Defence.

C. in C. S.A. 1405N/14 to Admty (See Operations Volume).

Operation
"Pageant".

Following despatched ^{"Pageant"}~~PAGEANT~~ 4/3 (Details) (Air Ministry 1442/14 to R.A.F. Takoradi etc)

Re Sweeps
to be sent
to Turkey
and Aden.

(D.M.S. 1845/14 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Concentrated
patrol of
Plate area
by Cruisers.

My 2311/3. Cruisers fuelled FO 13/3 now patrolling Outer Plate Area working to northward probably fuelling from oiler ARNDALE off San Sebastian Island about 24/3. Cruisers then return to L 32 and oiler ARNDALE proceed to Trinidad. ASTURIAS leave Buenos Aires 20/3 and return K 32 K 33. 1937Z/14.

War Diary.

14.5.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1128/10. Concur. Future movements (D.O.D.(F) 0015/14 to C. in C. Med) See Mediterranean Volume.

Enemy Activity.

From D/F bearing there is considerable enemy activity in sector 200° to 260° from Malta. (Capt. S.I, 0421/14 to UPRIGHT).

SURCOUF as freight carrier.

In view of difficulties of running convoys to Malta suggest SURCOUF might be adapted to carry freight, gun and spare torpedoes being landed. Normal convoy would have to be brought in at intervals to deal with bulky cargoes such as wheat, coal and cased oils, also refrigerated goods, but SURCOUF would be made useful for keeping up stocks of less bulky but equally important services and civilian stores. (V.A. Malta 1025/14 to C.in C. Med.).

Mining of Suez Canal.

Re use of seismographs to locate mines. (C. in C. Med 1252/14). V.A. Malta 1025/14. Strongly support this suggestion and request practicability be investigated urgently. (C. in C. Med 1524/14)

Dekheila.

Terms of tenure of Dekheila to be used for Fleet Air Arm purposes for the duration of the war. (R.A. Alexandria 1110/14)

Tripoli bombed.

Night 12/13. 3 Wellingtons dropped 5000 lbs along main quayside and naval basin Tripoli causing violent explosion near lighthouse. 4th Wellington unable locate Tripoli bombed Zlitene, hitting a building.

Valona 1 M.V. sunk by F.A.A. torpedo.

~~12/13~~. Night 12/13. 3 Blenheims dropped 3025 lbs. bombs on aerodrome and foreshore Valona and Saseno Island, some bursting near railway north of jetty Valona. 5 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping Valona with torpedoes, sinking 1 ship. 1 Swordfish failed to return. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1159/14).

/Salonika.....

M E S S A G E. 1233/14th March.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From C. in C., Mediterranean. Date. 17.3.41.
Recd. 1007.

Naval Cypher "F" by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated Ambassador Cairo for Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

637. At request of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs I arranged for Admiral Godfroy to go to Cairo for interview on 10th March. The Admiral subsequently asked if Captain Dick of my staff could come to see him so that he could inform me of results of meeting. The following points arose.

2. The Admiral handed the Foreign Secretary a memorandum asking that his squadron might return to French port and giving his reasons.

My impression is that this was really a formality which he thought advisable. He has since asked whether we would allow the French S/M PROTEE to go to Indo China under proper safeguard and if his Government agreed. Request reply on this point in due course. The ship would first have to be docked which would be difficult to arrange.

3. The Admiral was extremely appreciative both at having been given an interview and at consideration given to him in discussing his affairs.

4. The Foreign Secretary informed me however that though interview was cordial he did not feel that the Admiral was likely to join us. This is in accordance with my impression and my report on the point. The Admiral will I consider follow Vichy and Marshal Petain. He does not trust Admiral Darlan though he thinks that if handled carefully and with consideration for his touchy feelings we might swing the latter more to our side. I do not think he would obey Laval and he definitely states that neither he nor his men would obey any orders to attack us.

5. The Admiral considers that we should endeavour to get our consul into France in particular to Lyons ostensibly to deal with blockade question as this would reestablish contact. He rather surprisingly said that we were quite within our rights to take French ships in to examine for contraband but could not do this and confiscate cargo instead of capturing ships themselves which caused so much resentment. He gave the impression that negotiations might be possible on this point. The Admiral is of course not now in close touch with French opinion but these points might be of use.

1233/14

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. ()
& D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C.
D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)
Ed. of M. (31)(for action)
D.T.D.
I.P.
D.

War Diary.

14.3.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Salonika.
shipping.

Reply to Admty 1538/13. (N.A. Athens 1305/14)
See Mediterranean Volume.

A.S.19.

9 ships for Port Said, 1 Alexandria,
1 Suda Bay (list) (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1310/14
to C. in C. Med).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1403/12. Request reply to last
two paras. of A.T. 0109/11 which were:-
(d) Structural strength. (e) Ability to
operate aircraft. (D.O.D.(F) 1324/14 to
ILLUSTRIOUS).

Sailings,
Mersin to
Port Said.

My 1024/13 para (C) first ship ISTIKBAL
should leave Mersin for Port Said approx.
17/3. Second ship will be ready to sail
one week later.
(2) C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area
informed of full details. (N.A. Ankara
1718/14).

Spanish
S/M's.

Your 1335/11. Adty message 373A of 28/8/40
and 452A of 8/10/1940 do not appear to
make provision for the special agreement
regarding movements of Spanish submarines
in Strait of Gibraltar referred to in
Adty message 1720/31/12/1939 and confirmed
by N.A. Madrid's 1340/7/1/40. Can it be
assumed that the agreement is still in force.
(C. in C. Med 1726/14 to Admty).

Mining of
Suez Canal.

Situation at 2000/14. No change. All
sweeping operations prevented by Southerly
Gale, sand storm and strong tide.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1822/14).

Sweepers,
Turkey.

Admiral Kelly's 1215/10. Speed of 6 or 7
knots will suffice for S.A. and L.L. Sweepers
if no better vessels can be found.
(D.M.S. 1843/14 to C. in C. Med).

Suez.

Position 14/3 heavy weather has stopped
all work in Suez Roads. (D.S.T.O. Suez
1910/14).

War Diary14.3.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesKANDAHAR
NETRAVATI

My position 205° Ras Marshag 10. Stopped owing to NETRAVATI's tow parting twice. Due to this am delaying sailing. Probably convoy will be some hours late. Submit consideration be given to postponing operation 24 hours. (KANDAHAR, 0229C/14 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

Enemy M.V's
Scuttling

My 0520/12 (Re warning Italians about scuttling of Merchant ships) General Wavell asks Admiralty to take no action without consulting him of approximate date. (C. in C., E.I., 0622/14 to Admty.)

Raider ATLANTIS
(Now TAMESIS)Description.

(8) Mines were laid by this ship, route Indian Ocean about a year ago off Cape of Good Hope.
(9) Confirm one seaplane carried.
(11) Ship extremely well fitted out with spares, repair shops and artificers.
(C. in C., E.I., 1152/14)

W.S. 6.

P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1301/13. Comply with my 0644/13. (C. in C., E.I., 1308Z/14 to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

Transport
Service

Your 2059/8. Subject concurrence C. in C. E.I., propose responsibility S.T.O. Egypt extends to all ports in Eritrea and D.S.T.O. Mombasa to all ports in Somaliland. (D. of S.T., 1630 to S.T.O. Egypt.)

NIDARLAND
KATTEGAT

Have you news of these Norwegian ships both due Colachel? (D.T.D. 1817/14 to S.O.I. Colombo)

Sweeps for
Turkey

Two magnet sweeps Mark II 3 star with spares are to be forwarded at the earliest opportunity to Port Said to be held available for Turkish Govt. (D.M.S. 1844/14 to N.O.I.C., Aden.)

/Operation....

War Diary14.3.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.Operation
"Appearance"Departure KANDAHAR, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, PARVATI, NETRAVATI and Tug ZEILA and RIO NERVIAN for Operation "Appearance" (N.O.I.C., Aden, 1950Z/14) *Further list p. 505.*ChinaVILLE DE VERDUN
(French)Following is a repetition of my 0753Z/11 Departure 9/3 French ship VILLE DE VERDUN for Madagascar, Dakar, Casablanca and Marseilles. Full cargo of rice and 150 tons pepper. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0131Z/14, to Admty.) Passed Sunda Straits 13/3 (G.O.S. Singapore 1505/14 to C. in C., E.I.) *N.T. in W.D.*TAMESIS

Admty. 1954/8 and your 0319/9. Norwegian TAMESIS arrived. Agents request instructions that ship should not proceed North of Hong Kong and that cargo must be discharged here. They consider if ship proceeds Shanghai and there unloads cargo destined Japan that Japanese may interfere with ship. (Comm. Hong Kong, 0947Z/14 to C. in C., China)

Anglo-Dutch
Co-operation

Your 1908/11/2. It has been found necessary to extend distribution of locally produced Anglo-Dutch books to U.S. Asiatic Fleet. There are now two sets of inter allied books in Far East but no cypher common to all three nations. Consider it essential permission be given for Admiralty-produced Anglo-American U.S. books to be distributed in sealed envelopes to Dutch. (C. in C., China, 1403/14 to Admty.)

War Diary

14.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Orders for
VAN KINSBERGEN,
CARADOC

Italian ships ANTEO and RAPALLO may sail shortly from Cartagena. VAN KINSBERGEN fuel Curacoa forthwith embark telegraphists and proceed at 20 knots to patrol off Cartagena. CARADOC proceed Jamaica to fuel thence proceed to relieve VAN KINSBERGEN off Cartagena. Before leaving Jamaica CARADOC instruct VAN KINSBERGEN as to R.V. Ships patrolling off Cartagena endeavour to avoid being sighted. Curacoa inform VAN KINSBERGEN. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1031/14)

Requirements
for homeward
passages from
Bermuda

Owing to (A) Upper limit of speed for ships sailing in convoy having been lowered to 13 knots (B) Suspension of PSNC service. (C) Suspension of BHX convoys, requirements for homeward passages from Bermuda are becoming increasingly difficult to meet.
2. Passage requirements (details)
3. Passage via Canada or U.S. is undesirable owing to length of journey and question of dollar funds.
4. In order to relieve situation propose to instruct following ships to call at Bermuda when bound for U.K.
(A) Fast independent ships from Panama Canal with passenger accommodation.
(B) Ships who have disembarked men and guns at Bermuda on outward voyage in accordance with Admiralty 1516/17 (1546/27 intended?), and require others for homeward voyage. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1204/14 to Admty.)

French M.V's
Scuttling

Following revised orders from French Admiralty for scuttling or immobilization of Merchant ships to avoid capture by H.M. Ships. (Details) (N.O.I.C., Trinidad 1213/14)

/Raider

War Diary14.3.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.Raider Report
12/2

Your 1021/14 (Requesting exact text of message received from Canso Radio) Following is extract from W/T Log Canso Office. March 12. 0317 G.M.T. Weak RRRR two ships unreadable through QRM and QRJ. 0330 called VCS (Camperdown) enquired if heard RRRR signals ends. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1302/14 to Admty.)

Orders for
TALISMAN

To avoid eastbound shipping keep to northward of line joining $043^{\circ} 00' 050^{\circ} 00'$ and $044^{\circ} 30' 062^{\circ} 00'$ after passing through position G vide A.A.L.W.A.1040/3 See also my 1521/12. (B.S. 3. 1401/14)

Possible U/B
Newfoundland

My 2050/13 (Unknown enemy unit 200 miles of 47° N., 36° W.) It is possible that this U/B intends to operate on Trade routes to Southward of Newfoundland. (D.D.I.C. 1448/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, etc.)

Diversion of
SS NEW YORK CITY

BR NEW YORK CITY from Clyde for Portland, Maine, was routed through $38^{\circ} 50'$ N., $72^{\circ} 20'$ W. Master reports that protest against this entirely unnecessary diversion was ignored. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1521/14)
Possibility of enemy U-Boat warfare being extended to western side of Atlantic has always existed. Recently indications that preliminary moves by the enemy may even now be in progress. Appreciated that your forces are slender Requested that you will report:
(a) Details of surface and air forces that will be available in the immediate future.
(b) Minimum additional forces required to augment those now available to ensure adequate protection to the approaches to Halifax, and extent to which this requirement can be met from Canadian resources. (D.O.D. (H) 2244/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
From D/F bearings it is probable that a U-Boat is about to operate on the Western side of the Atlantic. (D.O.D. (H) 2316/14 to N.A. Washington)

/U.S. Coastguard...

MOST SECRETWar Diary14.3.1941.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica & West Indies-Contd.U.S. Coastguard
Cutters

My 1815/7. Officers and men for ten coastguard cutters can be provided now. (asking for further information)
(Head of M. 1550/14 to N.A. Washington)

U.S. Aircraft

Re types for aircraft carriers. (1st S.L. 2245/14 to N.A. Washington) See Operations Volume.

Australia

AUSTRALIA
HOBART
SYDNEY
U.S. 10

A.C.N.B. 0920Z/14. AUSTRALIA, HOBART and SYDNEY will remain in south-west area until required for escort of U.S.10 Not anticipated they will be required to sail from Fremantle before (date)
(A.C.N.B., 0930Z/14)

Censorship

Asking if censorship procedure laid down in Admty 2239Z/13/1 to which we are now conforming has since been altered. (D.N.I., Melbourne 1304Z/14 to Admty, D.N.I)

New ZealandWarship
Report

Coastwatcher Keppel Island reports warship passed p.m./14th from south-east travelling north. Appearance tribal class, but straight bow 1 funnel 2 guns turrets forward. Hull slate colour, no flag flying. (S.O.I., Wellington, 2038Z/14 to Capt. O.S. Singapore)

War Diary14.3.1941.
FridayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines ReportedNewfoundland

Possible that a German U/B is moving towards Halifax shipping lanes off Newfoundland. Otherwise, dispositions remain much the same (D.S., 556, 14/3) See also America & West Indies.

0434

Between Madeira and Azores, very indefinite position (Italian) (D.S. 556)

Join trawler in contact with Sub. 3 miles south of Breakwater (C. in C., Plymouth 1955/14 to READING, NIAGARA) Search abandoned. Returning to refuel (Capt. D. 3 2026/14 to C. in C., W.A.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

(D.D.I.C., 1345/14)

Submarines Attacked.**ITALIAN SUBMARINE SUNK
BY GREEK DESTROYER**

It is officially announced in Athens (says the British United Press) that the Greek destroyer Psara has sunk in the Aegean Sea an Italian submarine which attempted to attack a convoy.

The Psara was built at Genoa and completed in 1932. Her displacement is 1,308 tons, armament four 4.7-in. guns and six torpedo tubes, speed 40 knots.

14.3.41*The Times.*

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.3.1941
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsE.C. and E.N.
Convoys.

With a view to eliminating delays to ocean going shipping E.N. Convoys will not run after 31/3. They will be replaced by E.C. Convoys which will run non-stop from Southend to the Clyde.

Fog

Fog off the East Coast dislocated convoys and held up movements of ships today.

E. Boats

At 0005 today HOLDERNESS and VANESSA again sighted E Boats off Southwold and consider they sank one of the enemy.

U-Boat
Campaign

SS SARPEDON reported sighting a U-Boat in the North Channel early this morning. SS IXION, belonging to convoy H.X. 112 but apparently proceeding independently ahead reported this morning that she was being chased by a U-Boat on the Northern Approach Route. A Sunderland searched for this U-Boat and crashed on landing in bad weather, 7 of the crew being killed. Late tonight a U-Boat made a first sighting report, apparently of Convoy H.X. 112. (See 16/3)

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.3.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTBritish Air Activity

Air patrols were ordered for today, to intercept enemy forces which it was thought possible might be breaking through to Germany from the Atlantic.

R/C from Iceland was cancelled owing to the weather, and in the afternoon R/C in the area where C. in C., H.F. is operating was also cancelled.

ADMIRAL
HIPPER-Class
(Cruiser)

An attack by 12 aircraft of Coastal Command against the HIPPER-Class (Cruiser) at Brest was ordered for early this morning.

The Cruiser was not at the Torpedo Station but a large ship which may have been the HIPPER was attacked in the Rade D'Abri. The cruiser was later this morning seen at the T.B. Station.

Special patrols were flown along the French Bay of Biscay Coast and in the Bay during day and night 15/3 to intercept the HIPPER-Class (cruiser) in the event of her sailing.

Three Blenheims attacked the docks at Rotterdam last night.

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.3.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

C. in C., Nore recommends that trawlers should not be kept on patrol during the day time, owing to losses from air attack.

Convoy F.N.432 was attacked twice early this morning, off the N.E. Coast of Norfolk and SS ARTEMISIA was sunk.

BRITOMART was holed above the waterline and her C.O. and another officer were killed when 1st M/S.F. was attacked this afternoon while at anchor in Rye Bay.

Liverpool was attacked ^{again} last night and SS SCOTTISH CHIEF, ORWELL and tug MINEGARTH were damaged. ^{14.3.41.} ^{13.3.41.} ^{14.3.41.}
Dates confirmed in BR.1337.

9 Skuas were damaged by attack on St. Eval last night.

Plymouth was attacked last night and considerable damage was caused in the North Yard.

Glasgow was attacked again last night and the Admiralty Oil Fuel installation received further damage. SS TREVAR/RACK was damaged in the Clyde. ANTHONY received superficial damage and M/S Mining ship EASTERN ISLES was damaged, at Glasgow.

MOST SECRETWar Diary15.3.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperation
Z.M.E. 23

PLOVER laid mines in St. George's Channel last night.

Tug WARRIOR was damaged by a mine in the Clyde today, near the entrance to the River Cart. Two other mines were destroyed.

Milford Haven is opened at 1430 daily, ships with I.C. engines being towed.

Liverpool is opened during the afternoon until dark daily with the exception of Birkenhead Docks and certain other areas.

North Atlantic

S.O. Force H considers that the battle cruisers sighted by MALAYA's aircraft on 8/3 may have been dummy as they declined action and did not train their turrets.

War Diary15.3.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanAir
Operations

Four Wellingtons were sent out from U.K. to Malta today. One signalled at 0545 that it was being attacked. It failed to arrive.

A single German A/C bombed Hal Far aerodrome today but caused no damage.

3 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked shipping at Valona last night with torpedoes and hit one ship. The Italian press state that this was the hospital ship PO.

Mining of
Suez Canal

An S/A sweeper was damaged at km 28 this morning. Traffic has been resumed between Port Said and Geneiffe. There is no change in the southern sector. ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Ismailia today.

Mining of
Malta

A Gozo fishing boat exploded a magnetic mine in the Grand Harbour today and was sunk.

Enemy Convoy

At 0750 today a convoy of about 20 merchant vessels and Naval Units was sighted by air R/C midway between Pan^ellaria and Cape Bon.

War Diary

15.3.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Operation
"Appearance"

GLASGOW, CALEDON and KINGSTON left Aden this afternoon for Operation "Appearance"

China

It is reported that the Italian RAMB 2 was sighted at 0930Z/12 between the Celebes and Moluccas. The vessel was last reported at Massawa on 21/2.

DELHI is to refit in U.S.A.

America & West Indies

SS SAN CASMIRO,
SIMNIA
Attacked by
raider.

At 1624 a message was received from Portishead Radio that tanker SAN CASMIRO (outward bound in ballast) reported a merchant ship raider in 39° 58' N., 43° 19' W., (midway between the Azores and Halifax N.S., at 1415) and that her message was being jammed. The signal indicated that another ship was in company with the raider. Later tanker SIMNIA (also in ballast) reported being shelled by a warship raider 35 miles north of the same position. RODNEY who had joined Convoy H.X. 114 at 2000/15 in 49° W., was ordered to detach one A.M.C. (to be addressed as Force M) and THUNDERBOLT to search the area and protect shipping. Force X (SEVERN) & KING GEORGE V ~~was~~ also given discretion to operate against the raider.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MAPLIN.

Completion date, mid-May, given by you for MAPLIN not acceptable. Prime Minister directs extreme priority for this vessel. Concentrate labour as necessary from other Adty work and report any delays, present or foreseen, by reason of priority contracts or sub-contracts for other Govt. depts. (Controller 1328/15).

Auxiliary Patrols.

Re. A.L. MM/SO 74/41 of 5th/3/41 recommend that the instructions contained in A.L.M. 010210/40 of 26/5/40 should now be cancelled. In the Southern part of Nore Command, trawlers cannot be kept on patrol during the day time without accepting great loss from air attack. Extensive auxiliary patrols are carried out at night along swept channel and minesweeping trawlers carry out search sweep of most channels by night. (C. in C. Nore 1936/15).

Defence of U.K.

Portsmouth and Southampton A/A Defences.

Your 1754/13. No H.A.A. weapons at present available for allotment to Portsmouth and Southampton. Fighter Command investigating G.L. situation in that area. (Air Ministry 0940/15 to Adty). Your 1843/12 was repeated to Air Ministry with request for favourable consideration of submission of 35 A.A. Bde. Following reply received begins (See Air Ministry 0940/15).

2. If some solution is not reached sooner, and this is unlikely, matter will be given full consideration in connection with April allocation from production. (D. of L.D. 2035/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Orkneys and Shetlands A/A Defences.

Requirements for defence of Orkney and Shetland against attack by low flying aircraft were considered in principle by C.O.S. (A.A) Sub-Committee on 14/3. Decided that it was desirable full to review requirements on the spot. 3. A R/C party of officers associated with the C.O.S. (A.A) Sub-Committee representing Adty, Air Min. F.C. and W.O. and A.A. Command will visit Orkney to discuss problem and prepare a comprehensive plan.

/Please.....

488

War Diary.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Orkneys
and Shetlands
A/A Defences
(Contd.)

Please suggest dates in the near future for this visit. (D. of L.D. 1330/15 to A.C.O.S.).

Movements.3rd M/L F.
for Gibraltar.

A.M. 2208/13 para. 2. Request corvette detailed may arrive Falmouth A.M./21. (C.in C. Plymouth 1146/15).

H.50.My 1354/4. Sailed ^{Toburn} escorted by LADY HOGARTH. E.T.A. 1200/16. ^(Rathfriland)
(Commodore, Western Isles 1600/15).L.L. Trawlers
for Oban.

Your 1514/14. Request first pair be sailed for Holyhead second Fleetwood Third Ardrossan for subsequent employment at Oban. (C.in C. W.A. 1720/15).

WATCHMAN.

Owing to recent strike, completion postponed to 21/3. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1815/15).

CUTTY SARK.

My 1949/28/2. The escort commitments in the Clyde Area have again increased and I now intend to retain CUTTY SARK until both LA CAPRICIEUSE and CHEVREUIL have completed repairs. (F.O.S. 1838/15).

6th M/L. F.

6th M.L. Flotilla are to be sailed for Harwich forthwith. Request you arrange accordingly. (A.C.N.S.H. 1856/15 to R.A.C.F.).

DERBYSHIRE
CHITRAL
CIRCASSIA
CALIFORNIA(i) Intend DERBYSHIRE arrive Iceland 24/3 thence to patrol subsequently arriving Halifax 10/4.
(ii) Your 1130/13 not to all addressees. CHITRAL not now required vide paragraph (i) Request you will amend her orders accordingly
(iii) Anticipate CIRCASSIA will arrive Iceland 30/3 for patrol. CALIFORNIA thus not required. Further signal will be made.
(F.O.C.N.P. 2224/15 to B.S.3).

War Diary.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.E-Boats.
Engagements
14/15 March.

Following is summary of E/Boat actions last night Friday/Saturday.

One E Boat bearing 035°. My position Southwold 25 miles. (HOLDERNESS 0005/15).

My 0005 3 E-Boats. (HOLDERNESS 0007/15).

1. 2245 HOLDERNESS and VANESSA in position 048 Southwold 22 engaged and chased E-boats in path of moon at range of 4500 yards.

At 2308 when close to mine barrier E-boat disappeared after 2 salvos had straddled. HOLDERNESS considers E-boat certainly damaged possibly sunk. Towards end of action

HOLDERNESS attacked by aircraft with cannon gun. Superficial damage no casualties.

Destroyers returned to dark side of channel.

2. 0005 3 E-boats sighted in path of moon range 5500 yards. Destroyers altered towards at high speed withholding fire in hope of closing range. At 0008 when E-boats turned away range 4500 yards destroyers

opened fire. One E-boat's smoke apparatus failed after 3 salvos fell round her and after being under heavy fire for 12 minutes she disappeared although right in path of moon and clear of smoke at range of 3000 yards. At same time A.S.V. showed target reduced from 3 to 2 boats. Consider this E-boat probably sunk.

3. 2230 VERSATILE with FS435 in position 056 Cromer 14 reported one E-boat course 070°. At 2237. VERSATILE reported 2 torpedoes fired at her. (C.in C. Nore 1530/15 and 2036/15).

Operation "Obstacle".~~OBSCURE~~

My 1752/13. Destroyers part company 1100/15 in 051° 16' N. 4° 30' W. READING proceed to Londonderry, NIAGARA to Swansea. (C.in C. Plymouth 0618/15 to H.Q.F.C., 0733/15, 0748/15).

ARGUS
Operation
"Winch".

My 1905/6 and 1346/12. ARGUS will proceed to Gibraltar in company with SHEFFIELD, MAIDSTONE, HIGHLAND MONARCH, NAPIER and NIZAM. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1045/15).

/ Western

MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).Western
Channel
Patrol.

Detach KELLY, KELVIN and JACKAL in time to establish a patrol between longitude Wolf Rock and Eddystone by 2100. Object of patrol is to cover shipping sailing westward from Plymouth. (C. in c. Plymouth 1332/15).

Patrols
off
Portland.

Detail four M LS to patrol a line south of Portland Bill to the westward just North of QZ X 267 as far as 5° W. and act as a screen to range as far east as 2° 20' W. Four Chasseurs will leave Needles at 1945 and patrol a line on 50° 20' N. between 01° 40' W. and 02° 10' W. until 0400 when they are ordered to act as screen for range until arrival at Needles. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1507/15 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

M.G.B's.
Patrol K.

M.G.B's are not to proceed to sea today. Fog reported from Norfolk Coast to Holland. WORCESTER and WHITSHED carry out patrol K as far as practicable, anchoring if necessary. (C. in C. Nore 1646/15 to Capt. D.16).

British Air Activity.Off Ostend.

On 14/3 one A/C attacked one M/V 800 to 1000 Tons 12 miles off Ostend. 2 bursts seen on either side of bow and then raked with M.G. fire. (H.Q.B.C. 0035/15).

Patrols.

Patrols today ^{"Hornli"} ~~WOLFE~~ S.A. 3 ^{"Fair" "Unst"} ~~FAIR UNST~~. (C. in C. Rosyth 0828/15). Your 56412 (M.O.8) 14/3. First patrol cancelled bad weather. Second patrol unlikely present conditions. (G.O.C. Iceland 1000/15 to War Office).

/My 2115/14.....

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols.
(contd).

My 2115/14. Air R/C for today cancelled owing to weather conditions. (F.O. Iceland 1121/15 to C. in C. H.F). Conditions unsuitable for flying both from Iceland and in your area. (A.C.N.S. H. 1543/15 to C. in C. H.F).

My 0628 15/3 T.O.O. 1000/15. Second patrol cancelled owing to bad weather. Patrols will be carried out 16/3 weather permitting. First patrol leaving base first light. Second patrol leaving base 1330 G.M.T. (G.O.C. Iceland 1652/15 to War Office).

Patrols R two and R one will be flown 16/3 by aircraft of 18 Group commencing from eastern ends. Patrol Fugle completed two circuits nothing sighted today. Patrol R two completed two circuits reported suspected mines in position V J Q L 4847 and V J M Q 2727 today. Patrol R one completed three circuits nothing of importance to report. (C. in C. Rosyth 1848/15).

Bombing
Restrictions.

My 1332. Request bombing restrictions for Destroyers. (C. in C. Plymouth 1334/15 to H.Q.C.C.).

Night
14/15.

Three Blenheims attacked docks at Rotterdam. (H.Q.B.C. 1858/15).

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.432.
ARTEMISIA.
(Bombed 14/3).

VERDUN's 2321/14. 2 tugs leaving Yarmouth for you. (C. in C. Nore 0007/15 to SHELDRAKE).
ARTEMISIA in FN432 bombed and on fire aft in 52° 53' N. 01° 39' E, SHELDRAKE standing by. Two tugs sent from Yarmouth. Prospects of salvage reported good. (C. in C. Nore 0046/15).
My 0046/15. Ship now sunk in 52° 50' 45" N. 01° 38' 30" E. after part on bottom fore part showing. Salvage doubtful. Captain and 46 survivors on board SHELDRAKE. (C. in C. Nore 0215/15) (SHELDRAKE 0054/15).
Arrival at 1405/15 LA MELPOMENE. Captain and 47 survivors of ARTEMISIA landed. Total survivors 48. (Grimsby Base 1751/15).

Convoy F.N.432
(bombed 15/3)

Convoy ^{"Agent"}~~Admiral~~ being bombed. My position 53° 22' N. 0° 58' E. (VERDUN 0218/15)
My 0218 4 bombs, no hits. (VERDUN 0222/15).

Plymouth.

Attacked by aircraft between 2030 and 0038. H.E. and incendiaries in North Yard and RALEIGH. Boiler machine shop considerable damage H.E. other damage. No casualties. (C. in C. Plymouth 0134/15).

TYR.
(bombed 14/3)

(Norwegian 4265 Tons) Tug SABINE passed Spurn Point outwards 1040 to assist s.s. TYR. (F.O. Humber 1045/15).
S.S. TYR arrived Immingham Dock 1930.
Tug SABINE and IRISHMAN, Salvage vessel NESSUS and CITE DE LONDRES in attendance. (F.O. Humber 2120/15).

801 Squadron.
St. Eval.

9 Skuas of 801 Squadron damaged by enemy action at St Eval during night 14/15. Expect to make 3 of these serviceable by P.M./18 and a further 5 serviceable by P.M./21. One remaining aircraft will require salvage and repair by depot. Three aircraft of 801 Squadron serviceable and ready for operation at St. Eval. (St. Merryn 1303/15 to R.A.N.A.S).

/ESSEX.....

War Diary.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ESSEX LANCE.
(Bombed 12/3).

Departure rescue tug DIVERSION to ESSEX LANCE off Cromer at 1427. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1453/15).

Glasgow Area.
Oil Tanks
destroyed
Night 13/14.

My 1520/14. 9 more destroyed last night damage elsewhere not yet known owing to partial breakdown of communications. (Supt. C.E. Glasgow 1500/15).
My 1509/14.

Following Naval Establishments are affected. (details).
(B) Casualties to Naval Personnel, Nil so far reported except two F.N.F.L. liberty men killed.
(D) Following yards affected. Details. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2200/15).

Plymouth.

Air raid on evening of 14/3 caused damage as follows. (S.C.E. Devonport 1545/15)

BRITOMART
bombed.

C.O. and another officer of BRITOMART killed in bombing attack while ship was at anchor Rye Bay about 1630 today. Ship holed above waterline. No further damage to other ships of 1st M/S Flotilla. Am sending BRITOMART with SHARPSHOOTER to Portsmouth forthwith. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1653/15).

Irish Sea.

Night Attacks on shipping in Irish Sea are being carried out by enemy aircraft burning navigation lights. (C. in C.W.A. 1735/15);

Enemy A/C
off
Cornwall.

Following intercepted from enemy aircraft begins; my position 050° 44' N. 005° 59' W. and I shall remain here. T.O.O. 1706 ends. (C. in C. Plymouth 1811/15 to REVENGE).

War Diary.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.ZME. 23.

Operation completed. (PLOVER 0415/15).

SN 100.My 1939/9. Report on operations 14/3.
(R.A.M. 0941/15).Brightlingsea.
2 Mines
detonated 14/3.

JEANNIE LEASK.

Drifter ~~JENNY LESKE~~ detonated two mines
in 51° 43' 48" N. 1° 07' 30" E at 1245/14.
(S.O. A.P. Brightlingsea 0950/15).Dungeness -
Beachy Head.
Clearance
Sweep.Mine clearance operation 14th March.
(V.A. Dover 0958/15).
Suggest you extend area in A.M. 2003/11
by 12 cables to southeastward before you
leave Dover area. Request your proposals.
(V. A. Dover 1309/15 to M.S.1).
Reply (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1456/15 to V.A. Dover)
Your 1653 Unless visibility is very low
you are to remain underweigh to-night as
convenient between ROYAL SOVEREIGN
and long. 00° 30' W. (V.A. Dover 1836/15
to M/S 1).
Your 1836/15. Received and understood.
(S.O. M/S 1 2101/15 to N.O.I.C. Dover).
Mine clearance operations 15/3.
(V.A. Dover 1859/15).
Your 1856/15. Consider better use Mine-
sweepers for dan lay so drifters not required
(S.O. 1st M.S.F. 2103/15 to N.O.I.C. Dover).Milford
Haven.Port is opened at 1430 each day. Ships
with I.C. engines are towed. Six berths
in convoy anchorage are considered safe
and as far as possible, ships for O convoys
receive their orders and are organised
into convoy outside the harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1001/15).F.D. 31.Carry out following operation. (F.O.S.
1102/15 to S.3) See Operations Volume.

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (contd).Liverpool.

My 1856/13. Port will be opened at 1280 (?) to allow outward and inward movements to take place but will be closed at dark until completion of sweep a.m. tomorrow. This routine to continue till further notice. Birkenhead docks remain closed and anchorage between lines Princes Stage. Woodside and New Ferry, remains prohibited. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/15).

ULLAPOOL.
(Mined 13/3);

Sunk in River Mersey in about 215° 1500 feet from North end of Princes Stage. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1310/15).

ZME. 24.

Details. Operation to be carried out on night 17/3 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1335/15).

S.N. 4.

Arrangements should be made to carry out operation S.N. Four after S.N. Sixty Nine. (V.C.N.S. 1339/15).

Oban.

My 0103/13 and 1730/14 L.L. and S.A. Sweepers have completed search of suspected area. Further 3 days search necessary by L.L. Sweepers until possible delay devices render mine active. No S.A. Sweepers now at Oban.
My 1830/13 regarding entrance to Oban and convoy anchorage still in force. (N.O.I.C. Oban 2050/15).

Clyde.
3 Mines
detonated.
WARRIOR
damaged.

2 Magnetic mines destroyed in River Clyde to-day 1st mine entrance to River Cart. 2nd mine off Shieldhall Wharf. Tug WARRIOR towing tanker FERNCOURT damaged by third mine at entrance to River Cart, subsequently beached. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2358/15).

S.S. EMINENT.

(Belgian 500 tons) Mined 1345/15.
Approx 51° 32' N. 5° 37' W. DCL 556 19/3/41.

War Diary.15.5.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Warships
in Heligoland
Bight.

Ten miles due north of Borkum at 2220/13. Hampden observed 8 M/V's about 2 to 3,000 tons in convoy sailing due west. At 2240/13 in 53° 50' N. 8° E. two M/V's one 6,000 and the other 2,000 tons steaming West. At 2155/13 in 53° 57' N. 7° 53' E. two ships, one a Destroyer, the other larger, heading west at fast speed, large wash easily visible 5 to 600 yards long. Three miles north of Neuwork 2210/13 a convoy of 8 large and 5 small ships moving slowly and altering course from 330° to 350° true. Mouth of Elbe between Trischen and Neuwork at 2200/13. 7 small ships heading N.N.W. Probably minesweepers. At 0004/14 in 53° 50' N. 6° 30' E. 15 to 20 ships with large revolving red lights course 250° in line astern. Not very fast. At 2200/13 in 53° 55' N. 7° 50' E. one large and two smaller vessels course 290° all very fast. At 0038/14 in 53° 50' N. 7° 50' E. six 4,000 ton M/V's heading 270°. (H.Q.B.C. 0035/15).

Brest
ADMIRAL HIPPER
(Cruiser.)

ADMIRAL HIPPER (cruiser) still present surrounded with net at T.B. Station. (Pru. St. Eval 1240/15) (D.D.I.C. 2129/15).

Enemy
Force
on 7/5.

SEALION's 1045/7/3 Re Minelaying forces sighted. Details. No attack was carried out. (S.6. 1800/15).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.15.3.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Introduction
of E.C.
Convoys.

At a meeting held at the Admiralty on 11/3 at which Cs. in C. Nore and Rosyth were represented it was decided, with view to eliminating delays to ocean going shipping whilst at the same time providing adequate facilities for coasters, no E.N. Convoy will be sailed after 2359/31/3. E.N. Convoys will be replaced by E.C. Convoys on 1/4 and these convoys will run non-stop from Southend to the Clyde.

A cycle on the following lines is proposed:-

X day EC(F)
X + 1 day EN(S)
X + 2 days -
X + 3 days EC(M)
X + 4 days FN(F)
X + 5 days E C(S)
X + 6 days FN (M)

(F) (M) and (S) indicate respectively convoys for ships capable of 9 knots, 8 knots and 7 knots.

3. C.in C. Rosyth, is requested to promulgate detailed programme.

4. Methil Commodores and Staffs will be transferred to Southend as arranged between N.C.S.O's Methil and Southend.

5. WN and FS Convoys will continue to run as at present except that, commencing on 1/4 convoys are to run in the cycle of one (F) one (M) and one (S).

(D.T.D. 1028/15 to A.I.G.47).

JENNY MOLLER.

Chinese crew refuse duty. Send off patrol vessel for further information. Ship is in Barry Roads.
(JENNY MOLLER 1200/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Convoys,
Procedure
when
shadowed
by U/Boat.

Further to Admtty 1826/21/12/40, 1507/5/2
and 1602/19/2.
(D.A/S.W. 1843/15).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.15.3.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.BALTARA
(Broke down
5/3).If BALTARA is in tow satisfactorily well and good. Otherwise report situation.
(C.in C. W.A. 0204/15 to STELSTAN).HEARTEASE.Delayed by Asdic dome defect.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0307/15).HOLLYHOCK.Unable to sail owing to hull damage
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0307/15).AUBRIETIA.Your 1545. Collision damage will prevent me from joining group.
(AUBRIETIA 1636/15 to BULLDOG).SANDENBURGH.(Dutch 944 tons). Refloated 1815/15.
Proceeding to Middlesborough.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1830/15).SHERWOOD.(Destroyer). Delayed owing to defects.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1927/15).

War Diary.15.3.41.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Search
for
BANGKOK.

Request permission to enter U 3 continue search for BANGKOK. (? MARSDALE 0830/15, to FOC.N.A.).

→ A/C Report
of Battle
Cruisers.

Please interrogate pilot of aircraft as to possibility of German Battle Cruisers sighted by him being dummy ships. The fact that turrets were not trained during encounter gives rise to suspicion. Any further details of ships sighted would be of value. (D.N.I. 1203/15, to Consul, Teneriffe.).

ASAKA

Your 1917 (to D.N.I. only) S.S. ASAKA MARU expected to leave Bilbao 16/3. Destination unknown but it is given to Customs as Yokohama. (Bilbao 1247/15 to Adty.)

→ Re raiders
sighted by
MALAYA 8/3.

Your 1900/11. Send Aircrafts crew to Gibraltar first opportunity. S.O. Force H. considers battle cruiser sighted by MALAYA'S aircraft may have been dummy as they declined action and did not train their turrets. Request remarks of pilot in support or otherwise of this theory may be signalled. (F.O.C.N.A. 1234/15 to Consul, Teneriffe.).

State of
DUNKERQUE.

S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1746/15.

Germans on
board S.S.
MARQUES DE
COMILLAS.

Spanish S.S. MARQUES DE ?COMILLAS New York 13/3, to Bilbao 15 knots. Reliably reported 130 Germans on board and possible ship may be carrying documents from German Consulate to New York. (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/15 to N.A. Station.)

/Ships.....