

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

501

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Operations.

Two M.T.B.'s from Dover last night carried out an offensive sweep between Boulogne and Dieppe. Two M.T.B's operated east of Ostend.

WHADDON.
AGATE
& BATH
damaged.

WHADDON and AGATE (A/S Trawler) have been damaged in collision. Norwegian destroyer BATH has been damaged in collision with a minesweeper off the Tyne.

Biscay
Patrol.

Visual R/C of Brest at 0800 and 1700 today showed the enemy battle cruisers in the same positions. The dry dock was fully flooded.

Force H. arrived at Gibraltar at 1240.

British Air Activity.

68 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Kiel last night. Nine aircraft attacked Boulogne.

An E boat and small shipping were attacked off Haarlem and Heligoland today, it is believed with some success.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

502

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Sapper"
bombed.

Convoy "Sapper" (KIPLING and 15 merchant vessels, Helwick L.V. to Falmouth and Plymouth) was bombed from 0228 to 0345.

S.S. BOLETTE
ANGLESEA
ROSE.
AMIENS
sunk.

Off Lands End. S.S. BOLETTE, ANGLESEA ROSE and AMIENS were sunk. VIVA II reports having disabled a seaplane which attempted to attack the convoy at 0521

SWEDRU
sunk.

Convoy S.L. 69 was bombed at 0935 in approx. 55° 18' N. 12° 46' W. and S.S. SWEDRU was hit and damaged and had to be sunk.

H.M.T.
LAUREL.

H.M.T. LAUREL was bombed and slightly damaged early this morning off Sheringham.

Convoy "Pattern" called for assistance at 1419 in 57° 26' N. 1° 35' W.

S.S. FAVORIT
sunk.

Norwegian S.S. FAVORIT was bombed and sunk this morning in the N.W. Approaches. (Approx. 60° 6' N. 8° 31' W).

Trawler KING ATHELSTAN is reported to have been bombed and damaged off Ballin Skelligs this morning, and was beached.

THV PATRICIA reported today being attacked on 9/4 at Holyhead by an enemy aircraft which was attacking the shipping and town. No damage is reported.

Attacks on
Ports.

Liverpool and Merseyside towns were bombed last night.

Lowestoft was attacked with incendiaries only at 0426. There was no naval damage;

/Yarmouth.....

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Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

50

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Attacks
on ports.
(contd).

Yarmouth was bombed last night and damage was caused at the trawler base.

Slight damage was caused early this morning by incendiary bombs dropped in the Royal William Victualling Yard, Plymouth.

Belfast was attacked last night. No, material damage was caused but two U.X.B. are reported and the port is closed.

Mining.

Operation
ME 29.

PLOVER reported this operation completed at 1024 (minelaying off North coast of Cornwall).

4 Hampdens laid mines last night off Brest.

One mine was dropped in Alexandria Dock, Hull today. Five others, dropped in Hull at the same time exploded.

The Clyde above Great Harbour way closed at 0536 and opened at 1430 today. Foyle was opened at 1728 as far as Merville.

Mines were exploded at Belfast, which was reopened at 1725 but was closed inside Pile Light House at 1955.

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SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean.

Enemy
convoy
destroyed.

Last night Capt. D. 14 (JERVIS) with 4 destroyers intercepted off Kerkeah Bank an enemy convoy of 5 ships escorted by 3 destroyers, the LUCA TARIGO and two SPICA class, and believes he sank or destroyed the entire force. Two of the merchant vessels were loaded with motor transport and one was an ammunition carrier which blew up. The other two vessels exploded at intervals. MOHAWK was torpedoed and sunk, 7 officers and 160 ratings being rescued. The other 3 destroyers had no casualties and only slight splinter damage. Owing to the approach of daylight it was not possible to wait and pick up enemy survivors. C. in C. Med asked that no communique should be issued, lest future operations should be compromised, but the Admiralty were unable to comply owing to the necessity of announcing a striking success.

Western
Desert.

GLOUCESTER today carried out a most successful bombardment of Fort Capuzzo and Bardia areas with aircraft co-operation. Air spotting reports all salvoes at Capuzzo burst among a concentration of A.F.V's and M.T. LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala Aerodrome and dump.

TRUANT today sank a barque laden with explosives off Apollonia. (VANNA)

Greece.

10 to 20 German bombers attacked Khalkis harbour and shipping at 0715 G.M.T. S.S. MEMAS was sunk.

N.A. Athens proposes to embark British civilians on 18/4.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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SITUATION REPORT.

505

East Indies.

CALEDON left Aden p.m. today for the Mediterranean. (on 18/4 she was stopped at Suez by Adty order).

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

506

Policy.

North Sea.
situation.

Your 1942/15. What strength do you envisage when you speak of "in force". (1st S.L. 1037/16 to B.C.1).
Your 1037. My estimate of strength of enemy forces available was based on your 2130/8th.
(F.O. 2nd in CD. H.F. 1403/15 to Admty).

Iceland
Delays in
R.A.F.
information.

Your 1540/12. Regret your proposal to prefix messages ~~EMON~~ is unacceptable on grounds of security.
F.O.1/c Iceland has been instructed to report on the position and further signal will be made on receipt of his report.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1207/16 to H.Q.C.C.)
H.Q. C.C. report that R.A.F. in Iceland are experiencing difficulty in obtaining latest information regarding position of convoys and other ships entering or passing through their radius of action. They state delay in decyphering messages giving this information is the cause and suggest that such messages should be specifically prefixed. This cannot be accepted on the grounds of security.

Request your remarks and whether you require any additional cypher and coding staff. If shortage of staff is the cause of delay can local arrangements be made to improve matters until additional personnel can be sent from U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1214/16 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Torpedoes and
Ammunition for
S/M'S SURCOUF.

My 1234/13 and your 1257/15. Reserve of torpedoes is small and is now in Forth at Halifax. I have also just learnt that no reserve of ammunition will be available for an indefinite period. In view of this it is considered that the risk of transport of the whole outfit of ammunition and reload Torpedoes is at present unjustified. Propose only one third of outfit of ammunition be sent.

to Gibraltar.....

MOST SECRET.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Torpedoes
and Ammunition
for S/MS. A (contd).

to Gibraltar the balance of this and all reload Torpedoes being retained at Devonport.
(F.O.S. 1434/16).

A/C
Recognition.

C.S. 8363. C. in C. W.A. desires attention to following Experimented A/C Recognition Policy as promulgated in his 1226/18/3. Details.
(Air Ministry F.O.6 1500/16) See Lion Copy.

Organisation of
Destroyers, Sloops,
and M/S Corvettes in
case of Invasion.

Particulars.
(C. in C. W.A. 1713/16) See Lion Copy.

Movements.

NAIAD
VICTORIOUS.

Sailed 0720 NAIAD, VICTORIOUS, SOUTHDOWN, QUANTOCK, and LIDDESDALE.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne 0724/16).

KING GEORGE V.

ELECTRA, ESCAPADE, MASHONA detached 1100/15 to proceed to Londonderry to refuel thence returning to meet H.M.S. KING GEORGE V in position 050 deg. N 021 deg. W at 0900/19.
(ELECTRA 1015/16).

ASCANIA

ASCANIA reported at 0830 she was unable to make Straumnæs owing to poor visibility.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1651/16 to F.O.C. 2 C.S.)
See also p. 508

A.FD.7

A.M. 1926/15 Para 3. ATHERSTONE and BLENCATHRA detailed. Request instructions (C. in C. Portsmouth 1823/16).

P O S T A G R A M

1500/16 April

IN

DATE: 16.4.41
RECD: 2100

From Air Ministry F.O.6

Addressed Headquarters Bomber, Fighter, Flying Training, Army
Co-Operation Commands, Headquarters R.A.F. Northern
Ireland, D.O.S.I. Bristol. Repeated Admiralty,
H.Q.C.C. C in C Western Approaches.

567(A)

C.S.8363.

Commander in Chief Western Approaches desires attention of all concerned drawn to following experimental aircraft recognition policy as promulgated in his 1226 18/3 (not to majority of addressees), and it is requested that appropriate action be taken:-

- (1) Limit of approach of unidentified A/C to ships escorting or escorted is to be 5000 yards.
- (2) Method of identification should always include present procedure with cartridges and lamp and also R/T except in the case of certain A/C in 18 group not fitted with R/T yet.
- (3) R/T method of identification is to take the following form 'Whitley A/C approaching from 320 degs.' Bearing in all cases is from centre of Convoy.
- (4) Identified A/C are not to approach within 1500 yards.
- (5) Ships suspicious of identity of A/C are to open fire, hoist large black flag and say to remaining escort by R/T 'Suspicious A/C on bearing indicated.'
- (6) Ship identifying A/C as friendly is to say to remaining escort by R/T 'A/C bearing indicated is friendly.'
- (7) At night or in low visibility A/C are to use R/T as in paragraph 3 if A.S.V. contact is made before sighting. A/C should have all three methods of identification ready for unexpected sighting of ships and at night or in low visibility are to endeavour to remain outside 5000 yards.

1500/16

1st Lord
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
NAV. SEC.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops (4)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (4)
O.I.C. (2)

D.S.D. 9
D.S.D. (2)
D of L.D. (2)
D.N.A.D.
Air
M (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
~~W.D.~~

EM

SECRET.

M E S S A G E.

1713/16th April.

IN.

From : C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date : 17.4.41. 507(B)

Recd : 0414.

Basegram

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed : Western Approaches General Message No. 92.
 Repeated : C's in C. Nore, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rcsyth,
 Home Fleet, V.A.Dover, Admiralty, A.C.O.S., F.O.S.,
 H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., 15, 18, 19 Groups R.A.F.

NOTE. NOTE.
 483. In event of invasion Destroyers, Sloops and M/S Corvettes
 in Western Approaches Command may be ordered to reinforce other
 Commands.

2. In these circumstances Destroyers will initially remain
 organised according to their existing Groups. Should a large
 proportion of Destroyers in a Group be unserviceable two or more
 Groups might be ordered to combine before sailing orders will be
 issued for ships unable to leave with their own Groups.

3. M/S Corvettes will be formed into M/S Flotillas as
 ordered.

4. Destroyers and Corvettes in Western Approaches are at
 present organised in composite Escort Groups. In event of
 Destroyers being detached from Corvettes in their Groups, as
 envisaged above, Destroyers will be known as Escort Flotillas,
 Corvettes as Corvette Groups. Escort Flotillas and Corvette
 Groups will retain the same number as the composite Escort Group
 in which they were previously organised. First Escort Group
 would thus be split into First Escort Flotilla and First Corvette
 Group except where two or more Escort Flotillas are combined as
 in Paragraph 2 above.

5. Admiralty have been requested to allocate delivery Groups
 and Call Signs for Escort Flotillas.

6. Unified set of anti-invasion orders common to all Commands
 in which Western Approaches Ships might have to operate are being
 compiled. Local orders particular to each Command will be issued
 for attachment as appendices.

7. In meantime present anti-invasion orders of each Command
 are being issued to all Destroyers, Sloops and Corvettes in
 sealed envelopes which may be studied or not at discretion of
 C.O's. On receipt of new unified orders separate orders issued
 by each Command may be destroyed appendices being retained and
 attached to the unified orders.

8. Commands concerned are requested to forward 200 Copies of
 their appendices to C. in C. Western Approaches.

1713/16

Advance Copy Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

1st Lord.	D. of L.D.(2).	W.D.
1st S.L.	D.M.S.	D.D.O.D.(M).
4th S.L.	D.M.S.Basement.	D.M.A.P.
5th S.L.	D.D.T.M.	Ops.(4).
V.C.N.S.	D.A./S.W.	O.D.(5).
A.C.N.S.(H).	D.S.D.(2).	D.N.T.(4).
A.C.N.S.(T).(2).	M.(3).	O.I.C.(2).
Nav. Sec.	A.H.Q.H.F.	D.S.D.9.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	I.P.(3).	D. of P.(3).

S.P.

508
16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Northern
Patrol.
ASCANIA.

Have been unable to make Straumnes owing to low visibility. (ASCANIA. 0830/16).

See p. 507

Operation
Q.E.

Weather permitting carry out Operation Q.E. tonight with A/S trawler and 1 unit of M.G.B's. Initial position for trawler 080°. Aldeburgh L/F 5 miles. Units taking part to be in this position at dusk. Should M.G.B's part company they are to remain at least 10 miles East of convoy route until daylight when trawler and M.G.B's may return to harbour. (C. in C. Nore 1020/16).

Operation
Q.A.

Operation Q.A. tonight. Two A/C leave Bircham Newton 2359/16 operating Smith's Knoll to Cromer Knoll returning 0200/17. (C. in C. Nore 2335/16).

Iceland
Patrol.

A.M. 0055/15.
Act in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 2315/12 and B.C. One's 2151/15.
Latest S/M information is contained in A.M. 1230/15.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1043/16 to C.S.1)

Biscay
S/M Patrol.

STURGEON will be ordered to leave her patrol on 26/4. There will then be a gap until about 1/5 when the next submarine arrives on patrol. Later it is probable that two and occasionally three submarines will be maintained on patrol in the Biscay area. In addition to the above, submarines on passage to and from their patrols pass through the area of operations. (F.O.S. 1106/16).

Brest and
Biscay
Dispositions.

Following remarks on Brest and C. in C. H.F. 1355/10 S.O. Force H. 1117/16. See Lion Copy.

Operation "Dunlop"
DUNLOP.

Intend to sail LONDON and ARGUS at 0030/17 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1156/15. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1418/16).

/SALOPIAN.....

IN MESSAGE
=====

1117/16th April.

TOP SECRET

IN

508(A)

From S.O. Force H.

Date 16.4.41.
Recd. 1533.

NAVAL CYPHER D by T/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet,
C. in C. Plymouth.

IMPORTANT

707. Following remarks on Brest and C. in C. Home Fleet's
1355 10th.

(ii) Consider enemy may use sector A in preference
to B or C in order to increase distance from U.K. and U.S.A. in
shore route before rounding Finisterre by night.

(iii) Concur with C. in C. Home Fleet that Force H
should operate section B to enable aircraft from H.M.S. ANK ROYAL
to (a) provide reconnaissance when R.A.F. or S/1 patrol not
available (b) gain contact with enemy before or as soon as possible
after touch is lost by R.A.F.

(iv) Concur with C. in C. Home Fleet's paragraph two
regarding mean distance from Brest. Failing report of Brest
Force H plan was to move inside this distance to cover sectors B
and C with evening reconnaissance and outside to cover sectors A
and B with subsequent morning reconnaissance or vice versa.

(v) Daily assessment by Admiralty of probability of
departures based on all information available might obviate units
closing in unnecessarily.

(vi) Recent acceleration of report of photographic
reconnaissance of great assistance, but request address be
shortened to reduce coding delay and so enable signal to be
received before evening reconnaissance fly off.

(vii) Use of P/L in 1000 9th, 1237 9th and 1245 9th from
19 Group H.Q. appears to be undesirable.

(viii) Suggest fleet wave should be in vicinity of
250 to 350 kc/s in order to obtain maximum W/T range from F.A.A.
reconnaissance. Considerable interference at times strength 9, was experienced
on fleet wave from Italian broadcast on 153.8 kc/s.

(ix) Request R.A.F. aircraft use fleet wave for procedure in
paragraph two of my 1913/24/3.

(x) Destroyers oiled three times in patrol area
under (?moderate) conditions.

1117/16.

Advance copy Duty Captain, D.O.D.(H), D.D.I.C., D.S.D.

1st Lord.	A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D.N.A.D.	D.D.I.C.
1st S.L.	C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D. of L.D.	E.P.S.
2nd S.L.	D. of F.(2)	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D.(2)
3rd S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	D.M.S.	N.I.D. 10
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	I.P.	(Pay.Cdr.Wilson)
5th S.L.	D.O.D.(H)	W.D.	
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D.(H)	Duty Captain	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.	Head of M.	
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.N.I.(4)	D.T.S.D.	

IN MESSAGE

1117/16th April.

NO T SECRET

IN

508(A)

From S.O. Force H.

Date 16.4.41.
Recd. 1533.

NAVAL CYPHER D by W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Home Fleet,
C. in C. Plymouth.

IMPORTANT

707. Following remarks on Brest and C. in C. Home Fleet's
1355 10th.

(ii) Consider enemy may use sector A in preference
to B or C in order to increase distance from U.K. and U.S.A. in
shore route before rounding Finisterre by night.

(iii) Concur with C. in C. Home Fleet that Force H
should operate section B to enable aircraft from H.M.S. ANK ROYAL
to (a) provide reconnaissance when R.A.F. or S/M patrol not
available (b) gain contact with enemy before or as soon as possible
after touch is lost by R.A.F.

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Force H plan was to move inside this distance to cover sectors B
and C with evening reconnaissance and outside to cover sectors A
and B with subsequent morning reconnaissance or vice versa.

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departures based on all information available might obviate units
closing in unnecessarily.

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reconnaissance of great assistance, but request address be
shortened to reduce coding delay and so enable signal to be
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19 Group H.O. appears to be undesirable.

(viii) Suggest fleet wave should be in vicinity of
250 to 350 kc/s in order to obtain maximum W/T range from F.A.A.
reconnaissance. Considerable interference at times strength 9, was experienced
on fleet wave from Italian broadcast on 153.8 kc/s.

(ix) Request R.A.F. aircraft use fleet wave for procedure in
paragraph two of my 1913/24/3.

(x) Destroyers oiled three times in patrol area
under (?moderate) conditions.

1117/16.

Advance copy Duty Captain, D.O.D.(H), D.D.I.C., D.S.D.

1st Lord.	A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	D.N.A.D.	D.D.I.C.
1st S.L.	C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D. of L.D.	E.P.S.
2nd S.L.	D. of P.(2)	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D.(2)
3rd S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	D.M.S.	N.I.D. 10
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	I.P.	(Pay.Cdr.Wilson)
5th S.L.	D.O.D.(H)	W.D.	
V.C.N.S.	D.D.O.D.(H)	Duty Captain	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.	Head of M.	
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.N.I.(4)	D.T.S.D.	

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

SALOPIAN.

Your 1922/13. No information of SALOPIAN. Request latest position and movements.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1433/16).

Iceland.
Escort
Half-Groups.

My 1203/6 para 2. Forecasts of escort requirements for half-groups between Iceland and Western R/V will be issued as necessary. S.O.'s of escort groups are to detail ships of their groups and report names to F.O.I.C. Iceland, who is requested to sail them accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A. 1453/16).

Operation
P.W.7

M.T.B.s 30,32 and 34 will be carrying out operations P.W. 7 tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1526/16).
Departures. M.T.B.s 30,32, and 34 at 1935.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1938/16).

Sweep by
2 M.T.Bs.

Intend to carry out offensive sweep with 2 M.T.B.s between Boulogne and Dieppe tonight leaving Dover 2330 and returning at daylight.
(V.A. Dover 1825/16).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrol is being maintained over Stavanger from 0100/16 until 0400/16 by Blenheim Fighter.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0018/16).
Patrols ~~HONNLI~~ and ~~S-AM~~ due to take off about Noon/16.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1128/16).
My 1128/16. Add two Beaufighters will patrol between Stadlandet-Obrestad P.M. today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1142/16).

French Coast.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd),

French Coast.
M/Vs believed
sunk.

Day 15/4. 6 Blenheims attacked three coastal vessels of approx 350 tons about 50 miles S.W. of Belle Isle heavily laden and heading N.W. at about 5/6 knots. Two ships received two direct hits each and are claimed as destroyed. Third ship must have sustained damage from very near misses whilst the decks of ships were raked with machine-gun fire. Two Blenheims attacked a cargo vessel of approx 4,000 tons 7 miles North of Ushant heading North and escorted by two small trawler type vessels and circled at about 1000 ft., by a seaplane believed an HE 115. Bombs hit or fell close to the bow of the ship.
(H.Q.B.C. 0240/16).

Kites in Convoys
on North
Cornish Coast.

Re A Message 800. In view of the heavy air attacks at night and casualties suffered on convoys on the North Cornish Coast it is requested that the restriction to flying kites imposed by para 2A may be withdrawn for convoys on passage between Lands End Lundy Island and Milford Haven as in 800A para 3.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1547/16 and 1605/16).

Enemy A/C
shot down.

Report of 'K' /252. Shot down F.W. A/C in 54° 25' N. 11° 25' W. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1600/16).

Borkum
Kiel
Boulogne.

Day 15/4. Eight Blenheims made a dusk raid on Borkum. One aircraft machine-gunned searchlights and flak positions before bombing the Barracks from 50 ft. bursts being seen in the courtyard. Another aircraft attacked a 4,000 ton freighter at anchor, direct hits being obtained aft of the funnel. A third aircraft also attacked the Barracks and a fourth bombed the centre of the town. Night 15/16. Attack on Kiel by sixty-eight aircraft. Few results observed. Boulogne Docks attacked by 10 A/C. No results observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 1825/16)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

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HOME COMMADNS.

British Air Activity.(contd).

Bombing
Restriction.

Submerged bombing restrictions in Area X are extended to $012^{\circ} 30' W$, between $050^{\circ} N$ and $044^{\circ} N$, until further notice. (Capt. S.5 1917/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Sapper."
SAPPER

One Enemy aircraft shadowing convoy "Sapper" my position $50^{\circ} 17' N$ $5^{\circ} 59' W$ Course 235° . (KIPLING 0530/16).

Plymouth
bombed.

Plymouth attacked by hostile aircraft at 0545 - incendiary bombs being dropped on Mount Wise and Royal William Victualling Yard. Several small fires in R.W. Victualling Yard soon extinguished, damage believed slight, Mount Wise very slight damage roof of old area combined H.Q. building and a few windows broken in Admiralty House. (C. in C. Plymouth 0556/16).

SURCOUF.
LA MOQUEUSE
attacked.

Machine gunned by twin-engined seaplane in $052^{\circ} 12' N$ $008^{\circ} W$. at 0417/16. No casualties or damage. (SURCOUF 0600/16).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Yarmouth bombed during night 15/16th. Damage caused at Crabtrees wharf Trawler base and extension damage North end of Town. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0750/16, Works Shotley 1125/16).

Lowestoft
attacked.

Lowestoft attacked with incendiaries only at 0426. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 0942/16).

Belfast. Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

512

Enemy Air Activity (contd).

Belfast.
Air-Raid
Night 15/16.

No material damage Docks, Wharves, or equipment reported. One U.X.B. reported Albert Quay and one Queens Quay, dockers not working today. Port closed. (Shiprep, Belfast. 1000/16).
Air Raid on Belfast, night of 15/4. (A) Shipyard superficial damage war effort as regards material not affected after debris and UXBs have been removed. (B) One Officer 4 ratings wounded 9 ratings still unaccounted for but may be in Hospital. 36 employees of Harland and Wolff wounded also civilian casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 1758/16, 1814/16).

PATRICIA.
attacked on
9/4.

(Trinity House Vessel) When at Holyhead at 2230/9/4 reports being attacked by a four engined enemy bomber which was attacking shipping and town. This plane had a wire guard protecting the whole front of plane.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1130/16).

Convoy "Pattern"
PATTERN.

^{"Pattern"}
Help ~~PATTERN~~ in 57° 26' N. 1° 35' W. (Rosyth W/T 1419/16).
Fighter aircraft being sent to assist ~~PATTERN~~ "Pattern".
(Rosyth W/T 1422/16).
My 1419. 14 p (1 AP?) height under 1000 ft. dropped 2 bombs near land.
(HASTINGS 1425/16).

Ten Enemy
A/C

10 Enemy Aircraft type unknown bearing 220° distance 20 miles position 55° 30' N. long (?).
(VERSATILE 1530/16).

Convoy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

513

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (cntd.)

Convoy.
BOLETTE
(Norwegian,
1167 tons).
ANGLESEA ROSE
(British 1151
tons.)
AMIENS
(British, 1548 tons)
sunk.

Sailed tug SCHELDE to assist AMIENS in 50° 25' N 05° 35' W with instructions to tow her to St. Ives. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0715/16)
Southbound Convoy of 15 +M/Vs escorted by KIPLING A/S Yacht VIVA II and A/S Trawler PEARL and RUBY. Attacked by one E/A flying low in about 50° 27' N. 05° 35' W. at 0228/16. BOLETTE sunk, 15 survivors on board KIPLING, 8 missing. Attack continued till 0345. ANGLESEA ROSE sunk, crew saved. AMIENS disabled PEARL stood by AMIENS, Tug SCHELDE sailed from Milford Haven to assist. AMIENS sank at 1520, PEARL proceeded with survivors to St. Ives Bay. VIVA II reports having disabled enemy Seaplane who attempted to attack Convoy at 0521/16.
Proposal to authorise flying of Kites in this Area has been made in My 1547/16. (C. in C. Plymouth 1841/16).

VESTRA
attacked
14/4.

(Trawler). Attacked by single enemy aircraft at 1410/14 25 miles S.E. by S. Duncansby Head. Slight damage being repaired at Scapa. No injuries or casualties. VESTRA opened fire with both Hotchkiss guns without visible effect. (A.C.O.S. 1745/16).

Convoy S.L. 69
SWEDRU
(British, 5378
tons bombed.)

Aircraft reports ships of S.L.69 bombed in 55° 14' N 12° 51' W at 0945 today. Report details. (C. in C. W.A. 1756/16 to SALISBURY). Submitted following repetition of my 1100/16 pass to aircraft. S.L. 69 bombed one (?F) W. Condor at 0935. SWEDRU hit. GLADIOLUS standing by position 055° 18' N 012 46' W. ends. Add GLADIOLUS proceeding Londonderry with injured. ROXBOROUGH standing by SWEDRU. (WESTON 1950/16).

My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

514

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy S.L.69
SWEDRU
(British, 5379 tons
bombed.) (contd)

My 1530/16 and C. in C. W.A. 1756/16
SWEDRU in 055° 14' N 012° 51' W.
burning between deck from a (corrupt group)
to after end of after hold. Block deck
cargo still burning. (Corrupt group)
and bridge gutted. Hull still intact
though red hot. Survivors taken off by
GLADIOLUS. No way to board until fire
abates. Owing to fuel shortage must
leave for Londonderry before dawn tomorrow
Consider salvage impracticable. Propose
torpedoeing SWEDRU. Instructions
requested.

(ROXBOROUGH 2029/16).

Request you will sail tugs TENACITY and
PRUDENT to assist SWEDRU. ROXBOROUGH
is standing by.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2244/16 to N.O.I.C.
Campbeltown.)

Your 2244/16. Sailed Tugs PRUDENT and
TENACITY.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2245/16).

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

515

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Clyde.

River Clyde dredged channel closed to navigation.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0536/16).
River Clyde above Great Harbour will be open to Navigation both ways from 1430 today unless further signal is made.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1041/16).

S.N.9.

My 0851/14. Request I may be informed if operation S.N.9. is to take place starting today.
(R.A.M. 0812/16).
Your 0812/16. Operation S.N.9. must be postponed until escort and cover become available.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1003/16).

Operation
B.S.54.

Intend TEVIOT BANK, GUILLEMOT, and KITTIWAKE to sail from Spurn Point at 1645/17 and R/V with Minesweepers at 20 D buoy at 0530/18. Thence through Gap B and course 360 to initial position, laying from South to North. Returning West of minefield by same route, to D.20 Buoy.
Laying will begin 0845/18.
(S.O. M/L Immingham, 0910/16).

Use of
Sterilised
Mines.

Admty Letter T.O. 5296/41 dated 31 March paragraph 6. (a) Concur with Admty. 1317/12. (b) Concur. (c) Mines can be used best to extend S.N.11 and back about centre of Channel between Faroes and Iceland. Subject to further consideration of situation when mines became available.
(C.in C. H.F. 0953/16).

Hull.

At 0355 one mine dropped in Alexandria Dock, Hull five other dropped in Hull at same time and exploded.
(F.O.I.C. Humber, 1009/16).

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

516

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Z.M.E. 29.

Operation Z.M.E. 29 completed.
(PLOVER) (1024/16).

Operation
Z.M.E. 30.

Particulars.
To be carried out on night 18/4, or as soon after as practicable.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1329/16).

Belfast.

Port of Belfast is now open.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1725/16).
At 1558/16 Drifter with L.L. detonated small blue Mine 350° one cable from North West Corner of Victoria Wharf.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1940/16).
Port of Belfast. No movement is to take place inside the Pile Lighthouse.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1955/16).

River
Foyle.

My 0830/16.
River Foyle open as far as Moville for inward traffic.
(Capt: D. Londonderry 1726/16).

Spurn
Point.

Two spontaneous explosions occurred as follows, today.
(F.O.Humber, 2048/16).

Londonderry.

My 0850/16 Port of Londonderry opened.
(Capt: D. Londonderry, 2104/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

Suspected E/Boat activity off Portland Bill.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 0102/16).
Possibly E/Boat reported Sheringham Buoy 2245.
(C.in C. Nore, 2259/16).

Brest.

Visual reconnaissance of Brest at 0800/16 shows one Battlecruiser in dock and one Battlecruiser at T/B Station.
(D.D.I.C. 0959/16).
Photographs of reconnaissance of 0800/16 show Battle Cruisers still present in usual positions, dry dock partly full.
(D.D.I.C. 1322/16).

/R/C.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

Brest cont:-

R/C Brest 1700/16, 1 B.C. alongside behind nets. 1 B.C. in flooded dock - caisson in place - with protecting boom. 6 minesweepers alongside in Rade Abri. (D.D.I.C. 2132/16).

KÖLN
and
1 Battleship.

Reported to have entered Lübeck Bay.
(1) Cruiser KÖLN on 30.3.41.
(2) A BISMARCK Class battleship on 2.4.41. C.2.
(D.D.I.C. 1801/16).

Destroyers
in Straits
of Dover.

South Foreland traffic indicates possibility two enemy destroyers were near Straits of Dover at 1545/16.).
(D.D.I.C. 1808/16.).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.T.C.10.

Convoy T.C.10 comprising GEORGIC and BATORY due Clyde 19/4. Disembarkation and discharge to be completed at Tail of Bank. (details).
(D. of S.T. 0119/16 to P.S.T.O. Clyde).

RODNEY
W.S.8.(A)

You~~x~~ will be required as ocean escort for convoy W.S.8.(A) leaving U.K. on (date). Further information will be given to you after arrival in Clyde.
(D.O.D.(H) 1035/16 to RODNEY).

Convoys
F.N., E.C.,
F.S.

Additional escorts.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1142/16).
See Lion Copy.

Diversion of
ships bound
for ports
closed
through
minelaying.

Your 1600/15/4. I have this matter very much in mind and am acting accordingly.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1323/16 to Admty).

Orders
for
H.G.58.

For Cdre. of H.G.58. To avoid U/Boat alter course forthwith for 055° 50'N., 008° 30'W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1825/16 to EGRET, VERITY, CHELSEA).

Protection
of Tankers.

At this juncture of the war I wish to impress upon escorts the extreme value of tankers whether laden (? or in ballast) Their position in convoy depends on various factors outside control of escort but when circumstances permit special attention should be paid to the protection of these valuable ships.
(C.in C. W.A. 1909/16 to VETERAN, WALKER, KEPPEL, HAVELOCK, SALISBURY, AMAZON Capt: (D) Londonderry Capt: (D) Liverpool Capt: (D) Greenock.

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

519.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

GLENDENE.

Sailed tug CAROLINE MOLLER to assist GLENDENE in collision 225°. The Smalls, 5 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0235/16).

WHADDON
(Destroyer)
AGATE
(M/S Trawler)
Collision.

Been in collision with AGATE at buoy. Am holed in gearing room and cannot steer. AGATE standing by with stem damaged.
WHADDON 0312/16).
My 0312/16. Am proceeding to Humber under own steam, AGATE in company.
(WHADDON, 0350/16).
Tug SCOTSMAN left Immingham at 0515 for Humber L.V. to assist WHADDON.
(F.O.Humber, 0516/16).
Arrival WHADDON in tow of Tug SCOTSMAN at 1030.
(F.O.Humber, 1036/16).
Was in collision with AGATE at 0300 B.S.T. 16th in 053° 20' 06" N 000° 59' 06" E. Ship badly holed in gearing compartment starboard side and damage serious.
(WHADDON 1622/16).

BATH.

(Norwegian Destroyer). Reported at 0315/15 being in collision with M/S vessel 5 miles North of No.20 buoy and able to make nearest harbour without assistance. BATH has been ordered into the Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0950/16).
BATH arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1117/16).
(C.in C. Nore, 1204/16 to A.C.O.S.)

SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN.
GLENBRIDE
(Collision).

SCOTTISH MUSICIAN in O.G.M.59 and Coaster GLENBRIDE damaged in collision. Both entering Milford Haven.
SCOTTISH MUSICIAN under own power, GLENBRIDE being towed.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0952/16).

Ship's
Boat.

Ships boat position 60° 14' N., 8° 30' W. course 190°, speed 4 knots.
(A/C duty Q 1830/16 to 18 Group H.Q.)
A/C reported ship's boat as follows. Keep a good look-out for this boat and detach one trawler to search at daylight tomorrow.
(C.in C. W.A. 1958/16 to KEPPEL).

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy
Units.

At 2235 G.M.T. 279° 1st Class German
Mobile unit.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0026/16 to N.A.Station).
At 2226 on 5025 Kc/s bearing 282 2nd
Class Italian unit.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0039/16 to N.A.Station).

Yugoslav
ships
at Gib.

Your 1614/15. SUD sailed for Lisbon
1800/15. PAVIA and TALAS at Gibraltar
pending further instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0946/16 to N.C.S.O.
Lisbon).

UNBEATEN.
URGE.
UNION.

Report P.C. and S. of advance on
crossing lat. 041° N., 2 British
trawlers patrolling off Lisbon.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1010/16).

Raider
Report
15/4,
CAMITO
to
investigate.

Ref: RRRR report at 2247/15. If you
carried out this interception report
facts. If not, proceed to investigate
near 37° 09' N., 18° 43' W. and 36° 09' N.,
18° 43' W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1034/16 to CAMITO).

Yugoslav
shipping
at
Gibraltar.

Your 1433/10. Yugoslavian PAVLA SUD
and TALAS, ref: Lisbon 1614/15 addressed
Admiralty, I am holding PAVLA and TALAS
for further instructions, SUD sailed for
Lisbon 15/4.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1155/16 to Admty).

Portland
(German).

Your 1350/13. PORTLAND has not arrived
Cadiz.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1204/16 to Admty).

Force H.

Arrivals S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK
ROYAL, FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FAULKNER.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1240/16).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)TAKU.My 1830/14 TAKU returned.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1430/16).Crews for
U.S.
Coastguard
Cutters.
H.G.60,
escort.Admty's. 2231/11. It is for consideration that ABERDEEN is sailed direct to Halifax or Bermuda with the 26 Officers and 31 ratings now at Gibraltar who are detailed for coastguard cutter. WELLINGTON arriving 21st or 22nd could act as escort instead of ABERDEEN for H.G.60 sailing on (date).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1800/16 to Admty).Unusual
Movement
of German
Ships. + Could be
SUNBERG.ATLAS, SAVONA, TRAPANI, SVELLBERG, LISBOA, all arrived Valencia 15/4. This is an unusual movement. * See page 484.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1942/16 to Admty).LISBOA
(German)16/4 departure LISBOA for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2030/16).JACKALMy 1803/15. JACKAL's boiler hours will be 1200. Request boiler may be cleaned on arrival if possible.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2039/16).Operation
"Dunlop."Proposed procedure re aircraft.
(F.O. Force H. 2059/16 to Admty).Investigation
of raider
report.Your 1034/16. Both areas searched. Nothing found. Will continue search tomorrow.
(CAMITO 2205/16).

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NELSON
W.S.7.

Capetown arrivals 16/4 NELSON and portion of Convoy W.S.7. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130Z/16).

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 0120/15. Request I may be informed of probable movements or duties of QUEEN ELIZABETH after arrival at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1309N/16 to Admty).

D/F Bearings.

Your 1736/15. As indicated in my 0817/15 bearings were the same for both transmissions. (D.D.I.C. 1318/16 to C.in C. S.A.)

S.L.Convoy.

A.M. 1043/13 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1740/16 to C.in C. S.A. C.in C. A.W.I.)

Relief of
VIDETTE.

Admty's 1835/3, and my 1839/26/3. VIDETTE has other defects which are accumulating. Request destroyer to relieve her may be sent as early as possible. There are many calls on destroyers and all A/S vessels with present U/Boat activity off the port. (C.in C. S.A. 1757N/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LECH
(German).

Rio de Janeiro reports loading is proceeding slowly and it appears that ship will not be ready for sea before early next week. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2021Z/16).

Mediterranean.

HERO to
proceed
Kotor.

Am very averse to sending any ships to Kotor, if it is considered essential a destroyer can be sent but as Italian Fleet in action off this coast there appears every chance of losing her. HERO is standing by at Suda Bay. (C.in C. Med., 0330/16, 0444/16 to Admty).

/Your 0330/16.

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

HERO to
proceed
Kotor
(contd).

Your 0330/16. Start HERO off for Kotor preferably by Corinth Canal. Decision will be given in about 6 hours whether she is to continue voyage or not.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0417/16 to C.in C. Med.) Orders for proceeding. Greek colours may be flown until through Otranto, Strait.
(C.in C. Med., 0816/16 to HERO). HERO is to be recalled to Suda Bay or as desired by you.
(1st S.L. 1317/16 to C.in C. Med.) Your 0417/16. Attention is invited to N.A.Athen's 1407/16.
(C.in C. Med., 1805/16 to Admty). Ref: Admty. 1556/16 (Repetition of 1317/16). Return to Suda Bay.
(C.in C. Med., 2000/16 to HERO). As situation at Kotor is completely obscure HERO has been ordered to return to Suda Bay.
(C.in C. Med., 2004/16 to N.A.Athens).

Operation
M.D.I.

My 1447/13. My 1019/15. Operation M.D.I. is postponed a further 24 hours.
(C.in C. Med., 0914/16 to Med. Fleet).

Air Operations
Cyrenaica.

Night 14/15 April. 4 Wellingtons dropped 10,000 lbs. bombs Derna El Adem and Menastir (near Bardia) aerodromes. Results.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1004/16). Sea reconnaissance. Benghazi to Bardia Benghazi.
(55 Sqdn. 1330/16.)

Enemy
Convoy
destroyed.
MOHAWK
sunk.

Capt: (D) 14 reports that he believes whole convoy of five merchant vessels and three destroyers sunk or destroyed. Escort consisted of Italian Destroyers LUCA / TARIGO and two SPICA class destroyers. Convoy 2 merchant vessels of 5,000 tons loaded motor transport 1 ammunition carrier of 4000 tons which blew up, and 2 vessels of 3000 tons which exploded at intervals. Interception took place in vicinity of No.2. buoy Kerkenah Bank. Regret to report MOHAWK sunk by two enemy torpedoes. Captain, 7 officers and 160 ratings rescued.

WAR DIARY.16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Enemy Convoy
Destroyed.
MOHAWK sunk
Contd.:-

Ship sank in 7 fathoms and consider it most improbable secret book compromised.

Owing to approach of daylight destroyers were unable to wait to pick up enemy survivors.

(V.A.Malta, 1125/16 to C.in C. Med.)

(Capt: (D) 14's 0411/16 not to Admty.)

Request no communique be issued to Capt: (D) 14's attack on convoy as no enemy W/T has been heard from scene of action and communique might compromise operations.

(C.in C. Med., 1424/16 to Admty.)

Narrative of the operation.

(V.A.Malta, 1752/16) See Lion Copy.

Your 1424/16. There is great need for heartening news at this moment. Consider loss of enemy convoy must be known to them by now. Please consider whether you can withdraw your objection to issue of a communique.

Your 0047/15 para.7 and 1017/15 from H.Q. B.A.C. Greece. Have you any objection to communique being issued regarding successful torpedo attacks by 815 Sqn.

(1st Lord 1839/16 to C.in C. Med.)

Regret it has not been found possible to comply with your 1424/16 as it has been decided that in the present circumstances it was necessary to publish without further delay the news of this striking success. Request early reply to para. two of my 1839/16.

(1st Lord 2204/16 to C.in C. Med.)

Beauforts.
for Malta.

X 812/16 April. Cancel my X. 728 and X 613 14/4. Beauforts are not now being despatched to Malta.
(Air Min: 1152/16 to Admty).

S24(A)

MESSAGE 1752/16th April.

SECRET.

IN.

From V.A. Malta.

Date 17.4.43.
Time 0016

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T.

Action With Enemy Convoy: Moltank sunk

Addressed Admiralty. C. in C. Mediterranean. Repeated V.A. Malta

IMPORTANT.

810. My 1725/16/4. Following is narrative of time zone minus 2. Destroyers sailed 1800 under cover of rain and mist. 0055 started searching on 333 degs. from number 4 Buoy Kerkenah. 0155 altered course to 214 degs. to make number one Buoy and at 0158 sighted convoy on course 170 degs. in 3 columns one escort each bow and one on quarter. Worked round to starboard quarter of convoy to get advantage of moon. 0220 H.M.S. JERVIS opened fire on small enemy destroyer in rear of convoy at range of 2400 yards. This enemy sank at 0227.

9 LAMPO
drifted ashore
Kerkenah

General melee ensued the 2 other enemy destroyers turning back from van. H.M.S. NUBIAN engaged and stopped small port wing destroyer.

Italian Destroyer LUCIA TARIGO passed down our destroyers starboard side being repeatedly hit. It is believed the first torpedo to hit H.M.S. MOHAWK aft was from this enemy ship. H.M.S. MOHAWK was at the time proceeding at high speed and turning to avoid a merchant vessel out of control and was most unlucky. H.M.S. MOHAWK was hit later in engine room by a second torpedo and heeled over on beam end. She was sunk by gunfire by H.M.S. JANUS in position 034 degs. 56' 30" N. 011 degs. 42' 24" E.

The 5 Merchant vessels were disposed of during and after action with escorts. The whole action was fought at close range and expenditure of ammunition was moderate. By 0300 all enemy ships were destroyed or sinking and destroyers returned to pick up H.M.S. MOHAWK survivors.

By 0400 all these which could be located were saved and ships returned at high speed to Malta fortunately under cover of low clouds and haze around at 1000. No enemy A/C were sighted. Both Italian and German had to be left in water and on rafts. The 3 remaining ships had no repetition no casualties and only slight splinter damage.

(ii) 2 Swordfish were searching area off the K Bank independently from 0030 but did not locate enemy until destroyers opened fire.

(V.A. Malta 1752/16)

Note. Part I of this signal has already been circulated separately under T.O.O. 1745/16, message now complete.

Advance copies sent P.O. A.C.N.S.(F) C.S.O. to 1st S.I.
Ops. O.D. O.I.C. D.P.D.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | O.D. (5) | * 5 Italian M.Vs. and
3 Destroyers believed
sunk or destroyed. |
| 1st S.L. | D.N.I. (4) | |
| 2nd S.L. | M. (2) | |
| 3rd S.L. | O.I.C. (2) | |
| 4th S.L. | D. A/S W. | |
| 5th S.L. | D.T.D. (2) | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.S.D. (2) | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | I.P. (3) | |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | W.D. | |
| A.C.N.S.(T) (2) | D.P.D. | |
| PARL. SEC. | D.S.D.9. | |
| NAV. SEC. | D.T.S.D. | |

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TETRARCH
TRIUMPH.

My 1837/15. para.3. To assist TETRARCH to locate you transmit letters H.W. using S/ST on 10 Kc/s on bearing 050° at same times as light is shown.
(C.in C. Med., 1332/16, to TRIUMPH).

4 Greek
Submarines
for
Alexandria.

Greeks intend sailing 4 Submarines for Alexandria separately at 12 hour intervals. They will be ready to leave 17/4. Request route and time arrival in Egypt, also pilot.
(N.A.Athens, 1337/16 to C.in C. Med.)

UNDAUNTED
URSULA
UTMOST
Movements.

Following route established B 038° 00' 011° 17'C, 037° 18' 011° 17' D. 037° 18' 011° 33'E. 036° 56' 011° 51' F. 036° 48' 012° 16' thence 180° - Filfola Island - 5 miles. Anticipate UNDAUNTED at B. about 0500/19 and arrive Malta 0630/21. URSULA leave area L. 037° 00' 011° 00' - 00° - 40 - 30 p.m./18 through C.D.E.F. to arrive 0630/20. UTMOST may be near 036° 00' 012° 50' about 0001/20 making for Malta.
(Cdr. (S) 1. 1515/16. to URSULA, UNDAUNTED).

SILVI
TRIPCOVICH
(Italian).

^{2365*}
(1365) tons, reported sunk with large loss of life about the middle of March. Bodies said to have been washed up near Sfax, Tunisia. This may be the 6000 ton ship sunk by UTMOST.
(D.S.590 17/4).

* See Reydo.

Malta
Air Report.

Combined Service report Malta up to 16 hours 16/4. G.M.T. Enemy air activity over Malta nil. 2 Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A. despatched night 15/16. April to locate and shadow convoy of 5 M/V's and 3 destroyers reported by Glenn Martin 15/4. Convoy located off Kerkenah when British destroyers had begun action.
(R.A.F. Malta, 1615/16).

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Orders to
TRUANT.

Destroyer patrols will be proceeding as far as Tolmeita tonight 16th/17th. Henceforth do not repetition not operate east of Benghazi. S.O.Force "I" has been informed.
(Capt: (S) 1 1705/16 to TRUANT).

Information
for
TRUANT.

H.M.S. TETRARCH reports enemy are using (B ?) urat as their main base and Elauejia as temporary anchorage. Further information.
(Capt: (S) 1 1721/16 to TRUANT).

Orders to
TRIUMPH.

My 2158/15 on completion of operation return to Alexandria through 032° 02'N. 025° 45'E. to enter Sanctuary at 1100/18.
(Capt: (S) 1. 1759/16 to TRIUMPH).

See also next page.

Dodecanese
Intelligence.

Following from Turkish G.S. Movement of troops from other islands to Rhodes (details). due heavy losses Rhodes 31/3 air raid. Governor of Rhodes and other officials moved Ipsidos to avoid air raids. 5,000 tins of petrol arrived Cos. Estimated strength Rhodes 20,000.
(M.A. Ankara, 1904/16 to C.in C. M.E. W.O.)

Khalkis
bombed.
Evacuation
of King
Peter.

0715 G.M.T./16 10 to 20 JU 88's dive bombed and machine gunned fortresses and shipping in Khalkis harbour. 2 Hurricanes No.80 Sqdn. took off. 1 JU 88 :- 1045 G.M.T./16. 2 Sunderlands 230 Sqdn. took off from Scaramanga for Kotor to evacuate important personages.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Greece, 2000/16).

CLAN CUMMING
mined.

Reported to have been damaged by fire in air attack on Piraeus on 6/4, is now known to have struck a mine and sunk.
(D.S.590, 17/4).

/TRUANT.....

WAR DIARY.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

527

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TRUANT
Enemy
M/V sunk.

TRUANT sunk on enemy barqueladen with explosives off Appollonia on 16/4. (D.O.R. 19/4). *(VANNA, also sailing vessel)*

→ Operation cancelled.
(? Malta 2001/16 to TRIUMPH).

DELOS
(German)

Reported DELOS passed Istanbul at 1300/16 bound for Salonika speed 10 knots.
(C.O.S. Alexandria, 2123/16 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation
with D.10
and Glen
ships
cancelled.
Orders.

→ My 1843/15. Operation is cancelled. Forces are to act as follows.
(a) CARLISLE join Convoy A.N.27 (b) TRIUMPH return to Alexandria.
(c) Capt: D.10 with GLEN ships and destroyers in company return to Alexandria.
(d) COVENTRY join Capt: D.10.
T.O.O. 2238.
(C.in C. Med., 2240/16 to Capt: D.10).

Situation
report
No.3.

Western Desert. GLOUCESTER carried out an extremely successful bombardment of Fort Capuzzo Bardia area. Air spotting reports all salvoes at Capuzzo burst amongst concentration of 100 A(?F) V's and M.T. and results reported excellent. LADYBIRD bombarded Gazala aerodrome and dump. GREYHOUND and VENDETTA swept to Raz Aemz along coast and back but made no contact. Now reported SKUDD[^]netlayer shot down one JU 88 when attacked p.m./12 on patrol off Mersa Tobruk. Raid on Bardia tonight by special troops cancelled owing to weather.
(C.in C. Med., 2356/16.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

CALEDON

After completing with fuel at Aden, CALEDON is to proceed with all convenient despatch to Alexandria. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0034/16 to C.in C.E.I.)

EAGLE's movements.

Your 1403/15 not approved to clean boilers at Aden. ? Intend EAGLE accompanied by CORNWALL to leave Aden as soon as possible after arrival and proceed Mombasa with all convenient despatch, where EAGLE will have four clear days for boiler cleaning.
(C.in C. E.I. 0658Z/16, to EAGLE).

Convoy W.S.7.

(i) Present intentions for escort of W.S.7. HAWKINS from Cape to vicinity of Mombasa, where GLASGOW will relieve HAWKINS and escort to Perim.

(ii) COLOMBO will reinforce escort from vicinity of Mombasa to about 005° N. whence convoy W.S.7 X consisting of STRATHMORE, WARWICK CASTLE, DUCHESS OF YORK and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, escorted by COLOMBO will proceed direct to Bombay at 15 knots.

(iii) CARTHAGE will escort Durban portion of W.S.7 from Durban to rendezvous with Cape portion as arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown.
(C.in C. E.I. 0654Z/16 to Adty. etc.)

Request COLOMBO be sailed for Mombasa a.m./17 at 15 knots.

(C.in C. E.I., 0656Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

Movements.

(Durban)
H.M.S. RANCHI sailed in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0726Z/14 (0746Z/14 intended)

(ii) HECTOR and VULCAN arrived. 1010Z/16.

Convoy W.S.9.

A.M.1208/13 para.3. Amended date of W.S.9 leaving U.K. is
(D.O.D.(F) 1250/16 to C.in C. E.I.).

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

529

China.

Seaplane
bases.

Personal 5th Sea Lord.
My 0501Z/29/3 and my 0521/16. I am naturally disappointed that arrival of your representative with much more extensive requirements than had been indicated in previous signal has necessitated a complete reconsideration of problems involving some waste of preliminary work and effort out here. I appreciate however that more extensive requirements are results of further experience at home. I am satisfied that site now selected will best meet requirements and am ensuring work proceeds with all despatch.
(C.in C. China 0355Z/16).

Re M. Baron.

Personal for General de Gaulle from C.in C. China. I have consulted Ambassador and we are convinced that M. Baron is an eminently suitable leader for the Free French cause in the Far East, we hope therefore you will confirm his appointment.
(C.in C. China, 0831Z/16 to Adty.).

F.O. in
South China.

An additional F.O. arrived in South China on 10/4 and appears to be stationed at Sama. Possible that F.O. is in command of Tamsui expeditionary force, composition not yet known. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0936Z/16).

Threat of
war with
Japan.

Arrangements to meet it. (V.C.N.S.1409/16)
See Lion Copy.

1100/15th April

To C. in C. China 739,
C. in C. East Indies 815,
Repeated Australian Naval Board,
Melbourne, 50.
C. in C. Mediterranean 33.

Date 16.4.41

529A

Naval Cypher D

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT AIDAC

Reference Paragraph 16 of Admiralty Message 1848/4
the following are intended M/S arrangements to meet
threat of war with Japan.

(A) Fast Minesweepers.

Twenty Australian built BATHURST Class Minesweepers plus 4 Hong Kong built BANGOR Class Minesweepers will be formed by C. in C. China into 21st, 22nd and 23rd Minesweeping Flotillas of eight ships each. One flotilla each for Singapore, Penang and Port Swettenham. Last ten BATHURST and 4 BANGORS will have Mark V 'LL' Sweep and S.A. Sweeps in addition to Mark I moored minesweep. In event of capital ships proceeding to Eastern Waters they will be preceded by a Fast Minesweeping Flotilla from Home to work at Fleet Base. Eventually, it is hoped to add a flotilla of Fast Corvette type Fleet Minesweepers to operate with capital ships and a fast Minesweeping Flotilla to East Indies Station for general duty. All above vessels will be equipped with A/S and be capable of anti-submarine escort within their endurance when not required for primary function of minesweeping.

(B) Auxiliary Minesweepers on Station.

C. in C. China is requested to report names of auxiliary minesweepers considered capable of carrying a 'LL' sweep specifying type in addition to present moored minesweep and which of these vessels could also be equipped with S.A. Sweep fitted externally.

(C) Two M.D. Ships fitted 'LL' and S.A. Sweeps will shortly leave England for Singapore.

22 Motor Minesweepers building East of Suez will allocated to China Station.

(E) BANGOR Class Minesweepers and 4 Motor Minesweepers must not repetition not be locked up in Hong Kong. In emergency these vessels must be towed to Singapore at your discretion to complete.

(F) 4 Admiralty design A/S M/S trawlers will leave England for Singapore at end of June 1941.

/(G).....

(G) Appreciation on which above dispositions were made will be forwarded by letter to above addressees.

1409/15

D.L.S. (252)

Approved V.C.N.S.

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. (T)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 D. of P. (2)
 D.O.D. (H)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D.
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.M.S. (2) (M.S.0186/41)
 W.D.
 I.P.
 Duty Captain
 Hd. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D.
 N.I.D. 10 PaymCdr. Wilson

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

German
raiders
outfitted in
Caroline Island.

Your 1155/14, Seattle reports source is U.S. Naval Intelligence and that further details will follow if available.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 0931/16, to Admiralty)

Suspicious
Ship sighted
by MAUDRAS
CITY 18/2.

Your 0031/16/3 LACONIA reports having sighted ~~no ship~~ no ship on that date.
(F.O.C. 3rd.S. 1237/16. to Admiralty.)

Four fast
U.S. Ships
for U.K.

My 1740/14. Ships must be sailed together and on no account must they be late at R/V. Subject to this it is desirable to give Sparks as long a time for loading ships as possible. Please advise Sparks and Salter.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1440/16. to N.A. Washington.)
The group of four ships is to be sailed and routed so as to R/V in (position) at 1300 G.M.T./28. Full speed is understood to be 16 knots. B.N.A. pass to MALAYA.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1811/16. to R.A. 3.B.S. etc.,)

Convoy
Escorts.

Your 1122/3. Procedure ordered in Ady's. 1038/29. involves considerable increase in fuel expenditure and it will not normally be practicable for R Class Battleships to return between positions Z and A.
(R.A. 3. B.S. 1602/16. to C.-in-C. A.&W.I.)

S.S. CASTOR
burning.

British OTAIO arrived Curacao 15/14 with 21 survivors Swedish CASTOR bound Port Arthur Texas to Gothonburgh. Ship left burning in 057 59' N. 032 08' W.
(Curacao. 1607/16.)

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies (contd.)

PORPOISE.
S.C. 29.

Your 1739/9. Intend sailing PORPOISE with S.C. 29 with instructions to leave convoy one hour after sunset on 2/5 carrying out a sweep in rear of convoy on leaving. Suggest PORPOISE might subsequently proceed south eastwards and establish a patrol near 051° 30'N. 013° W. before proceeding U.K.
(R.A. 3.B.S. 1608/16 to Admiralty.)

S.L.
Convoys.

A.M. 1043/13 is cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1740/16 to C.-in-C. S.A.,
C.-in-C. A&W.I.)

Suspicious
ship.

C.O.A.C's 1236/3 and Adty. 1814/4. ZOUAVE on arrival Boston reports suspicious ship was submarine flying white ensign.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1841/16.)

Italian
destroyers at
Susa.

Your 1646/15. Please ascertain if report is confirmed. Are Italian destroyers still in Susa, if not how long did they remain.
(D.N.I. 1858/16. to Washington.)

Possible
U-boat
signals.

Your 1840/15. Confirm number of K.cs. and can give details of the traffic and context of message.
(ADTY. 1859/16. to N.A. Washington.)

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

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ENA DE
LARRINGA
(torpedoed
5/4.)

~~ALEXANDRINO~~
Brazilian ALMIRANTE ~~PENTINO~~ arrived Pernambuco 15/4 with 19 survivors from ENA DE LARRINGA torpedoed by U-Boat on 5/4 in 01° 10' N. 26° 00' W. Second boat with 19 others when last sighted was making good progress towards Brazilian coast. Ship was not zigzagging at the time of attack and does not appear to have done so after dispersal of convoy.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 1934/15).

CORINTHIC
(Sunk 13/4)

S.S. CORINTHIC sunk by torpedo from submarine suggested Italian at 2048 G.M.T./13 in 8° 10' N. 14° 40' W. en route Buenos Aires/Freetown singly. Two killed, 28 survivors landed Freetown 15/4 by Dutch MALVINA. (C.in C. S.A., 2052/16). 4823 tons, bound independently from Buenos Aires to Freetown and U.K. with grain.
(D.S., 591).

Submarines Reported.

1447.

Aircraft reports U.Boat in 058° 13' N. 005° 23' E., course 350° at 1447/16.
(F.O.(S) 1608/16 to MINERVE).

1715.

Adty. 1728. S/M sighted 054° 27' N. 016° 16' W. at 1715 by ROCKINGHAM. VETERAN, WOLVERINE, ROCKINGHAM, hunting.
(VETERAN 1900/16 to C.in C. W.A. etc.).

2207.

By D/F U-Boat estimated in area 59° to 060° N. 004° to 005° E. at 2207/16.
(F.O.(S) 2246/16 to MINERVE).

Convoy
reported
by U boat.

An enemy submarine has made a first sight report of convoy signal, important unit, probably O.B.309.
(C.in C. W.A., 2346/16 to DEPTFORD).

Estimated U.B. Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1239/16).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. German.
One about 037° N. 014° W. at 2332/15.
(F.O.S. 1547/16 to URGE, UNION, UNBEATEN.).

War Diary.

16.4.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Submarines Attacked.

By SCOTTISH
15/4.

My 1713/15. SCOTTISH reports target definitely a submarine which was attacked 10 times.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1409/16 to Adty.).

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

534

Home Commands.

Operation
Q.E.

One A/S trawler and a unit of M.G.B's last night operated off Aldeburgh to intercept E/Boats.

Biscay
Patrol.

Visual R/C at 0850 today showed both battle cruisers in the usual position at Brest. At 1700 the dock containing one of them was flooded. The Admiralty intentions regarding capital ships for the Biscay Patrol are given in Admty. 2359/17.

E/Boat
attack on
F.S.†64.
S.S. NEREUS
EFFRA
sunk
ETHEL
RADCLIFFE
damaged.

Convoy F.S.†64. was attacked by E/Boats about 0225 today between Nos. 6 and 6A buoys. S.S. NEREUS (Dutch) and EFFRA were sunk, S.S. ETHEL RADCLIFFE was torpedoed and damaged, and S.S. ESKBURN had some machinegun casualties but no damage is reported.

M.T.B.
Operation.

Two M.T.B's from Dover carried out an offensive sweep between Boulogne and Dieppe last night.

Operation
"Dunlop."

ARGUS and LONDON left Greenock early this morning for Gibraltar.

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

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British Air Activity.

17 Blenheims, escorted by fighters bombed Cherbourg harbour and docks today.

ch
ch
Blenheims today attacked shipping between Penmarsh Point and Belle Isle and between Penmarsh Point and Ushant. They claim to have probably sunk an escorted Merchant Vessel of 6000 - 7000 tons. 10 miles S.W. of St. Mathieu Point.

Five Blenheims were despatched today to attack shipping off Brest. A 6000-7000 ton merchant ship is believed to have been hit.

80 tons of H.E. and 10000 incendiaries were dropped on Bremen last night, in an attack on the shipyards and industrial areas north of the river.

130 patrols of 277 sorties despatched today by Fighter Command, for the protection of shipping.

Enemy Air Activity.

Light
Vessel
attacked.

Seven Stones Light Vessel has been bombed and machine gunned three times within seven days. C.in C. Plymouth proposes to withdraw it.

Attack
by fluid
on
GOZO.

Trawler GOZO reports being attacked at 2000 today while fishing between Bull Rock and Fastnets, by a 4 engined plane and a fighter. The bomber dropped a torpedo and 4 bombs and both aircraft emitted a liquid which, slightly affected the mouth and eyes of the men on deck in the trawler. No damage or casualties occurred. Trawler FORT RONO was also attacked and entered Berehaven, but no report of damage has been received.

MOST SECRET.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on
London
and
Thames
Estuary.

Heavy attacks were made on London and areas in the Thames Estuary last night. S.S. MONTALTO was sunk at Rochester. Damage to ship repairing establishments in the Port of London was negligible and work is not affected. The Admiralty received 3 direct hits which damaged the South Block, but all communications are working.

Pilot cutter PIONEER was attacked and damaged at 1035 today at B.3 buoy and was towed to Gravesend.

It is estimated that 425 different long range bombers were engaged last night, including those on minelaying operations (20) and that 65 of them made two sorties.

Mining.

Operation
P.W.7.

3 M.T.B's laid mines last night off the Belgian Coast.

Aircraft last night laid mines off Brest and off the Frisian Islands.

S.S. PROFIT in Convoy F.N. was mined in the Thames Estuary at 1145 today.

Portions of the Thames were closed from 0350 onwards; the river was opened to navigation from Tower Pier to Southend at 1522, but the upper reaches remained closed.

Belfast was opened at 0941 but was closed at 2000.

North Atlantic.

Operation
G.W.

7 M.L's arrived at Gibraltar at 1046 today escorted by KASHMIR, JACKAL and SPI^A.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

French S.S. BANFORA (intercepted by DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 12/4) arrived at Freetown today.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Wellingtons arrived at Malta from the U.K. at dawn today.

Operation
M.D.1.

This operation is cancelled.

Submarines.

The O, P and R Class Submarines are to be based on Gibraltar for operations in the Mediterranean.

Cruiser
organisation.

The cruisers in the Medt. Fleet are now organised in one squadron, the 7th C.S. as follows:- 1st Div., ORION, AJAX, PERTH, 2nd Division, GLOUCESTER, PHOEBE.

Air attack
on
Tripoli.

As the result of Glen Martin R/C of Tripoli yesterday 7 Wellingtons and 3 Swordfish of 830 Squadron attacked Tripoli harbour from 0035/17, Wellingtons hit and set on fire a medium sized tanker which burnt fiercely and emitted a large explosion.

Western
Desert.

Wellingtons last night bombed Derna and caused an explosion believed to be either a bomb dump or an ammunition ship.

Only derelict shipping was observed by our aircraft in Benghazi harbour today.

/Enemy

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

538

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk, today, A dust storm prevented Hurricanes from taking off.

Greece.

Piraeus main harbour is now believed clear of mines and is in use.

Yugoslav
destroyers
and
Submarines.

It is not known whether the enemy have obtained control of the Yugoslav destroyers DUBROVNIK, BEOGRAD, ZAGREB, Submarines HRABRI, NEBOJSCA, SMELI, and OSVETNIK. If not in enemy hands these vessels may join our forces at any time.

East Indies.

Iraq.

The first echelon of air-borne troops arrived at Shaibah this evening.

America and West Indies.

4 fast
U.S.
Merchant
ships.

CANTON was due to arrive at New York today with 3 complete crews for some of the 4 fast U.S. Merchant ships which are being handed over to the British Govt.

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

539

Policy.

Command of Convoy Escorts.

W.A.C.I's Volume 1 Section A Part III. I consider that the stationing of all A/S escorts and their handling in the event of U-boat attack, as well as all administrative questions concerning the convoy should be left to the S.O. of the W.A. Escort Group irrespective of whether he is the Senior Officer present.

Apart from previous experience it is most desirable that the S.O. Escort Group should have attended the convoy conference before sailing.

I should be grateful for your views. (C. in C. W.A. 0102/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Movements.

LEAMINGTON.

My 0817/17. LEAMINGTON is returning to Harbour unload (?before leaving) (?R/V) and will not be able to be sailed in accordance with your 1156/16. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0950/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

ECHO.
ACTIVE.

Detach ECHO, ACTIVE to Scapa on reaching Minches. (C. in C. W.A. 1628/17 to RODNEY)

5th D.F.

My 1803/15. Amend dates for KIPLING to 1200/21 KELVIN to p.m./19. (C. in C. Plymouth 1645/17)

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA sailed. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2100/17)

Operations.

Operation "Dunlop."
DUNLOP.

Sailed LONDON and ARGUS in accordance with my 1418/16. Expect to pass into N.A. Station 2359/20. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0515/24. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0345/17).

Detach ERIDGE, SABRE, at limit of prudent endurance to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1838/17 to LONDON)

/Convoy....

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd)

540

Convoy F.S.464.
NEREUS
(Dutch, 1298 tons)
EFFRA
(British, 1450 tons)
sunk.
ETHEL RADCLIFFE
(British, 5673 tons)
damaged.
(attached by E-Boats.)

Towing ETHEL RADCLIFFE. Position 6 A Buoy.
(DIVERSION to N. Foreland Radio. C. in C. Nore 0600/17).
Departure Tug KROOMAN at 0555 to assist ETHEL RADCLIFFE (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0613/17)
Arrivals EGLINTON, COTSWOLD, M G B 11 A.?
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0741/17)
Still towing South, KROOMAN assisting.
(NORMAN 0815/17)

Prior to encounter with E Boats between 5 and 6 A Buoy at 0215 to-day EGLINTON and COTSWOLD were 3 miles ahead of F.S.464 zigzagging at 25 knots.

The first intimation of the presence of enemy was (?gunfire from) WALLACE. EGLINTON was in contact with 3 E Boats intermittently between 0215 and 0333 at ranges of not less than 2500 yards. One Torpedo fired at EGLINTON. COTSWOLD acting independently over the same period saw 4 E Boats none of which could be those sighted by EGLINTON.

2. Boats were engaged at 2000 yards. Pom pom fire from both EGLINTON and COTSWOLD was close to target but no hits were identified. All E Boats retired at high speed to S.E. (EGLINTON 1202/17)

As result of E-Boat attack on F.S.464 during night 16/17, Dutch S.S. NEREUS has been sunk. All hands believed safe on board SAPPHIRE, British S.S. EFFRA (1,450 tons) also feared torpedoed and sunk - two of crew missing, remainder in S.S. SOUTHWOOD to Harwich, British S.S. ETHEL RADCLIFFE (5,670 tons) damaged by torpedo now in tow of tugs DIVERSION and KROOMAN making for Yarmouth - position cross sand L/V at 0945/17. Believed crew safe on board SAPPHIRE - Captain wounded and on board WALLACE.

All attacks took place at about 0225/17 between Nos. 6 and 6A Buoys. Two other machine gun casualties from S.S. ESKBURN are on board VIMERA. ESKBURN believed otherwise undamaged and is proceeding Harwich with another wounded man on board. (C. in C. Nore 1252/17 and 1820/17)

/E boats....

War Diary.17.4.1941.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.

541

Operations (Contd)

Convoy F.S. 64
NEREUS
 (Dutch, 1298 tons)
EFFRA
 (British, 1450 tons)
 sunk.
ETHEL RADCLIFFE
 (British, 5673 tons)
 damaged. (Contd).
 (Affected by E/Boats.)

Summary of E-Boat activities last night. E boats apparently in two groups initially reported by auxiliary patrol trawlers (a) at Sheringham (b) between Five Buoys and Hearty Knoll at 2230 and 2318 respectively. E boat then picked up by special intelligence. About 0230 EGLINTON and COTSWOLD ahead of convoy as cover drove off group (b) near 6A buoy. At the same time WALLACE of convoy escort reported three E boats near 7 A buoy. About this time three ships of convoy were hit but apparently the escort did not witness this. Consider it probable that this was group (a) that had followed the convoy from Sheringham. One flare aircraft conned by Harwich found three E boats but could not bomb owing to scattered convoy. Another aircraft also conned by Harwich engaged another unit with cannon. Results not observed. Three motor gunboats with A/S trawlers N.E. of Aldeburgh acting on W/T report found one E boat near 55 buoy at 0330 and engaged with Oerlikon gun. Hits claimed but E boat lost in smoke and fog patch. Air search at daylight did not locate any E boat. Further information expected when WALLACE reaches harbour. (C. in C. Nore 1340/17). BEEHIVE reports:- M.G.B. 60 reports that at about 0350/17, 25 miles N.E. Aldeburgh Float, an E-Boat was encountered and engaged by M.G.B. 60 with Oerlikon and Port Lewis Gun. M.G.B. 64 engaged with four Brownings and Port twin Lewis Gun. M.G.B. 59 also engaged. G6 reports small sparks observed after end of E-Boat appearance heavy oil or paraffin ignited. C.O. M.G.B. 64 reports hits by all guns. E-Boat disappeared behind smoke. At 0400 a flash seen three miles astern appearance large red glow yellow sparks as being emitted turned to investigate and found nothing. 1045/17. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 1712/17) Survivors from S.S. EFFRA which was torpedoed and later sank near No. 7 buoy at 0220 this morning state that whilst abandoning ship they were raked with machine gun fire from E boats. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1720/17) F.S. 64 arrived except EFFRA (sunk) ETHEL RADCLIFFE (damaged) NEREUS (believed sunk) and ESKBURN. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1706/17)

/ No casualties....

War Diary.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd)

Convoy F.S. 64
NEREUS
(Dutch, 1298 tons)
EFFRA
(British, 1450 tons)
sunk.
ETHEL RADCLIFFE
(British, 5673 tons)
damaged. (Contd).
(Attacked by E/B's.)

No casualties in either s.s. ETHEL RADCLIFFE struck by torpedo near Number 6 Buoy now beached off Yarmouth or s.s. NEREUS torpedoed and sunk near Number 5 Buoy. All torpedoes apparently fired from West or shore side approx. time 0215 to 0230/17 (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 1910/17)

Catapult
Ships.

Your 1204/14. Programme of ship delayed one week and approx. date of embarkation is now 28/4. (RANAS 1030/17 to Yeovilton)

Jan Mayen.

My 2055/11 March. Captain Ullput has returned with BULL and VESLEKARI. Report of expedition satisfactorily established. Details. W/T communication only partially satisfactory with present Army set. More powerful transmitter required. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1117/17)

GALATEA
ARETHUSA
(R/C of
Icelandic Ports)

Arrived GALATEA, ARETHUSA. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1430/17)

Sweep off
Belgian Coast.

Weather permitting M.T.B. Unit No.2 is to operate between Ostend and Flushing tonight. Any vessel sighted east of 002° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. Report intended time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore 1550/17 to BEEHIVE)

A. F. D. 7

Admiralty 1926/15. N.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail A F D VII from Portland at dusk/19 for Milford Haven escorted by ATHERSTONE and BLENCATHRA.
(ii) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is to sail all available M.L.'s to Portland as requisite to act as additional escort between Portland and The Lizard. (iii) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is to provide all available M.L.'s as additional escort between The Lizard and Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth 1643/17)

/Boulogne-Dieppe sweep....

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd)

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Boulogne-Dieppe
Sweep.

Intend to carry out offensive sweep with two M T B's between Boulogne and Dieppe tonight 17/18th leaving Dover 2330 and returning at daylight. (V.A. Dover 1759/17)

Biscay Patrol.

Request you will sail on 18/4 in HOOD to relieve C. in C. H.F. (1st S.L. 2354/17 to B.C.I.)

Intention and Orders (1st S.L. 2359/19 to C. in C., H.F., See Operations Volume.

British Air Activity.

Skagerrak.
Frisian Islands.
Heligoland.
E-Boats and
M/V's attacked.

Day 16/4. 12 Blenheims swept Skagerrak and Danish Coast line north of Sylt. Attacked. A W/T station on the Ile de Fane was attacked by one Blenheim but no results were observed. 7 Blenheims carried out a sweep off the Dutch Frisians. Six E boats in formation were attacked off Ijmuiden by one aircraft. No claim is made of a successful result. A 500 ton cargo vessel and two 50 ton fishing boats were also attacked by Blenheims of this sweep. A further seven Blenheims attacked Heligoland five dropping their bombs on the jetty and in the centre of the town, the aerodrome at Berck sur Mer was attacked by six Blenheims accompanied by a strong fighter escort. (H.Q.B.C 0155/17)

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Stand"} ~~STAND~~ will be flown P.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1222/17)
3 Aircraft are to leave Thorney Island at 1700/17 and are to proceed to 52°30' N. 4°E. and patrol towards Yarmouth for a distance of 40 miles and return to Base. Object location and attack of E Boats. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1555/17) My 1145/10. Patrol B. will in future be flown as follows. (ii) This patrol is designed to cover sectors A.B. and C. in C. H.F. 1355/10 in the event of daylight departure at speeds between 20 and 25 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth 1857/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

/S/5340/Ops./100A....

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols
Cont:-

Patrols ^{"Bert"}~~BBRT~~ and ^{"Stal"}~~STAB~~ will be in operation from first light 18/4. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2226/17).

Norwegian Coast.

Own Aircraft in two waves of six each will be operating between Stavanger and Stadtlandet from 0430/18. (F.O.S. 2219/17 to MINERVE).

Enemy Air Activity.

FAVORIT
sunk
16/4.

(Norwegian 2826 tons). Have 18 survivors FAVORIT sunk by Bomb. Continuing search for lifeboat which was in 60° 10'N., 8° 25'W. Noon/16 steering S.S.E. (LINCOLN 0351/17).

N.C.S.O. Scrabster reports fishing trawler COMMANDER HORTON landed at Scrabster 1900/17, 11 survivors of FAVORIT who was bombed and sunk in 60° 6'N., 8° 31'W. at 1130/16. Survivors were picked up in a boat at 0030/17. Captain of FAVORIT said there should be 18 more of his crew on two rafts about position vessel was sunk or a little to the Eastward. An unknown destroyer told skipper of COMMANDER HORTON at 2230/16 that there was a boat with survivors in the vicinity and to keep a good look out. (N.O.I.C. Thurso 2015/17 to A.C.O.S.)

London
Air Raid,
16/17.

Negligible damage to ship repairing establishments in Port of London and work not affected. (F.O.I.C. London, 1137/17).

AMIENS.
sunk.

(British 1548 tons). Following received from R.N.O. Penzance. S.S. AMIENS lost as result of aircraft attack. 21 men landed St. Ives, No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1238/17).

Seven
Stores
Light Vessel.

F.O.I. C. Falmouth reports that Seven Stones Light Vessel has been bombed and

WAR DIARY.

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THURSDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Seven Stones
Light
Vessel.
(Contd.)

machine gunned three times within seven days.

Propose to withdraw Lt. Vessel and substitute light and whistle buoy which is available at Penzance.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1827/17).

PIONEER.

(Pilot Cutter). Bombed and machine gunned B.3. Buoy at 1035/17 towed to Gravesend. Two dead and two injured as follows.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 2239/17).

Mining.

River Thames.

All traffic stopped from Hammersmith Bridge to one mile above training ship STORK.

(F.O.I.C. London, 0300/17).

All traffic in river is to cease between Tower Pier and Fords Jetty Dagenham.

(F.O.I.C. London, 0340/17).

All navigation is to cease in river between Hammersmith Bridge and Tower Pier. River is now closed between Fords Jetty and a point one and a half miles above Hammersmith Bridge.

(F.O.I.C. London, 0810/17).

River Thames is now open to navigation from Tower Pier to Southend. The Upper Reaches remain closed till further orders.

(F.O.I.C. London, 1522/17).

P.W.7.

Operation P.W.7. carried out as ordered.
(V.4. 0751/17).

A/C
Minelaying
off
Strangford
Lough,
on night
14/15.

N.O.I.C. Ile of Man reports Skipper of Lowestoft fishing boat ARCADY has arrived Peel and reports that while fishing between midnight and 0300/15 planes were dropping flares and parachutes continually some of which exploded on reaching the water. Position E.by N. 5 to 6 miles from South Rock L.V.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0832/17).

/Belfast.....

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

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Belfast.

Port of Belfast open.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0941/17).
Port of Belfast will be closed from
2000 today.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1631/17).

AHAMO
(Mined 8/4).

Wreck of AHAMO position as follows.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1105/17).

PROFIT
sunk.

(Norwegian 1608 tons). In F.N.Convoy.
Mined one cable 180° from B 8 Buoy.
(WALLACE 1141/17).
My 1141. Have 5 survivors, 4 cot cases.
E.T.A. Sheerness 1600.
(WALLACE, 1231/17).

?North
Rona
Minefield.

Your 0953/16 received and understood.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1313/17 to C.in C. H.F.)
Request that latitude of position
(E) in the Western boundary of the mined
area be altered from 56° 40'N., to 56° 23'
N. The Western limit of the mined area
to be as follows.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1331/17).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

Two enemy E/Boats bearing 053°
Lowestoft 14.
(EGLINTON, 0311/17).

Brest.

Visual R/C at 0850/17 showed both
battlecruisers in usual position in
Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 1022/17).
At 1900/17. Battlecruisers still
present in same positions.
(PIS.St. Eval, 2130/17).

11/4/41

WAR DIARY.

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THURSDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

M/V's.
off
Stavanger.

Aircraft report. 25 merchant ships in position 058° 20'N., 006° 10'E. at 1518. Course unknown. (F.O.S. 1612/17 to MINERVE).
My 1612. Ships are steering south east.
(F.O.S. 1751/17 to MINERVE).
My 1612. Ships are 4000 to 6000 tons steering North.
(F.O.S. 1847/17 to MINERVE).

15 Submarines
in
Bordeaux
and
La Pallice.

PRU Sortie H/847 date 17/4/41 time 1205 hours shown in Bordeaux thirteen submarines of which three docked. La Pallice two submarines. Bordeaux/Merignac aerodrome seven F/W Condors. (PRU Benson, 1625/17).

Enemy
Surface
Unit.

By D/F at 1552/17. position of unknown German surface unit, probably destroyer or smaller vessel, was 52° 50'N., 3° 40'E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1646/17).

Kiel
Enemy
Main
Units.

Photographic reconnaissance of Kiel a.m. today showed:-

1 HIPPER class cruiser alongside.
1 SCHLESSEN Class Battleship in Northern floating dock.
1 Pocket battleship in No.6. dry dock.
The second pocket battleship and second 8" cruiser, reported on 7/4, were not seen, but harbour was only covered inside the boom.
(D.D.I.C. 1903/17).

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

548

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Tankers
at
Scapa.

It is understood that instructions have been given prohibiting discharge of tankers at Scapa Pier during daytime. In enforcement of instructions request you will give full weight to urgency of keeping these small tankers moving. No avoidable delay however short should be permitted.
(D.T.D. 1111/17 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall).
Your 1111/17 - This order issued to prevent diversion of pier traffic. If delay anticipated tankers will be discharged daytime.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1415/17 to Admty).

NORTHWOOD.

Following has not arrived Blyth. Request information. E.C.6. part 1 NORTHWOOD. (N.C.S.O. Blyth, 1140/17 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

Convoy
W.N.15.

Instruct Commodore of W.N.15 to reverse course of convoy until Kirkwall section and ALYNBANK are met then proceed in company.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1745/17 to CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO).

HX and
SC Convoys
Standard
Route.

Commencing with H.X.123 the standard route is to be continued to end in final position in 15° W.
Cancel my 1349/13/2 para.2. A.M.1329/30/12, December and 1905/13/10 where affected should remain in abeyance for H.X. and S.C.Convoys.
(D.T.D. 1845/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

W.S.8.A.

A.M. 1817/10. Route. (D.O.D.(H) 1921/17 to H.Q.F.C. 1922/17 to C.in C. W.A. etc.)

SS
NERISSA.

A.M. 1901/19/3. Master of S.S. NERISSA reports he was instructed not to open envelopes (12) and (13) (decoding tables) and was therefore unable to read Admty. diversion signals addressed to him during voyage. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1939/17 to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

WAR DIARY.

17.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

549

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PARNU.

Am taking on board crew of PARNU
285° Cape Wrath 8. miles. PARNU
collided in convoy, Master considers
sinking. Suggest rescue tug quickly.
(CAPE MARIATO, 0315/17).
Request you will sail tugs RESTIVE and
ASSURANCE in company with ~~BOONAH~~ to
assist PARNU.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0457/17).
Have taken in tow PARNU and proceeding
Stornoway.
(CAPE MARIATO 0800/17).
CAPE MARIATO has taken in tow (?PARNU)
and is proceeding to Stornoway.
Endeavour to intercept.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1137/17 to
RESTIVE, ASSURANCE).
PARNU sank 1547. Returning Stornoway
with 10 survivors.
(RESTIVE, 1600/17).
CAPE MARIATO, RESTIVE, ASSURANCE arrived
Stornoway with 21 survivors from S/S
PARNU. No casualties. PARNU sank
1545.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1959/17).

LEAMINGTON.

My 0817/17. LEAMINGTON is returning
to harbour with hull damage and will not
be able to be sailed in accordance with
your 1156/16.
(Capt: D.Londonderry, 0950/17).

GREENAWN.

(British 784 tons). Left Methil for
Invergordon 3/4. Has not arrived nor is
there any trace of her. Last report
was that she was seen off Montrose by
the Master of the Coaster CAIRNIE about
1530/3/4 whilst an air attack was
developing on CAIRNIE and ASSUAN who
were in company, GREENAWN was not seen
to be attacked and was lost sight of in
the mist steaming to northward.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1630/17).

DAHLIA.

Serious defects stern tube reducing
speed to maximum 6 knots. Docking
necessary. Intend to sail DAHLIA
escorted by ARMERIA for Greenock at
1200/18. E.T.A. 1600/19. Possibility of
complete breakdown.
(WESTERN ISLES, 2335/17 to N.O.I.C.
Greenock).

War Diary

17.4.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

550

Raider Reports
by AURILLAC
and ORONTES.

732. Reference RRRR reports at 2247/15. CAMITO has searched area in vicinity of 037° 09' N., 018° 43' W., and 036° 09' N., 018° 43' W. and found nothing. CAMITO will continue search 17/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 0138/17 to C. in C., S.A., C. in C., A.W.I.)
Your 1034/16. Much wreckage near 037° 02' N., 018° 32' W. No boats or survivors found. Am resuming patrol. (CAMITO 2150/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation G.W.

Arrivals KASHMIR, JACKAL, SPIREA and 7 motor launches. (S.O. (I) Gib. 1046/17)

Genoa

Following ships in new maritime station sector at Genoa on 1/4. CONDE DE LEYIA VULCANIA and about four or five other Italian Steamers of approximately 10,000 tons. Italian Cruiser undergoing repairs. B. 2. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1435/17 to D.N.I.)

ABERDEEN
Crews for
C.G. Cutters.

Concur with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1800/16. ABERDEEN should be sailed to Halifax with the 26 officers and 31 ratings for Coastguard cutters. She should be sailed from Halifax for U.K. with a suitable H.Z. or S.C. Convoy. (D.O.D. (F) 1715/17 to F.O.C.N.A., R.A. 3 B.S.)

HIGHLANDER
BOREAS

Your 1757N/16. Intend sailing HIGHLANDER for Freetown a.m./18 and BOREAS on completion of defects about 20/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/17 to C. in C., S.A.)

Unknown
destroyers etc.,
off Sagres.

16/4 following sighted off Sagres 2000 ten destroyers nationality unknown steering S.E. off Cape Roca. 1000 French P.V. B 49 steering south. 17/4 Sagres 1300 P.V. unknown steering S.W. A.O. (N.A.Lisbon 1841/17 to D.N.I.)

/Tankers.....

War Diary

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Tankers.

D.T.D. 1852/17 to F.O.C.N.A. See A. and W.I.

German Unit.

At 1832 G.M.T. German Mobile unit bearing 311 class one sensed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2003/17 to Ships and Authorities N.A. Station).

Operation "Dunlop"

Concur in the proposals contained in your 2059/16. (1st S.L. 2017/17 to F.O. Force H).

S.S. IVAN (Yugoslav)

Your 1913/5. Owners of S.S. IVAN have countermanded instructions that this ship should proceed to Gibraltar. Request that they may be dealt with as it is most urgent all Yugo-Slav ships should leave ports in Portugal for a British port. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon T.H.I. 2205/17 to Adty.).

South Atlantic.

S.L.71

KING MALCOLM's R Report 15/4.

S.L.71 estimated time of arrival X 0800 Z/23. MAURITIUS will have to leave Convoy by 1200 at or about/24 at latest. Raider report from FJYX (? KING MALCOLM) at 2150Z/15 referred to MAURITIUS. (MAURITIUS 0729Z/17).

S.S. CLAN MACIVER, SIAM II overdue.

CLAN MACIVER due Capetown 13/4 from U.K., SIAM II due Capetown 14/4 from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0934B/17). Cancelled, ships arrived (0852B/19).
See b 12.

S.L.72, escort.

My 1651/14 DRAGON is escorting S.L.72 until FIJI or DUNNOTAR CASTLE can overtake. (C.in C. S.A. 1245N/7 to Adty.). Departure 1(?)00/17 S.L.72 Ocean Escort DRAGON until relieved. Local A/S escort WISHART, VIDETTE, ASPHODEL, and CALENDULA. (S.O.(I)Freetown 1313N/17 to Adty.).

W.S.7.

Adty's 1754/29. Following are details of personnel on board ships of W.S.7. (D. of S.T. 1254/17).

/ German cargoes.

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

552

German cargoes.

Ambassador Buenos Aires has drawn attention of Foreign Office to possibility of German cargoes arriving Rio de Janeiro in German ships being transhipped to here in neutral bottoms. He asks you should be given instructions whether to detain such ships and recommends as a preventive to transshipment public announcement such neutral ships would be black listed. (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1735/17 to R.A.S.A.D.).

Tankers.

D.T.D. 1852/17 to C.in C. S.A. See A. and W.I.

DELHI

Departure 1100/17 DELHI in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1327/16. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1941N/17, to Admty.).

BANFORA
(Intercepted
12/4).

Your 1930/15. BANFORA arrived Freetown 1230/17. Main details of cargo, passengers, mails. (C.in C. S.A. 1951N/17 to Adty.).

U-boats
attacked by
SEVERN
Force U.

S.O. Force U's 1028/13. Consider probable all S/M's and supply vessel have left area (? altogether) by now. Possible that supply ship's movements due to weather and S/M's went to Sharks Bay R/V or else will fuel at one of the Ports mentioned. Not now likely Force will locate. Propose unless other information available to Admiralty or Force U all forces return St.Helena to fuel then intend ALCANTARA joins S.A. Divn., S.A. Station only to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 2027N/17 to Adty.) Approved (V.C.N.S. 1259/18).

D/F bearing.

Following bearing, probably of enemy surface vessel, obtained on 16975 k/cs at 1838/17 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2035/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

AFRICANA.
STELLA.
(Italian)

My 2313/14 AFRICANA has finished bunkering 530 tons and STELLA 1560 tons. All Italian ships at Pernambuco are alongside outer mole. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2224Z/17, to Admty.).

NELSON.
DORSETSHIRE.
ILLUSTRIOUS.

My 2000/12. NELSON is to proceed forthwith to Durban to dock, being given priority there over all other commitments. 2. DORSETSHIRE is to escort MONARCH OF BERMUDA, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, and ILLUSTRIOUS from Capetown. Further instructions will follow. (1st S.L. 2342/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Re S/M's

C.in C. Med. 0948/12. No practical difficulty is seen to this proposal as these additional submarines can be accommodated in MAIDSTONE. Re spare gear and special stores. Practical experience shows that U Class can remain on patrol for 14 days at 600 miles from Base. Although normal period at sea is considered to be 14 to 16 days these Submarines have done on occasions 20 days at sea on the Home Station without undue hardship. (F.O.S. 0011/17 to Adty.).

Air attack
on Tripoli.

Result Glen Martin R/C Tripoli 16/4. 7 Wellingtons 148 Squadron and 4 Swordfish 830 Squadron despatched to attack harbour on night 16/17th April. Wellingtons over target from 0035 released 24,250 lbs. G.P. in 13 sticks from average height 6,000 feet resulted in one medium sized tanker hit which burnt fiercely for over an hour emitting a large explosion. Many near misses on shipping. Several hits on Spanish Wharf one large white flash observed and fire started at town end. 1 Swordfish returned due engine trouble and remaining 3 detailed to attack 4 M/V's anchored outside harbour and were over target at 0115 hours. One torpedo released result not observed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 0640/17).

Operation
M.D.1.

Cancel operation M.D.1 (one).
(C.in C. Med. 0930/17).

Air operations,
Cyrenaica.

Australian Hurricanes providing fighter protection for Walrus spotter and GLOUCESTER bombarding Bardia and Capuzzo intercepted 3 ME.110's combat indecisive. Several M.T. observed burning after bombardment. Reconnaissances reported no shipping Benghazi. 3. Crete. 15/4 4 CR. 42's machine gunned Heraklion aerodrome. No casualties damage negligible 1 CR 42 destroyed pilot captured. 2 JU 88's bombed Suda Bay no damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1057/17).

Suda Bay
bombed.

Roumanian
Ships.

German inspection of BASARABIA, TRANSYLVANIA and REGELE CAROL, and report of German Naval personnel manning coast batteries on Roumanian coast. (S.O.I., Istanbul, 1118/7 to S.O.I., Med.). See Lion copy.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1118/17th April

IN. ⁷

From S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date 17.4.41.

Recd. 1942.

53-3A

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER "V" (II) BY CABLE

RECIRCULATION AT
REQUEST OF N.I.D.

Addressed S.O.(I) Mediterranean, Repeated D.N.I.

Report grade C two from Roumanian Marine source (a) Roumanian ships BASARABIA and TRANSYLVANIA which have been sheltering at Braila returned to Constantza April 9th (b) German Naval Commission visited them to decide use as troopships or as hospital ships.

Other information source gave tendency to confirmation of these ships not stiffened and can only be D.E.M.S. (c) German Commission also examined steamer REGELE CAROL now used Istanbul Constantza weekly passenger run.

Especially interested in crew accommodation.

This ship used last war as a troopship stated to have mounted six inch guns and is still capable of 18 knots (d) Indications are that German personnel of heavy coastal batteries (?recently) created on Roumanian coast is naval repeat naval (e) There are no repeat no indications of submarine assembly at Constantza.

1118/17.

Advance copy sent O.I.C.

1st Lord.	O.I.C. (2).
1st S.L.	D.S.D. 9.
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I. (4).
A.C.N.S. (F).	D. of P. (3).
A.C.N.S. (H).	D.T.D. (4).
A.C.N.S. (T). (2).	D.T.S.D.
Parl. Sec.	D.A/S.W.
Nav. Sec.	M. (2).
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	W.D.
Ops. (4).	I.P. (3).
O.D. (5).	

Copies have been sent to:-

D.M.I., War Office.
D. of I., Air Ministry.
Mr. V. Cavendish Bentinck, Foreign Office.
Captain Nicol, War Cabinet Offices.
Mr. Seal, Prime Minister's Office.

N.I.D. Comment.

The Roumanian M/V BASARABIA and TRANSYLVANIA are of 6672 tons built in 1938 and have a speed of about 23 knots. N.I.D. has information that they are specially constructed for transformation into warships and have solid bases near the two masts for gun mountings. The REGELE CAROL is an old ship being built in 1898 and is of 2369 tons register.

The information that the heavy coastal batteries are manned by German naval personnel is thought to be probable. That there are no indications of S/M assembling at Constanza is considered to be correct.

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

554

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Shipping in
E. Med.

(Corrupt group) General control of convoys and Merchant ship movements in Eastern Meditn. is to be assumed by R.A. Alexandria on 18/4. (C.in C. Med. 1115/17).

LARISSA
(German)

LARISSA passed Istanbul P.M./16 bound (Gr. omitted) or Kavalla. Estimated speed 10 knots. Both declared cargo food. (Istanbul 1149/17). See 581

DELOS
(German)

N.A. Ankara reports that German Ship DELOS bound for Salonica from Varna passed Istanbul 2215/16 estimated speed 10 knots. Owing to Straits Convention Turks state they can do nothing. N.A. suggested to the Turks that DELOS may be carrying mines and should be shadowed through the Straits. Local Authorities informed. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1243/17, to Admty.). My 1243/17 Chanak reports DELOS passed to Mediterranean 0430/17, local authorities informed. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1607/17, to Admty.). See 581

S.S. GOALPARA
QUILOA
damaged.

My 1153/15 Ships hit in Eleusis 15/4 were S.S. GOALPARA seriously and S.S. QUILOA slightly but beached. Hardly any bombing in Gulf of Athens for 48 hours. Waters inside Euboea were bombed yesterday sinking MEMAS. Propose embarking British Civilians tomorrow. (B.N.A. Athens 1340/17 to C.in C. Med.).

Organisation
of Cruisers.

GLOUCESTER and PHOEBE are to join 7th Cruiser Squadron. 7th C.S. is organized as follows. First Div. ORION, AJAX, PERTH. Second Div. GLOUCESTER, PHOEBE. (C.in C. Med. 1700/17).

Free French
Ships.

Much regret your 1122/27/3 has only today been brought to my notice. I feel however, that my 1332/10 is sufficient answer. (C.in C. Med. 1702/17 to Adty.).

Communique re
torpedo attacks
by 815 Sqn.

Following is repetition of my 1810/17 begins. Adty. 8, from C.in C. Med. Your 1839/16 para. 2 no objection. T.O.O. 1810/17 Ends. (C.in C. Med. 1741/20 to Adty.).

/ Yugoslav destroyers
and s/m's.

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

573

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Yugoslav
destroyers and
s/m's.

Yugo Slav Destroyers DUBROVNIK, BEOGRAD, ZAGREB and S/M's HRABRI, NEBOJSCA, SMELI and OSVETNIK may join our forces at any time. On any other hand it is possible that the enemy may have obtained control of them and if nay of these ships are encountered British (missing group) should not disclose their presence but are to report them. (Capt. (S), 1815/17 to 1st S.F.).

BELLONA
(German)

Arrived 16/4. (Valencia, 1941/17).

Re
s/m's.

Your 0948/12.
Concur in proposal to base O, P and R Class Submarines on Gibraltar. Request you will make arrangements direct with F.O.C.N.A., transferring as much spare gear as possible in the boats.
2. (Repeating last para. of F.O.S. 0011/17). (V.C.N.S. 1952/17 to C.in C. Med.).

Greece.

Situation. Piraeus main harbour now believed clear of mines and is in use. (R.B. Athens 2030/17 to W.O.). See Lion copy.

Orders to
TETRARCH

Proceed vicinity Khoms Bay forthwith. Detailed instructions follow. (Capt. (S) 1 2201/17 to TETRARCH) (Amended, see 0705/18).

Situation
Report
No.4.

(a) Western Desert. GLOUCESTER will bombard in Bardia area A.M./18. Raid arranged on Bardia for night 16/17 postponed owing to weather. On 16th TRUANT sank enemy barque^t laden with explosives off Apollonia. Destroyer sweep between Benghazi and Mersa Tobruk unproductive. (b) Aegean and Malta. Nothing to report. (C.in C. Med. 2243/17). * VANNA, aux. sailing vessel

(FDS, 26-3-52)

King Peter.

King has postponed departure to Crete which was planned for tomorrow. This is all to the good as his premature removal might have serious effect on morale at front and in Athens. It would strengthen our hand if we had a destroyer here which he would know could remove him and his Govt. at any moment. (N.A. Athens 2253/17 to C.in C. Med.).

/ SILVIO TRIPCOVICH
(Italian)

M E S S A G E 2030/17th April.
MOST SECRET. IN. 5557A)
From Rear Braig, Athens. Date 18.4.41.
CYPHER. Time 0235

Addressed War Office and C. in C. Middle East.

IMMEDIATE.

07169.

I/236 cipher 17/4/41.

Telegraphic Summary No. 16.

Situation as known here midday 17th April.

One. Own front. Our general link from sea about Olympus to north of Kalabaka believed intact. Withdrawal to Thermopylae position is in first stages. General Wilson's headquarters at Thebes. Enemy air pressure severe especially on communications. No air activity in Athens area for 48 hours. Probably owing to bad weather.

Two. Morale of returning troops excellent. "Don't give a damn for Germans if only could get at them." This is a retreat from overwhelming material and numbers not from better fighters. B echelon of A-Tank Regt. shot down five German aircraft with Brens.

Three. Piraeus main harbour now believed clear of mines and is in use.

Four. Greeks. Sea to Kelcyre (Albania) Italians maintaining pressure. Particularly at Kelcyre and Mount Grammoy. 16 Division from Koritsa area moving to join Epirus army west of Janniba. 10, 9 and 13 Divisions on way from Koritsa area to Metsovo where Germans and Italians pressing four Greek battalions in position facing east. H.Q. W.M.A. at Jannina-12 and 20 Divisions of C.M.A. now reduced to remnants. Greek supply difficulties on road Arta-Jannina-forward increased by heavy Italian air action.

Five. General Papagos considering removal of Greek H.Q. from Athens to Delphi.

Six. Consider heavy track mileage plus bad and lengthening road commnc. must be cumulatively affecting German armd. movements except possibly 2 Panzer Division.

2030/17

Received from War Office.

Advance copies sent D.N.I. O.D. & Ops,

1st Lord.	D. of P. (2)	
1st S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	
2nd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	
3rd S.L.	D.O.D. (F)	N.I.D.10 Paym.
4th S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	Cdr. Wilson.
5th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.P.D.
V.C.N.S.	D. of L.D.	D.M.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	Duty Captain.	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	Hd. of M. (15)	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.D.I.C.	
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	E.P.S.	

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

556

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

SILVIO
TRIPCOVICH
(Italian)

Reported to have been sunk with large loss of life about middle of March. Bodies said to have been washed up near Sfax. Possibly the 6000 ton ship sunk by UTMOST 28/3 (D.S. 590).

Movements.

Summary 196. (C.in C. Med. 2341/17)
See Lion copy.

East Indies.

Massawa.

My 0558/15. ^{Swedish} SWEDISH now returned Port Sudan. N.O.I.C. (?Massowa) reports he is prepared to accept shipping as from P.M./18. Can load one 425 feet by 25 feet draught ship alongside quay and 2 similar ships in anchorage.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0436Z/17 to Adty.).

CALEDON

CALEDON left Aden P.M./16 E.T.A. Suez 0600Z/19.
(C.in C. E.I. 0622Z/17 to Adty.).

W.S.7.

Details of personnel on board ships (D. of S.T. 1254/17) (See South Atlantic).

CAPETOWN

C.in C. Med's 1844/15 and CAPETOWN's 1117/11 and 1302/12. It appears improbable that Divers will be available to fit copperdam. Ship will therefore be immobilized for an indefinite period and it is considered desirable to take risk of loss and tow to Suez with a minimum crew onboard. Spaces adjacent number 2 boiler room should be filled with as much buoyant ballast as is available. Propose ship be made seaworthy at Suez and complete repairs carried out elsewhere.
(C.in C. E.I. 1254/17 to Adty.).

556(A)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

I N
2341/17th April

Date 18.4.41.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Recd. 1712

NAVAL CODE 'O' SECRET BY W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet and S/Sms. Mediterranean
Fleet Repeated S.O. Force 'H' S.O. Force 'I' Force 'I'
N.O.I.C. Port Said B.N.A. Athens. F.O.C.N.A. N.O.I.C.
Alexandria N.O.I.C. Haifa. V.A. Malta. S.B.N.O. Suez
Canal Area. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay

IMPORTANT.

Movements summary 196.

Part One. H.M.S. CALEDON sails Port Said to
Alexandria on 20th, three French S/Ms and two sloops
leave Beirut as in C. in C. Mediteranean's 1141 16th

Part two. Greek destroyer HYDRA leaves
Alexandria A.M. 18th for Piraeus via Kithera. A N 27
H.M.S. CARLISLE H.M.S. LISIS H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE pass Kithera
0900 18th for Piraeus. H.M.A.S. VENDETTA H.M.S. HOTSPUR
and four ships left A.N. 27 at 0900 17th in approximate
position 034° 06' north 024° 35' East for Alexandria.
H.M.S. AUCKLAND, SOUTHERN ISLE, and 5 'A' lighters left
Alexandria 0700 17th due Mersa Tobruk 2200 18th, H.M.S
AUCKLAND joining inshore Squadron. H.M.S. GLOUCESTER
H.M.S. HASTY rendezvousing V.A.L.F 1730 17th in 033°
10' N 025° 22' East. H.M.S. GLOUCESTER Bardia A.M. 18th
V.A.L.F H.M.S. AJAX H.M.S. HERO in Aegean. Fleet
movements in my 1421 17th.

Jugo Slav warship and S/M may join British
forces as in my 1543 11th. 4 Greek S/Ms may leave
Piraeus for Alexandria from 17th onwards at 12 - hrs
interval routed Scarpanto Straits. Further details
from Capt. S(I). Movements of allied warships unreliable.
T.O.O. 2337 17th.

2341/17.

- 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) (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- D of P (2)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D of L.D.
- D.A/S. W.
- D.M.S.

- Advance Copy sent Duty Capt,
D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.
- I.P.
- W.D.
- Duty Capt.
- Head of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D.
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson).
- D.P.D.
- Hd. of M. (20)

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ELSA ESSBERGER
(German)
ADA
(Italian)
ERITREA
(Italian)
MUNSTERLAND
ERMLAND
REGENSBURG
(German)

German ELSA ESSBERGER arrived 10/4 loaded about 3000 tons of oil and departed 16th. Kobe 16/4 departure Italian ADA paid off and recommissioned believed under charter to Yamashita. Italian sloop ERITREA alongside Mitsubishi(?) dockyard pier, (NAGOYA) present 14/4. German ship believed to be MUNSTERLAND fuelling. Presume German ship ERMLAND has been in Kobe since 26/3 my 0711/27 and 0503/28 refer. My 0823/15, ship identified as REGENSBURG. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0209Z/17).

X NAGOYA MARU.

America and West Indies.

German raiders
outfitted in
Caroline
Island.

Your 1155/14. Seattle states report received from Honolulu and no further details shown. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0952/17 to Adty.).

TALISMAN and
S.C.28.

TALISMAN is to leave convoy S.C.28 in 035° W. or one hour before sunset on 19/4 whichever is earlier. TALISMAN is then to carry on a sweep astern of convoy and return Halifax by route previously ordered. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1515/17 to TALISMAN).

Word
"Delete"
in Vescas.

Your 1805/15.
It is from point of view of provision of alternative cargo space that shipping representatives desire more specific information be given both on liners and other vessels suggest the word 'Delete' be used solely to indicate ships sunk while in all other cases of delayed sailings the actual reason and expected period of delay be given. Disclosure of information re sinkings will be made with caution. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1552/17 to Adty.).

/ Tankers

War Diary.

17.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Tankers.

Tankers, whether laden or not, are to be regarded as valuable ships and are to be allotted suitable positions in convoy accordingly.

(D.T.D. 1852/17 to C.in C. A.W.I.,
C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

DIOMEDE

Bermuda departure DIOMEDE in accordance with my 1002/17.

(C.in C. A.W.I., 2053/17, to Admt. etc.).

New Zealand.

S.S. PAULA

PAULA (Dutch) due Suva 14/4 from Cairns not yet arrived.

(N.O. Wellington 2028Z/17).

War Diary.17.4.41.
Thursday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.S.S. BEAVERDALE
(Torpedoed 1/4.).

Reference N.O.I.C. Iceland's 1933/11. Captain C. Draper S.S. BEAVERDALE 9956 tons gross reports at 2303/1, ship was torpedoed in 60°52' N., 29° 16' W. bound from Halifax to Liverpool, sailing independently zig-zagged up till 2230. Weather, crew took to boats and stood by. 2 Submarines surfaced and shelled ship, one from each side. Ship subsequently blew up and sank. No German boarded ship, Captain and 53 survivors landed at Gourock four men left behind in Iceland. A boat with 21 men is missing and Captain thinks boat may have been swamped by falling debris or possibly shelled. Men were in the boats for six days and landed in Iceland. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1807/17, to Adty.).

HELENA
MARGARETA.
(torpedoed
8/4.).

3316 tons, presumed to have been torpedoed and sunk at 1840/8, 330 miles W. of Madeira. 9 survivors picked up. Was bound from Tyne for Takoradi and had dispersed from Convoy O.G.57. (D.S.591,18/4.)

S/m's reported.0641.
B.S.T.

By D/F at 0641 B.S.T. U-Boat in 60° N., 4° 30' E. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0741/17.).

0444.
G.M.T.

D/F bearing at 0444 G.M.T. indicates U-Boat in area 120 miles radius to 018° N., 025° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1218/17.).

1919.

By D/F at 1919/17, position of Italian U/Boat was 47° 30' N: 10° 30' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1957/17.).
Estimated U Boat Dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1520/17.).

18.4.41.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

560

Home Commands

VOLUNTEER
NEWARK
LA MELPOMENE
damaged.

VOLUNTEER and NEWARK were in collision early this morning 11 miles from Rathlin Island. Both were damaged, NEWARK had her bows broken off. LA MELPOMENE was damaged at 2321 in collision with WHITSHED; the latter reports no damage.

M. T. B.
Sweeps.

Two M. T. Bs from Dover last night carried out an offensive sweep between Boulogne and Dieppe and M. T. B. Unit No. 2 operated between Ostend and Flushing.

Biscay
Patrol.

B. C. 1. in HOOD left Scapa at 1645 to-day with KENYA escorted by 3 destroyers to relieve KING GEORGE V. C. S. 10 shifted his flag from KENYA to DUNLUCE CASTLE. Weather conditions prevented any R/C of Brest to-day, until 1815, when both battle cruisers were seen. At 0200 a special patrol by Sunderland was ordered in case the enemy should have left Brest during the night.

Enemy
Mine Layers.

Three ships, possibly mine layers were sighted at 2200/18 5 miles N.W. of Ushant, steering North. C. in C. Plymouth disposed M. Ls and M. G. Bs to intercept.

Tankers.

Sixtyone tankers have failed to sail in the last ten H. X. convoys after being included in the Advance sailing telegrams, in spite of special measures to prevent delays. This has had a very serious effect on already depleted stocks.

Neutral
shipping.

All neutral shipping passing through British control in Home Waters is to be routed so as not to go North of 62° N at any point.

18.4.41.
Friday.

War Diary

561

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command
sink 3
merchant ships
and a Flak
ship.

Blenheims of Bomber Command attacked shipping off the Dutch Coast to-day. One of them blew to pieces an 800 ton ship at Hoedenskerke, Wellingtons claim to have sunk a 5000 ton and 4000 ton merchant vessel in an escorted convoy near Heligoland. One of the 3 escorting flak ships is also claimed to have been hit and sunk *by Blenheim a/c.*

Shipping
protection.

123 patrols, involving 247 sorties were despatched to-day by Fighter command for the protection of shipping.

Coastal
Command
Attacks
on shipping.

Blenheims were sent out to attack a convoy of 8 ships sighted off Stavanger, one 7000 ton merchant vessel was probably hit off Egersund and four hits were obtained on a 3000 ton ship. A hit on another ship is also estimated. 5 Blenheims were lost.

Enemy Air Activity

A/P Trawler (S.S.) WYOMING was attacked this evening and was damaged by near misses and towed to the Tyne.

S.S. LOTHDALE was slightly damaged by A.P. bullets when attacked this evening off Fraserburgh.

A/P Trawler FORFEIT, S.S. MOUNT BATTOCK and several fishing trawlers were attacked off the coast of Scotland this afternoon and evening, but little damage is reported except to GEORGE SCOTT, which was badly strained by near misses off Aberdeen. One enemy aircraft is reported to have been damaged by fire by KINGSWAY and THRACIAN.

EGRET and Convoy H.G. 58 appears to have been attacked this morning in approximately 55° N 11½° W. S.S. CSIKOS was damaged. An enemy F.W. aircraft came down in the sea later in Irish territorial waters, probably as the result of action by the escort of H.G. 58, which was attacked a second time at 1323 by a F.W.

S.S. SCOTTISH MUSICIAN was bombed and damaged off St. Ann's at 2140 to-day.

18.4.41.
Friday

War Diary

562

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Capital ships in Home Waters.

An enemy aircraft on reconnaissance flew over Scapa at 0900 to-day. Visibility was good and the ships in the anchorage were probably seen. In this connection see B.C.1. 1942/15 to Admty.

A.A. Ship in Thames Estuary.

The stationing of an A.A. ship in the Thames Estuary (see 1/4) is to be discontinued.

Attack on Portsmouth.

Portsmouth was heavily attacked last night. The R.N. Barracks and Admiralty House were hit and damaged and there were several casualties at the R.N.B. Minor damage only in other establishments. One U.X.B. in Dockyard. C. in C. Portsmouth 0137/19 explains the probable reason why so little damage was caused by this raid.

Attack on Fair I.N. Lighthouse.

Fair Isle North Lighthouse was attacked at 1702 to-day. Damage was slight, except to an outbuilding.

Mining

Operations S.N.9.

R.A.(M) is carrying out a minelaying operation S.E. of Iceland.

B.S.54.

TEVIOT BANK with KITTIWAKE and GUILLEMOT laid mines to-day in the East Coast Barrier.

Bomber Command laid further mines off Brest last night.

Enemy minelayers operated last night off the East and South West Coasts of U.K. and, it is suspected, in the Straits of Dover.

The Amble was opened at 1156. Belfast was opened at 0934; the port will be closed at night until further notice.

War Diary

18.4.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

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North Atlantic

Raiders

CAMITO who was sent to investigate a raider report by SS AURILLAC on 15/4 in 37° 9' N., 18° 43' W., and by ORONTES at 2236/15 in 39° 9' N., 18° 43' W., reported that on 17/4 she found much wreckage near 37° 2' N., 18° 32' W., but no boats or survivors. F.O.C. N.A. considers it unlikely that a warship was responsible for this attack, unless NURNBERG is out.

EMPIRE LEOPARD, who made a Q raider report at 1014/3 in 46° 4' N., 27° 22' W., arrived at Baltimore 17/4 (due 14/4) It transpired that she had sighted CAMITO.

SAN AMADO also made QQQQ from 46° 4' N., 29° 32' W., at 1657/3; her message appeared to be cancelled, but not correctly: she is overdue at Aruba since yesterday.

Apparently two armed merchant raiders have been operating, one in Azores area and the other between Cape Verde Is. and Brazil.

German Tanker Sunk.

At 1137 today URGE, proceeding to Gibraltar, torpedoed and sank a laden tanker of the FRIEDRICH BREME class steering east in 46° 51' N., 8° 29' W.

South Atlantic

The Admiralty consider that C. in C., S.A is now better placed than themselves, to re-route shipping clear of raiders and of U-Boats which are operating continuously in areas in South Atlantic Command.

War Diary

18.4.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

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Mediterranean

Malta

There were two air raids on Malta last night. All bombs fell in deserted areas.

Kerkenah
Banks

Shadows of 3 and possibly 4 sunken ships were seen by aircraft today near the banks.

Mediterranean
Fleet.

C. in C., Med. left Alexandria today in WARSPITE with FORMIDABLE, VALIANT, CALCUTTA PHOEBE, PERTH, 9 British destroyers and Greek destroyer HYDRA, for Suda Bay.

Convoys

R.A. Alexandria today assumed general control of convoys and merchant ship movements in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Western
Desert

GLOUCESTER today bombarded a concentration of 450 M.T. near Bardia. Hurricanes provided fighter protection for Walrus spotting.

Greece.

Thasos Island has been occupied by a small German force using outboard motor boats. No resistance was offered.

Tanker BRITISH SCIENCE was torpedoed and sunk today. by an aircraft.

Yugoslavia.

German communique claimed fighting in Yugoslavia terminated at noon today.

18.4.41.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

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East Indies

Basra.

C. in C. E.I. arrived at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab in LEANDER at 1910Z/18. Convoy B.M.7 (8 Transports with troops and stores) arrived from India early this morning. Seyid Rashid Ali, the head of the Administration set up by the recent coup d'etat in Baghdad made no objections when informed of the impending arrival of troops.

Massawa.

Shipping can be accepted at Massawa as from p.m. to-day; three ships can be unloaded simultaneously.

America and West Indies

Three contingent cases of sabotage occurred in S.S. ROOKLEY (British) before sailing in H.X.121 from Halifax.

U-Boat Campaign

It is reported that S.S. CASTOR was torpedoed on 31/3 and was left afloat burning on 3/4 in 57° 59' N, 32° 8' W.

5 U.S. Coastal Stations have picked up signals considered to be from a S/M 200 to 300 miles East of Newfoundland at 0114 to-day.

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

566

5th D.F.

A.M. 1312/15. 5th D.F. are to remain under the administration of C. in C. Plymouth for the present. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0959/18 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Command of
Convoy Escorts.

Your 0102/16. (0102/17 (intended). I concur that S.O's, of W.A. escort groups should be responsible (a) Station of a/s escort (b) Administrative question concerning convoys. 2. On other matters I suggest S.O. present cannot delegate his responsibility to Junior Officer. 3. In the case of H.F. Striking Force S.O. will frequently be one of the Capt Ds each with complete staff. You can rely on closest co-operation by C.O. of H.F. Destroyers, who are in possession of W.A. convoys instructions, which can be amended by signal as result of any decision taken at convoy conference. 4. I feel it would be a mistake to depart from provisions of K.R. and A.I. as this might lead to confusion in an emergency. (R.A. (D).) H.F. 1545/18 and C. in C., W.A.

Defence of U.K.

Lochalsh.

A/S fixed defences efficient. No defects. (N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 1031/18)

Movements.

AURANIA.

³N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail AURANIA 20/4 for Halifax with A/S escort then available. (F.O.C.N.P. 1104/18)

/PLOVER....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

567

Movements (Contd)

PLOVER.

On completion of operation Z.M.E. 31 PLOVER is to be sailed northabout to Immingham for further operations on East Coast. (V.C.N.S. 1245/18 to C. in C.,W.A.)

JERSEY.

Proceed as requisite to comply with C. in C. Portsmouth's 1238/18. 2. On relief at 1800/19 by escort detailed by C. in C. W.A. return to Plymouth arriving 0700/20. (C. in C. Plymouth 1527/18)

CACHALOT.

A.M.1940/8 and your 1558/9. CACHALOT should be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as special stores are embarked. Request you will make necessary arrangements and inform authorities concerned. (D.O.D.(F) 1718/18 to F.O.(S)). See also. Mediterranean, 2333/18. My 2333/18. Arrangements for sailing for Gibraltar and Malta with special cargo. (F.O.S. 2336/18. to C. in C. Plymouth, 2333/18 to C. in C. Med.)

Operations.

Biscay
Patrol.

A.M.2354/17. Intend leaving Scapa at 1700/18 with KENYA and destroyer screen (route) to operate in sectors C and B vide C. in C. H.F. 1355/10 not to all addressees. Intend leaving patrol area on (date) (route) to Scapa. Speed 15½ knots. C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. W.A. are requested to arrange air A/S escort code word ~~REBEL~~^{REBEL}. All times B.S.T. (F.O.C. 1 B.C.S. 1103/18)

Flag of C.S.10.

In accordance with B.C. 1's 1222/18 flag of C.S. 10 has been transferred temporarily to DUNLUCE CASTLE. (C.S.10 1601/18)

/E.Boat attack....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd)

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E-boat attack
on F.S#64.
17/4. ^

WALLACE'S report (C. in C. Nore 1131/18)
See Lion copy.

British Air Activity.

Special
Biscay
Patrol.

In order to sight enemy battle cruisers which may have left Brest during the night of 17/18/4/41 following patrol to be flown by Sunderland 18/4. Enemy warships to be reported and shadowed. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0200/18 to Pembroke Dock)

Attack on
Cherbourg.
Merchant Vessel
Sunk.

Day 17/4. 18 Blenheims of 2 Group, escorted by a strong formation of fighters, carried out a most successful attack on Cherbourg harbour and docks. Nine Blenheims took off to attack shipping between Penmarsh Point and Belle Isle, also between Penmarsh Point and Ushant. One of these aircraft attacked a merchant vessel of 6-7000 tons, 10 miles south-west of St. Mathieu Point escorted by three escort vessels. The merchant vessel is claimed as probably sunk. (H.Q. B.C. T.H.I. 0252/18)

A/A Ship in
Thames Estuary.

Cancel my 1016/1. A/A ship to be stationed in Thames Estuary. (C. in C. Nore 1025/18)

Operation
"Dunlop"

Catalina aircraft will escort you from about 1700 to 2300. (C. in C., W.A. 1303/18 to LONDON)
My 1303/18 Air Escort cancelled owing to weather conditions. (C. in C., W.A. 1503/18 to LONDON)

Patrol.

Patrol ^{"Hornli"} ~~HORNLI~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth 1432/18)

Aircraft
Flying low.

Aircraft on non operational duties not to fly at heights below 1000 ft. over the

/sea....

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE

1131/18th. April. IN.

From. C. in C. Nore.

Date. 18.4.41. 568(A)

Recd. 1148.

P/L by T/P

Addressed. Admiralty.

379. Following received from WALLACE. Begins :-
First indication of attack on F S 64 was torpedoing of
VICE COMMODORES at 0225. COMMODORE was then passing 5 cables
east of 6A buoy and VICE COMMODORE was 2 cables on his
starboard beam. WALLACE was 1500 yards 090 degrees from
COMMODORE steering 090 degrees on outer leg of zig zag on
COMMODORE'S port beam. EGLINTON and COTSWOLD zig zagging
ahead and VIMIERA astern of convoy. At first explosion WALLACE
saw no enemy so turned to port and closed convoy firing star
shell N E, seeing nothing there, she turned back to close
machine gun ~~HELLER~~ which was starting at head of convoy but
could not join in without endangering convoy and Hunts who
were firing star shell eastward from starboard bow of convoy.
She therefore spread star shell to seaward from left edge of
Hunts stars and picked up two E Boats bearing 105 degrees
which she engaged on a parallel course of 070 degrees at
3000 to 4000 yard's range. Enemy appeared to be retiring
from Hunts behind smoke screen but offered WALLACE (from a
different bearing) an intermittently clear target for 5
minutes until they turned away to starboard behind smoke.
E Boats did not gain on WALLACE at 31 knots but range could not
be closed with A Arce open. WALLACE broke off action when
only 4 rounds star shell were left from her outfit of 60.
WALLACE did not see more than 3 E Boats at one time but those
she engaged may not have been those which fired torpedoes.
From information passed from shore stations on 1780 K C plot
in both WALLACE and VIMIERA indicated E Boats to N.E. of convoy
and nothing south of No. 7 buoy nor in shore of channel.
2330/17. Ends.

1131/18.

Advance Copy sent to
Ops. O.D. Trade & O.I.C

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
Parl. Sec.
Nav. Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.S.D. 9.
M. (6)
D.N.I. (4)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
D.T.D. ████████
D.T.D. ████████

Cdr. Holbrook.
D.T.M.
D. of S.T.
O.I.C. (2)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3)
W.D. ████████████████████
Press Divn.
C.C.R.T.
A.H.Q.H.F.
Admiral Dreyer
D.T.S.D.
D.S.D. (2)
File (2)

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War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd)

Aircraft Flying
Low. (Contd)

sea, parallel to south coast, (Air Min.
1800/18) See Lion copy.

Merchant Ships
Flying kites
Lands End to
Milford Haven.

Ref.
Adty. 2023/17. Am prepared to agree
if you so wish. You will realise
however that presence of balloons or
kites at three hundred feet will
naturally constitute a further limitation
on the possibilities of Fighter
interceptions by night over Convoys.
(H.Q. F.C. 1930/18. to Air Min.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on
Portsmouth.

Air Raid with H.E.'s and I.B.'s from
2125 to 0340 3 or 4 H.E.'s in Dockyard,
direct hit on Admiralty House. No
other serious damage. Damage to part
of electricity supply. No casualties
reported. Direct hit on R.N.B.
Casualties. Minor damage only in other
establishments. 1 U.X.B. in Dockyard.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0512/18)

LAUREL.

(M/S Trawler) Hit by bomb early hours
16th. Repairs 2 months. (F.O.Humber
0915/18)

R/C of Scapa.

At 0843/18 one J.U. 88 Reconnoitring
Visibility good and ships in anchorage
probably seen. No bombs dropped.
(A.C.O.S. 0945/18 to Adty. 0946/18
to C. in C. H.F.)

Seven Stones
L.V. bombed 17/4.

Your 1827/17 approved. Trinity House
have been requested to take necessary
action. (Hydrog. 1159/18)

Thames Estuary.

Aircraft activity over Thames estuary
for night of 17/18th April was very
little. No evidence of minelaying in
any area. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1301/18)

/Attacks on H.G.58....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.).

Attacks on
H.G.58.
CSIKOS
Damaged.
A/C shot
down.

H.G.58 second attack by one F.W. beaten off at 1323. Plane retired south-wards, smoke bearing 165° 20' apparently ship on fire. Unable to investigate (with only escort 4) (As received) My position 055° 09' 011° 26' my 1530 Convoy 6 hours late. (EGRET 1327/18.)

My 0957 CSIKOS making water in all holds. Pump broken. Advisable Salvage Tug. (EGRET 1751/18.)

Sail TENACITY escorted by SALTARELO to assist S.S. CSIKOS. Position at 1330 today 055° 09' N., 011° 26' W., course 060° speed 6½ knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/18, to N.O.I.C. Belfast) Escorting CSIKOS. Flooding under control Tug will not be required if present weather continues. One casualty. (CHELSEA 2205/18.)

It is probable that the German A/C which came down in the sea near Schvll and whose crew was interned was brought down by the escort of H.G.58. Well done. (C. in C. W.A. 2357/18, to EGRET.)

Attack on
Fair I.N.
Lt. Ho.

Report of attack on Fair Isle North Light house at 1702 to-day. An out-building was extensively damaged. Telephone wires repairable in 24 hours. No casualties. Aircraft out of range of ground defences. Fighters up from Sumburgh unable to locate enemy. Visibility poor. (A.C.O.S. 1850/18.)

S.S. SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN
damaged.

SCOTTISH MUSICIAN was bombed in 205° St. Ann's 3 miles at 2140 today. Rescue Tug CAROLINE MOLLER standing by. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2308/18. 2354/18.)

/Mining.....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

Belfast.

My 1631/17. Port of Belfast is now open - but will be closed nightly between the hours of 2000 and 0900 until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0934/18)

Operation
Z.M.E.30

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1830 to-day for to lay at 0130 returning on completion about 0745 to-morrow. (PLOVER 1030/18)

Sheerness.

One S.A. mine detonated 2053/17 as follows:- (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1053/18)

Amble.

Port of Amble open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1156/18)

Operation B.S. 54

Operation B.S. 54 completed (TEVIOTC BANK 1540/18)

Belfast.

Cancel my 0934/18 Port of Belfast is closed between the hours 0500 and 0900 until further notice. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2129/18)

Enemy Intelligence.

SEYDLITZ and
Major units.

My 1903/17. Cruiser SEYDLITZ still at usual berth in Bremen. No major naval units in Wilhelmshaven. (Adty. 0010/18. to A.I.G. 17. S.O.Force H.)

8 Merchant Ships.

Aircraft report eight merchant ships in 058° 40' N. 005° 20' E. (F.O.(S) 0831/18. to MINERVE)

/Brest....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence (Contd)

Brest

Weather conditions have prevented any further reconnaissance of Brest since 0850/17. (D.D.I.C.1409/18)

FRIESENLAND.

Air photographs of Bordeaux on 17/4 show Catapult Ship FRIESENLAND. She has probably been there since middle of March. (D.D.I.C. 1559/18)

Brest.

Photographic and visual R/C of Brest at 1900/18 showed both Battlecruisers present in usual position. Weather report. (D.D.I.C. 2019/18) 1815/18. Battle cruiser last seen at T.B. Station has moved approx 700 ft. westward and is now alongside at T.B. Workshops surrounded by T.B. net. Other battle cruiser still present in dock which appears to be full. 10 have arrived. (Plymouth 2110/18 to Adty.)

Troops in barges.

Bomber aircraft at 1740/18 sighted 3 barges carrying troops also 3 E.V's of 800 tons 10 miles N.W.Cape Antifer course N.E. 10 knots. (D.D.I.C. 2225/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth, V.A. Dover C. in C. Nore)

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys.

NAIAD
O.G.60.

Your 2305/17. Request NAIAD may be sailed from Scapa so as to arrive Belfast before dark 21/4, thereafter operating with Irish Sea escort force as arranged by N.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.I.C. Milford Haven until required as Ocean A/A. escort for O.G.60 on 27/4. It is intended NAIAD should proceed with O.G.60 to Gibraltar. F.O.C. N.A., is requested to sail NAIAD for U.K. as Ocean A/A. escort with next convenient H.G. or S.L. convoy after her arrival. NAIAD to proceed to Belfast on return. (C. in C. W.A., 1237/18, to F.O. 15. C.S.). *Cancelled - See next page.*

Dutch shipping.

My 1647/5/3. Small Dutch vessels have again begun to arrive in Swedish waters, mainly pursuing normal salt and timber trade between Holland and Sweden and Finland. Remarks. (N.A. Stockholm, 1731/18, to D.N.I.)

Cargoes for
Atlantic
Coast.

To enable N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to arrange early movements of cargo from interior towards Atlantic Coast ports propose that extracts from N.C.S.O's sailing telegrams covering both Independent and Convoy Sailings be repeated to Ottawa. Request you consider if preferable for you to collate this information into a daily routine signal to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa repeated to A. & W.I., and Admty. (D.T.D. 1823/18 to C. in C.W.A.)

Neutral
Ships and
62° N.

All Neutral Shipping passing through British Control in Home Waters is to be routed so as not to go north 62° N., at any point on the route. Masters to be instructed to adhere strictly to routes given, no option to use an alternative route is to be allowed. (D.T.D.1829/18 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., etc.).

/Delays.....

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd. 574

Delays to Tankers.

Petroleum Dept., are disturbed by large number of tankers which have recently failed to sail in convoy after being included in Advance Sailing Telegram, 61 failed, in last ten HX convoys. Has winter weather been a contributory cause? Delays have had very serious effect on already depleted stocks. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1934/18, to C.O.A.C.Halifax. (Reply: 1054/21.).

W.N. Convoys, frequency.

Your 1725/15. A fortnightly gap of 4 days between WN convoys is undesirable in view of paramount importance of hastening all shipping movements. Remarks requested on possibility of maintaining a balance by periodically strengthening an E.C. convoy escort with a surplus trawler, or utilizing the trawler as escort for a special fast group to W. Coast. Suggest that the sailing time of WN Convoys might be adjusted to meet the difficulty with the additional sloop escort. (D.T.D. 1937/18, to C. in C. Rosyth.).

Gothenburg Shipping Agreement. Routes.

Your 1717/10. Only safe route is via Skopen Fjord. Any passage between Scotland and Greenland except through Skopen Fjord is operationally quite unacceptable. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2207/18, to N.A. Stockholm.).

W.S.8(a) NAIAD.

Cancel my 1237/18. NAIAD will now be required as A/A escort for W.S.8.(a) as far as about 025° W., sailing about 24/4. Request NAIAD may be sailed for Clyde when ready. (C. in C. W.A., 2231/18, to R.A. 15 C.S.). *See previous page.*

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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NEWARK
VOLUNTEER

NEWARK and VOLUNTEER damaged in collision in 55° 28' 30" N. 6° 21' 30" W. VOLUNTEER reached White Park Bay, NEWARK Belfast Lough. (NEWARK 0015/18, 0018/18, F.O.i/c Belfast 0025/18, 0300/18, 1218/18, F.O.i/c Greenock 0152/18, 0217/18, 0505/18, 1042/18, 1050/18, 0230/18. WALKER 0152/18, 0755/18, VOLUNTEER 0204/18, 0534/18, ST. MARY'S 0305/18, C.in C. W.A. 1242/18).

H.50.

My 1617/17 and 1437/18 H 50 returned with engine defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1607/18).

YOUNG ERNIE
sunk.

A/P Drifter YOUNG ERNIE collided with examination steamer BEN IDRIS and sank in 0830 3800 yards from P.W.S.S. Tynemouth. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2056/18).

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

HIGHLANDER.

Departure 0900 HIGHLANDER (route) E.T.A. Freetown 0900 1/22. (F.O.C.N.A. 0930/18.).

S/Ms.
Gibraltar.

Your 0948/12 I concur in proposal to base S/Ms at Gibraltar for operations in Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/18 to C. in C. Med.).

Raiders.
AURILLAC.
EMPIRE LEOPARD.
SAN AMADO.
"Q" Reports.

Ref. RRRR from AURILLAC in 37° 09' N., 18° 43' W., at 2143/15, CAMITO found much wreckage near 37° 02' N., 018° 32' W., but no boats or survivors. It is considered unlikely that a warship was responsible for this attack unless NURNBERG is out. Ref. QQQQ from EMPIRE LEOPARD in 46° 04' N., 27° 22' W., at 1014/3, which was not cancelled. This ship has not been reported as arriving at Baltimore where she was due 14/4. SAN AMADO also made QQQQ from 46° 04' N., 29° 32' W., at 1657/3. This message appeared to be cancelled but not correctly. SAN AMADO has not been reported as arriving at Aruba where she was due 17/4. Apparently two armed merchant raiders have been operating. One in Azores area the other between Cape Verdes and Brazil. (D.D.I.C. 1249/18, to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A., A.W.I. etc.). My 1249/18. EMPIRE LEOPARD arrived 17/4 (D.D.I.C. 1757/18.). PANDORA will be ready to sail 1200/25. Do you wish her to proceed on patrol or stand by as relief TORBAY or TAKU. Your 1159/15 and my 1054/17 refer. (Capt. S.8 1356/18 to Capt. S.1.).

SURCOUF.

F.O.(S) 2119/16 and 2121/16. Route to Malta. (F.O.C.N.A. 1519/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.).

Yugoslav ships.
Portugal.

Most urgent that all Yugoslav ships in Portuguese ports should leave immediately. Request immediate instructions should be sent to all Yugoslav ships to proceed to Gibraltar forthwith. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon, 1700/18 to Admty.).

War Diary.

18.4.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

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UNBEATEN.

My p.c. and s. of advance is 041° 00' N.,
010° 42' W., 193° 9 knots.
(UNBEATEN, 1715/18.).

SHEFFIELD.
ARGUS
S.L.71.

Admty., 1948/15 para 1. In view of N.O.
i/c Greenock 0345/17 intend to sail
SHEFFIELD to pass through 037° 38' N.,
017° 48' W., at 0800 zone - 1 22/4 steering
312° to R/V with ARGUS during daylight.
I assume convoy S.L.71 altered course for
position 035° N., 023° W., on receipt of
your 1948/15. Request onward routeing of
S.L.71 after passing through this position.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1758/18 to Admty.).

French Convoys.

French armed trawler ESTACETTE passed
Gibraltar eastbound at 1730/18 escorting
French M.V's ALGERIE, RENOIS, TAMARA, and
FORT ARCHAMBAULT (D.O.R. 20/4) 4 other
convoys passed the Straits on 18/4. For
details see D.O.R. 21/4.

* RENOIS

South Atlantic.

Enemy Units.

Following bearings, probably of enemy
surface vessels, obtained at 2214/17 G.M.T.
Traffic Doubtful.
(D.D.I.C. 0033/18 to C. in C. S.A.).

DUCHESS OF YORK.

My 1312/17. Request report re water
supply. (D.S.T. 0519/18 to N.O.I.C.
Simonstown.).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
DORSETSHIRE.
CARTHAGE.

Your 0626/17, para 1. In view of Admty.,
2342/17 movements of ILLUSTRIOUS have been
amended. Ship will sail from Durban
p.m./18 for Capetown direct. R/V with
DORSETSHIRE has been arranged. CARTHAGE
will escort ILLUSTRIOUS until relieved by
DORSETSHIRE. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1043Z/18
to C. in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

18.4.1941.

Friday

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Force U.

My 2027/17 and S.O. Force U's 2119Z/17. All ships proceed St. Helena to fuel, ALCANTARA to land passengers for NEWCASTLE there for onward passage. Indications by D/F that enemy surface unit was within 150 miles of position 015° S. 005° W. at 1738/17, reliability 60% ALCANTARA to proceed at best speed SEVERN and BRIDGEWATER in company as convenient ALCANTARA proceed direct for St. Helena pending further instructions.
(C. in C. S.A. 1121N/18 to Force U).

LARGS BAY
W.S.7

Your 0207/15. Am arranging for personnel to be embarked in ORCADES at Capetown.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown. 1149/18 to D. of S.T)

FIJI to
escort.
S.L.72

FIJI is to leave Freetown at 1900/18 overtake and escort convoy S.L.72 until necessary to leave to proceed to Gibraltar for fuel.
(C. in C. S.A. 1213N/18 to FIJI)
Departure 1930/18 FIJI in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1215 18.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2359N/18 to Admty)

See also p. 580

ASTURIAS

Request permission for ASTURIAS to visit Montevideo for 24 hours on 23/4. Requirements.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1215/18 to S.O.(I) Montevideo)

ALCANTARA
CUMBERLAND.

Request I may be informed earliest date ALCANTARA can join S.A. Division S.A.S. in K.33. This will assist my patrol programme and possibly allow me to visit Rio De Janeiro which I have not been able to do for 7 months. CUMBERLAND fuels in Rio De Janeiro area 21/4 from Oiler BROOMDALE who then proceeds Trinidad to reload.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1238Z/18 to C. in C, S.A.)

Force U.....

MOST SECRET.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (contd).

Force U.

Your 2027N/17. Approved.
(V.C.N.S. 1259/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

NORDERNEY
(German).

At Para, has raised steam.
(S. O. (I) Montevideo, 1431Z/18).

W.S.7
PASTEUR.

S.T.O. Freetown's 1147/15 to avoid delay to W.S.7 presume only essential repairs to PASTEUR are being carried out.

Report whether further repairs are essential at Suez, and whether any delay has resulted from Ships replenishing with fresh stores in South Africa.
(D.S.T. 1528/18 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Plotting
Shipping
in S.A.
command.

With object of diverting shipping clear of known or suspected dangers Admty keeps a large scale plot of all convoys and independently sailed ships in N.W. Approaches. All shipping is re-routed freely as necessary when at sea.

2. U-boats are now operating continuously in areas within the limits of your command and there is also considerable danger from raiders.

3. Considered that the time has come for action to be taken on the lines of (1) above with regard to the area mentioned in (2) above, and that you are better placed than Admty for taking this action.

4. Remarks invited, (a) whether present plotting staff is adequate to undertake the work (b) whether you are satisfied that you are in possession of all relevant information.

5. Admty would send out a special message regarding U-boats in your area whenever any possibly helpful information was available.

6. Experience.....

MOST SECRET

18.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Plotting
Shipping in
S.A. Command.
(contd).

6. Experience has shown that only by the very closest co-operation of Operations, Intelligence, N.C.S. and plotters can real efficiency in such an undertaking be achieved.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1721/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Wreck Report.

Master of S.S. RUPERT DE LARRINAGA reports having sighted 2149 G.M.T./12 in 001° 51' S. 022° 43' W. a burning wreck of a S.S. carrying dock cargo Timber. No sign of life or life boats.
(C. in C. S.A. 1815N/18 to Admty.)

NORDERNEY
(German)
AFRICANA
STELLA
(Italian.)

NORDERNEY at Para has raised steam. AFRICANA and STELLA at Pernambuco have bunkered 530 and 1560 tons respectively.
(S.O. (I) Freetown, 1915N/18 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS.

My 1031/17 and N.O. i/c Simonstown 1845B/14 neither to Admty. DORSETSHIRE only will fuel at St. Helena unless necessary for ILLUSTRIOUS to do so.
(C. in C. S.A. 2025N/18 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

FIJI
S.L. 72

FIJI sailed Freetown 1900/18 will overtake convoy S.L. 71 a.m./19 and escort till about 1/5 in 034° N, then proceed Gibraltar for fuel.
(C. in C. S.A. 2159N/18)
(W.R. Note:- Operations Div. states S.L. 71 should read S.L. 72).
Amended to S.L. 72 (C. in C., S.A., 0731/19)

A/S Trawler

See p. 78

MOST SECRET.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

A/S Trawler.
for Freetown.

Propose that an additional A.S. Trawler be allocated to Freetown, making 6. This allows for one always away docking at Lagos one boiler cleaning at Freetown and four available working in reliefs on Outer Patrol.
(C. in C. S.A. 2255/18 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

EXETER

Re sending to Mediterranean. Would you rather have a large 6" cruiser? We should be glad of EXETER with her 8" guns on the trade routes but you have first option.
(1st S.L. 0009/18 to C. in C. Med).

German
DELCHOW OEDS 500 5074
LARISSA 584.
Passage of
Dardanelles.

I am informed by Turkish Authorities that German ships DELCHOW and LARISSA have passed Istanbul within last 24 hours in transit from Varna to Salonika. C. in C. Mediterranean and Athens informed. Authorities, though anxious to do what they can to delay passage feel themselves bound by Art. 2 Montreux Convention. Only in event of Turkey considering herself to be threatened with imminent danger of war could provision of Art. 6 of the Convention be applied which would at least enable them to shadow any such German vessels. I mentioned passage of ships to M. for F.A. this morning. He thought it best to let them into the Straits as we "should be sure to catch them". In any case he said that Turkey could not close the Straits in present circumstances.
(Ambassador, Angora, 0041/18 to F.O.)

TRUANT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

582

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

TRUANT.
TETRARCH.

My 2201/17 should be addressed TRUANT, TRUANT is to proceed Khoms Bay forthwith. TETRARCH return to Alexandria. (Capt. S.1 0705/18 to TETRARCH, TRUANT) Assume you will enter Sanctuary 0500/20 unless you signal to contrary. BRECONSHIRE and ? HOTSPUR will pass to North of you 19/4. (Capt. S.1. 1517/18 to TETRARCH).

Mine.

Drifting mine reported 17/4, 4 miles N. of Port Mahon, Minorca, 39.57 N., 04.19 E. (D.S.* 591 18/4).

TRIUMPH.

TRIUMPH safe as possible 10 fathoms when surfacing in E. Medit. (D.G.S. 1040/18 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy Tanker.

A 5000 ton Tanker passed Kelibia at 1130 B /18 southwards. Intercept if possible. (Cdr. S.1. 1246/18 to S/Ms on Patrol).

REGENT.

Your 0700/18. Return by same route as convoy route on which FERMOY will be sweeping. Report E.T.A. when within 20 miles of Malta if safe to do so, (Cdr. S.1. 1301/18 to REGENT.)

USK.

Leaving Malta 2000/19 through 035° 41' 014° 05' thence N.W. anticipated position at 2030/20 036° 03' 013° 15'. (S.O.(S) Malta 1321/18 to URSULA.)

ARKADIA
(German).

Istanbul departure 17/4 ARKADIA Bardia 19/4, N.C.S.O. (Galata 1321/18).

Malta Air Raids.....

MOST SECRET.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

583

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued)

Malta Air Raids.

Night 17/18. 2 raids of about 15 aircraft in all. Less than half located Island Bombs dropped in deserted area. No casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/18).

Enemy Units.

1 merchant ship 15000 tons at 1243B
036° 59' 011° 50' course 160° 8 knots.
2 merchant ships 15000 tons 1 escort vessel
at 1357B 036° 58' 011° 20' course
170° 6 knots.
(Cdr. S.L. 1810/18 to UTMOST.)

Oil Pipe Line

Your 2357/13 etc. Proposals and commencement of work without delay approved subject to your confirmation that sufficient pipe line can still be spared and you are satisfied that local action to secure export from Kirkuk of sufficient pumping and boiler equipment for your purpose will be successful. War Office concurs.
(4th S.L. 1821/18 to C. in C. Med).

Raid on Bardia, GLENGYLE COVENTRY etc.

Following operation (additional) will take place weather permitting. Operation is raid on Bardia with troops from GLENGYLE. COVENTRY is to take ships addressed under her orders and sail about 0300/19 so as to be ready to land first flight near Bardia about 2230/19. Troops should be re-embarked in time for ships to leave Bardia at 0400/20. TRIUMPH is to be in approx position 013° 2.5 miles from charted position Bardia Light flashing every 5 seconds by 2130/19 and is to show (corrupt Gr.) if required to seaward and act as Indication Beacon in accordance with her special instructions. S.O. Force (I) is requested to arrange report of weather sea and swell to be passed to COVENTRY and R.A. Alexandria by 1400/19. Aircraft R/C and Fighter protection is being requested T.O.O. 1936/18.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1941/18 to COVENTRY; GLENGYLE, VOYAGER, WATERHEN, STUART).

War Diary

18.4.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

584

Mediterranean-Contd.

Western Desert Operations.

APHIS remaining Buq Buq, ammunition reserved for emergency attack (? on) local important targets. Guns still in position near barracks. GNAT officer and ratings to Mersa Matruh. APHIS 90% complete fuel and water from GREYHOUND. Communications with local army satisfactory. (APHIS 1946/18 to S.O. Force I)

SPEZIA
(German)

Arrived 18/4. (Valencia T.H.I. 2030/18)

Stores for
~~Malta~~
CACHALOT

Your 1239/5. CACHALOT will leave Plymouth about 1/5 for Gibraltar and Malta with cargo of about 50 tons acetone in drums in place of mines. A quantity of other stores will be carried internally. In consequence no reload torpedoes are being carried and no fuel in No.1 oil fuel tank. (F.O.S., 2333/18, to C. in C. Med.).

SICILIA
(Italian).

Hospital ship, sent a message to Bari to say she would arrive at 0700/18, with 781 hospital cases. (D.S. 592).

FIONA
sunk.

Armed boarding vessel, attacked and sunk by 7 dive bombers 50' N.W. of Sidi Barrani at 1315/18. (D.O.R. 24/4.). (No signal received in W.D.).

2300/18. April.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date. 19.4.41.

Rec'd. 0225.

CYPHER.

Addressed. Desert Force British Troops in Egypt Tobruk
Fortress, C. in C. Mediterranean. Repeated. The
War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

07505 I/57860. Ciphor 18/4.

Our I/57255 of 16th. April.

Recent evidence from prisoners of war and captured
documents gives clearer picture of enemy forces forward area.

1. Tobruk Area. Ariete Division consisting of 32 Tank
Regt. of 5 battalions. 4 Battalions each originally equipped
with 46 C.V. 33. Casualties not known but believed heavy. One
with W.A. - I R - O D 29 M13. 27 Broscia division itself
incomplete but made up to divisional strength by attachment of
2 motorised artillery regiments plus one certainly and probably
up to 3 infantry battalions 102 Trento motorised division.
The whole under German Officers. Heavier tanks of 5 Colonial
Armoured Division reduced by casualties to possible 10 Mark II
and 25 Mark III. One unidentified German unit possible 2 or 8
M.G. battalion. 33 A/T battalion now belongs to 15 Armoured
Division. Guns 36 field and few either Italian 149/35 or
German 150 mm.

2. (Five blank groups) 5 Colonial Armoured Division.
3 Reconnaissance unit with remaining 15 light tanks 20 armoured
cars. 1 M.G. bn. (2 or 8). 5 Tank Regt. with remaining about
60 tanks Marks 1 2 and 3. One A/T battalion. Guns 30 field.
Eriete 8 Bersaglieri (?regiment) consisting of 12 and 5 lorry-
borne battalions and 3 motor cycle battalion. Guns 24 field.
15 motor cycle battalion of 15 armoured division. Prisoner of
War states this and 33 A/T Bn. only unit of 15 Armoured Division
now in Cyrenaica but mentions by these prisoners of 104 and 115
motorised Infantry Regts. lend strong colour to believe 15 Divn.
is a fully armoured as opposed to a Colonial Armoured divn.
Although no definite proof consistent report of movement this
division from Sicily plus arrival at Tripoli 2 convoys after
10th. April each over 60,000 tons is sufficient evidence to
accept probability that bulk of 15 Armoured divn. (?have now)
disembarked Tripolitania. While realizing time space and
maintenance difficulties in worst cases 15 Armoured divn. might
be concentrated Tobruk area by 1st. May.

2300/18.

Rec'd from War Office by hand at
1250/20.

1st. Lord.
1st. S.L.
4th. S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
Nav. Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)

Ops. (4)
D. of P. (3)
M. (2)
E.P.S.
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (3)
D.P.D.
W.D.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.18.4.1941.
FRIDAY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.→ CERES
C.M.8.

My 0734 13. CERES is to escort convoy C.M.8. from Mombasa until 1st dawn after passing Perim, when convoy is to disperse and CERES proceed to Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0629Z/18 to CERES, N.O.I.C. Kilindini).

Corvettes.

Admty. 1835/15/3. Route for Corvettes on East Indies Station: to Mombasa and Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

→ LLANDAFF
CASTLE.
C.M.8.

Your 0709/15. LLANDAFF CASTLE returns to Mombasa 0700/19. H.Q. Nairobi advises will send troops for Berbera up to full capacity. Will load full cargo and sail ship with C.M.8. with instructions to disembark troops at Berbera and cargo at Aden. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 1317Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

UMBRIA.

Ref: salvaging of UMBRIA and cargo. (Gov. Gen. Sudan T.H.I. 1853/18 to C.in C. E.I.)

→ C.in C. E.I.

My 0747/18 (to Admty only) I am proceeding to Basra at 0200Z/19 in SEABELLE LEANDER will arrive Kuwait p.m./19 and I intend rejoining her p.m. 20 (?) arriving late on 21st. (C.in C. E.I. 1918Z/18).

B.M.7.

Convoy B.M.7., containing troops for Iraq, arrived at Basra, early a.m./18. (D.O.R. 19/4).

→ C.in C. E.I.

Arrival 18th mouth of Shatt-el-Arab 1910Z C.in C. E.I. in LEANDER. (C.in C. E.I. 2008Z/18).

CALEDON.

My 0034/16. CALEDON is to remain at Suez until further orders. (1st S.L. 2152/18 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area).

18.4.1941⁵⁸⁶
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Possible
U/Boat
signals.

Your 1859/16 Navy Dept. inform me message intercepted 0114/15 signal strength two frequency 56.60 signal consisting of M E K H J I T T. (N.A.Washington, 0910/18 to Admty). My 1910/18. Further information received from Navy Dept: that intercepted message consists of 35 badly garbled groups in addition to letters already signalled. (N.A.Washington, 1257/18).

W.Coast S.America
Patrol,
PRINCE HENRY.

Intend to withdraw patrol from W.Coast of S.America on 21/4. PRINCE HENRY will proceed to Esquimalt for repairs and to land prisoners. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1041/18 to Admty. etc.)

CANTON.

CANTON arrived New York. (N.A.Washington, 1044/18).

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 23/4. Leave Trinidad 24/4 and proceed Curacoa to embark mails and any necessary stores. Leave Curacoa 27/4. and proceed Bermuda via Mona passage so as to arrive 1/5. If circumstances permit you will remain at Bermuda about 14 days for boiler cleaning and making good, minor defects. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1051/18 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Boarding
neutral ships
in British
Ports.

My 1812/28/3 agreement mentioned in para.one has now been reached. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/18 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

18.4.1941.
Friday

587

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Sabotage
in s.s.
ROOKLEY.

British motor ship ROOKLEY bound for Liverpool in H.X.121 suspected of sabotage as follows:
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1349/18 to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

4 fast
U.S.
freighters.

My 1810/16.(1811/16 intended ?).
Request onward route from R/V in case ships are not met.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1639/18 to Admty).

EMPIRE
LEOPARD.

Have you any news of EMPIRE LEOPARD?
If arrived report why distress message was made and not cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1703/18 to N.C.S.O. Baltimore).
My 1249/18 (See North Atlantic) EMPIRE LEOPARD arrived 17/3. (? 17/4).
(D.D.I.C. 1757/18 to F.O.C.N.A. C.in C's S.A. A.W.I. etc.)

SAN AMADO

Have you any news of SAN AMADO? If arrived report why distress message was made and not cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1714/18 to N.C.S.O. Aruba).
Your 1714/18 no news.
(Aruba, 1605/18).

S.C.29.
H.X.122.
escorts.

S.C.29 escorted by RANPURA and PORPOISE
H.X.122 ocean escort ALAUNIA. Intend sailing RAMILLIES a.m./21 to overtake H.X.122 and provide close cover, up to 035° W. RANPURA and ALAUNIA ordered to proceed Iceland with that local escort on leaving convoys. Both ships carry passengers and stores for Iceland. PORPOISE ordered to leave convoy half an hour after sunset on 29/4 or in 035° W. whichever is earlier. Request further instructions for PORPOISE may be signalled (R.A.3. 1913/18 to V.A.N.P. C.in C.A.W.I. Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.4.1941.

Friday.

588

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

MALAYA.

Your UKARM 73, anticipated date of completion of MALAYA is 1/7 for action damage and defects.

(B.A.R.M. 2315/18 to Admty).

New Zealand.

VITI.

Fiji Government's R.C.S. VITI has been commissioned as a Colonial vessel of War with title H.M. ^{Fijian} ship VITI. Further signal will be made re S.W's supplied.

(N.Z.N.B. 2225Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

589

CASTOR
(torpedoed
31/3)
(Swedish)

Your 1607/16. How was CASTOR sunk?
(D.D.I.C. 1053/18 to N.C.S.O. Curacao).
Your 1053/18. Torpedoed 31/3, left afloat
burning 057° 59' N. 032° 08' W. 3/4.
(Willemstad, N.W.I., 0931/18, to Admty.).
CASTOR left Port Arthur 12/3 and had been
overdue at Skopenfjord since 4/4.
(D.S. 592).

ENA DE LARRINGA
(torpedoed 5/4)

My 1934/16. Second boat with 19 survivors
landed North, Natal Brazil, yesterday 17/4.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1118/18). *See Monthly A/S
Report, Vol 4, p. 108.*

UMONA
(torpedoed
30/3)

Ref. I.D. Form S.A.
UMONA of Bullard King line was struck by two
torpedoes on 30/3 and sank almost
immediately. No boats lowered. This
information obtained by master of UMTALI in
interview with three Lascars picked up by
FOXHOUND. Seven other Lascars arrived in
UMTALI. Two Europeans arrived in S.S. LORCA
on 13/4 but are still unfit for interview.
(C.in C. S.A., 2124/18 to Admty.)
Later information (C.in C. S.A., 2013N/23).

S.S. AEGEON
(sunk 11/4)

Greek S.S. AEGEON chartered by Min. of
Shipping sunk by torpedo 1740 Z plus 1/11
in 006° 55' N. 014° 38' W. Ship seen to
sink in 10 minutes. *13° 00' N. 014° 38' W.*
Submarine sighted after attack and Chief
Engineer who states he served 18 months in
Greek submarine appeared positive it was
French. Picked out Circe class from
Silhouettes. 8 killed 23 survivors.
(C.in C. S.A. 2126/18).

TWEED
(torpedoed 8/4)

My 1151/11. TWEED reported sunk by
submarine, (S.O.I., Freetown, 2333/18 to
Admty.).

(U.124)

War Diary.

18.4.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

590

Estimated
Disposition.

Your 1520/17 and similar signals.
At present U-Boat disposition signals are
not addressed to ships South of 35° N.
Request these ships may be included in
future. (F.O.C.N.A. 1206/18 to Admty.).

0400/17.

Civilian source reports submarine marked
U 3 (2 D.N. number indistinct) in 63° 40' N.
23° 31' W. at 0400/17. Grade C.2.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1824/18, to Admty.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1410/18).

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

591

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

BISMARCK
reported
at sea.

A report graded B.2. was received shortly after midnight last night, that BISMARCK, 2 cruisers of LEIPZIG class and 3 destroyers passed the Skaw early yesterday morning steering north-west. Enemy W/T traffic during last night was consistent with an important movement between the Naze, and Bergen, apparently northbound.

The following dispositions were ordered:-
C.in C. H.F. (in KING GEORGE V) was at first ordered to proceed northward, but at 0303 the Admiralty directed him to remain on Biscay patrol as he would be unable to reach an intercepting position if BISMARCK were proceeding direct to the Atlantic, and it was possible the enemy were creating a diversion while SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU put to sea.

RODNEY with 2 destroyers brought in Convoy T.C.10 to the Clyde at 1034/19 and was ordered to refuel with all despatch on arrival and sail to reach 60° 45'N., 14° 45'W. at 0900/21. Defects necessitated her remaining 12 hours in port and she sailed at 2358/19.

C.S.18 was ordered to take EDINBURGH, SUFFOLK, EXETER, GALATEA, ARETHUSA and available destroyers under his orders and organise a patrol line between Faroes and Iceland. The two latter ships *from Iceland* sailed at 0405/19, and the 3 former, with 5 destroyers at 0606/19. *from Scapa.*

B.C.1. in HOOD with KENYA and 3 destroyers, who left Scapa at 1645/18 to relieve C.in C. H.F. on Biscay Patrol was ordered to proceed towards Reykjavik, to take up a supporting line 80 miles W.S.W. of C.S.18's patrol line.

/C.S.1.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

592

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

BISMARCK
reported at
Sea, cont:-

C.S.1. (NORFOLK) who had arrived at Reykjavik at 1559/18 was ordered to return to patrol Denmark Strait when fuelled (sailed 1159/19 with AMAZON and CHESTERFIELD)

Air searches were arranged as follows:-

- (a) Between Faeroes and Orkneys from first light 19/4.
- (b) Cross-Over patrol east of Iceland (in operation by 0618/19).
- (c) PRU to cover Norwegian coast 19/4.
- (d) Cross-Over patrol by Sunderland between Langanes (N.E.Coast of Iceland) and the ice limit at daylight 20/4. (Ice limit today is 40 miles North of Langanes).

A convoy of 25 enemy merchant ships was reported in 58° 20'N., 6° 10'E. at 1518/17, steering 330° at about 12 knots. It was thought that the possibility of an expedition against Iceland or the Faroes could not be excluded.

Brest
Patrol.

R/C of Brest at 0745 showed both battle cruisers present in their usual positions. There was no further R/C of Brest during today. (In future changes only in the situation of the enemy battle cruisers will be noted).

MINERVE.

At 1215 today French Submarine MINERVE on patrol fired two torpedoes at a large tanker off Jaedereas Point, and reported one or possibly two hits. In the subsequent counter attack by the escort MINERVE suffered some damage and she left patrol early for Dundee.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

593

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

Destroyers.

The 5th D.F. from Plymouth are being sent to reinforce the Mediterranean, necessitating some arrangement of Home Fleet destroyers in order to replace the 5th D.F. Three of the 20th D.F. are being converted from minelayers. For details see Admty. 2254/19 to C.in C. H.F)

Weather.

Wick Harbour was closed at 0841 on account of the weather.

British Air Activity.

Blenheims today sunk a 5000 ton merchant ship off Scheveningen and claim to have sunk an escorted 7000 ton merchant ship 10 miles north of Ijmuiden. Other ships were attacked and a 2000 ton ship may have been sunk 20 miles north of Ijmuiden.

One Beaufort dropped a mine last night over the dock area at Brest.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/P Trawler KOPANES was bombed and sunk off the Tyne today.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

594

Mining.

Operation
Z.M.E.30.

PLOVER last night laid mines in St. Georges Channel.

Four Beauforts laid mines off Brest last night.

The Thames was reopened from Sea Reach No. 4 buoy to Westminster Bridge at 1750.

North Atlantic.

Yugoslav
Ships.

There has been difficulty in getting Yugoslav ships to sail from ports in Portugal. The Yugoslav Charge d'Affairs is obstructive and unhelpful. Yugoslav merchant seamen have now been mobilised and desertion or disobedience is punishable as a military offence. Many of the seamen are Croats, (Pro-German) Certain ships at Lisbon have been requisitioned by the Yugoslav Govt., and the Yugoslav minister in London, today sent orders to the Yugoslav Charge d'Affairs to send these ships to British ports. (On 21/4, however, H.C.S.O. Lisbon telegraphed that Yugoslav Charge d'Affairs will take no action without instructions from Yugoslav legation in London).

S.S.
SAN AMADO.

This ship which made a Q raider report on 3/4 arrived today (presumably at Aruba, where she was due 17/4). The identity of the suspicious ship she reported is not known.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

595

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

The signal from FORT DE FRANCE, that she had been "attacked" on 8/4 by a British ship, referred to BULOLO who signalled today that she had boarded the ship in ^{at 15/4} 27° 19'N., 28° 6'W. and was sending her into Gibraltar under armed guard.

Mediterranean.

Dangerous Area.

Submarines ships and aircraft may take action forthwith in the entire Adriatic and the Aegean except Turkish territorial waters. Pending Cabinet approval, however, no declaration of this extension to the dangerous area is to be made.

Malta.

About 20/^{enemy} aircraft attacked Malta from 0105 to 0355 today, the target evidently being the Grand Harbour, where slight damage was caused to naval buildings and to lighters and tugs. One tug and S.S. MARGIT (Panamanian) were sunk. Damage also occurred ashore.

Two enemy aircraft dropped bombs at dusk, but no damage or casualties occurred.

Libya.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night and report a hit on a ship. Tripoli was attacked in the early hours of this morning. 460 men from H.M.S. GLENGYLE last night carried out a sea-borne raid on Bardia and destroyed a bridge and store dumps. 67 men lost their way and are believed to have been captured.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

596

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Greece.

Greek S/M's TRITON, NEREUS, KATSONIS, and GLAUCOS left Piraeus last night for Alexandria, and PAPANICOLIS is to proceed to Alexandria from Adriatic patrol. (B.N.A. Athens 0945/21 gives his views on their morale and attitude towards the British after continual bombing.)

C.in C. Med., in WARSPITE with BARHAM, VALIANT, GLOUCESTER, and 10 destroyers arrived at Suda Bay today and left again for operations off the coast of Libya (See 21/4).

East Indies.

Owing to the impossibility of constructing a cofferdam at ~~Aden~~, Port Sudan, CAPETOWN is to be towed to Suez for repairs to render her seaworthy.

Force T (HERMES and ENTERPRISE) have been ordered to proceed to Bahrein.

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

597

Policy.

Escort for
Ocean Convoy
Ships between
Iceland and
Eastern R/V.

A.M.C's and Merchant ships joining Ocean Convoys from Iceland or leaving Ocean Convoys for Iceland are to be escorted between Iceland and Eastern R/V by ships of Escort groups.

10th A/S Group are to supplement such escorts as ordered by you, this service taking priority over that ordered in my 1620/11 Not to all addressees. (C.in C. W.A. 1516/19).

TROUBADOR

I fully agree with C.in C. H.F. 0945/15.
(C.in C. W.A. 1642/19).

Plymouth.
Replacement
of 5th D.F.

The critical situation in the Mediterranean necessitates sending 5th D.F. abroad. This leaves no destroyers at Plymouth and while the enemy is using Brest we must keep a destroyer force there. Only modern destroyers with their powerful armaments are suitable. We are reluctant to make further demands on your Fleet but suggest you might consider surrendering 4 Tribals for a larger number of less powerful destroyers. Propose therefore that you send 2 Tribals to Plymouth and receive in the immediate future 3 of 20th D.F. converted from minelayers. NESTOR and JUPITER complete on 30/4 and mid May respectively and could relieve another 2 Tribals from Home Fleet or themselves join C.in C. Plymouth whichever you prefer. (1st S.L. 2254/19 ~~to C.in C. HF~~)

Defence of U.K.

Code Word "minimise".
"MINIMISE".

To be used in Invasion or other Special Emergency to reduce number of Signals made. Particulars. (A.C.N.S. H. 1341/19: A Message 982.A.) See Lion Copy.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE.

OUT.
1341/19th April

UK

To.
A Message Home and Abroad. 982A

Date. 19.4.41

597A)

Naval Code (J) Temporary.

From Admiralty.

BASEGRAM.

In the event of an attempted invasion of U.K. or any special emergency the code word "MINIPOSE" will be signalled to all concerned with the following signification:-

(a) It is now vital that normal signal traffic on the Home Station shall be drastically reduced in order that signals connected with the present emergency shall not be delayed.

(b) Before authorising the despatch of a message therefore, it is essential that all originators of signals should satisfy themselves that immediate operations will be adversely affected if the signal in question is not made. No signal which does not pass this test is to be transmitted.

(c) Messages which will eventually have to be made are to be held until the situation clarifies sufficiently for permission to be given by Admiralty for ordinary traffic to be resumed.

(d) Originators of signals have discretion, however, to despatch messages mentioned in para. (c) above at any time if they consider that they have been held up so long; that it has become essential for them to be made.

(e) The above instructions apply also to signals originated on a foreign station and addressed or repeated to an Authority at Home.

1341/19

for Head of M. (88)
(Approved by 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) (2)
C.S.O. 1st S.L.
D.S.D. 9.
D.S.D. (2)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
H.W.R.
M.3.O.B. (M. Q.913/41) (5)
D.S.C.
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
W.T. Room (2)
A.C.R.
A.G.R.M.

598
19.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LACONIA
CHITRAL

A.M. 1936/15. In view of probable shortage of Iceland escorts LACONIA and CHITRAL are to part company after meeting Iceland escort in position A on 21/4 and proceed Reykjavik at best speed through position P and position Q. (A.C.N.S. H. 1806/19).

Operations.

SURCOUF.

Admiral Muselier's Chief of Staff and the C.O. of SURCOUF visited me to-day. Consider ship unsuitable for projected passage to Mediterranean. Reasons. Request decision. (F.O.S. 0006/19).
Cancel Admty. 1257/15. SURCOUF will not now be employed on this service. (V.C.N.S. 1239/19).

Search for
BISMARCK.

Proceed to the Northward at 20 knots weather permitting. (1st S.L. 0020/19 to C.in C.H.F.)
On arrival refuel with all despatch and prepare to leave harbour again.
(1st. S.L. 0050/19 to RODNEY).
Proceed with your force towards Reykjavik. (1st S.L. 0116/19 to B.C.1.)
Report received that BISMARCK, two Cruisers LEIPZIG Class, and three Destroyers passed the Skaw early morning of 18/4 steering N.W. Graded B.2. (V.C.N.S. 0117/19).
NORFOLK, GALATEA and ARETHUSA raise steam. (1st S.L. 0128/19).
EDINBURGH, SUFFOLK, and EXETER and all available destroyers raise steam. (1st. S.L. 0133/19).
Your 0050/19.
Urgent engine room defect in connection with main circulator and forced lubricator pump will necessitate 12 hours in harbour. (RODNEY 0152/19 to Adty.).
My 0117/19, 0128/19, and 0133/19. Take EDINBURGH, SUFFOLK, EXETER, GALATEA, ARETHUSA, and available destroyers under your orders and organise patrol line between Faroes and Iceland. Positions thought to be occupied by enemy submarines to be avoided if possible. (1st S.L. 0205/19 to C.S.18).

/ My 0205/19.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

599

Search for
BISMARCK
(Contd.)

My 0205/19.

Take up supporting position about 80 miles to south westward of patrol line ordered by C.S.18, subject to this position being clear of reported positions of enemy submarines. (1st S.L. 0220/19 to B.C.l.).

A.M. 0128/19 and 0117/19.

Return to patrol Denmark Strait when fuelled.

Air R/C will be arranged.

(1st S.L. 0232/19 to C.S.l.).

A.M. 0020/19. If BISMARCK is proceeding to Atlantic direct, KING GEORGE V cannot reach an intercepting position. As BISMARCK may be creating a diversion while SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU put to sea we have come to the conclusion that it is better for you to remain on your present patrol.

(V.C.N.S. 0303/19 to C.in C. H.F.).

My 0117/19. The following Air Searches have been arranged. (D.O.D.H. 0400/19)

See British Air Activity.

Your 0128/19. GALATEA and ARETHUSA sailed 0405/19. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0555/19 to Adty.). Scapa departure F.O.C. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH with SUFFOLK, EXETER, INGLEFIELD, TARTAR, ECHO, ANTHONY, ACHATES. (A.C.O.S. 0606/19).

My 0605/19. Expect TARTAR and ACHATES to join GALATEA and ARETHUSA at 0600/20.

(F.O. 18th C.S. 0621/19 to F.O. 2nd C.S.).

In view of N.O.I.C. Iceland's report 1117/17 that ice extends to 40 miles North of Langanes intended to patrol in that vicinity by day so as to intercept as early as possible Your 0400 suggest air patrol be amended accordingly. (C.S.l. 0757Z/19 to Adty.).

NORFOLK ~~FF~~, AMAZON, and CHESTERFIELD sailed. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1159/19).

Adty. 0050/19 and My 0152/19.

RODNEY will be ready for sea by 2300.

Request instructions.

(RODNEY 1432/19).

RODNEY escorted by not less than three destroyers provided by C.in C. W.A. is to be sailed at 2359/19 to reach position 60° 45' N. 14° 45' W. at 0900/21.

2. C.S.18 is to detach 4 destroyers to R/V with RODNEY in that position at that time and one destroyer to reinforce destroyers screening HOOD. This destroyer is to R/V with HOOD in 62° 05' N. 17° W. at 1200/20 unless otherwise ordered by B.C.l. Western Approaches destroyers are to return to base on relief.

3. Movements of RODNEY subsequent to 0900/21 will be signalled later unless B.C.l. makes his own dispositions. (1st S.L. 1952/19).

/ Interception of 3 possible
Minelayers.

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

600

Operations. (Contd.)

Interception
of 3 possible
Minelayers.

Three ships possibly minelayers sighted 5 miles N.W. of Ushant steering 360 degrees at 2200/18.
Two M/L ordered to patrol along 49° 55' N. west of 5° 30' W.
Three patrolling along 49° 55' N. east of 5° 30' W.
Three M.G.B. along 50° 05' N. between 04° 10' W. and 4° 30' W.
(C.in C. Plymouth 0123/19).

East Coast
Patrol.

Weather permitting four motor launches carry out patrol vicinity of 55 buoy to-night.
(C.in C. Nore 1034/19).

British Air Activity.

Portsmouth
Use of
"Starfish".

Report on use of "starfish" in Air Attack of 17/18. Details. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0137/19) See Lion Copy.

Attacks on
E-Boats and
M/V's on 18/4.

On 18/4 one Blenheim attacked two 5000-ton M/V's anchored in Roads N.W. of Terneuzen Harbour. One other Blenheim attacked an 800 ton ship anchored in harbour at Heedokenskirke observed direct hits, and saw the whole ship disintegrate. Four of them attacked barges and small craft in Terneuzen and Breskens Harbours and observed bursts in the target area.
Eight Wellingtons from 21 Squadron with task to attack Heligoland intercepted a convoy consisting of two 5 and 4,000 ton and three 2,000 ton merchant vessels escorted by three flak ships. Four aircraft centred on the largest M/V, making stern attacks from only fifty feet. One Blenheim saw a bomb burst on the stern of the vessel, and the stern structure was seen flying into the air, the ship was seen to be on fire and with a heavy list to starboard, and is claimed as sunk. The fifth aircraft attacked the 4,000 ton M/V at 100 feet and saw a column of black and white smoke rise from amidships. This M/V is also claimed sunk. The sixth Blenheim attacked one of the flak ships from forty feet and direct hits were scored as the ship was enveloped in clouds of smoke and steam and is presumed to have sunk.

/ The seventh

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

0137/19th April.

IN.

From C. in C. Portsmouth.

Date 19.4.41.

Time 0600

NAVAL CYPHER (D) By T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

(605A).

AIDAC.

993. The following report on use of "starfish" decoy fires during an air attack on Portsmouth on night of 17/18 April 1941 is forwarded,

2. No information that Portsmouth was a likely target was received.

3. R.D.F. Pilot at Fort Wellington reported group of hostile aircraft leaving French coast and proceeding towards Portsmouth.

4. When hostile aircraft were heard over Portsmouth and parachute flares observed, and as weather was seen to be suitable for "starfish" - no moon, some mist and ground haze - it was decided to wait for incendiaries to be dropped before lighting the starfish.

5. On incendiaries being seen orders were given to light the starfish situated at Sinah on Hayling Island to maximum capacity.

6. The starfish produced a very large flare and a most satisfactory glare in sky. A very large number of H.E. bombs estimated at 100, 15 land mines and about 5000 incendiary were dropped in the vicinity of this fire in course of a long and intensive raid. These fell in Langstone harbour and on Hayling Island.

7. Very few H.Es. were in Portsmouth Southsea or the dockyard. Those that were, dropped more towards the end of the raid when it is probable starfish was beginning die down.

8. It would appear that results of lighting this starfish were most highly successful a contributory factor doubtless being similarity of entrance to Portsmouth and Langstone harbours.

9. It is noted that in 0800 B.B.C. news service it was stated a heavy raid had take place on a south coast town but that damage and casualties were negligible.

It is considered unfortunate raid was described as heavy and the damage slight as this might cause the enemy to suspect decoy fire and prejudice the secrecy of starfish.

0137/19

Advance copies sent Ops. O.D. & O.I.C.

1st Lord.	D.M.S.
1st S.L.	I.P.
2nd S.L.	W.D.
3rd S.L.	Duty Captain.
4th S.L.	Hd. of M.
5th S.L.	D.T.S.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S.(H)	E.F.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.T.D. (2)
A.C.N.S.(T)	N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.P.D.
D. of P. (2)	
D.O.D. (H)	
D.D.O.D. (H)	
D.O.D. (F)	
D.D.O.D. (F)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.S.D.	
D.N.A.D.	
D. of L.D.	
D. A/S W.	

MESSAGE

(B)

~~491~~

From War Registry.

In Most Secret signal from C. in C. Portsmouth
T.O.O. 0137/19 re successful use of starfish, paragraph 3,
for "R.D.F. Pilots" read "R.D.F. plot."

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.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.
Hd. of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

EO

War Diary.

19.4.1941.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)Attacks on
E-Boats and
M/V's on
18/4.
(Contd.)

The seventh Blenheim made a bomb attack on the leading 2,000 ton vessel, and bombs were observed to undershoot, whilst the last Blenheim also attacked this vessel, results not observed. Besides bombing, all aircraft machine gunned the convoy. 21 Squadron took off to attack shipping and docks at Le Havre. One Blenheim attacked a formation of three motor barges full of troops, escorted by four flak ships, of approx. 800 tons, proceeding north-east along the French coast, ten miles N.W. of Cap D'Antifer. Results were not observed. Another Blenheim attacked one of six "E" boats travelling very fast heading north in pairs in line astern 5 miles off Cap D'Antifer "E" boat was attacked in a dive at 1500 feet but bombs overshot by 20 yards. Six Hampdens of 61 squadron set out to attack shipping and docks at Cherbourg. Bombs were dropped, but results were not seen. (H.Q.B.C. 0227/19).

Patrols.

My 0117/19. The following air searches have been arranged.

(A) W 2 cross-over patrol between Faroes and Orkneys commencing first light 19/4.

(B) ~~FOLE~~ cross-over patrol between 64° N. 05° W. 66° 27' N. 07° 26' W. Patrol to commence at 1600/19th.

(C) P.R.U. to cover Norwegian coast 19/4.

(D) Cross-over patrol in the Denmark Straits, due north of North Cape to limit of Ice from first light on 20/4.

(1st S.L. 0400/19 to B.C.1, etc.).

Admiralty 0400/19. W.2 cross over patrol now in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth 0618/19).

Patrols Sa 1A and SA 2 less two southern tracks. Both patrols extended to coast in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth 1004/19).

Patrol ~~FOLE~~ will take off at 1300.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1230/19). "Fugle"

Admiralty's 0400/19. Patrol ~~FOLE~~ taking off 1500/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1416/19).

Trondheim r/c now in operation.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1454/19).

Restrictions on
Flying of Kites.

Your 1347/16. Matter is under discussion with Air Ministry. Decision expected very shortly. (A.C.N.S. T. 1431/19 to C.in C. Plymouth).

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN
(Bombed 15/4.)

My 2354/18. SCOTTISH MUSICIAN has been brought into Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0419/19).

CSIKOS
(Bombed 18/4)

CSIKOS can now reach port without assistance. E.T.A. Londonderry 1205/19. (CHELSEA 0646/19). CSIKOS arrived Lough Foyle damaged by air attack. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1544/19).

WYOMING
(A/P Trawler)

WYOMING attacked by two enemy bombers at 2057/18 dropping 3 bombs all near misses. R.T. and 12 Pdr. put out of action and leak forward as result of concussion: fires were also put out and steam dropped. WYOMING counter-attacked one machine at a height of 100 feet and machine subsequently disappeared, no further attack being made by second machine. In reply to distress signals H.M.T.NODZU closed WYOMING and towed her into Tyne, where she is being beached for repairs. Two very slight casualties. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1053/19).

Own A/C
possibly
shot down
by ARISTOCRAT.

S.O.T.L.D.F. reports that at about 0350/18 a low flying A/C heading westerly was engaged by ARISTOCRAT at the Nore - height 500 feet range about 400 yards - believed at the time to be a Junkers 88. Shots though not definitely seen to hit were very close. At about this time what was probably an A/C in flames was reported by other vessels as coming down in the sea over East Nore Sand. Later at 0700/18 after flood tide H.M. Drifter OCEAN TREASURE picked up a flying helmet marked "Mulford 751617" in Sheerness Harbour. Also a life saving jacket with British markings and a petrol tank have been recovered. It seems possible therefore that the A/C which came down may unfortunately have been British. (C.in C. Nore 1117/19).

LOTHDALE.

(British, 345 tons). Arrived Wick this morning. Reported being attacked by single E/A 12' - 15' N.N.W. of Fraserburgh at 2115/18. Low level attack on bomb dropped which missed ship but machine gunned with armour piercing bullets of approx. 22 Calibre which pierced 3/16 steel and caused slight damage to superstructure.

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

603

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LOTHDALE
(Contd.)

Otherwise no damage or casualties. LOTHDALE opened fire with both Lewis guns causing E/A to swerve away and break off attack. Few minutes before attack an explosion had been heard near ship to southward. (A.C.O.S. 1220/19).

A/C over
Caithness.

E/A dropped one bomb at Lybster 2222/18 No damage or casualties. 3 Bombs dropped 3 miles South of Castletown 2220/18. No damage or casualties. 6 plots taken over Kinnaird Hd. One over Banff. No fighters took off owing to bad weather. (A.C.O.S. 1225/19).

Defence of
Convoys
against
low-flying
a/c.

N.C.S.Os. are to impress on Masters of Ships that they must not hesitate to open fire on low flying aircraft for fear of damaging adjacent ships. The hedge-hopping method of attack on convoys now used by the enemy can only be countered by accurate and intense fire from as many ships as possible and there is every prospect of bringing the enemy down at these close ranges. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1359/19).

Convoy "Hatch"
HATCH. -

Fighters are being sent to convoy "Hatch" (1 M/V and H.M.S. HUSSAR). (Lyness W/T 1403/19).

SWEDRU.
(Bombed 16/4)

Adty. 2244/16. SWEDRU in position 054° 54' N. 011° 02' W. Ship appears likely floating but still burning, boarding not possible at present. Am proceeding. (VETERAN 1635/19).

GEORGE SCOTT
(trawler)
damaged.
MOUNT BATTOCK
(British,
396 tons)
attacked.

GEORGE SCOTT attacked by L.L.B. and M.G. position 58° 15' N. 2° 50' W. 2145/18/4 and again by A/C M.G., only, position 57° 12' N. 1° 53' W. 1400/19/4. A/C believed to be Dornier in each case. Three near misses no casualties. Ship badly strained. Latter A/C also attacked British Merchant vessel MOUNT BATTOCK approximately same position and time L.L.B. and M.G. no casualties no damage. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1830/19).

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

ROM

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

STRATHBLANE
SHEMOLI
KINGSWAY
THRACIAN
FORFEIT
(Trawlers)
attacked.

Following reports of air attacks have been received:-
At 1340/18/4 Dundee trawlers STRATHBLANE and SHEMOLI attacked by single aircraft at 100 feet in position 090°. Fifeness 4 miles approx. Two bombs dropped one on each side of STRATHBLANE, at 50 - 60 feet, and this vessel also attacked with incendiary and armour piercing bullets. Her Lewis gun was rendered useless by direct hit with machine gun bullet. At 2100/18/4 fishing trawlers KINGSWAY and THRACIAN attacked by single aircraft off Rattray Head. Ships opened fire with Lewis Guns and THRACIAN with Holman projector. Pieces seen to fall from plane and flame from starboard engine. At 1408/19/4 A/P trawler FORFEIT missed by bombs when 4 miles west of Burghhead. No damage or casualties.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1837/19).

KOPANES
sunk.

(A/P trawler) Reported by A/P trawler MORGAN JONES sunk by enemy aircraft vicinity 20 G buoy. All crew safe on board MORGAN JONES. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2214/19).

Mining.

ZME.30

Operation Z.M.E. 30 completed.
(PLOVER 0845/19).

Operation
HA.

My 1829/12, para. 2. Following alternative Areas are proposed. Consider 3 Destroyers desirable. (C.in C. Plymouth 1345/19).
See Operations Volume.
C.in C. Plymouth's 1345/19. I much prefer A. B might well restrict movements of S/Ms to an undesirable extent. (F.O.S. 1741/19)

River
Thames.

Your 1025/11. On condition there are no further reports enemy mine laying tonight ships will be allowed to proceed along side the wharves at Thames Haven, Shellhaven, Coryton and Canvey Island as from daylight/20th. (F.O.I.C. London 1550/19).
River from Sea Reach No. 4 to Westminster Bridge is open to Navigation.
(F.O.I.C. London 1750/19).

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

605

Falmouth.

My 1717/18. Position (1) should read 50°
05' 33" N. 4° 57' 19" W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1621/19).

Operation
ZME 31.

Particulars. To be carried out on the
night of 21/4 or as soon after as practicable.
(D.D.O.D. (M) 1833/19)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Force off
The Skaw
A.M./18.

Report received that BISMARCK, 2 cruisers
LEIPZIG Class 1 and 3 destroyers passed the
Skaw early morning 18/4 steering N.W. B.2.
(V.C.N.S. 0117/19).

Brest.

R/C of Brest at 0730/19 shows both
Battlecruisers present in usual positions.
(D.D.I.C. 0855/19).
My 0855/19. No further R/C of Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 2030/19).

Norwegian
Coastal
Movement.

Enemy W/T Traffic during night 18/19 April
is consistent with an important movement
between the Naze and Bergen apparently
N.Bound. (D.D.I.C. 1155/19).
Two urgent of priority signals have been
intercepted from enemy unit or units in the
vicinity of Stavanger at 1246 and 1255 on
5450 kcs. (D.D.I.C. 1348/19).

Possible
Enemy
Expedition.

A.M. 0117/19.
A convoy of 25 merchant ships was reported in
58° 20' N. 6° 10' E. at 1518/17. Course
330° about 12 knots.
In view of the report of BISMARCK and cruisers
the possibility of an expedition against
Iceland or Faroes cannot be excluded.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1307/19).

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

606

Shipping and Convoys.

T.C.10.

Arrived escorted by RODNEY, LEGION, GARLAND, PIORUN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034/19, to Admty., etc.).

R.V. for
Iceland
Escorts.

The term Eastern R/V applying H X and S C Convoys indicates position where U.K. escort relieves Iceland escort. The term Western R/V indicates position where Iceland escort meets homeward-bound convoys. (C. in C. W.A., 1511/19, to F.O.I.C.'s etc.).

Sailings by
night Resumed.

My 1425/11 and my 1543/11. Now that the moonlight period is passed convoys are to revert to sailings so as to comply with my 1836/21/2 beginning with "SCENT" and "WATCH" sailing PM/21. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1537/19.).

W.S.8A.

Embarkation of W.S.8.A. Liverpool Section commences 0800/22. Request fighter protection until sailing at 1100/24 when escort will be asked for. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1609/19, to H.Q.F.C.).

W.N. and E.C.
Convoys,
Schedules.

Your 1937/18/4 my 1725/15/4 and your 1028/15/3. There will never be a gap of more than three days between E.C. Convoys, consequently a gap of 4 days between W.N. Convoys should never occur. When D.S. JAN VAN BRAKEL has adequate A/A armament as requested in my 1741/11. I shall have sufficient sloops to meet all W N convoys within the existing cycle. Still desirable that W.N. convoys should be sailed as far as possible to synchronise with E.C. convoys so that the W.N. convoy does not arrive at Pentland Firth before it can be met by the Sloop escorting E.C. convoy. Special fast E.C. convoys will continue to run occasionally from Methil when escort situation permits. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1757/19, to Admty.).

35° W. Limit.

Admty. message "FA". Ref. A.M.S.I.374 in course of distribution, Section (B) paragraph 1 (b) and 1 (c) (v) and Admty., message "EU", in each case for 25° W., read 35° W. (D.T.D. 1823/19. to G.B.M.S. all areas.).

/Southern.....

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

607

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Southern
Irish Sea,
Limits.

A.M. 1958/4 and C. in C. W.A. 1113/7/4. Amended dividing line and routeing instructions regarding southern part of Irish Sea are to be brought into force as soon as convenient to C. in C. W.A., who is requested to advise N.C.S.O's as to first convoys and independent ships to be so routed, and to advise escorts at sea. The light buoys at positions (I) (J) and (K) have been laid. (D.T.D. 2035/19, to A.I.G., 26.).

BIRMINGHAM.

A.M. 2243/6. Leave convoy and proceed to Scapa when local escort joins. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2302/19, to BIRMINGHAM.).

War Diary.

19.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

608

Technical.

Human
Torpedo.

Adty. Messages 625A. and 752A. Expert
opinions as to use.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1949/19) See Lion Copy.

Miscellaneous.

Wick.

Wick Harbour closed at 0841/19. Weather.
(R.N.O. Wick 0846/19).

T

M E S S A G E

1949/19th April.

OUT.

MOST SECRET.

To C. in C. Mediterranean 157B1
 C. in C. Home Fleet 137B1.
 A.C.O.S. 266.
 C. in C. Nore 904.
 C. in C. Portsmouth 327.
 C. in C. Plymouth 847.
 C. in C. Rosyth 649.
 C. in C. Western Approaches 510.
 F.O.C.N.A. 852.
 S.C. Force H. 708.
 C. in C. East Indies 851.
 Repeated V.A. (M) 706.

Date 19.4.41.

608(A)

NAVAL CYBER F & D.

~~From Admiralty.~~

human
torpedo.

Reference Admiralty A. Message 625A and 752A. Expert opinion is ~~to the effect~~ that the Human Torpedo described in C.B.4095(3) could be carried in existing types of aircraft and could be dropped by parachute at a speed low enough for the crew to survive and remain efficient. A high rate of initial drop to permit of approximate aiming might also be arranged. ~~There is~~ **No** evidence at present that the enemy are developing this system. Pending this a high degree of secrecy concerning it is necessary.

(ACNS (F) 1949/19 6 C: c's ind, HF, etc.)

~~D. of L.D. (832)~~

~~Approved by A.C.N.S. (F)~~

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- 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.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.
- Hd. of M.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.

19.4.41.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

609

LA MELPOMENE
damaged on
18/4.

WHITSHED reports being in collision with LA MELPOMENE North of 58 buoy at 2321/18. No apparent damage to WHITSHED. LA MELPOMENE reports making water slowly proceeding independently to Humber. (C. in C. Nore 0210/19.).
Departure tug HEADMAN at 0250 to assist LA MELPOMENE. (F.O. Humber 0255/19.).
Arrival LA MELPOMENE at 0840. (F.O. Humber 0919/19.).
My 0255/19. Tug HEADMAN returned to Immingham at 0918. LA MELPOMENE did not require assistance. (F.O. Humber 0921/19.).

PRESTO.

Damaged in collision with Dover Breakwater. Proceeding up river for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1239/19.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

010

North Atlantic.

Yugoslav shipping.

Your 1700 and 1701/18 IVAN and OLGA TOPIC also SUD due Lisbon shortly have been requisitioned by Yugo-Slav Govt. Masters will receive telegrams from Yugo-Slav Legation, London, accordingly instructing them to obey your orders. Owners and Yugo-Slav Govt. instruct vessels to discharge forthwith and proceed to Bermuda immediately. Yugo-Slav merchant seamen have been mobilised and desertion or disobedience is punishable as a military offence.

(D.T.D. 0052/19 to Consul, Lisbon).
Your 0052/19. No orders from Yugo Slav Govt. or owners have arrived yet. Crews of ships are mostly Croats and are actively and passively hostile. Will endeavour to persuade them to Gibraltar with offer of repatriation to Genoa by Portuguese ships. Consider crews are quite untrustworthy to make passage to Bermuda. Some visiting Italian and German consulate.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1610/19 to Admty).

Destroyers
(? Spanish).

Four destroyers well lit line ahead steering North 14 knots position 305° P.C.L. 28 miles colour apparently Spanish but too distant for certain identification (LOCH OSKAIG 0325/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

REPULSE
escort.

Your 1507/18. After position 36°N., 13.30 W. pass through position 35.40 10.00. FEARLESS and KASHMIR will pass through 35.52 12.10 at 0800Z-1/20 steering 277° to R/V with you and provide escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1008/19 to REPULSE.

Departure FEARLESS, KASHMIR in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1008/19. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1200/19 to Admty, REPULSE)

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

611

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

SHEFFIELD
ARGUS
S.L.71.

Your 1758/18. Concur with your arrangements. A.Ts. 1612/15 and 2111/15 which refer to route of S.L.71 are being passed to you. Error is regretted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1334/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F indicates enemy unit within 200' 030° N., 016° W. or within 200' of 025° N., 020° W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1403/19 to N.A.Station).

ABERDEEN.

Departure 1420 ABERDEEN routed through 036° 00'N., 009° 00'W. 043° 00'N., 022° 00'W. E.T.A. Halifax 1800 Z plus 4/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1430A/19 to Admtly etc.)

Operation
"Dunlop."

M.1636/12. para.1.
18Mark I and 6 Mark II Hurricanes embarked.
(D.N.A.D. 1649/19 to S.O. Force H).

SANGRO
RECCO
(Italian).

Italian Tankers SANGRO and RECCO leave Teneriffe 19th or 20/4 possibly for Dakar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1910/19 to N.A.Station).

SANGRO
(Italian).

SANGRO left here 2105/19.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 2130/19).

UNBEATEN.

E.T.A. Cape Spartel R/V 1330/20.
(UNBEATEN 2210/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

UNION.

Your 1010/16. My P.C. and S. are 041° 00'N., 010° 37' W. 197° 10 knots.
(UNION 2212/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

612

FIJI.

My 2159/18. For S.L.71 read S.L.72
(C.in C. S.A. 0731N/19 to Admty etc.)

Overdue shipping.

Cancel my 0934/17 both ships arrived
Capetown. *See 551*
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0852B/19).

HISTORIAN.

Overdue shipping HISTORIAN due Capetown
15/4 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.C. D.E.Capetown, 1001/19 to Admty etc)

ALCANTARA
Seafox.

On arrival at St. Helena report details
of repairs required on Seafox so that it
can be estimated whether these can be
done at Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1201/19 to ALCANTARA).

Transport
Requirements.

D.S.T. 2154/12. Union Govt. Transport
requirements increased to such extent
that a large convoy from Durban to Suez
urgently necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202/19 to Admty)
See Lion Copy.

ILLUSTRIOUS
DORSETSHIRE.

A.T. 2342/17. Request you will order
following movements. A Escort for
ILLUSTRIOUS as given in para. B. of A.T.
2000/12.

(B) A cruiser from Freetown to R/V
with DORSETSHIRE and take over escort of
EMPRESS OF JAPAN and MONARCH of BERMUDA
to Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1335/19 to C.in C. S.A.,
C.in C. A.W.I.)

Dispositions.

Weekly Statement.
(C.in C. S.A. 1417N/19).
See Lion Copy.

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Report P.C. and S. Hope to provide
A/S escort on approach to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1509N/19 to QUEEN OF
BERMUDA).

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1202/19 April
IN

SA
612A
426)

From F.O.I.C. Simonstown.

Date; 19.4.41
Recd: 2311

Naval Cypher X by cable

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated C in C South Atlantic, C in C
East Indies, D of S.T. N.L.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. Egypt,
P.S.T.O. India.

IMPORTANT.

105. D of S.T.'s 2154/12 not to all addressees. The transport requirements of Union Government have now increased to such an extent that special measures appear necessary to satisfy them. It seems that the time has come when a large convoy from Durban to Suez is urgently necessary even if it interrupts the flow of W S convoy ships back to U.K.

2. The requirements in approximate order of priority are as follows:-

- (a) Five hundred fitters urgently required by General Wavell for repairs of tanks in Cairo to replace Naval personnel now being employed on this work. These men will be ready for embarkation on 28th and pending a reply I am trying to improvise accommodation in other ships. Further report will follow if this can be arranged.
- (b) Three thousand personnel of units urgently asked for by Mid East as reinforcements for First Division now in the field.
- (c) Ten thousand non European personnel belonging to divisional establishments of First Division and ready to leave Union immediately.
- (d) Second division being got ready for embarkation in AQUITANIA MAURITANIA and ILE DE FRANCE but number exceeds the twelve thousand two hundred provided for in these ships.
- (e) Ten thousand non European personnel belonging to Divisional establishments of Second Division.

3. Reference D of S.T.'s 18X7/3 para 2, 2356/15 and 0257/16 Defence Department cannot hold out much hope of reducing the number of ships required to load H.T. for Second Division from Durban for Suez.

4. When these important movements have been carried out Defence Department will endeavour to maintain a flow of necessary reliefs and stores from Durban to Suez with NIEUW HOLLAND and SELANDIA which will be permanently required for this purpose.

1202/19

Advance copy Ops O.D. D.T.D. D of S.T.

1st Lord	O.I.C. (2)	
1st S.L.	D.S.D. 9	
4th S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	
V.C.N.S.	M (12) (For W.O.)	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D of P (3)	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D of S.T. for action	
NAV. SEC.	E.P.S.	D.T.D. (11)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D of L.D. (2)	E.P.S.
Ops (4)	D.T.D. (4)	I.P. (3)
O.D. (5)		W.D.

EM

REPORT

MESSAGE

IN.
1417N/19th April.

FROM C. in C. South Atlantic.

DATE 19.4.41.

612(B)

RECD. 2334.

NAVAL CYPHER (C) BY W/T.

WADDRESSED N.O. in C. Simonstown R.A.S.A.D.

721. Weekly statement April 19th.

Freetown H.M. Ships ALBATROSS VINDICTIVE ERICA SNAPDRAGON ANCHUSA.

U.K. Freetown H.M.S. ESPERANCE BAY.

Gibraltar Freetown H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by H.M.S. DUNCAN and H.M.S. FOXHOUND. H.M.S. DUNEDIN H.M.S. HIGHLANDER.

Freetown U.K. H.M.S. BULOLO and H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM escorting SL 70 H.M.S. CILICIA and H.M.S. MAURITIUS escorting SL 71 H.M.S. FIJI escorting SL 72 with local escort H.M.S. WISHART F./S/M CALYPSO H.M. Ships ASPHODEL CALENDULA.

Freetown area H.M. Ships DRAGON CATHAY CLEMATIS CYCLAMEN CROCUS MARGUERITE. H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE overtaking SL 72 H.M.S. QUEEN OF HERMUDA.

Freetown Trinidad H.M.S. DELHI.

Gibraltar H.M. Ships BOREAS AMARANTHUS.

St. Helena area H.M. Ships ALCANTARA BRIDGEWATER SEVERN.

St. Helena H.M.S. MILFORD.

Capetown H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE.

Simonstown H.M. Ships SHROPSHIRE, HAWKINS, NIZAM, NAPIER.

Simonstown Durban area H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE to meet H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS.

Capetown Durban H.M.S. NELSON.

Durban area H.M.S. NEWCASTLE. H.M.S. CARTHAGE escorting H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS .

Plate area H.M.S. ASTURIAS.

Rio de Janeiro area H.M.S. CUMBERLAND.

U.K. ports H.M.S. MORETON DAY H.M.S. MOOLTAN H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE H.M.S. ARAWA.

Mombasa H.M.S. CORFU.

Halifax H.M.S. CANTON.

1417N/19.

Advance copy Ops.O.D.O.I.C.

1st Lord.			
1st S.L.	OPS.(4)	Movts.	D.N.A.D.
5th S.L.	O.D.8.	D.S.D.9.	D.T.S.D.
V.C.N.S.	O.D.(5)	D.P.S.	D.T.D.(4)
A.C.N.S.(F)	M.(2)	I.P.(3)	D.T.D.(M)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)	O.I.C.	D. A/S W.	
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	Mails.	W.D.	

MP

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

613

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BULOLO
S.L. 70.

Detach BULOLO forthwith to proceed in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1103/30. (N.T. in W.D.) (C.in C. W.A. 1515/19 to BIRMINGHAM)

VIDETTE.
WISHART.

My 1757/16 and your 1800/17. Propose VIDETTE on completion of present Convoy duties and fuelling at Bathurst leave Bathurst for Gibraltar about 24/4 and escort Oiler NYHOLT. Admty. 1752/15 refers. On arrival of BOREAS propose WISHART who has A/S Training Gear out of action shall leave for Gibraltar unless FOXHOUND or DUNCAN urgently required. Do you Concur? (C.in C. S.A. 1559N/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

BRITANNIA
(sunk by
raider
25/3).

13 British Officers and ratings and 25 native survivors from BRITANNIA arrived today. They landed Curupu Island, 20 miles East from here 16/4. Vessel was sunk by German A.M.C. by shelling 25/36 miles S.W. of (corrupt group). German vessel was about 8000 tons gross, 1 funnel, black hull. All C.Bs went down with ship. Names of survivors. (R.O. Maranhao 1600/19 to Admty etc.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

To be held at Freetown pending further instructions. (1st S.L. 1839/19 to C.in C. S.A.)

MILFORD.

Return to Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 2041N/19 to MILFORD).

FORT DE
FRANCE.
intercepted.

In position 27° 39'N., 28° 06'W. boarded Vichy S.S. FORT DE FRANCE from Martinique to Casablanca. Sent to Gibraltar with armed guard. E.T.A. a.m./13. T.O.O. 0303N/8 (message ends). (BULOLO 2200Z/19 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

8/4

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

WAR DIARY.

614

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Aircraft
in W.S.
Convoys.

Under consideration to ship aeroplanes for South Africa on deck in W.S. Convoys. Request confirmation that discharge at either Capetown or Durban will not involve delay to convoy.^s
(D.S.T. 2210/19 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

Tripoli
bombed.

All times G.M.T. 18/19. 8 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn. attacked Tripoli Harbour. Over target from 0010 to 0240 hours. Many bombs straddled Spanish Fort Quay and shipping round it. 2 hits on West Mole. Some near misses on ships in harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0605/19).

Mined
Area.

Danger area due to mines exist within a circle radius of half a mile from positions (a) 109° Tobruk Point 1.2 miles (b) 157° Tobruk Point 1 mile.
(D.S. 592, 19/4).

Suez Canal.

Your 1017/17. Subject to certain slight restrictions up to 25/4 ships passing wreck of AGHIOS GEORGIOS at kilos 141.8 must not exceed the following maximum draughts for corresponding maximum beams shown and vice versa.

<u>Draught in feet.</u>	<u>Beam in feet.</u>
30	72
29	89
28	105

Over dredging is expected to be finished by end of June to allow the passage without difficulty of all ships drawing up to 33 feet and in special circumstances those drawing up to 34 feet.

(ii) Dredging is largely restricted to dark hours owing to traffic through canal by day.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0933/19 to C.in C. Mediterranean).

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

615

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

GLOUCESTER,
Bardia,
bombarded.
Troops in
Iraq.

Operational Summary No. 313 up to 1200 hours 19/4. Hurricanes provided fighter protection for Walrus spotting for GLOUCESTER bombarding concentration of 450 M.T. near Bardia. Photographic R/C revealed 4 small ships apparently unloading Benghazi Harbour. Iraq. 17/4. First echelon air-borne troops arrived Shaibah in evening. 18/4 First echelon convoy berthed Shaibah during morning. Initial landing complete.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1057/19).

Enemy
Patrols.

Your 1404/17. Nothing known of A/S or air patrol West of Cape Bon. Convoys generally have air escort in addition to destroyers, torpedo boats, trawlers, or auxiliaries. No regular patrol reported but motor A/S boats have been sighted N. of Cape Bon and up to 25 miles S. and S.W. between Pantellaria, while submarines have also been reported E.S. and W. of the Island. Aerial activity to be expected between Galita Island, and Malta.
(Cdr. S.1. 1123/19 to Capt: S.8.)

Dangerous
areas in
Adriatic and
Aegean.

Submarines, ships and aircraft may take action forthwith in areas proposed in your 0203/15. Pending Cabinet approval, no declaration of this extension to the dangerous area is to be made.
(1st., Lord, 1332/19 to C.in C. Med.)

OSIRIS.

To conform with policy of your 0948/12, OSIRIS completing refit about 3/5 will join 8th Flotilla at Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1333/19 to C.in C. Med.)

Italian
Prisoners.

Defence Dept: Tel: 2147 dated 11/4 states that they can accept 9000 immediately. Further acceptance dates. Grand total India can accept, 84000 represents considerable acceleration of acceptance as compared with C.in C's telegram.
(W.O. 1345/19 to C.in C. M.E.)

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

616

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

APHIS,
Sollum.

R.A.Alexandria, 1936/18. Sollum weather at 1330/19. My position dark hours 090° Beacon Point five miles. My 0127/15, 350 batteries S.E.Bardia (?Range) 18,000 yards.
(APHIS, 1400/19 to COVENTRY).

Malta Air
Raids.
MARGIT
and tug
sunk.

Combined Service report. Malta up to 1800 hours, 19/4. All times G.M.T. Approx. 20 aircraft operating singly raided Malta 0105 to 0355 hours. Direct hit by Bofors on? JU 87 or 88 which crashed in sea confirmed. Target evidently Grand Harbour where several bombs dropped causing slight damage to naval buildings and to lighters and tugs. 1 tug and 1 Panamanian ship MARGIT sunk. Bombs also dropped in other localities. Direct hit on searchlight position 1 searchlight unserviceable. Considerable civilian damage, casualties. 3 day raids, enemy aircraft never crossed coast.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/19).

TRIUMPH.

N.O.I.C. Alexandria's 1754 18th.
(N.T. in W.R.) On completion of operation return to Alexandria (route) to enter Sanctuary at about 1100/21.
(Capt: S.1. 1710/19 to TRIUMPH).

Italian
Units.

From D/F Bearings and traffic a.m./19 it seems likely a number of Italian warships were then at sea in lower Tyrrhenean Sea. Ships were addressing Tripoli and call sign 7 S disposition possibly Naples.
(C.O.S. Alexandria, 1712/19 to C.in C. Med., etc.)

Explosive
Canisters.

R.A.F. Liaison Section Tobruk report enemy dropped numbers small aluminium canisters resembling shaving sticks or film containers which explode when unscrewed. All men in Tobruk garrison informed. We had previous report of similar contraption being used in Greece.
(C.in C. M.E. 1800/19 to Desert Force, Etc).

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

617

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian
damaged
warships.

Consul at Gandra has heard through a reliable intermediary the following emanating from Italian Consul-General Geneva just back from Rome:-

(1) 1 big ship damaged at Taranto is repaired and resumes service on 1/5. 5, months needed to repair these damaged at Matapan.

(Asst. M.A. Berne, 2117/19 to W.O.)

N.I.D.Comment. Considered correct. First sentence probably refers to LITTORIO, which was repairing at Taranto and which had left there by 19/4. The V.VENETO was damaged at the Battle of Cape Matapan and it appears reasonable that the damage caused by torpedoes will take five months to repair.

East Indies.

Iraq
Troops.

Arrival of troops at Shaibah. (See Mediterranean 1057/19). Eight transports of 51,189 tons in all with troops and stores have arrived at Basra. C.in C. E.I. in LEANDER also arrived at Basra on 18/4. (D.S.592, 19/4).

HECTOR.
DALIA.

Departure Durban HECTOR (A.M.C.) escorting DALIA sailed in accordance with C.in C. East Indies 0626Z/17 E.T.A. Kilindini HECTOR 0400Z/26 and DALIA a.m./27. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1111Z/19).

CAPETOWN.

Your 1254/17. Approved to tow CAPETOWN to Suez for repairs to make ship seaworthy. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1224/19 to C.in C. E.I.)

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

618

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

C.M.8.

Asking if desirable to delay C.M.8. so as to include LLANDAFF CASTLE. (D. of S.T. 2221/19 to C.in C. E.I. C.in C. M.E.)

A/S
Freighters.

Your 1438/4. How soon can you release the two A/S fitted freighters? They are urgently required in Home Waters. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2325/19 to C.in C. E.I.)

Force T.

Ordered to proceed to Bahrein. (HERMES and ENTERPRISE). (D.O.R. 19/4, no signal recd. in W.D.)

China.

Sembawang
Air Base.

Your 0521/16. Your proposal to transfer sites of air station and repair yard from Sembawang to Tengah and Sungei Bulch Estates is open to serious objection as follows. Admty. are not able to acquiesce in decision you have reached. (5th S.L. 0254/19 to C.in C. China).

U.S.Naval
Observers.

In order to facilitate Anglo-American co-operation in Naval matters U.S.Govt. have sent or are sending Naval observers to Singapore, Colombo, Bahrein, Sandakan (North Borneo), Suva (Fiji), Wellington, Freetown, Georgetown (British Guiana), and Capetown. N.As are being accredited to Cairo, Pretoria and Canberra. (Hd. of M. 1137/19 to C.in C. China, etc. etc.) Admty. 1137/19. Policy of H.M.G. is to collaborate fully with U.S. by giving them all information other than that concerning forthcoming operations and information of a most secret nature not of immediate value to them. Instructions. (Hd. of M. 1159/19 to C.in C. China, etc.)

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

619

FOREIGN STATIONS.

~~China~~
East Indies. (Contd.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.
AQUITANIA.

My 1923/4 NIEUWAMSTERDAM will probably be required to proceed to Durban from Singapore after completion of transfer of personnel etc. to AQUITANIA.
(D. of S.T. 2255/19 to F.O. Malaya).

America and West Indies.

RESOLUTION.

Sailed for Philadelphia, E.T.A. off Cape Henlopen (?at) 0800 zone + 5/21.
(R.A.3.B.S. 0849/19 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F indicates as enemy unit within 300' of 43° N., 44° W. at 1857/18 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1011/19).

U.S.
Shipping
Vesca.

Concur proposal for Special United States shipping ~~VESCA~~ contained in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1224/14. Suggest Washington is also likely to require information of all shipping in area under U.S. control such as Pacific on entry of U.S.A. into War.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1036/19 to Admty).

EMPIRE
LEOPARD.

Your 1703/18. EMPIRE LEOPARD arrived Baltimore 17/4. Master states distress message cancelled in plain language at 1148 G.M.T./3 followed by code at 1305 G.M.T./3. Suspicious vessel proved to have been CAMITO A.M.C.
(Baltimore Maine, 1510/19 to Admty).

S.C.29.

Halifax departure 19/4 RANPURA and PORPOISE as ocean escort to S.C.(?29).
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1632/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

620

America and West Indies.

LETITIA.

Details of damage. Request early decision regarding Port at which permanent repairs will be carried out vide my 1158/1.
(R.A.3.B.S. 1717/19 to Admty).

U.S.Bases.

Your 205 approved. Requirements for U.S.Fleet anchorage.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1837/19 to C.in C. A.W.I. amended 1209/21).

U.S.Base,
Bermuda.

Your 1811/9. All arrangements for U.S. troops at Bermuda now settled.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2211/19 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

19.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

621

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BEAVERDALE.
(torpedoed
1/4).

Following is a repetition of my 1606/6 (no trace in previous receipt). Report received from Icelandic Trawler that 33 survivors BEAVERDALE picked up. 2 more life boats 23 men each believed between 060° 50'N., 029° 40'W. and Reykjanes in S.W.Iceland, 1606/6 (Ends).
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0801/19 to Admty).

ERODONA
(torpedoed
16/3).

Ref: K.R. and A.I. Art. 896. VISENDA sighted abandoned s.s. ERODONA at 1330/23/3 in 62° 17'N., 17° 05'W. put a boarding party on board, and towed her for several miles, afterwards acting as A/S escort to Tug THAMES - boarding party remaining on board ERODONA. ERODONA had been torpedoed and/or bombed and set on fire and was in a sinking condition. She was beached and anchored in Eidis Vik, Reykjavik, on 30/3.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1749/19 to Admty).

UMONA
(torpedoed
30/3).

Ref: N.C.S.I. 69 (A) UMONA (B) 30/3, time and position at present unknown. (C) (D) (E) unknown (F) ship sank before boats could be launched. See C.in C. South Atlantic's 2124/18 (G) three lascars.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1856/19 to Admty).

Submarines
Reported.

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.
No apparent change but it is possible that some or all of the U/B's near 30° W. may move towards 25° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1415/19).

Submarines
Attacked.

Mediterranean

Following received (begins) R.A.F. reports unknown S/M 20 to 30 miles N., W., of and heading towards Sollum engaged by aircraft and dived.
(Time about 1600 (Ends).
(Des. Force, 1730/19 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

War Diary20.4.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

RODNEY sank A/S Trawler TOPAZE at 0057 off Cumbrea Light. There were only 2 survivors.

Search for
BISMARCK

It is now reported that the BISMARCK and accompanying vessels were sighted on 14/4 not 18/4. Accordingly, HOOD was ordered to Hvalfiord to fuel, RODNEY to return to the Clyde and fuel*, REPULSE to proceed to the Biscay area after fuelling (at Gibraltar) SUFFOLK and EXETER to Scapa, and EDINBURGH, 2nd C.S. and KENYA to be redispensed by B.C. 1 to watch the Iceland Faeroes passage.
* It appears that this order did not reach RODNEY, and it was repeated at 2229/21.

Biscay
Patrol.

Weather prevented air R/C of Brest today up to 1430.

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather, all operations last night by Bomber Command, with the exception of minelaying were cancelled. Coastal Command Aircraft made a light attack on the battle cruisers at Brest.

Blenheims today attacked shipping off the coast of Norway. A 3000 ton escorted ship is reported to have been hit off Fede Fjord. Shipping was also attacked off the Frisian Islands.

War Diary20.4.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

F.O.I.C. Harwich reports that A/S Trawler BASSET destroyed one, and probably a second, enemy aircraft which attacked her about 1340/20 whilst escorting two merchant vessels near the South Shipwash.

Thames Estuary

There was considerable air activity over the Thames Estuary last night from about 2100/19 to 0400/20. Activity was chiefly over the shore, but 12 heavy bombs or mines which were exploded were dropped and 9 which did not explode were marked down.

Attack on London Dock Area.

The London Dock area was attacked last night. Very slight damage was caused to WILD SWAN. Equipment ashore belonging to the following ships was damaged, though the ships themselves were not damaged:- WINCHESTER, 3 M/S drifters, P. M/S, JENNIE DEANS. SS GARRON was damaged. Damage was caused to establishments, but only a few days' delay are anticipated.

XCARRON.

Thames and London Dock Area.Mining

may

It is thought that mines/have been dropped during the air attack on the Thames Estuary last night. A number of magnetic mines was dropped in the London Dock, which will interfere with day docking arrangements. A mine was detonated in Blackwall Reach. Navigation in Thames was stopped at 0302 between Tower Bridge and Sea Reach Buoy No. 4. and was resumed from Putney to Sea Reach Buoy No 4. at 1537.

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Kerkenah

Two sunken merchant vessels and a destroyer aground were seen off Kerkenah^{en} at 1215 today. One M.T.B. and a small ship were near.

Malta.

3 S79 escorted by 6 CR 42 and 2 ME 109 came over Malta at 1000 today. Their bombs dropped in the sea. Hurricanes shot down 3 or 4 CR 42.

Libya.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi and Derna last night.

Fulmars from FORMIDABLE today intercepted 5 German troop carriers and shot down 4 of them, and also shot down a Cantz 1007.

Landing at Bardia (GLENGYLE) (No report yet).

See p. 595

Greece.

After an interval of some 48 hours, which had a steadying effect on the morale of the Greek Navy, the Piraeus was attacked again this afternoon. Greek destroyer PSARA was badly damaged. At least 12 enemy aircraft are reported to have been destroyed and 2 or 3 Hurricane pilots were killed or missing.

The Khalkis area was also bombed.

Convoy A.S. 26 (about 24 ships) sailed at 0700 today for Alexandria and Port Said. A Greek warship (believed to be the old cruiser AVEROFF) and the Greek repair ship HEPHESTOS sailed with the convoy.

N.A. Athens (Admiral Turle) expects enemy air activity to increase greatly and the Greek C.N.S. would like to send to Alexandria most of the torpedo craft; these vessels with their very poor A.A. guns are bound to suffer heavily.

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Basra.

C. in C. E.I, at Basra, reports the situation is quiet and attitude of officials friendly. Arrival of H.M. ships has had a steadying effect, there is no indication of resentment over landing of our troops. EMERALD and YARRA are to reinforce the Persian Gulf Division and remain at Basra for the present.

Massawa
E boats.

N.O.I.C. Massawa reports that 5 E boats sunk in the harbour with torpedo dropping gear, are visible. It is reported (C.2) that there were only 4 originally.

America & West Indies.

Air search daily from Newfoundland has been arranged, in case BISMARCK and 2 cruisers which passed the Skaw northwestward on 14/4 are in the Atlantic.

U-boat campaign.

EMPIRE ENDURANCE was torpedoed early this morning in 53° 5' N. 23° 14' W.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.PolicyBoundary of
Invergordon
Sub-Command.

Ref. Rosyth No. 1506/0960. of 7/4/41, para 3. Request longitude of Southern Boundary of new Invergordon Sub Command be amended to 3° 45' W., to conform with boundary between Sutherland and Aberdeen Military Sub Area. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0957/20). Concur in F.O.I.C. Invergordon's 0957/20. (C. in C. Rosyth 1245/20)

20th D.F.

20th D.F. are required to revert to full destroyer status for service under C. in C. H.F. They are to be sailed for Immingham to embark torpedo tubes and guns. (A.C.N.S.H. 1256/20) See Mining.

Boundaries
of Lossiemouth
Coastal Area.

My No. R.A. 1/5, of 3/3/41 forward Admiralty under Rosyth 1163/0903A/12, of 14/3,41. Request approval for Coastal area under R.N.O. Lossiemouth to be amended as follows. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1117/20). Concur in F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1117/20/4. (C. in C. Rosyth 1510/20).

Defence of U.K.Rosyth
Command
Precautions
in Use of
A/P Trawlers.

Adty., 1852/11, passed to you in my 1109/13. Since this date the following A/P trawlers from Tyne have been damaged or sunk by enemy air action.

(A) WYOMING damaged at 2057/18.

(B) KOPANES sunk at 2053/19.

Both these attacks took place at one of the most dangerous times about 30 minutes after sunset.

2. Pending the receipt of some indication of expected invasion the following precautions are to be taken with regard to the employment of A/P trawlers.

- i. Trawlers proceeding on patrol are not to leave harbour until last light and are to return to their anchorage shortly after dawn.
- ii. It is unnecessary for patrols to be maintained during severe easterly weather. Under these conditions invasion of the east coast is impracticable and A/P vessels are unable to use their daylight harbours and anchorages.
- iii. If at any time it is necessary for A/P trawlers to be at sea during daylight every effort should be made to ensure that they do not proceed singly.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1110/20).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.20.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.PORPOISE

R.A.3. 3. 1608/16 and F.O. (S) 1031/19. As PORPOISE is required in U.K. to refit she is after parting company with Convoy to return direct to Clyde as routed by C. in C. W.A. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1855/20).

Operations.Search for
BISMARCK.

2358 sailed RODNEY escorted by PIORUN and O.R.P. GARLAND in accordance with Admiralty 1952/19.
(F.O. Greenock, 0019/20).

BEDOUI, ARROW, ESKIMO will be at Londonderry fuelled and ready to sail at 1200/21 as relief screen K.G.V. if required.

(R.A.D. 1010/20 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 0117/19. It is now reported that these ships were sighted on 14th. April not 18th Graded B.2.

(D.D.I.C. 1130/20).
F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 2343/19. RODNEY has not received N.R.H.D. 419 of 19/April (C.S. 18 0605/19). RODNEY is therefore still proceeding in accordance with para: 1 of Adty 1952/19.
(RODNEY 1245/20 to Adty). My 1130/20

HOOD and destroyer screen is to proceed to Hvalfiord fuel and remain at 2 hours notice.
2. RODNEY and destroyer screen is to return to Clyde and fuel.

3. Destroyers detached by C.S.18 to join RODNEY in accordance with my 1952/19 are to proceed to Scapa with SUFFOLK and EXETER.

4. K.G.V. is requested to carry out programme already indicated in C. in C. H.F. 2242/12.

5. REPULSE is to proceed to Biscay area on completion of fuelling.

6. B.C.1 to redispense EDINGBURGH, 2nd C.S. and KENYA to watch Iceland Faeroes passage possibly moving units to eastward of mine barrier in view of enemy submarine dispositions (1st S.L. 1347/20).

/expect....

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.20.4.1941.
SUNDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Search for
BISMARCK
cont:-

Expect to arrive Hval Fiord in HOOD with four destroyers at 0730 G.M.T./21. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1947/20). Admty. 1347/20. Patrol areas are to be established within rectangle formed by lines drawn 240° 50 miles and 150° . 180 miles from position 064° 10'N., 014° W. Rectangle is divided into four equal patrol areas A.B.C. and D. from North to South by lines drawn parallel to North Western sides of rectangle. Patrol areas are to be taken up on receipt of this signal as follows. A. GALATEA, B. ARETHUSA, C. EDINBURGH, D. KENYA, Ships are to be on N.W. boundary of respective areas at 0400, 1200, and 2000 and in S.E. limits at 0800, 1600, and 2400. All times B.S.T. (B.C.I. 1959/20). In 62° 54'N., 17° 22'W. Sighted one unknown warship 230° 8 miles, course 270° speed 15 to 20 knots. (VISENDA 2225/20).

Operation "Warrant"
WARRANT.

My 1715 /19. ^{"Warrant"} WARRANT postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1755/20).

MINERVE.

If you wish you may extend area of your operations to meridian 9° E. with view to attacking ships proceeding ~~Kristiansand~~ SAND S. Norway from Eastward. If you do proceed East of Zone C. one, keep outside 100 fathoms line and take no undue risks. Adjust your movement so as to arrive Dundee 28/4. (Captain (S) 9 to order return route. (F.O.S. 2146/20 to MINERVE).

MOST SECRET.

20.4.1941.

SUNDAY.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

The following air searches have been arranged for today.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 0030/20). ^{"Tost"}
Patrols SAIA, S.A.2., S.A.3., ~~TROST~~, and
W.3 almost valueless. Aircraft
returning to base early owing to low
visibility.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 0830/20).
C.2 A/C of 236 Squadron to patrol
between Bull Rock and 51° 7'N., 11°
3'W. to intercept and attack F.W. report-
ed in area. Aircraft to take off
forthwith and remain on patrol to
prudent limit of endurance. Care to
be taken not to infringe Eire Territorial
waters.

(Plymouth 1215/20).
My 1145/10. Owing to aircraft failure
patrol B will not be flown until 1400
today.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1253/20).
1 Beaufighter to patrol from dawn.
2 1/4 between Rathlin and Tiree and Oban.
A/C to be on patrol all day.
(15 Group H.Q. 1934/20 to Aldergrove).

Escorts.

Expect air escort of 1 Hudson from
daylight till dark, today. Fighter
protection has been asked from daylight
until out of Fighters range. Code word
~~MAJOR~~ "Major".

(C.in C. W.A. 0047/20 to RODNEY).
Expect escort Anson aircraft from first
light.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0118/20 to HUSSAR).

Enemy
M/V's
attacked.

On 19 /4 a Blenheim attacked a 7000-ton
M/V escorted by a destroyer 10 miles
north of IJmuiden; both of the 2 X 500
lb bombs dropped were seen to take
effect, the vessel took on a heavy list,
and is claimed as a total loss. Further
details of attacks. 2 M/Vs attacked.
(H.Q.B.C. 0507/20).

/Bombing.....

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Bombing
Restriction
for
Operation
H.B.

Request Bombing Restriction for 3 Destroyers from 2100/20 till 0700/21 15 miles either side of line Eddystone to Leo Triagoz Light. (C. in C. Plymouth 1523/20 to H.Q.C.C.).

Experimental
A/C
Recognition
Policy.

X.494 19/4. A.28. 18/4. Concur that procedure in our postogram CS 8368/ dated 16.4.41 shall not apply to single engined aircraft. These aircraft should not be engaged outside 1500 yards of ships or escort vessels. C.S. 8368 refers. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1820/19 to Fighter Command).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoys
W.N. Evan
E.N. Odd.

Fighters are being sent to assist ~~MUTUAL~~ ^{Thetval} and ~~WIGHT~~. (Lyness 1153/20).

BASSET.
Enemy A/C
destroyed.

Following from BASSET. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed by this ship near South Shipwash and 1 hit by 12 pdr. losing height in direction of Harwich emitting smoke. Both at about 1340 to-day. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1622/20). My 1622/20 from further report received 2nd Air Craft probably destroyed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1759/20).

Air-Attack
Signals
on 19/4.

My 1348/19. These signals were probably caused by air attack on a Tanker accompanied by 2 escort vessels. (D.D.I.C. 1757/19).

/London.....

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

London Docks
Air Attack
Night 19/20.
WILD SWAN
s.s. GARRON
damaged.
WINCHESTER,
FORERUNNER,
ROSEBUD,
CONSOLATION,
JEANNIE DEANS.
equipment
destroyed.

Following is brief account of damage caused by last night's attack on London Dock area to ships and repair establishments. This account is not necessarily complete. Ships - WILD SWAN, very slight damage by blast causing leaky oil fuel tank. WINCHESTER no damage to ship but equipment on shore including ranger finder, searchlight 0.5. machine gun mountings destroyed. M/S drifters FORERUNNER, ROSEBUD, and CONSOLATION, and P.M/S JEANNIE DEANS no damage to ships but electrical equipment ashore destroyed. S.S. GARRON damaged by splinter and blast. Establishments. London Graving Dock, offices destroyed and shops badly damaged, but anticipate that works will be in full production in a few days. Russels Electric Store and joiners shop destroyed expect few days delay only. Some delay may occur owing to number of magnetic mines in dock which will interfere with dry docking arrangements. (F.O.I.C. London 1918/20).

Mining.

Liverpool.

Milford Haven's 1519/18 and Holyhead's 1700/18. Mine at Hell's Mouth now rendered safe by Liverpool's U.X.M. Officer. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0030/20).

River
Thames.

All Navigation is to cease in the River between Tower Bridge and Sea Reach Buoy No. 4. (F.O.I.C. London 0302/20). Navigation may be resumed on river from Putney Bridge to Sea Reach Buoy No. 4. (F.O.I.C. London 1537/20). One mine detonated in Blackwall reach. (F.O.I.C. London 1620/20).

/Operation.....

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary:

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd):

→ Operation HA.

2. If weather and other circumstances are suitable tonight Operation HA as proposed in your 1829/12 should be carried out.

3. If operation can not be carried out ships are to disembark mines at Portsmouth.

4. ICARUS is to clean boilers at Immingham. (A.C.N.S. H. 1256/20).

Request bombing restriction for 3 destroyers from 2100/20 till 0700/21, 15 miles on either side of line joining Eddystone and Les Triagoz light. 1523/20

Sailed 2100 INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE. (C. in C. Plymouth 2129/20).

Use of Sterilised Mines.

Your 1245/19.

1. Consequent on C. in C. H.F. 1431/11 it was decided to modify the policy contained in A.M. 1140/1, but, to avoid altering mines that had been sterilised, it was proposed in A.M. 1317/12 to accept these mines and adhere to the agreed order of laying.

2. C. in C. H.F. concurred in his 0953/16 and D.A.S. has been informed.

3. Further operations after the present series may be in vicinity of S.N. 12 and will therefore require sterilised mines. (D.D.O.D. M. 1258/20).

→ Operation H.B.

By INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE on night 20/21 April. Particulars. (C. in C. Plymouth 1515/20) See Operations Volume.

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Dangerous Area Cancelled.

Cancel C. in C. W.A. 1120/15/2. (C. in C. Plymouth 1525/20).

Thames Estuary.

There was considerable air activity over the Thames Estuary during the night 19/20 from about 2100 to 0400. Activity was chiefly over the shore but 12 heavy bombs or mines which exploded were dropped as follows:

6 Objects which did not explode and might have been mines were dropped as follows:

3 Objects thought to be mines were dropped as follows:

The night was dark and planes were above the clouds and were not sighted. Shore searchlights were freely used but did not penetrate cloud and it is felt may have had effect of outlining Estuary. (S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness 1534/20).

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20.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.(contd).

Minefield
off
Lowestoft.

Three inner lines completed and two Northern Group Eastern lines P.M. today. (O.I.C. C and M. Party RINGDOVE 1730/20).

Enemy Intelligence.

Sighting
of
Enemy
Forces.

My 0117/19. It is now reported that these ships were sighted on 14/4 not the 18th. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1130/20).

Brest.

Weather prevented air R/C of Brest today up to 1430. (D.D.I.C. 1523/20). Visual reconnaissance of Brest at 1830 to-day shows the 2 Battle cruisers in the same positions. (D.D.I.C. 1957/20).

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 1501/20 G.M.T. position of unknown enemy unit, possibly naval auxiliary, was approximately 47° N. 5° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1652/20).

La Pallice.

Air R/C of La Pallice at 1230 today shows 3 destroyers in wet dock basin. Probably the 3 last reported in Brest on 7/4. (D.D.I.C. 2134/20).

Unknown
Warship
off
Iceland.

In position 062° 54' N. 017° 22' W. U. Sighted one unknown warship 230° 8 miles, course 270°, speed 15 to 20 knots. (VISENDA 2225/20).

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Southern
Irish Sea.

Your 2035/19. On receipt of Admty. 1716/7 it was assumed new dividing line would be in force and buoys laid before arrival of any further ships from this side and N.C.S.O's were forthwith instructed to route ships accordingly. Please advise if this instruction should be cancelled pending further word from C. in C. W.A. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admty. 1154/20).
Reply 1315/21.

H.X. 117.

At new R.V. with 41 ships. PRINS WILLEM II straggler torpedoed and sunk. 42 ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1308/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

S.C. 28.

CAMPBELTOWN is to return to U.K. with S.C. 28. (C. in C. W.A. 1440/20 to CAMPBELTOWN).

W.S. 8A.

My 1817/10. PRETORIA CASTLE is to sail from Clyde with W.S. 8A. on 24/4 for Freetown. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1854/20 to C. in C. W.A. etc)

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NORTHERN
SPRAY.

(A/S Trawler) In collision with ship in
convoy in 058° 51' N. 006° 05' W.
Making water starboard bunker. MALLOW
escorting NORTHERN SPRAY to Stornoway.
(Cdr. D. 12 0041/20).

FISHER.

Left O.B. 311 to escort FISHER damaged in
collision, towards Stornoway p.c. and s.
058° 45' N. 006° W. 165° 6 knots.
(MALLOW 0330/20).

TOPAZE
(A/S Trawler)
sunk.

Following received from RODNEY. Begins.
Have sunk TOPAZE in position 193° degs.
2.9 miles from Cumbrae Light at 0057.
2 survivors being retained in PIORUN.
Remainder of crew must be considered lost.
Am proceeding ? ? 0201/20 ends.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0350/20).

BARON NAIRN.

(British, 3164 Tons) Arrived damaged in
collision. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1150/20).
My 1150/20. BARON NAIRN reports having
been in collision with Trawler SUVA (?)
at 2324/19 23 miles 005° Butt of Lewis.
Ship unseaworthy. Damage to Trawler
unknown. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1506/20).

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Enemy Unit.

My 2304/19. Very poor bearings from Empire Stations of transmission here at 2145 indicate unit is probably between Canaries and Cape Verde Islands. (D.D.I.C. 0355/20 and 0574/20 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0539/20 to N.A. Stn).

RECCO
(Italian).

Left here A.M./20.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 0930/20 to Admty., D.D.I.C. 1822/20 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A. 2332/20 to N.A. Stn.)

SANGRO

Teneriffe reports Italian tanker SANGRO sailed 2115/19.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1222/20 to N.A. Stn. D.D.I.C. 1434/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

BISMARCK
and cruisers.

B.2 report states BISMARCK, two cruisers of LEIPZIG class and three destroyers passed The Skaw early morning 14/4 steering N.W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1326/20 to N.A. Stn).

SHEFFIELD
S.L. 71

Departure SHEFFIELD, FORTUNE, FAULKNER, WRESTLER in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1758/18.*
(S.O. (I) Gib, 1800/20 to Admty, ARGUS, LONDON, etc.,) * Most Secret re S.L.71.

AMARANTHUS

Departure 1900 (route) to Freetown direct or in accordance with route issued by C. in C. S.A. E.T.A. Freetown 0700 Zone + 1/27.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1932/20 to Admty, C. in C. S.A.)

Tanker sunk
by URGE.

Position 041° N 010° 44' W. course 193° S.O.A. 8 knots. At 1137/18 torpedoed and sank laden tanker of FRIEDRICH BREME class steering 090° in 046° 51' N 008° 29' W.

FRANCO MARTELLI

10,535 tons.

(List of Admiral (S)
compiled from Torpedo
Attack Reports, 1947)

(URGE, 1949/20 to F.O.C.N.A.) Note
Possibly ANTARKTIS (D.S. 595), D.O.R., 22/4.

See also H 736, 764.

MOST SECRET.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Yugoslav
Shipping.

Following from Ministry of Shipping
Your 1610/19. If Yugoslav crews unwilling
to sail endeavour to man ships with
Portuguese or other crews. Insurance in
accordance with Portuguese Law can be
guaranteed. Ships so manned should be
sailed to U.K. and not Bermuda.
(D.T.D. 2110/20 to N.C.S.C. Lisbon).

South Atlantic.

HISTORIAN

Overdue shipping, my 1001/19 HISTORIAN
arrived 19/4.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0920B/20 to Admty, etc).

ILLUSTRIOUS¹
Walrus.

Your 2004/3. Present pilot is not
trained in deck landing and no maintenance
personnel are borne. Request instructions.
(ILLUSTRIOUS 1003Z/20 to Admty).

ILLUSTRIOUS
DORSETSHIRE
C.F.1.

Admty 1335/19. ILLUSTRIOUS, MONARCH OF
BERMUDA, and EMPRESS OF JAPAN escorted by
DORSETSHIRE are to be sailed as soon as
ready for St. Helena where DORSETSHIRE is
to Fuel. From St. Helena convoy is to
proceed to pass through (position (a))
where cruiser from Freetown will R/V and
take over escort of the two transports
to Freetown. Convoy will be known as
C.F.1. DORSETSHIRE and ILLUSTRIOUS are to
proceed from position (a) to (b).
DORSETSHIRE is to return to Freetown from
(b) on relief by cruiser from A. and W.I.
Station.
(C. in C. S.A. 1857N/20 to N.O.I.C.
Simonstown).

ALCANTARA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

ALCANTARA
damaged
seaplane.

Your 1238/18 and my 1201/19. Under consideration possibility of repairing ALCANTARA's seaplane at Freetown. If this is possible intend she shall proceed there, leave aircraft and then join you, otherwise she will proceed to join you after fuelling. If ALCANTARA urgently required inform me but do not otherwise break W/T silence.
(C. in C. S.A. 2057N/20, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Convoy
A.S.26.

0700/20 (list). Greek warship ^{GIORGIOS} (?AVEROFF) and Greek repair ship HEPHESTOS also with convoy. E.T.A. Alexandria P.M./23 Port Said P.M./24.
(N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1015/20 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 0951/20 (N.T. in W.R.) R/V confirmed. A.S.26 left Piraeus 0700/20. (N.A. Athens, 1600/20 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

Benghazi
bombed,
1 ship hit.

Operational Summary No. 314 up to 1200 hrs. G.M.T. 20/4/41. Night April 18/19. 6 Wellingtons dropped 12,000 lbs. bombs on Benghazi Harbour, starting fires on outer central and inner Moles and on quays. Direct hit on 1 ship 200 feet long. Day 19/4. No change in shipping Benghazi. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME., 1119/20)

BRITISH
SCIENCE.

Torpedoed.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay, 1215/20) (See U-Boat Campaign.)

Greek
Situation.

No serious bombing attack since 18th. Morale in Greek Navy is steadier and sweeping and patrols are being carried out normally but uncertainty about future is unsettling to some. Orders were given for many Officers and men to be sent on 3 months leave but this was not fully carried out in some establishments. While on 18/4 it was difficult to find submarine crews to take (?ships to) Alexandria there are now seven Officers and 100

men

MOST SECRET.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. cont.

Greek
Situation.

men (?all) submarine trained waiting to be sent to Alexandria. Greeks have small craft situation more in hand. Greek merchant vessels are carrying out their orders.

(N.A. Athens, 1521/20 to C. in C. Med).

Submarines

Movements summary No. 13.
(Capt S.1. 1611/20) See Lion Copy.

Malta Air
Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600 hours 20/4 all times G.M.T.

Dusk 19/4. Two JU.88's over, bombs dropped isolated locality no damage or casualties. Dawn today 3 enemy aircraft over. Some bombs on land, no damage. 1000 hours 3 S. 79's escorted by 6 CR. 42's and 2 ME. 109's over at 19,000 feet. Bombs dropped in sea. 10 Hurricanes up, 2 of which at 20,000 feet shot down 3 CR. 42's confirmed and 1 CR. 42 unconfirmed into the sea. Launch searched without success for enemy pilots who baled out. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1655/20).

Boom Def.
Vessels.

C. in C. Med's 2112/10/4 and C. in C. E.I. 0742Z/14/4 and 1158Z/26/3 - shortage of boom vessels is fully appreciated. Transfer of Boom craft from E. Indies cannot be approved as this would involve further deterioration in Aden defences. Four boom working trawlers leave U.K. early May and allocation will be determined with regard to defence requirements prevailing nearer the time of their arrival. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1715/20 to C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.I.)

Communique.

Following is repetition of my 1810/17. (C. in C. Med. 1741/20).

Enemy Units.....

From Capt. (S) 1st S.F.

Date 21.4.41

Recd. 0555.

Naval Code L by W/T.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet. Repeated V.A. Malta.
 R.A. Alexandria. British Naval Attache Athens.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic. Force "I" A.O.C.
 Mediterranean. (8th) Group S.O. Force H.
 N.O.i/c Port Said. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay. Fleet
 Air Am Maleme.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine movements summary number 13.
 Movements (a) H.M.S. TRUANT and H.M.S. TRIUMPH as in summary number 12. H.M.S. REGENT left Malta A.M. 19th direct for Adriatic to enter Straits of Otranto 22nd. H.M.S. UNDAUNTED arriving Malta 21st from Gibraltar. H.M.S. USK left Malta P.M. 19th and proceeding Northbound through Sicily Channel P.M. 21st. H.M.S. UTMOST is operating west of Malta returning there 21st or 22nd. Treat as sanctuary (B) H.M.S. USK in area 038° (Corrupt group) $012^{\circ} 00' - 000^{\circ} - 50 - 50$ from A.M. 22nd.
 Greek submarine movements. Greek Sub. TRITON Greek Sub NEREUS Greek Sub. KATSONIS Greek Sub. GLAUCOS left Piraeus night 18th 19th to arrive end Alexandria searched channel 1500 23rd 0700 24th 1500 24th 0700 25th routed through Scarpanto Channel and $034^{\circ} 00' 029^{\circ} 00'$. Greek Sub. PAPANICOLIS has been ordered to leave Adriatic Patrol to arrive end Alexandria seached Channel 0700 26th routed through ELAPHONISOS. Searched channel then as above. Safety route is established from Scarpanto Channel to Alexandria Sanctuary through $034^{\circ} 00' 029^{\circ} 00'$ from noon 20th to noon 26th April.

1611/20.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S..(F).
 O.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 D.D.O.D.(M)
 O.I.C.(3).
 D. of P. (3).
 D.S.D.9.
 D.T.D.
 D.T.D.(M).
 Ops. (4).
 O.D.8.
 O.D.(5).

I.P.(3).
 Movts.
 D.A/S.W.
 W.D.
 F.O.(S). by Courier.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Enemy
Units.

Aircraft report (a) Two enemy cruisers and one enemy destroyer in $036^{\circ} 16' N$ $011^{\circ} 53' E$. course 030° speed 25 knots at 1420.
(b) Convoy 4 merchant vessels and 2 destroyers $035^{\circ} 12' N$ $011^{\circ} 31' E$. course 138° speed about 10 knots at 1518. Times zone minus 3. (V.A. Malta 1743/20 to Med. Fleet).
Two cruisers four destroyers p.c. and s. of enemy are $36^{\circ} 16' N$ $011^{\circ} 53' E$. 030° 25, at 1320 B.
(V.A. Malta 1820/20 to S/Ms on Patrol).

TORBAY
TAKU
PANDORA.

Your 1054/17. Request you will sail TORBAY and TAKU p.m./23 and 25/4 respectively. TORBAY to establish patrol on East Coast of Sardinia for three days then in focal area off Marittimo, TAKU to patrol on line Naples to Northern Approach of Messina. Your 1356/18, PANDORA should remain at Gibraltar until required to relieve TORBAY or TAKU. (Capt S.I. 1945/20 to Capt. S.8).

Air Raids,
Greece.
PSARA hit.

In to-day's air raid Greek Destroyer PSARA was hit forward and badly damaged with many casualties. I expect enemy activity to increase greatly and Greek Destroyers with their very poor A.A. guns are bound to suffer heavily, as will (?towns). Chief of Naval Staff who is also Deputy Prime Minister under King would like to send nearly all torpedo craft to Alexandria whence perhaps they could do convoy work.
(N.A. Athens, 2217/20 to C. in C. Med).

Intelligence

Tinisia and Italy.
(C. in C. M.E. 2315/20) See Lion Copy.

2315/20th April

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 21.4.41.

Recd. 1830.

CIPHER

Addressed The War Office.

I/58179 cipher 19/4.

Talk of French and Czech material having been landed Tunisia. Most Secret, Report M. (repeat M.) source from 8/4 to 18/4. German Captain states officer problem in Germany presenting great difficulties. Further evidence of damage done in Taolles, Taranto and Genoa by air and naval bombardment. Some talk of Von Brausitch having been in Africa. Serious complaints amongst Italians because since January "not an ounce of fat in Italy". All olive oil exported to Germany. Only 150 grammes of meat a week also lacking soap and castor oil. Evidence of peasant unrest in Sicily. Mention made lack raw materials Italy but Fiat Works stated still producing one bomber and five fighters per day.

2315/20

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. and O.I.C.

Received from War Office at 2250/22.

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. (F).
 A.C.N.S. (H).
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 D.D.D. (H).
 D.D.C.D. (H).
 D.O.D. (F).
 D.D.C.D. (F).
 D. of P. (2).
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.S.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D A/S W
 D.M.S.
 I.P.
 W.D.
 Duty Captain
 Hd. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D.
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

E-Boats,
Massawa.

My 0436/17. N.O.I.C. Massawa reports that three E boats sunk in the harbour with torpedo dropping gear visible. Chief Pilot states (C 2) only 4 originally.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0446Z/20 to Admty).

Massawa.

Now coming into use as a port again, loading now possible on 3 ships simultaneously.
(D.S. 593 20/4).

C.M. 8

D. of S.T.'s 2221/19. I am informed by Mombasa that C.M.8 is now expected to sail P.M./21 including LLANDAFF CASTLE who will proceed Berbera.
(C. in C. E.I. 0624Z/20 to D. of S.T.)

STAGPOOL.

To be sailed to Suez as soon as possible. She will receive further orders from C. in C. Med.
(C. in C. E.I. 1128Z/20 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

Minesweepers

Further to my 1409/16.

Following are additional intended minesweeping arrangements on East Indies Station to meet threat of war with Japan.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1231/20 to C. in C. E.I.)

Basra.
EMERALD
YARRA
LEANDER
Force T.

Situation quiet and attitude of officials friendly. Arrival of H.M. Ships had a steadying effect. No indication of resentment over landing of our troops. Unloading of transports continues normally. Even if Iraq turns hostile, some risk to ships will obviously exist during passage up river but naval and air action which would be taken should be quickly effective in countering it. Consider it desirable that EMERALD and YARRA should reinforce Persian Gulf Division and remain at Basra for the present. I intend re-embarking in LEANDER on 22/4 at Kowait, S.N.O. Persian Gulf remaining at Basra in SEABELLE.

Suggest force t.....

MOST SECRET.

20.4.1941.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Basra
EMERALD
YARRA
LEANDER
Force T.
(contd).

Suggest force T and LEANDER could be withdrawn from Persian Gulf, the former about 30/4 on completion of boiler cleaning and latter when T.L. no longer require me in the area.
 (C. in C. E.I. 2216Z/20 to Admty).

China.

NYUGAT
(Hungarian)

My 0451Z/14. Hungarian NYUGAT arrived Sourabaya 18/4.
 (C/S Singapore 0338Z/20 to Admty).

Far East
Conference.

For R.A. Danckwerts. Request brief report on your visit to Pacific Fleet for my information in connection with conference assembling here tomorrow.
 (C. in C. China 0531Z/20 to N.A. Washington).
 Admty 1820/23/2/1941 para.3. Request brief summary of results of investigation into maintenance of essential trade between E. Africa and Pacific may be telegraphed for use of conference assembling tomorrow.
 (C. in C. China, 0533Z/20, to Admty). Reply (A.C.N.S. (T) 1748/20) See Lion Copy.
 From Adm. Danckwerts. Your 0531/20 telegraphed summary of visit was sent to C. in C. F.E. 19/4.

U.S. C. in C. did not express any views on nature of support he could provide to British Forces South of the equator and West of 180°. Suggest early progress could best be achieved by C. in C. Asiatic Fleet communicating direct with C. in C. Pacific expressing views of Conference on support requirements necessary, and inviting collaboration of latter.
 (N.A. Washington 1500/20 to Admty).

Sites of Air
Bases.

Your 0355/16 and Admty 0254/19. Our opposition to proposed transfer of sites is not only due to the necessity of modifying schemes

already prepared.....

China

642A

1748/20 April
OUT

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

To C.in C. China.

Date 20.4.47.

NAVAL CYPHER 768 One Time Table.

From Admiralty.

(requesting summary of results of investigation into maintenance of trade between E. Africa and Pacific)

IMMEDIATE

Your C533/20. Essential communications come under following headings:-

- (a) Supplies to our forces in Middle East.
- (b) Supplies to our forces in Far East.
- (c) Vital imports to U.K.

Reference para.1 (a) above. (a) Independent sailings making use of coastal waters as much as possible recommended except for troop convoys. (b) Forces available to be employed covering the routes Bombay to Aden and Cape to Aden. (c) Traffic from Australia to Aden to be routed via Durban depending for protection upon evasive routeing between Australia and South Africa.

3. Reference para.1 (b). An occasional strongly escorted Convoy between Colombo and Singapore or between Australia and Singapore.

4. Reference para.1 (c). Commodities which it would be difficult or impossible to replace from other sources are, as follows:-

India and Ceylon	Tea, oilseeds and nuts, jute, Mica rubber.
Java and Straits Settlements	Rubber.
Burma	Rice.
Australia and New Zealand	Dairy produce, frozen meat, wool, zinc concentrates.

5. Of the above some substitution of the oilseeds and nuts might be possible and a considerable reduction in rice could be accepted.

6. Estimate of present numbers of ships per month on above routes including tankers:-

Cape to Aden.....	69
Aden to Cape	55
Cape to India, Burma, Malaya	37
India, Burma, Malaya to Cape	51
Cape to Australia	12 each way
Australia to India, Aden	14 each way
Australasia to Panama	13 each way.
Malaya to Australia	24 each way, including 21 tankers.

7. Oil supply for Australia will probably have to be achieved from America.

1748/20

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D. of P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
Duty Captain

for D.T.D. (981)
Approved A.C.N.S. (T)
D.N.A.D.
E.P.S.
Head of M. (6) (for C.A.S. C.I.G.S. General Lomay Cdr. Hollis)
I.P.
W.D.

War Diary.

20.4.1941,
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Sites of
Air Bases.
(contd).

already prepared. Prepared to accept this if satisfied that final advantage would be gained. Opinion here is, however, unanimously in favour of adhering to original sites. (5th .SL. 1711/20 to C. in C. China.)

America & West Indies.

Trade with
Martinique.

PRINS GERHARD

Understand Netherland Gov. in London have given permission to Dutch ship PRINZ BERNARD and other ships of Surinam Navigation Co. to trade with Martinique. Request confirmation that this has been done with knowledge of Admty as instructions issued by me are that no British or Allied ships are to call at French Antilles. (C. in C. A.W.I: 0951/20 to Admty).

CARADOC
ILLUSTRIOUS

A.M. 1335/19 CARADOC will be detailed to escort ILLUSTRIOUS from R/V to Trinidad. Speed for this part of passage will be 15 knots in order to avoid strain on CARADOC's defective turbine. (C. in C.A.W.I. 0952/20 to C. in C. S.A.)

WOLFE

My 1104/18. Request you will sail WOLFE for Halifax when ready, providing A/S escort if available. (V.A.N.P. 1136/20 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

ROOKLEY
sabotage.

3 Contingent cases of sabotage occurred in British ROOKLEY before sailing in H.X. 121. Ship should be carefully watched. Inform Commodore. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1305/20 to CALIFORNIA).

BISMARCK
and Enemy
cruisers.

Admty reports German Battleship BISMARCK and 2 cruisers LEIPZIG Class passed the Skaw steering North-West. These units may therefore now be in Atlantic. Request air search be carried out daily from Newfoundland to (corrupt group) depth. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1722/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE
ENDURANCE.

British 8570 tons independently routed Swansea to Alexandria. Following has been read. SSSS 53.05 N. 23. 14 W. EMPIRE ENDURANCE torpedoed. (Liverpool 0138/20) (D.S. 593). Detach one Corvette to assistance of EMPIRE ENDURANCE torpedoed in 53° 05' N. 23° 14' W. at 0138/20. Ship detached to signal me when well clear of Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 0257/20). Your 0257/20. 053° 57' N. 017° 11' W. 254°. High head wind and sea. Under present conditions do not expect to arrive at stated position before 1100 tomorrow. Request amplified instructions. (TRILLIUM 1051/20 to C. in C. W.A.). Aircraft report four lifeboats in 052° 47' N. 023° 48' W. at 1600. I assume these boats will be heading to nearest land. Expect aircraft to co-operate from daylight. (C. in C. W.A. 2021/20 to TRILLIUM).

HARPATHIAN
DUFFIELD.
(torpedoed 8/4).
?U107 BR1331P.20

British HARPATHIAN was torpedoed by enemy submarine at 2100/8 in 32° 48' N. 22° 51' W. and sank. Re C.B's. 21 survivors. British DUFFIELD torpedoed on same date at 2320 in approx. 31° 13' N. 23° 40' W and sank. Re C.B's. (?27) survivors. Both of above crews arrived in ship's boats at Island of Hierro, Canary Islands, on 18/4 and were brought to Teneriffe on following day by Spanish War Vessel MARTE which arrived A.M./20. (Consul, Teneriffe, 0841/20 to Admty). Mast 006/20 18 Survivors from HARPATHIAN picked up 17/4 and landed here by Spanish Trawler RAMON GALLUD TORREGROSA today 20/4. (Consul, Las Palmas 1310/20 to D.N.I).

/BRITISH.....

War Diary.

20.4.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (contd).

BRITISH
SCIENCE
(torpedoed
18/4).

Following from Bruce for British Tankers (Begins) Regret to report BRITISH SCIENCE torpedoed and sunk on 18/4. All crew saved, no casualties. All papers lost. (Ends).
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1215/20 to Admty for D. of S.T) Tanker 7138 tons in Convoy A.N. 27 (D;O.R., 22/4).

*W.D. Note - Med. Sit. Rep. No. 5,
1001/23 (para 734A) says
"torpedoed by aeroplane".
See BR 1237 Page 51
BEVERDALE.*

Your 1418/18. Confirm BEVERDALE sunk 1/4. (D.T.D. 1519/20 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1405/20).

1945.

Aircraft reported at 1945 am over enemy U-Boat in 058° 30' N. 005° 55' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1957/20 to BEDOUIN).

2005.

One S/m submerged bearing 050. Distance one mile. Course 010°. My position 58. 47 N. 07. 02 W. (NORTHERN SKY 2005/20 to Scapa W/T).
Enemy S/M reported by aircraft in 058° 30' N. 005° 55' W. at 1930. (A.C.O.S. 2010/20 to Admty etc).
Proceed with your force to carry out search for U-Boat in 058° 30' N. 005° 25' W. sighted by aircraft at 1930. Aircraft from Stornoway cooperating.
(R.A.D.H.F. 2016/20 to BEDOUIN).
Cancel my 2016/20. Proceed assist NORTHERN SKY attacking Submarine in 058° 47' N. 007° 02' W. (R.A.D.H.F. 2215/20 to BEDOUIN).

2130.

By D/F at 2130/20, position of Italian U/B probably outward bound, was approx. 46° N. 5° W. - 6° W. unreliable fix.
(D.D.I. C. 2223/20).

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21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diray

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Biscay
Patrol

Both enemy battle cruisers are in the same position at Brest and no damage to either vessel is shown by photographs. The dock is dry.

5th D.F.
for Meditn.

KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN and JERSEY left Plymouth for Gibraltar at 1640 today. KASHMIR arrived at Gibraltar with REPULSE this morning. JACKAL arrived at Gibraltar 17/4 with 3rd Motor Launch Flotilla.

Weather

Wick harbour was reopened 0745 today.

Shipping in
Channel.

Now that the moonlight period is passed convoys today reverted to normal (night) sailings in the Western Channel.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command last night attacked Rotterdam Petroleum Harbour and made light attacks on Channel Ports. Objectives at Le Havre were attacked today.

Enemy Air Activity

The tanker BRITISH RENOWN was bombed at 2025 G.M.T. off Dartmouth, and her engines were disable.

Lowestoft was bombed between 2151 and 2230 today. No naval damage or casualties were caused.

647

21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation
H.B.

INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE last night laid mines near Les Triagoz Light. These destroyers are now to be rearmed on account of the necessity of sending the 5th D.F. to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet.

Aircraft last night laid mines off Brest and the Frisian Islands.

Mining of
Thames.

Owing to mines, Barking Creek was closed at 1635. Tug REGENCY was mined off Beam River, Dagenham at 2015. It is estimated that there are 16 mines in the river and 6 in the docks of which 2 have been detonated, in addition to those which exploded spontaneously.

Mines were cut and exploded off the Manacles today.

North Atlantic

REPULSE arrived at Gibraltar at 0732 today.

South Atlantic

QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at Freetown at 0730 today. She is to sail to Gibraltar shortly where she will be temporarily attached to Force H.

War Diary

21.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Malta

About 6 enemy aircraft attacked Malta last night. There were no Service casualties or damage. The Island was attacked again this afternoon and this evening; bombs were dropped over the Dockyard, but damage caused was only superficial.

Submarine
Patrols

TORBAY and TAKU are to proceed from their new base at Gibraltar to patrol as follows TORBAY for 3 days off East Coast of Sardinia, then in the focal area off Marittimo. TAKU on a line from Naples to Northern Approach of Messina.

Alexandria

In view of the congestion in the harbour it may be necessary to move ships temporarily to Haifa and Port Said.

Naval
Bombardment
of Tripoli

At the request of C. in C., Meditn. 8 Wellingtons from Malta bombed Tripoli last night and dropped flares, prior to the naval bombardment. The Battle Fleet and light craft bombarded Tripoli today for 42 minutes at 0500 at ranges 14000 and 11000 yards firing 530 tons shells. Surprise was achieved, probably owing to the preoccupation of the German Air Force in other theatres, and partly through the mistake of the Italians who reported the fleet steering east on the previous day instead of west. Owing to the dust and smoke caused by the air bombardment spotting and observation of results were very difficult. The resistance of the shore batteries was not very effective. Our ships suffered no casualties.

Damage caused to the enemy included one destroyer hit, 2 merchant ships sunk, one burnt out, and at least 3 others on fire; harbour facilities and various military objectives damaged, including probably the power station, railway station and a fuel depot.

/Western Desert.....

21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Western
Desert.

SS BANKURA and URANIA were damaged by enemy action today at Mersa Tobruk. The latter ship became a constructional total loss.

Greece.

The tanker BRITISH LORD (on Govt. service) had her engines put out of action by near miss, in an air attack this forenoon in 34° 35' N., 23° 32' E. Owing to imminent danger of further attack CARLISLE abandoned her, but she was subsequently taken in tow.

Hospital Ship
HESPEROS
Sunk.

Hospital ship HESPEROS (Greek) is reported to have been bombed and sunk today off Missolonghi.

Lemnos
attacked.

Lemnos reported being attacked by the Germans at 0115 today.

East Indies

Massawa.

The narrow channel from Kavat may now be considered clear of mines and ships are entering the port. A white flag flies on Dahlak Island and EL WAFI will investigate tomorrow. The gun positions on Mount Ganga are now empty.

650

21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

China

In view of the continued detention by the Japanese of the Norwegian ships VENKOH and SHENGWA the Norwegian authorities do not wish their ships to proceed north of Hong Kong for the present.

America & West Indies.

RESOLUTION arrived at Philadelphia today for refit in U.S. Naval Dockyard.

The patrol on the west coast of South America was withdrawn today.

U-Boat Campaign.

SS CALCHAS was torpedoed at 1225 Z today in 23° 50' N., 27° 0' W.

War Diary.21. 4. 41.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Disposition
of Coastal
Force
Flotillas.
6th M.L.F.

Your 1750/10. Concur in para. 1, 2 and 3. 6th M.L. Flotilla is to remain permanently based in your command. Request report where you intend to base this Flotilla. 2. Action is being taken on your para. 4. (D.O.D.(H) 1609/21 to C. in C. Nore.).

Defence of U.K.Tyne
blockships.

Following received from G.O.C. in C. Northern Command Begins Adty., considered emergency over and return to sea service of following blockships: ACCRINGTON at Hartlepool CLARISSA RADCLIFFE at Middlesbrough. BARON FORBES at Sunderland 1605/16/4. Ends. I replied blockships can be released request of D. of S.T. take necessary action for return to Trade. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1547/21, to Adty.). Your 1547/21. No action is to be taken without Adty., order. Enquiry concerning release of blockships is being made through C. in C., Home Forces at request of Ministry of Shipping. Reason is shortage of shipping and Adty., decision will be given subsequently. There is no change in policy concerning precautions against invasion. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1939/21, to F.O.I.C. Tyne.).

Movements.20th
D.F.

Your 1256/20. Intend to sail 20th D.F. for Immingham northabout to-day Monday after calling Plymouth on completion of operation H.B. (C. in C. Plymouth 0007/21.). My 0007 as 20th D.F. have landed a gun and motor boat at Portsmouth, intend to sail them Southabout at 2100/21, so as to arrive Nab at 0600/22. 2 C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to order onward passage to Immingham. (C. in C. Plymouth 1115/21.). Sailed 1640/21 KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JERSEY. Mails as directed by Admiralty. Latest message held Q.K.36. (C. in C. Plymouth 1705/21, to DIDO, ABDIEL.).

/C. in C.....

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

I N

1143/21 April

651A.

From C.in C. Plymouth

Date 21.4.41

Recd. 1155

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

896. Disposition of Forces at 1200/21/4/41.

5th Flotilla.

KELLY Arrived Plymouth 10/4)
JERSEY Arrived Plymouth 20/4)
KIPLING Arrived Plymouth 16/4) Sail 1500/21
KELVIN Arrived Plymouth 10/4)

JACKAL) Arrived Gibraltar 17/4
KASHMIR)
JUPITER Arrived Plymouth 4/3, refit, completes about 17/5.

A/A Destroyers.

TYNEDALE Sailed Milford Haven 1030/21 for Plymouth
LEWES Arrived Plymouth 19/4.

20th Flotilla.

INTREPID)
ICARUS) Arrived Plymouth 0645/21, sail 2100/21.
IMPULSIVE)

1143/21.

Advance copy Ops., O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
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.
E.P.S.
A.H.Q.H.F.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.O.D. (M)

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War Diary.

21.4.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

20th
D.F. Contd.

C. in C. Plymouth 1115/21. Route for 20th D.F. (C. in C. Nore 2102/21, to C in C. Portsmouth.)

PLOVER.

Adty., 1245/18 not to F.O.I.C. Greenock. On completion of Z.M.E. 31, PLOVER is to be sailed for Clyde for onward passage with next W.N. Convoy to Methil and thence as arranged by C. in C. Rosyth. (C. in C. W.A. 1230/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

H.50.

C. in C. Portsmouth has given your e.t.a., at Sheerness as 1200/22. (Capt. (S) 5 1435/21, to H.50.)

Operations.

Search for
BISMARCK.

HOOD, COSSACK, INGLEFIELD, MAORI, ZULU, arrived. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0940/21.). Scapa arrival EXETER. (A.C.O.S. 1408/21.). Decypher Adty., 1240/21. Request you will order 2 cruisers to R/V with R.A.M. as close escort and move remainder of patrol to eastward of minefield. Following is an uncyphered weather report 3962. (C. in C. H.F. 1446/21, to B.C.S.1.). Scapa arrivals SUFFOLK, ECHO, ACHATES. (A.C.O.S. 2011/21.). C. in C. H.F. 2315/12. Have returned Scapa in accordance with Adty., 1347/20. Request further instructions. (SUFFOLK 2149/21, to F.O. 1st C.S.) Return to Clyde forthwith. Acknowledge forthwith. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2229/21, to RODNEY)

Small craft
off East
Coast.

Divert to-night Monday 3 M.G.B.'s at 55 buoy 4 M.L's from South Leman to Smith's Knoll Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1000/21, to HOLDERNESS, COTTESMORE, WOLFHOUND.)

/NEREUS.....

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21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

NEREUS
EFFRA
(Sunk in
E-Boat Attack
17/4)

Position of wrecks. (F.O. Yarmouth 1155/21)

MINERVE

Attacked large tanker one definite one possible hit counter attacked cannot ascertain external damage. Proceeding Dundee via outward route E.T.A. Q.Z.S. 162 0809/22. H.S. Message 481 to 486 Missed following is 4 figure weather report, 6872. Mines probably laid South West Jaederens point. (F.S. MINERVE 2103/21 F.O.S. 2324/21)

British Air Operations.

Patrols

^{"Bart" "Stab" "Trest" "Stand"}
Patrols ~~BERT STAB FROST STAND~~ will take off at first light tomorrow R/C of Narvik by Sunderland aircraft taking off at first light from Sullom Voe. (C. in C., Rosyth 0036/21).
My 0036/21. Patrols ~~FROST~~ and ~~STAB~~ ^{"Stab"} withdrawn no cloud cover. (C. in C., Rosyth 0740/21)
Patrol ~~HONDA~~ now in operation. (C. in C., Rosyth 1330/21)
Patrol "Fugle" will not be flown tonight Monday. (C. in C., Rosyth 1854/21)
My 1145/10 Para A not being carried out. (C. in C., Plymouth 2215/21)

Bomber Command
Attacks on
Shipping.

Night 19/20 April. 5 Hampdens laid mines all other operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather.
Day 20 April successful attacks on shipping by Blenheims of 2 group off the Norwegian coast between Eigeroe and Lindesnes; two air-craft bombed a heavily laden merchant vessel of 3,000 tons escorted by two flakships (all flying the Nazi flag) heading south east off Fede Fjord.

/Two near....

War Diary

21.4.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Bomber Command
Attacks on
Shipping-Contd.

Two near misses and a direct hit on one merchant ship, A further 3 Blenheims attacked shipping between Borkum and Wangerooge two vessels of about 80 tons each off Juist claimed as damaged. (H.Q.B.C., 0150/21)

R/C of
Narvik.

My 0036/21. Reconnaissance of Narvik cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0245/21) One Sunderland A/C took off from Sullom Voe for reconnaissance of Narvik at 1930 today Monday. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1954/21)

Recognition
of Aircraft.

Reference H.Q.F.C. 1755/18 request you will amend procedure in your 1226/18/3 to exclude single engined aircraft as requested by H.Q.F.C. In view of fact that single engined aircraft sighted within your command are almost certainly friendly it is considered that this is acceptable. (D.T.S.D., 1913/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity

Lowestoft
bombed.

Lowestoft bombed between 2151 and 2230/21. H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. No naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft, 0028/21.)

W.D. Note. Some error in date, presumably code time should be 0028/22.

GOZO
FORT RONO

Skipper of trawler GOZO reports at 2000/17 at 2000 when fishing with Bull Rock N.W. by N. and Fastnets S.E. by E calm being attacked by a four engined plane and a fighter. The fighter circled the trawler and as it was painted green from rudder to amidships and grey to propeller Skipper thought in Irish and withheld his fire.

/Then bomber....

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

GOZO
FORT RONO
-Contd.

Then bomber attacked and dropped one torpedo which passed under port quarter and four bombs were dropped simultaneously missing trawler by about 30 yards. Three failed to explode. Then the bomber pumped out from its wing as from bellows a yellowish green rotten fruit smelling liquid which stopped about one foot off sea level. The fighter omitted the same fluid from under its body. All the crew had taken cover with the exception of the Skipper and boatswain, who both remarked that their mouth was dry and their eyes watered. Both had tea but could not taste it and taste did not return for 15 minutes. Trawler FORT RONO was also attacked and went into Berehaven but have no report yet.

Only one attack was made and machine guns were not used. Skipper manoeuvred to avoid green fluid continuously Grade A.1. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1205/21)

BRITISH RENOWN
Damaged

BRITISH RENOWN 3 miles S.E. of Dartmouth engine disabled ^{request} assistance immediately. (SS RENOWN 2100/21)
BRITISH RENOWN bombed off Dartmouth 2025 G. M.T., (Lands End, T.O.R. 2127/21)

GLENFINLAS
(Bombed 6/4)

Admty 1617/18 and 1245/21. Request you sail GLENFINLAS in tow Tug SEA GIANT Tug ST MELLONS and KENIA from Harwich for Tyne at 0300/24. Arrangements for escort etc. (C. in C., Nore. 2104/21 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

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War Diary

21.4.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Liverpool

My 1217/15. Port of Liverpool will be opened at 0700 each day. (F.O i/c Liverpool 1007/21)

Operation
Z.M.E. 31.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1715/21 for Z.M.E. 31 to lay at 2320 returning on completion about 0545/22 (PLOVER 1050/21)

SS PROFIT

Report of mining 17/4.
(Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1118/21)

Mining of
Thames.

Mine detonated off Jenningsree Point by LL (F.O.I.C. London, 1130/21.) From reports investigated and considered reliable following is mine situation in river upstream of No. 4 Sea Reach buoy. (details of 25 mines) (F.O.i/c London 1340/21)
All navigation is to cease in Barking Creek. No vessels are to enter. (F.O.i/c London 1635/21)

Tug
REGENCY
mined.

Regret to report Tug REGENCY mined off Beam River Dagenham at 2015. (F.O.I.C. London 2125/21)

Operation
S.N. 9.

1. Request you will consider sailing R.A. (M) for operation S.N. 9 without specific escort or cover, taking advantage of cruiser patrol now established.
2. R.A. (M) has four destroyers available and has been warned that he may be ordered to sea at short notice.
(V.C.N.S. 1240/21 to C. in C., H.F.)
Note. Orders issued by C. in C., H.F. are in his 1446/21 (See Operations)
Admty. 1240/21. In view of escort D.S. two only destroyers will be available therefore, two additional destroyers will be required. Consider A/A cruiser most desirable for passage unless cruiser mentioned in C. in C., H.F. 1446/21 can R/V near Butt of Lewis. (R.A.M./L 1929/21 to C. in C., H.F., F.O. 1st B.C.S.)

/Your 1929....

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War Diary

21.4.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Op: S.N. 9
cont:-

Your 1929 21st. 2 destroyers are available. Request time and place of R/V. (R.A.D. H.F. 2155/21 to R.A.M.)

Lowestoft.

Last two groups eastern line laid p.m./21 Minefields satisfactorily completed. (RINGDOVE 1415/21)

Off Manacles

Two mines cut and exploded in sweep while clearing Area to N.W. Q.Z.S. 192. Positions. (F.O. i/c Falmouth 1915/21.)

Operation
S.N. 9 A.

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 9 A as follows (R.A.M. 2305/21)

Enemy Intelligence

Surface
Unit.

By D/F 4595 K/cs at 0159/21 enemy surface unit, type unknown, bore from Cupar 000/3 or its reciprocal. (D.D.I.C., 0307/21 to AIG 62 etc.)

Enemy Report
of sighting by
DUNEDIN of
Spanish trawler.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 694/41 para 3.
(a) 1101 (Z - 1)/9.
(b) 049° 36' N., 011° 16' W.,
(c) 6.
(d) 2 (VII) Spanish.
(e) Steam trawler
(f) Fishing .
(g) 2 with W/T. At 1549 Admty. 1537/9 was received. 1234/21.

R/C of
Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 1215/21 shows the 2 battleships in the same position. (D.D.I.C. 1333/21)

/Excellent.....

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21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

R/c of Brest
cont.:-

Excellent photographs taken 1240/21 shew both cruisers still present in same positions. Dock is now definitely dry and netting is now stretched across between port side of vessel and side of dock. Battle Cruiser in Torpedo nets at T.B. station now has either staging or deck extension fore and aft on port side which considerably changes appearance of vessel. No damage seen to either vessels. (P.I.S. St. Eval 1515/21.)

R/C of Brest at 1800/21 shows both battle cruisers still present in same positions (D.D.I.C., 2336/21)

Warship
sighted 20/4

VISENDA 2225/20 I have no doubt this report referred to HOOD. (F.O.C. 1 B.C.S. 1629/21 to Admty.)

Miscellaneous

Wick

Wick Harbour opened 0745/21.
(R.N.O. Wick 0759/21.)

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Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 118

Congratulations on bringing the whole of H.X. 118 safely to U.K. (C. in C., W.A. 1004/21 to Vice Admiral F.M. Austin) 32 ships of which 5 were Norwegian, 1 Belgian, 1 Panamanian, others British. There were 14 tankers and cargoes consisted of 7 grain, 5 general, 3 principally steel, 2 principally lumber and 1 phosphates. (D.S. 596)

Delays to Tankers in H.X. Convoys.

Your 1934/18. Tankers missed their respective convoys for various reasons, 6 being armed, 11 did not arrive for their 10 convoys, 9 degaussing delayed, 18 ships engine repairs, 4 allocated slow convoys, 3 did not arrive in time to secure stores and water. Special representatives of Petroleum Board and ourselves work in close collaboration and no effort is spared to get ships to sea. Repairs and lateness of arrival, the latter mostly due to weather, are inevitable. Only means of cutting down delay would be to disregard armament and degaussing though this very liable to breed crew trouble with its consequent delay. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1054/21 to Admty.)

Iceland-Escort Groups.

Forecast of duties. (C.in C., W.A. 1124/21 to F.O.I.C. Iceland, etc.) See Lion Copy.

Southern Irish Sea.

Your 1154/20. New dividing line is now in force and buoys have been laid. (D.T.D. 1315/21 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

H.G. 58.

Successful except for CSIKOS which eventually reached port after damage by bombing in N.W. Approaches. Fine weather throughout, 48 hours in hand. Average speed 6.2. (D.T.D. 1705/21 to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar)

/S.C. 27.....

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1124/21 April

659A

From C.in C. Western Approaches

Date 21.4.41
Recd. 1402

P/L BY SECRET T/P

Addressed F.O.I.C. Iceland, H.M.S. BULLDOG, H.M.S. MALCOLM,
Capt. D. Londonderry, repeated F.O.i/ Greenock
F.O.i/c Belfast, F.O.i/c Liverpool, Capt. D. Greenock
Captain D. Liverpool, Admiralty.

593. Forecast of duties of Iceland Escort groups:-

- (A) 3rd group meet H.X.120 and S.C.28 at W. R/V.
April 21. Escort to E R/V April 24 then proceed Iceland.
 - (B) Half 12th Group continue with O B 311, destroyers
fuelling as necessary. Meet H X 121 at W. R/V April 25.
E Escort to E. R/V April 28 then proceed Iceland.
 - (C) Half 12th Group meet O B 312 at E. R/V April 23,
destroyers fuelling as necessary. Escort to W. limit
then proceed Iceland.
 - (D) Half 3rd Group meet O B 314 at E. R/V April 27. Escort
to W. R/V and meet H X 122 May 1. Escort to E. R/V.
May 4 then proceed Iceland.
 - (E) Half 3rd Group proceed direct to W. E R/V and meet S C 29
May 1. Escort to E R/V May 4 then proceed Iceland.
 - (F) Half 12th Group meet O B 315 at E R/V May 3. Escort
to W R/V and meet H X 123, May 5. Escort to E R/V
May 8 then proceed Iceland.
 - (G) Half 12th Group met O B 316 at E R/V May 3.
Escort to W limit then proceed Iceland.
2. Dates are approximate.
3. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail remainder of
12th Escort Group at best speed to Iceland as they become
available.

1124/21.

Advance copy Ops.O.D.Trade.O.I.C.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

A.C.N.S. (H)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

OPS. (4)

O.D.S.

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.T.D. (4)

C.T.D. (M)

E.P.S.

D.O.F.P. (3)

A.H.Q.H.F.

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21.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Casualties-Contd.

S.C. 27.

Congratulations on bringing S.C. 27 safely to U.K. Regretted that FAVORIT which parted company in 40° 00' W., was later bombed and sank. (C. in C., W.A., 1751/21 to Rear Adm. C.D. Burke.)
13 British and 15 Allied ships arrived. Cargoes, see D.S. 595, 22/4.

Reporting late arrivals

ROYAL SOVEREIGN 0300/21. Ocean Escorts should be instructed that if W/T silence is broken to report late arrival of convoy at R.V. the signal is to include number of ships present or names of stragglers if known. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2025/21 to R.A. 3.)

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War Diary

21.4.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Collisions

The frequency of collisions in which escort vessels of this command have been involved gives rise to considerable anxiety and it is essential that every step should be taken to avoid such occurrences. I fully appreciate that the conditions under which ships work in war time make for increased risks and considerable increases the chances of collision but I would impress on all C.O.'s the vital importance of keeping their ships in a seagoing condition and consequently the necessity for constant vigilance and care on the part of O.O.W's and look outs, particularly when other vessels are in company or are likely to be in the same waters. Unnecessary risks should never be taken.

(C. in C., W.A., 1103/21 to All ships of Escort Groups, Captains (D) Londonderry Liverpool and Greenock.)

MINERVE

MINERVE reports. Attacked large tanker, one definite one possible hit. Counter attacked. External damage unknown. Returning Dundee E.T.A. 0809/22. (MINERVE 2103/21, F.O.S. 2324/21)

M.G.B. 61

Harwich 21/4 Arrival M.G.B. 61 damaged striking underwater obstruction returned under own power. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 2348/21)

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21.4.1941.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

UNION
URGE

UNION's 2116/20 acknowledged. If unable to enter Gibraltar before 2100/22 URGE is to remain west of 006° W. and north of 036° 05' N. until 0600/23 and report E.T.A. Both submarines will proceed unescorted to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0926/21 to UNION, URGE).

GAMO.

Portuguese GAMO Lisbon to Genoa, am holding vessel pending your confirmation of permission to proceed. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1125/21 to Admty for Arfar).

FORT DE
FRANCE.

On arrival in harbour, forward a brief report on interception of French ship FORT DE FRANCE by BULOLO on 8/4. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1241/21 to BIRMINGHAM).

REPULSE.

REPULSE and 2 destroyers leave Gibraltar to Westward 2030/21, 16 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1310/21 to UNION, URGE).

French
Convoy

Fr. M/S sloop COMMANDANT DELAGE passed Gibraltar eastbound on 21/4 escorting French M.V's CONGO, ASTREE, CLAIRVOYANT and HARDI (D.O.R. 22/4).

CABO SAN
SEBASTIAN.

Am boarding CABO SAN SEBASTIAN. Request instructions if no wine barrels found. (ALOUETTE 1420/21 to F.O.C.N.A). My 1420/21. CABO SAN SEBASTIAN proceeding to Gibraltar with boarding party. Barrels were on board. E.T.A. 0600/23. (ALOUETTE 1458/21).

/Yugoslav.....

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21.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Yugoslav
Ships
Lisbon.

German Embassy may be making a diplomatic demarche with a view to securing possession of Yugo Slav ships. Urgent that Yugo Slav Charge d'Affaires Lisbon should have instant instructions to order ships to British ports. He will take no action without instructions from Yugo Slav Legation London. Am unable to get Yugo Slav crews off ships until action taken. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1452/21 to Admty).

Have given instructions to all agents that no funds are to be supplied to Yugo-Slav ships as they are not complying with orders of their Government. Request approval. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1650/21 to Amty).

Your 0946/16. PAVLA and TALAS should not proceed to a Portuguese or a Spanish port but to Bermuda or other convenient British port for orders in view of danger of enemy interference with crews. This action agreed with Yugoslav owners' representatives. Yugoslav Legation London are sending notice to masters of ships that ships are requisitioned by Yugoslav Govt. and that masters are put in possession on behalf of that Govt, also being instructed to follow orders from British Naval authorities. Inform masters accordingly advising them that all Yugoslav merchant seamen are mobilised and that desertion or disobedience is punishable as a military offence. Report attitude of crews and if there is danger of the ships proceeding to French or other ports rather than to British ports when sailed they should be held pending further instructions. (D.T.D. 1736/21 to F.O.C.N.A).

Greek Charge D'Affaires reports Yugo-Slav Minister told him that many crews of Yugo-Slav ships are Croats and we should therefore take necessary precautions. (N.A. Madrid 1913/21 to D.N.I.).

Yugo-Slav Minister London telegraphed on 19/4 enclair full instructions to Yugo-Slav Charge d'Affaires Lisbon to requisition ships and send them to British ports. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2200/21 to N.C.S.O Lisbon).

/S.S. CSARDAR.....

War Diary.

21.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd).

S.S. CSARDA ✓
PACHECO.

Panamanian S.S. CSARDA ✓ damaged during gale Mackintosh and Co. hulk and sank motor boat. She also damaged ST. PACHECO. Vessel will be ready to sail to Melilla to load in 5 days time. (F.O.C.N.A. 1640/21 to Adty).

Escort for
REPULSE.

REPULSE has represented to me most desirable she should have at least one surface ship in company when on patrol in Bay of Biscay area for the purpose of (a) Flank marking in case of day action and illuminating target in night action. (b) To assist in examination of shipping. (c) As a means of offence against a submarine when weather is unsuitable for operating Swordfish. I fully concur but no Destroyer is available in N.A. Command. (F.O.C.N.A. 1630/21 to Admty).

VIDETTE.
WISHART.
DUNCAN.
FOXHOUND.
VELOX.
WRESTLER.
BOREAS.

Your 1559 N./19. Concur but DUNCAN and FOXHOUND are required here as soon as possible. Intend sailing VELOX and WRESTLER Freetown on arrival of WISHART. Request you sail DUNCAN and FOXHOUND at earliest possible date. BOREAS sailing p.m./22. (F.O.C.N.A. 1634/21 to C. in C. S.A).

ARCOLA.
TODARO.

Report from Teneriffe graded A.2. states Italian tankers ARCOLA and TODARO have raised steam in that port and will probably on 20/4 proceed to southward. Former is partially loaded and latter is fully laden. (F.O.C.N.A. 2144/21 to N.A. Stn).

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21.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MONARCH OF
BERMUDA.
Col.
Movrodi.

British ship MONARCH OF BERMUDA sailing from Capetown 21/4 has on board Col. George Movrodi who states he is proceeding to U.S.A. to raise free Roumanian army. (S.O.I. Capetown 0940B/21 to Admty).

→ Walrus from
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 2004/3. Request approval for Walrus now in ILLUSTRIOUS to be transferred NEWCASTLE to replace aircraft lost off Plate. (C. in C. S.A., 1049N/21 to Admty). Your 1049/21. Regret this cannot be approved. (D.N.A.D. 1905/21 to C. in C.S.A).

MILFORD.
Force U.

MILFORD is to cease to form part of Force U. at 1600/21 from which time signals are to be addressed and routed to MILFORD in the normal way. (C. in C. S.A. 1103N/21 to Force U).

→ DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS
NEWCASTLE.

Arrivals 21/4 Capetown, DORSETSHIRE and ILLUSTRIOUS, Simonstown, NEWCASTLE. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/21 to Admty etc).

→ ILLUSTRIOUS
fuel
endurance.

My 1403/12/3 and your 1857N/20. Fuel capacity is less than was estimated and endurance figures in my 1403/12/3 are too high. Essential to oil at St. Helena, and estimated if speed much in excess of 15 knots is subsequently required ship will require to oil in West Indies. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1105/21 to C. in C. S.A).

Dakar
Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar 18/4. SAVOIE which recently sailed for Marselles believed to have loaded rubber and orange essence at Conakry. SAINT AMBROISE arrived with 250 native troops from north for demobilization. 19/4 SAGGITAIRE sailed for Indo-China after fuelling. DAHOMEY sailed for Ritter. (N.A. Washington 1202/21).

/ALCANTARA.....

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War Diary.

21.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

ALCANTARA
visit of
R.A.S.A.D.
to Rio.

Your 2057 N.20. Arrival of ALCANTARA is only urgently required in order to permit my visit to Rio de Janeiro. I do not feel justified in entering Rio without another ship in that area in view of possible sailing of German ships from central Brazilian Ports. (R.A.S.A.D. 1225Z/21 to C. in C. S.A).

ALCANTARA
SEVERN
BRIDGEWATER.

ALCANTARA arrived St. Helena 1300 G.M.T/21 E.T.A. SEVERN and BRIDGEWATER a.m./23. (ALCANTARA 1308Z/21 to C. in C. S.A).

QUEEN ELIZABETH

To be sailed to Gibraltar to arrive not later than 30/4 affording any protection to shipping en route that may be practicable. On arrival she is to be temporarily attached to Force H. (1st S.L. 1721/21 to C. in C. S.A). Your 1721/21. Intend QUEEN ELIZABETH shall complete boiler cleaning and sail about 25/4. (C. in C. S.A. 2101N/21 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.MONTAUBAN

French owned S.S. MONTAUBAN sailed 1900/21 for Beirut where she is due to arrive 2000/21. Loaded for Beirut 613 tons of Turkish coal. (B.C. Alexandretta 2036/21 to Admty).

Lemnos
Attacked.

Following from Greek Military Governor Lemnos at 0115. Send urgently warships and planes. We are under German fire (ends). (N.A. Athens 0200/21 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli
bombed.

At request C. in C. Med., 8 Wellingtons of 148 Sqd. attacked Tripoli harbour night from 2352/20 to 0130/21. Total of 19,000 lbs G.P. and 1,024 lbs incendiaries dropped. Details of fires etc. All A/C returned (H.Q. Malta 0625/21 to H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.)

Greek
War-ships
for Alexandria.

Some units of Greek Navy will probably sail tonight for Alexandria. Contact with war weary and defeated men here shows how they pass through defeatism, non co-operation, and finally hostility. I believe the same will happen in Crete unless we have real air strength there both in aerodromes and aircraft. (N.A. Athens 0945/21 to C. in C. Med).

Alexandria
Congestion.

In view of congestion in Alexandria Harbour it may be necessary to move ships temporarily to Haifa and Port Said. Request how many extra ships you could accommodate under present circumstances. (R.A. Alexandria, 1007/21 to N.O.I.C. Palestine).

Sea Raid on
Bardia.

Operational Summary No. 315 up to 1200 hours 21/4 1941. Hurricanes provided Fighter protection for 5 H.M. ships leaving Bardia after seaborne raid. (H.Q. R.A.F. ME. 1044/21).

Fleet.....

MOST SECRET.

21.4.1941.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd)Fleet
Bombardment
of Tripoli.

My 1111/21 Part 1 Tripoli was bombarded for 42 minutes at 0500 today at range between 14000 and 11000 yards. To my astonishment surprise was achieved probably owing to pre-occupation of German Air Force in other theatres and also some credit is due to Italian members of Reciprocal Club who reported fleet steering E on previous day when it was steering W. (C. in C. Med., 1101/21 to Admty etc.) Parts 2, 3 and final.

2. Bombardment was preceded by bombing and flares dropped in attack by R.A.F. and F.A.A. from Malta which assisted approach and may have distracted attention of the defences but resulted in harbour being covered with dust and smoke when fleet arrived and spotting and observation were very difficult.

3. Coast batteries apparently were at 20 minutes notice. When they did open up, fire was accurate for line. Calibre of defence guns not larger than 8".

4. All that could be seen from ships was one good fire and several explosions. Observer's report summary which follows must be considered optimistic pending confirmation although large number of salvos were not observed. Spanish quay, naval H.Q., power station and military stores depot hit, fire started in railway station. Explosion and large fire in vicinity of oil depot. 6 merchant vessels and one destroyer hit.

A/C shot down
by Fulmars.

6. During previous day 5 JU 52 troop carriers were intercepted by Fulmars from FORMIDABLE and 4 shot down in flames. One Cant 1007 was also shot down. (C. in C. Med, 1111/21 to Admty).

BRITISH LORD
bombed.

A.S. 26

Oiler BRITISH LORD (6098 tons, in Convoy ~~A.S. 27~~). engine out of action due to near miss. VAMPIRE standing by temporarily but cannot be spared to tow. Please send AUCKLAND to assist position 034° 35' N 023° 32' E. Master and essential personnel are remaining in ship. (CARLISLE 1128/21 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay) (D.O.R. 22/4).

My 1128/21 in view of imminent danger of further attack have abandoned ship and left her afloat in position 34° 35' N 23° 32' E. (CARLISLE, 1139/21 to S.B.N.O. Suda Bay).

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Dairy.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd)Turkish
plans. etc.

N.A. Ankara 1205/21. See Lion Copy.

UPHOLDERLeaves Malta p.m./21 (route)
(Capt. S.1 1339/21 to TRUANT).Malta
Air Raids.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1600 hours 21/4 all times G.M.T. Night 20/21 April. About 6 enemy aircraft raided at same time as returning Wellingtons and dropped bombs mainly eastern sector of Island. No service casualties or damage. Day 21/4. Enemy approached Island on 2 occasions but did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/21.)

Mersa Tobruk,
danger area.

Shi█ should not enter area enclosed line 120█ from South End oiling Pier Head to boom defence owing to existing unexploded (?mines). (N.O. i/c Alexandria 1831/21).

Enemy
Convoy.

Further my 1258/21. (N.T. in W.D.) Glenn Martin Eastern Tunisian Coast recco. reported at 1630 G.M.T. convoy of 3 medium M.V.S. and 4 destroyers or T.B.S. position 36.36 N 11.58 E course 023° speed 10 to 12 knots. 1635 G.M.T. one M.V. 4,000 tons and 2 small vessels course north position 36.36 N 11.30 E. CR.42 seen near Pantellaria did not attack. (H.Q. Malta, 1900/21).

TORBAY
TAKU
E. of
Sardinia.

My 1945/20 and your 1256/20. Request TORBAY and TAKU may be instructed to proceed as follows after crossing 009° E below the surface TORBAY direct to area (A) 039° 06' 009° 32' 000o 120 80. Object offensive reconnaissance to attack enemy shipping and discover whether shipping use route down East coast of Sardinia. PANDORA sank two Southbound ships 10 miles off this coast in January, no other information available. TORBAY to leave area (A) p.m./30 and establish offensive patrol in area (B) 038° 00' 011° 50' 000° 50 110.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1205/21st April.

IN

669A

Date: 23.4.41

From: N.A. Ankara.

Reed: 0858

I.D.V. (11) by CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty. C.in C. Mediterranean. Ambassador Ankara.
Saving.

AIDAC. Following from Admiral Kelly.

Most Secret.

Discussing War plans April 21st with General Asim Gunduz, he informed me withdrawal (?of) troops in Thrace to Chatalja and Bulair lines is now practically complete. Only cavalry have been left in defence outside these lines, and large demolition parties. It is intended to destroy (?everything) and to leave country a desert. Every bridge and road has been mined and mines are in place. Destruction of forward aerodromes has already commenced. Defence in depth being prepared at Chatalja. Roads for enemy advance are open to attack from sea from Gulf of Zeros and from Marmora in vicinity of Rodosto to eastwards. Also advancing troops would be open to attack from Black Sea on coastal flank of Chatalja.

Horse transport is already being transferred to Asiatic shore. Motorised troops are not, repeat not being left with cavalry (corrupt group)(corrupt group). Cavalry can negotiate the mountains and can live as they go.

If Allied troops are unable to hold line from Thermopylae to Gulf of ~~222~~ ~~222~~, Germans will after defeat of Greeks commence occupation of islands and everything will be concentrated on attack on Fleet in order to drive them from eastern Mediterranean. After that occupation of Palestine followed by seizure of canal would be objective. *Prinzdh*

Turks have already written and issued to troops a handbook on mechanised warfare and how to cope with it. Ends.

1205/21.

Advance copy sent to Duty Capt..D.O.D.(F)
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D.N.A.D.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2)
N.I.D.10 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson).

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Dairy.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.W. point
of Sicily.
(contd).

TAKU direct to position (L) 038° 16' 012° 08' thence on course 075° to area (C) East of a line 340° - 160° through Alicudi Island and South of 041° 00'. TAKU is to leave position (L) p.m./30 spending daylight 30 in the vicinity if time permits.

E.
Tyrrhenian.

(2) (Intelligence). Position (L) is Focal Point for shipping proceeding on course 032° to Naples 075° to Stromboli and 212° to position (K) 037° 05' 011° 13'. Com. (S) 1 is requested to signal direct any further intelligence obtained from USK or other sources. TRUANT (?reported in September) that Southbound traffic from Naples used Bocca Piccolo, and both South and Northbound traffic appeared to hug coast. She sank one ship 4 miles South of Ischia Island course 240°. RORQUAL in April sighted destroyers Northbound both East and West of Stromboli and sank U Boat in daylight course 350° in position 038° 42' 015° 13'.* Sicily coastal lights burned intermittently. It is reported that armed sailing vessels are employed on convoy routes from Naples. TRUANT and RORQUAL are only submarines to have been in this area.

(Capt. S.I. 2015/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*(W.D. Note. Probably refers to S/M sunk by RORQUAL 31/3/41 see W.D. 2/4/41.)

Tripoli.

Air R/C Tripoli 21/4 shows (a) one m.v. on its side in direction of basin. (b) One small M.V. sunk outside entrance. (c) Some damage observed on western end of Spanish Mole. (d) Five less m.v.s in harbour than on 20/4.

(V.A. Malta, 2024/21 to C. in C. Med).

Possible Attack
on Crete.

Greek M.A. Ankara reports that according to Turkish G.H.Q. Italians are making preparations in Dodecanese for attack on Crete. Request your comments.

(D.N.I. 2235/21 to N.A. Ankara).

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.UMBRIA
(Italian).

Scuttled at Port Sudan on 10/6/40, is considered by local authorities to be a potential danger to life if she breaks up. (D.S. 594, 21/4).

KING GRUFFYD
Ex German lighters

C. in C. Red Sea Force 0831/20. KING GRUFFYD is to tow 2 ~~XX~~ German lighters to Berbera as quickly as possible if weather at all suitable. Ascertain weather conditions from COLOMBO.
(C. in C. E.I. 0602Z/21 to N.O.I.C. East Africa).

W.S. 7
CARTHAGE.

My 0654/16. After making R/V with Cape Portion of W.S.7 CARTHAGE is to proceed patrol keeping about 30 miles to eastward of convoy until convoy reaches 024° S when CARTHAGE is to proceed to Durban arriving a.m./27. (C. in C. E.I. 0650Z/21 to CARTHAGE).

Massawa.

Narrow channel from Kavet may now be considered clear of mines and ships are entering the port. No sign of life Shumma Island, white flag on Dahlak Island. EIWAFI investigating 22/4. Assab, Gun positions on Mount Ganga are now empty. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1010Z/21 to Admty).

Ships ex
W.S.6

Ref 1208 from Admty 13 para 4 (c) and (d) Request early information whether any re-turning ships of W.S.6 will be carrying service personnel or Italian prisoners with guard to South Africa or U.K. If numbers are large intend ships to proceed in convoy to be called S.W.6. Date of convoy passing Aden must depend on availability of ocean escort there.
(C. in C. E.I. 1146Z/21 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

STRATHMORE.....

MOST SECRET.

21.4.1941.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).STRATHMORE
WARWICK CASTLE
DUCHESS OF
YORK

Your 1254/17. Request permission to use STRATHMORE to embark approx 3000 Indian troops to Middle East who are urgently required there. No local shipping will be available before 29/5. Also request WARWICK CASTLE may be allowed to proceed to M.E. with the 407 troops already on board and the 173 landed from DUCHESS OF YORK together with 500 British troops awaiting passage M.E. from India.
(S.S.T.O. India, 1201Z/21 to D. of S.T.)

French Ships
CHARLES L.D.

Your 0908/20 not to Admiralty and C. in C. S.A. Information was included in ~~CHESON's~~ T 0161/31/3. Ships leaving Marseilles ~~CHESON's~~ follow Spanish water to Oran thence escorted to Casablanca and Dakar. Thence CHARLES L.D. sailed independently (route).
(N.O.I.C. Manritius. 1231Z/21 to C. in C. EI)

Basra
Situation.

Your 2216Z/20. Dispose your forces as you desire. Inconvenience you have been caused is much regretted but it has been a great comfort to feel you were on the spot to deal with situation if it had become tricky.
(1st S.L. 1718/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Use of
Bahreïn
W/T

Request your views on proposal by Political Resident, Persian Gulf, that use be made of Bahrein Naval W/T Station for jamming receptions of Arabic broadcasts from Berlin.
(Head of M. 1754/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Italian Ships
Bandar
Shahpur.

A report has been received (B.2.) that preparations are being made by the Italians to sabotage their merchant shipping lying at Bandar Shahpur.
(D.N.I. 1912/21 to C. in C. E.I. S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Japan and
Norwegian
ships.

My 1809/10. In view of continued detention by Japanese of Norwegian ships VENKOH and SHENGWA Norwegian Authorities do not wish their ships to proceed North of Hong Kong for the present. Request you will arrange for TRICOLOR and TAMERLANE to discharge their cargoes at Hong Kong and for IVARAN now at Manila to be dealt with in a similar manner. FERNPLANT at present bound for Los Angeles for Osaka has been ordered through Rugby to proceed to Hong Kong. (D.T.D. 1707/21 to C. in C. China, N.O.I.C. Hong Kong.)

America and West Indies.

MEDJERDA
SAN AMADO
AGNETE MAERSK.

Due Halifax 3/4)
Due Aruba 17/4) All overdue .
Due St. John. N.B. 4/4.)
(D.S. 594 21/4).

BISMARCK, etc.
Air Search.

Request you comply with C. in C. A.W.I. 1722/20.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0106/21 to C.O.A.C.)
Your 0106/21 acknowledged. Eastern Air Command advises that weather permitting search will be carried out as requested. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0207/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

French
Deserters.

My 2058/17. Four deserters ex French Ship BELAIN ~~DES~~NAMBUC signed on Latvian Ship CILTVAIRA due Sydney C.B. 28/4. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0949/21).

DINARA

Yugoslav ship arrived Colon 16/4 bound for Iquique, detained by order Yugoslav Legation, Washington. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1246/21 to Admty. etc).

SAN AMADO.....

MOST SECRET.21.4.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd)SAN AMADO

Your 1714/18 SAN AMADO arrived p.m./19. Reason for immediate non cancellation of distress message given in cypher signal to Portishead 1815/3. Subsequently not cancelled for fear of revealing position to suspicious ship. Forwarding full (?details) from master by safe opportunity. (N.C.S.O. Aruba, 1605/20 to Admty).

RESOLUTION

Following from Philadelphia RESOLUTION arrived here p.m./21 1710/21 (ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2055/21).

Fast
American
Ships for
U.K.

My 1740/14 date of R/V with A/S escort postponed 48 hours. Delay ships sailing accordingly. Time and position of R/V unchanged. (D.T.D. 2315/21 to N.A. Washington).

War Diary.

21.4.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CALCHAS.

British 10,305 tons, Sydney and Durban to Liverpool. The Following has been read. S.O.S. 23. 50 N 27.00 W. CALCHAS torpedoed T.O.R. 1255z/21. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1427/21.).

S/M's Reported.

0118. By D/F at 0118/21, position of German U-Boat was 46° N., 17° W. The position is an indication of the area only. (D.D.I.C. 0234/21, F.O.C.N.A., 0351/21, to N.A. Stn.).
- 15/4. Your 1840/15. D/F Bearings from Home and Empire Stations place this U/Boat within 150 miles of 51° N., 25° W. (D.D.I.C. 0908/21, to N.A. Washington.).
1012. At 0912 G.M.T. by D/F Italian U Boat bearing of 315° from Gibraltar 2nd Class not sensed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1152/21, to ARGUS, LONDON, ABERDEEN, ALOUETTE, LOCH OSKAIG. Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1410/21, F.O.S., 1542/21, to STURGEON.).

S/M's Attacked.

By A/C,
1825/20.

1825 Sight suspected submarine 58.30 N., 5.55 W., dropped 4 250 lbs M.K.8 depth charges, target straddled but no damage observed. Escort vessel from Convoy proceeded to Area and dropped d.c.s 2045 left E.C.8. (position). (Pitreavie, 0045/21, to Admty.).

/By BEDOUIN.....

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War Diary.

21.4.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

By A/C.
1825/20.
Contd.

S/M's Attacked. Contd.

By BEDOUIN
0810/21.

NORTHERN SKY was reached at 0110 but was no longer in contact. Contact was obtained at 0810 in original position but considered doubtful and lost when one depth charge was dropped. Am continuing search. (BEDOUIN, 0945/21, to F.O.D.H.F.). When no longer required for S/M hunt request you will instruct BEDOUIN's force to return to Scapa unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. (R.A.D.H.F., 1005/21, to C. in C. W.A.). If situation does not warrant continuing the hunt return with your force to Scapa. (C. in C. W.A., 1301/21, to BEDOUIN.). Your 1301. My p.c. and s. 1400/21, 058° 25' N., 007° 21' W., 090° 15 knots. Intend to sweep northwards then eastwards before abandoning search. (BEDOUIN, 1410/21, to C. in C. W.A.).

War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Enemy
Units at
Narvik.Aircraft this morning reported a battleship,
two cruisers and two destroyers at Narvik.*[Incorrect; only transports and patrol vessels - C.D. 391]*Operation S.N. 71 is to be carried out
at once.RODNEY, returning to the Clyde was
ordered to proceed with despatch to Scapa
with destroyers in company (arrived 0115/23).
KING GEORGE V arrived at Scapa 1552/22.C. in C. H.F. has asked urgently for FURIOUS,
but the date of the ship's completion
cannot be advanced from 6/5 owing to the
effect on Belfast of the air raid of 15/4.
*FURIOUS arrived Belfast on 3/3.*Enemy
Battle
cruisers.The dry dock at Brest is now completely
camouflaged, and consequently at 1800 the
second battle cruiser could not be seen.ABDIEL.ABDIEL, who with DIDO is taking certain
personnel and stores abroad and proceeding
to R/V with the destroyers of 5th D.F.
for Gibraltar, has suffered damage from
weather in 50° 50' N. 15° 45' W. and is
proceeding at 10 knots.C.S. 10.The flag of C;S.10 has been transferred
to NIGERIA.Reykjavik.N.O.I.C. Iceland reports that Reykjavik
anchorage requires further protection
against S/m attack.Kites.Revised instructions for the flying of
kites and balloons by H.M. Ships, merchant
ships and fishing vessels were issued
today. There is now no restriction as
to the area in which vessels sailing
independently or in convoy may fly kites
or balloons.

/S.L.....

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (contd).

S.L. Convoys.

Owing to Iceland commitments C. in C. W.A. will not usually be able to provide separate escorts for S.L. and S.L.S. convoys in future. He proposes that the S.L. convoy should continue to be organized in fast and slow portions, the decision to separate escort being given when the "meet" signal is made.

British Air Operations.

All operations last night by Bomber Command were cancelled on account of bad weather.

Blenheims attacking shipping off the coast of Norway today claim to have sunk a laden 2000 ton cargo vessel flying the Norwegian flag and to have damaged a minesweeper, off Egereen Island.

Enemy Air Operations.

East coast Convoys were attacked this afternoon and evening but no damage is reported.

H.M.T's
attacked
off
Aberdeen.

Several H.M. Trawlers were attacked today off Aberdeen. "DOROTHY LAMBERT and CHRYSOLITE were attacked this afternoon and were slightly damaged. The skipper of the former was killed. H. M.T. NORTHERN REWARD was attacked this evening and was damaged. H.M.T. LORD ASHFIELD was unsuccessfully attacked.

S.S. CROHAM is believed to have been damaged at Peterhead when bombs were dropped there this evening (see 24/4)
The Admiralty store and a quay were slightly damaged.

/Heavy.....

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.(contd).

Heavy
Attack
on
Plymouth.

Plymouth was attacked last night by more than 100 aircraft. There were heavy casualties at the R.N.B., but the full extent of damage and casualties in the Dockyard and Naval Establishments is not yet known. S.S. MAIDSTONE is reported to have been hit, filled and grounded.

Mining.

Operation
ZME 31.

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

Mining of
Thames.

There was some slight aircraft activity over the Thames Estuary last night and three possible mines were marked down.

A sweeper was slightly damaged this morning when a mine detonated near South Oaze Buoy and a water boat was mined today off Shellhaven Point.

Belfast was reopened at 1500 today.

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War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations. (General)

The French Govt. have been informed that in the existing circumstances French territory cannot be regarded as having the status of an ordinary neutral. Naval units may therefore enter all French territorial waters for the purpose of attacking or intercepting enemy shipping.

North Atlantic.

REPULSE (arr. Gibraltar 0732/21) is required to proceed to the Clyde as soon as possible.

UNION arrived at Gibraltar this morning.

South Atlantic.

NELSON docked at Durban p.m. today. She estimates that 10 to 14 days will be required to render her thoroughly seaworthy.

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Malta.

Formations of enemy aircraft bombed Kalafrana and the Dockyard area early this morning, but no damage or casualties occurred. Mines were dropped. About 24 German bombers crossed the island this afternoon, but their bombs are reported to have been dropped in the sea.

There was a large scale raid on the dockyard this evening an A/S trawler was damaged and some damage was caused in the dockyard.

Libya.

Since 18/4 there have been frequent bombing and minelaying raids on Mersa Tobruk, during which GREYHOUND has been slightly damaged (apparently on 21/4) and 2 Merchant ships sunk by bombs. S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk reports that S.S. DRACO has again been badly damaged by enemy aircraft.

LADYBIRD and ADHIS are supporting the army on the coast. GLOUCESTER has bombarded Menastir (date not known).

8 Blenheims bombed Benghazi today and claim to have hit a ship.

REGENT
at
Kotor.

REGENT arrived at Kotor at dawn today to get in contact with the British Minister. He found the whole area occupied by the Italian army, was bombed and damaged during the 9 hours he lay in harbour and he only escaped from a difficult situation through his coolness and determination and the lack of interest shown by the Italian Navy.

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Greece.

Aegean
Convoys.

Aegean convoys continue to run.

Operation "Demon".
DEMON.

*(Withdrawal
from Greece)*

5 A Lighters have arrived at Suda Bay for Operation ~~DEMON~~ and the necessary shipping has been sent to Greece for the operation. H.M.S. GLENROY ran aground at Boghaz Pass when proceeding and, although refloated, was considerably damaged. There have been frequent air raids on Crete since 18/4.

HYDRA
sunk
Hospital
ship
ELLENIS
hit.

Heavy air raids on Piraeus continue. ^(see p. 703A) Greek destroyer HYDRA has been sunk. Another hospital ship (presumably Greek ELLENIS) is reported to have been bombed and hit today off Megara.

x 21/4. See BR 1237 Page 1584.

China.

The Japanese blockade of the China coast has been extended from near Macao to Swatow.

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

6th M/L
Flotilla.

Your 1609/21. Intend 6th M.L. Flotilla to remain based at Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1210/22).

Flag of
C.S.10.

Has been transferred to NIGERIA. (C.S.10 1551/22).

W.A. Daily
Movements
Signal.

Reference your Daily signal giving the situation of Fleet Units and Convoys at 2000, I consider it undesirable that the position of Capital Ships on patrol should be given in a coded message with so wide a distribution. Suggest that the information should be given in a separate cypher message referring to Bay of Biscay Patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1604/22 to C. in C. W.A)

ICARUS
IMPULSIVE.

Admiralty 1256/20. If it can be done without delaying ships request T.S.D.S. may be replaced in ICARUS and IMPULSIVE. (C. in C. H.F. 1607/22).

EASTERN ISLES.
WESTERN ISLES
re-naming.

In accordance with Admiralty Letter M/A/S W 2362/40 of 24/1/41 EASTERN ISLES has been renamed WESTERN ISLES and WESTERN ISLES renamed EASTERN ISLES, as from 1800 today. (WESTERN ISLES 1805/22).

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.
A/S
Protection
of
Reykjavik.

In my view Reykjavik anchorage requires further protection against submarine attack. A considerable number of ships are normally anchored off entrance including any H.M. ships and others requiring repairs, and ships on charter by M. of S. awaiting unloading or departure. Proposals for security of Hvalfiord and Reykjavik. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1147/22).

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

DIDO
ABDIEL.

DIDO reports:- My position is 050° 50' N
015° 45' W. ABDIEL'S forecasle deck
leaking. Temporary repairs allowing speed
of 10 knots at present. Will press on
as weather moderates. T.O.O. 2100/21.
Ends. Adjust (? rendezvous) accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A. 1113/22 to Capt. D.5).

A.F.D. 7.

Position of A.F.D. 7 at noon 49° 58' N.
4° 29' W. making good 5-1/2 knots.
There has been no fighter escort since
1000. (ATHERSTONE 1133/22).

REPULSE.

REPULSE is to proceed to the Clyde. She
is required to arrive as soon as possible.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to:-
(a) Provide destroyer escort.
(b) Order necessary R.V.
(c) Signal route instructions.
(Adty 1148/22).

20th
D.F.

A.M. 1256/20. Intend to sail D.20 in
INTREPID with ICARUS and IMPULSIVE from
Spithead at 2100 today for Immingham.
Route and times as in C. in C. Nore's 2102/21
C. in C. Nore is requested to warn convoy
C.W. 32 of this movement.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1303/22).

Operations.

Suspicious
Trawler.

Your 2331/22. Herewith LONDONDERRY'S
0528/22 begins: Understand trawlers
BENJAMIN COLEMAN, (GWEN) stated to be from
Oban was trawling at 0435 in position 14
mls. (?228 degs) from Skerryvore. Ship
was (burning?) full working lights but
decks were cleared and trawl appeared to
be floating. Request bona fides may be
investigated. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0528/22
to Adty).

H.M.S. LONDONDERRY'S 0528/22. M.L. 176 has
been sent to investigate.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1117/22).

/Enemy.....

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Enemy
Units at
Narvik.

Aircraft reports one battleship two
cruisers two destroyers at Narvik.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0846/22). *(Incorrect; only transports
and patrol vessels. G.D. 391)*

→ BIRMINGHAM.
SUFFOLK.
BEDOUIIN.
ARROW.
TARTAR.
ESKIMO,
EXETER.

Keep steam at 2 hours notice.
(R.A.D. 0928/22 to BIRMINGHAM etc).

FURIOUS.

C. in C. Rosyth's 0846/22 (See Enemy
Intelligence) Request FURIOUS may be
made available to operate with Home Fleet
as soon as possible. (C. in C. H.F.
1021/22 to Adty).

RODNEY.

RODNEY, and destroyers in company are
to proceed to Scapa with despatch.
(1st S.L. 1105/22).
A.M. 1105/22. Request destroyers
screening RODNEY may be sailed to their
own bases after fuelling at Scapa.
(D.O.D.H. 1333/22).

→ BIRMINGHAM.

Revert to four hours notice for steam and
clean one boiler. (R.A.D. 1522/22
to BIRMINGHAM).

C. in C. H.F.

Scapa arrivals KING GEORGE V, ELECTRA,
ESCAPADE. (A.C.O.S. 1552/22).

ETHER RADCLIFFE
(Torpedoed by
E-Boat on 17/4).

Steamship ETHEL RADCLIFFE is beached
120° six cables from Nelson Monument,
Yarmouth. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0931/22).

Operation
by PEGASUS

It is anticipated PEGASUS will be ready
for next operation by 11/5. (N.O.I.C.
Belfast 1637/22).

/MINERVE.....

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

MINERVE.

(Patrol Report 18/4 and 19/4)
At 1130/19 in 200° Jaederens Point 4 miles, sighted 9000 tons laden tanker escorted by 1 destroyer, 2 trawlers and 1 aircraft, range 9000 yards course 200° speed 8 knots.

At 1215 fired 2 44 Kt. Torpedoes at 12 secs. intervals. Enemy range 3000 yards course 160°. Explosions heard 2 mins 15 secs. and 2 mins 30 secs. after firing. Counter attack by 23 D.c's.
Defects and damage. (F.O.S. 1809/22)

British Air Activity.

Havre.
Attacks on
Enemy M/Vs.

Details of attacks (no hits claimed)
(H.Q.B.C. 0230/22).

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Trest"} ~~TREST~~ taking off Sumburgh 1500/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1500/22).
Following air patrols ordered tomorrow:
(1) Patrols ~~TREST, BART, STAB, STAB, HORNED~~
A/C to reach Norwegian Coast 0615.
(2) Coastal recco Froya Island (63° 44' N) to 66° 10' N. A/C take off first light.
(3) ~~FUGLE~~ 4. Cross over by Sunderland 63° 42' N. 4° 16' W. 65° 48' N. 8° 04' W. 65° 57' N. 7° 26' W. 63° 36' N. 4° 54' W. flown between 1100 and dusk. (C. in C. Rosyth 2130/22).

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War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

BRITISH
RENOWN.
(Bombed
21/4)

Drift to position approximately 5 miles S.E. Start Point. Request tugs be sent at once. (BRITISH RENOWN 0320/22) Sailed 0850*tug RECOVERY to assist. BRITISH RENOWN. (C. in C. Plymouth 1005/22). Your 1005/22 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1321/22).

* Salvage Vessel (R.F.A.)

Plymouth
bombed.

Plymouth heavily attacked by more than 100 aircraft between 2131/21 and 0330/22. Damage by H.E. and fires in Naval Establishments. (Details). Owing to breakdown of telephone communications extent of damage is still obscure. Full extent of casualties unknown though R.N.B. have reported 56 with more feared to be buried beneath debris. (C. in C. Plymouth 0735/22 Marines, Plymouth 1000/22, S.C.E. Devonport 1800/22).

Looe staff bombed.

See page 654.

BARON BELHAVEN
(Bombed 13/4)

Your 2320/21 arrived Barry Roads, Escort left for Milford Haven. (N.C.S.O. Barry 1401/22).

Convoy
F.N. odd.

Convoy 'Pilot' is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft. in 51° 45' N. 1° 26' E. (VALOROUS 1440/22). Am being shadowed by one enemy Aircraft in 52° 5' N. 1° 49' E. (VALOROUS 1647/22). Enemy is bombing convoy in 52° 7' N. 1° 52' E. (VALOROUS 1728/22). My 1728. Heinkel 111. No hits. (VALOROUS 1736/22) My 1750. JU 88. Bombs from 50 feet; No hits. (VALOROUS 1755/22). Am being shadowed by one Enemy Aircraft in position 52° 11' N. 1° 54' E. (VALOROUS 1805/22). My 2044 No damage. (VALOROUS 2026/22). Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ~~PILOT~~ in 52° 30' N. 2° 5' E. (VERSATILE 2032/22). Following has been read. Emergency Air Attack. Immediate. ^{Pilot} Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ~~PILOT~~ in 52° 22' N. 2° 1' E. (VALOROUS 2042/22) My 2032. Enemy still bombing 52° 30' N 2° E. (VERSATILE 2044/22).

/Convoy.....

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
F.S. Even.

One enemy aircraft bearing 020° Position
55° 26' N. 1° 24' W. (VERDUN 2104/22).
Enemy are bombing convoy ~~PARALLEL~~ "Parallel".
(VERDUN 2117/22).
My 2117. 5 bombs no hits. (VERDUN 2128/22).

GLENFINLAS.
(Bombed 6/4).

Your 2104/21. SHEARWATERS and KITTIWAKE
detailed. Intend revising departure from
South Shipwash Buoy 0200/24. Speed of
advance 6½ hours to 7 knots. (N.O.I.C.
Harwich 2230/22)

DOROTHY LAMBERT
CHRYSOLITE.

(M/S Trawlers) Attacked by enemy aircraft
in 57° 20' N. 1° 50' W. at 1530/22.
Slight damage to ships, but Skipper of
DOROTHY LAMBERT killed by M/G bullet.
No other casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen
2249/22).

Mining.

Liverpool.

Cancel my 1007/21. Port of Liverpool
closed. Subject to confirmation port
will be opened at 1000. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
0200/22).

Z.M.E. 31.

Operation Z.M.E. 31 completed. (PLOVER
1006/22).

P.W.8

Following received from V.4 begins:-
P.W.8 completed as ordered. No ships
seen. W. Buoy in position and lit.
The light of V Buoy is believed to have
been seen. No other buoys seen. M.T.B's
were apparently picked up while on main
engine 17 miles from Dunkirk. Searchlights
were put on but only swept intermittently
until main engines were stopped. 0712/22
ends. (C. in C. Nore 1024/22).

/S.N. 71.....

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War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

S.N. 71.
(Minelaying
in Denmark
Strait.)

C. in C. Rosyth's 0846/22. Recommend S.N. 71 should be laid forthwith, S.N. 9 being postponed. (C. in C. H.F. 1243/22). Your 2155/21. Please comply with R.A. (M)'s new requirements. (D.D.O.D.M. 1409/22 to R.A.D. H.F).

Proceed with despatch when ready to Port ZA. Report E.T.A. to me before sailing. On arrival act under orders of R.A. (M). Force is expected to leave Harbour 0500/23. When released return to Scapa. (R.A.D.

1515/22 to ACHATES, ANTHONY) Admiralty 1205/22. Proposals for S.N. 71. Am patrolling off outer end of Q.Z.X. 241 visibility very poor near ice, very good inshore. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1559Z/22). My 1559. N.O.I.C. Iceland informed me that there are only 3 coasting vessels and that they and fishing vessels are now amenable to instructions. Field leaves ample passage along coast. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1629Z/22).

Sailed ACHATES, ANTHONY, to Port Z.A. E.T.A. 2200/22. (R.A.D. H.F. 1600/22).

My 1647 part one. Cancel my 2305/21. Intend to carry out operation S.N. 71 as follows. All times are B.S.T. (a) Surface minefields from N.W. to S.E. to back up and extend S.N. 11. (d) one SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, BRIGHTON, ST. MARY's. Part two follows. (R.A.M.L. 1612/22). My 1647 parts 2, 3 (d) EDINBURGH and KENYA, ANTHONY, ACHATES (f) if possible from limit of ice packs to S.N. 11 and backed up south eastern end of S.N. 18 (g) 0930/23 (j) through (positions) Further details. (R.A.M.L. 1626/22, 1647/22).

Your 2254/19. Intend Capt. (D) 4 in COSSACK with ZULU, now at Reykjavik, should relieve ANTHONY and ACHATES, now with R.A. M. and return with minelayers. After calling at Scapa COSSACK and ZULU will be sailed for Plymouth. (C. in C. H.F. 1919/22 to Admty).

/S.N. 9A.....

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

S.N. 9A.

Cancel my 2314/21. Carry out Hydrographic instructions dated 21/4 and then return to Port ZA. Operation S.N. 9A. will not take place at present. (R.A.M. 1304/22 to SCOTT).

Cancel my 2305/21. (R.A.M.L. 1717/22 to F.O.C. 1st C.S).

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by L.L. at 0525/22 083° South Oaze Buoy 7 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1423/22).

There was some slight aircraft activity over the estuary during the night 21/22nd April, between 2000 and 0000. Possible mine dropped about 360° 7 cables from Garrison Point and two probable mines about 068° 18 cables from East Spile buoy. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1635/22).

Belfast.

The port of Belfast is now open. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1500/22).

Torquay Minefield.

Laid and ready to operate. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1636/22).

AGAMEMNON.

A.S. Rosyth's 0955/20. I shall have no destroyers available before 1/5. Request you will arrange for AGAMEMNON to be sailed for Port ZA as soon as possible after completion, and for necessary escort to be provided. (R.A.M. 1656/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

D.S.2.

N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1006/22. LANCASTER and WELLS detailed for D.S.2. (R.A.M.L. 1716/22).

Water Boat mined.

Regret to report water boat mined 1 mile south Shellhaven Point. (F.O.I.C. London 1745/22).

1st M/L Squadron.

Following general Programme proposed to complete end August. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 1936/22 to C. in C. H.F. and R.A.M.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1936/22 April.

OUT

To. C. in C. Home Fleet. 173.
R.A. (M).

Date. 22.4.41.

NAVAL CYPLER (D)

From Admiralty.

NOTWT.

1. Following general programme for 1st Minelaying Squadron is proposed.
 - A. Completion of double line between Faroes and Iceland.
 - B. Doubling East Coast Barrage north of Gap A with mines either sterilised or fitted with safety switch.
 - C. Laying about 4000 M. Mark I mines in the deep water between Faroes and Iceland.
 - D. Laying a deep minefield of Mark XIX mines in the area west of line North Rona-Cape Wrath.
2. Assuming three minelayers to be available and normal delay due to diversion of escorts, A should complete by end of May, B end of June, C end of July and D end of August.
3. Minefield in Denmark Strait to be reinforced by AVENTURE and Fast Minelayers as and when these ships can be spared from offensive operations.
4. Request your remarks.

1936/22

D.D.O.D. (M)

Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (T)

C.S.O. to 1st S.J.

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.I.C.

Duty Capt.

I.P.

D. of P. (2)

D. A/S W.

W.D.

D.D.O.D. (M) (2)

(O.D.2059/41)

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Small
Craft.

One unknown small craft bearing 270°
my position 100 Start Point 2. (M.L.
160 0034/22 to Convoy GX.2).

Enemy
Force
at
Narvik.

A/C reports one Battleship, two Cruisers
two Destroyers at Narvik. (C. in C.
Rosyth 0846/22).

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 1800/22 shows one
battlecruiser alongside: other battlecruiser
not seen because dry dock completely
camouflaged. (D.D.I.C. 2032/22).

E-Boat.
Callsign.

Following from INGOLD^{*}MELLS begins:-
E boat has come up and the call sign is
EISBAER VON ESKIMO on 1.86 megocycles
2140 ends. (F.O. Humber 2209/22).

* MIGHT BE GOLDENTRELS

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- W.S. 8 B. Following are proposed embarkation arrangements for Convoy W.S. 8B. (D.S.T 0155/22 to P.S.T.O. West of Scotland, etc).
- H.X. 118. Has arrived without casualties. (Details in D.S. 596).
- H.X. 119. Arrived HAVELOCK, AURICULA, SCARBOROUGH, and CAMPANULA escorting H.X. 119. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0957/22). Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of H.X. 119. (C. in C.W.A. 1150/22 to Cdre. R. Gill, R.N.R). 37 British ships, 15 Allied, 1 neutral, 16 tankers, and cargoes consisted of 17 general 8 grain, 2 largely grain, 6 principally steel and 1 each of pig iron, rubber and lumber scrap iron, and phosphates. (D.S. 598, 25/4/41).
- W.S. 8A. A.M. 1817/10. W.S. 8A. will now sail on 26/4. Add M.T. ship CLAN CHATTAN to Liverpool section the five troopships of Liverpool section should proceed to Clyde on 24/4. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1150/22 to C. in C. W.A. H.F. Plym, etc).
- W.S. 8B. A.M. 1817/10 and 1854/20. Ships of W.S.8B will sail from U.K. on 4/5. Liverpool Section ORDUNA, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, NARKUNDA; Clyde section GEORGIC, BATORY, ETTRICK, BENALBANACH. MORETON BAY and ARAWA only will sail with W.S. 8B. (D.O.D. (H) 1807/22 to C. in C W.A. H.F. Plym;, etc).

Balloons & Kites.

A.265 22/4. Your A. 470 21/4/41. Request information when Merchant ships are likely to commence to fly balloons or kites at night up to 300 feet. (H.Q.F.C. 1810/22 to Air Min).
Instructions for flying by H.M. ships merchant ships and fishing vessels. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1939/22 "A" Message) See Lion copy.

/S.L.....

S E C R E T.

Shipping & Convoys.
~~M E S S A G E.~~

O U T.

1939/22/April, 1941.

ADDRESSED: 'A' Message (permanent) Home & Abroad. 992A.
REPEATED: Air Ministry.
H.Q. Fighter Command.
H.Q. Coastal Command.
H.Q. Bomber Command.

DATE: 22/4/41.

692(A)

BASEGRAM.

PERMANENT.

NAVAL CODE 'J'. S E C R E T.

FROM: Admiralty.

~~W/T.~~ Pass to all concerned.

*Kites and
Balloons*

~~992A.~~ The following instructions for the flying of kites and balloons by H.M. Ships, Merchant Ships and fishing vessels supersede those promulgated in Admiralty General Messages 1054/27/2/41 and 2118/14/3/41 which are cancelled. These instructions are NOT ~~repeat~~ NOT applicable to vessels in Channel Convoys or to mobile waterborne balloon barrages at Bristol Channel, Tyne, Swansea and Humber which will continue to operate as formerly.

- (1) There is No restriction as to the area in which vessels sailing independently or in convoy may fly kites or balloons.
- (2) Kites and Balloons must NOT be flown
 - (A) At a height above 300 feet from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise except as in (3) below.
 - (B) At a greater height than 4,000 feet or above the cloud base whichever is the lower.
 - (C) When the cloud base is below 1,000 feet and/or visibility is less than 1,500 yards.
- (3) As a special case vessels in convoy on passage between Rattray Head and a line drawn 000 degrees from Cape Wrath may also fly kites or balloons by night but up to 1,500 feet only. Restrictions given in paragraph 2 (B) and (C) continue to apply.
- (4) Lethal devices may be set to operate only when kites or balloons are flown above 300 feet.
- (5) In harbours for which waterborne or shore balloon barrages are provided ships fitted with balloons may fly them in conformity with the action of the barrage.
- (6) Attention is drawn to the importance of accurate marking of the kite or balloon wire at 300 feet.

The foregoing instructions are subject to any local restrictions that may be imposed by Cs in C., abroad within their commands.

1939/22.

D.T.S.D. (Tel. No. 628).

Approved by A.C.N.S.(T).

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(T). (2).
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
O.I.C. (2).
D.S.I. 9.
D.P.I. (4).
D. of P. (3).
M. (2).
D.S.C. (2).
D.N.A.S.

D. of L.D. (3).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D. of S.T. (2).
I.P. (3).
W.D.
A.C.R.
A.G.R.M.
O.i/c., W/T Rm. (2).
I.M.N.G.
File 'X'.

C.P

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (contd).

S.L. Convoy
Escorts.

Owing to Iceland commitments it will not usually be possible to provide separate escorts for S.L. and S.L.S. Convoys in future. Consider S.L. Convoy should continue to be organized in fast and slow portion decision as to separate escort being given when meet signal is made. (C. in C. W.A. 1828/22 to Admty).

Routes W.
of 30° W.

A.M. 1612/19/11/40 and 1758/26/11/40. Until further instructions all independent ships and all convoys proceeding from U.K. to S. Atlantic or W. African ports and vice versa are to be routed to westward of 30° W. between 16° N. and 30° N. Routes are to be well spread and it is of the utmost importance to avoid forming any semblance of a traffic lane close west of 30° W. or elsewhere. (A.C.N.S(T) 1919/22 to Admty).

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ABDIEL.

Forecastle deck leaking at 2100/21 in 50° 50' N. 15° 45' W. Temporary repairs allow speed of 10 knots at present. (C. in C. W.A. 1113/22) See Movements.

MINERVE.

Arrival Dundee F.F S/M MINERVE (S.9 1157/22)

TRIBUNE.

TRIBUNE has developed serious defects in pistons and liners and the general state of her engines necessitates her return to U.K. Sufficient spares are available to complete TRIBUNE for passage. B. Propose therefore that TRIBUNE returns to U.K. when detached from her next Convoy. My 1017/19/4 refers. (F.O.S. 1202/22).

LEOPARD.

LEOPARD has three boilers out of action and remaining two unreliable. Maximum speed 17 knots. Ship returning with H.X. 120. Request instructions. Propose East Coast port. (C. in C. W.A. 1213/22).

GLEN USK
(Paddle
Minesweeper)
damaged.

S.S. LESRIX was in collision with H.M.P.M/S GLENUSK A.M. 21/4. when latter vessel was berthed alongside coaling jetty fish quay Hartlepool. LESRIX considered at fault. No operational delay will be caused by damage to stern of GLENUSK which is slight. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1245/22).

MEDWAY.
Medway Launch.

(Launch substituting Steam Tug FABIA)
Run down by* Drifter SATURN approx. 1815/21. ~~MEDWAY~~ total loss. Crew unhurt. Replacement needed urgently. (952 Squadron 1430/22 to Codr. in Charge, Sheerness).

* M/S 122.564

SUNFISH.

SUNFISH reports minor collision at 0257/19 with vessel believed H.M.S. MINSTER while with convoy in 51° 06' N. 01° 21' E. Only apparent damage hole in bow casing. (S. 6 1631/22).

/FURIOUS.....

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War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

FURIOUS.

Signal your proposed programme for completing for service. Early information of dates of embarkation of Squadron personnel and stores and flying on of aircraft is essential. It is intended that this should be done at the Clyde. (A.C.N.S. H. 1842/22 to FURIOUS).

Your 1021/22. (See operations) Endeavour is being made to complete FURIOUS' refit by 30/4, but anticipate that one boiler room will be out of action. (Controller 1914/22 to C. in C. H.F).

Request confirmation that FURIOUS can be ready for sea p.m./30 omitting 'A' Boiler Room. (D. of D 2016/22 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

AMBUSCADE.

Cancel my 1016/21. AMBUSCADE delayed 48 hours by electrical defects. (Capt. D. Greenock 2204/22).

Unknown
Ship.

Received 2233 G.M.T. de unknown station. S.O.S. strength 3 no further particulars obtained. (Burnham Radio 2335/22).

MOST SECRET.

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22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General

French
Territorial
Waters.

Policy.
(Head of M., approved 1st Lord to C. in C.'s
1923/22) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Escort for
REPULSE.

F.O.C. N.A. 1630/21. Concur this is most desirable but LONDON and MAURITIUS are only Home Fleet ships in the area.
(C. in C. H.F. 0041/22 to Admty).

IMPERIALIST

Sailing 0900/22 for patrol in area Cadiz Cape St. Mary has been ordered to remain N. of parallel 036° 40' N during hours of darkness 22nd to 23rd.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0124/22 to URGE).

German
KERSTEN MILES

Left here 0400/22.
(Consul Teneriffe, 0645/22 to Boximo London).
My 0645/22, vessel has only sufficient coal for short trip. It may endeavour to secure supplies in Lanzarote, Canary Islands. Reliability A.2.
(Consul, Teneriffe, 1039/22 to D.N.I.
D.D.I.C. 1954/22 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)
KERSTEN MILES arrived here 22/4 A.M.
understand from La Palma in ballast.
(Consul, Les Palmas, 1155/22 to Admty).
Description of KERSTEN MILES.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1342/22 to N.A. Stn).
KERSTEN MILES reported to have left Teneriffe 0400/22.
(D.D.I.C. 1410/22 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)
S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1342/22 and Amty.
1954/22. KERSTEN MILES arrived Las Palmas a.m./22.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2340/22 to N.A. Stn).

EMPIRE LEOPARD
SAN AMADO
"Q" Reports.

My 1249/18 and 1757/18 EMPIRE LEOPARD arrived 17/4 having sighted CAMITO. SAN AMADO arrived 19/4. Identity of her suspicious vessel not known. Cancellation of both messages not received in Admiralty (D.D.I.C. 1016/22 to F.O.C.N.A. Etc.)

VIDETTE

Admty. 1227 20/9/1940. Propose sailing VIDETTE for U.K. early May for refit. Request final destination.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1204/22 to Admty).

LADY HOGARTH.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.LADY
HOGARTHAdmty. 1703/20. LADY HOGARTH damaged in collision 21/4. Estimated time to complete one month.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1206/22 to C. in C. S.A.)BOREASDeparture 1200 BOREAS (route) to Freetown. E.T.A. Freetown 1300Z plus 1/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232/22 to C. in C. S.A.)Yugoslav ships.PAVLA and TALAS have received orders to proceed to Bermuda on receipt of Admty instructions. Ships are ready and can be sailed in H.G.60.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1234/22 to Admty).
Consular Shipping Adviser's 1650/21 re instructions to agents re funds to Yugoslav ships. approved.
(Hd. of M. 1913/22 to Consul, Lisbon).French
Convoy.Armed trawler L'AJACCIEENNE passed Gibraltar westbound at 0640/22 escorting French M.V.s LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE, GABRIEL GUIST' HAU, STRABON and SINFRA.
(D.O.R. 24/4.) *See p.700 for amplified version*Operation
"Dunlop".My position 1300A/22 037° 41' N 017° 54' W making good 16 knots. ARGUS (?making) best speed. E.T.A. Gibraltar (reported as) 0800/24. Following from ARGUS (begins) Ref 2059/16 from S.O. Force H and Admty 2017/17 only three Hurricanes can be erected before (?arrival), owing to difficulties in passing erected Hurricanes through ARGUS (? intact). If it can be confirmed ARK ROYAL's crane can embark from ARGUS Flight Deck more can be erected.
(SHEFFIELD, 1300A/22. to F.O.C.N.A.)
SHEFFIELD's 1300A/22. Berth 41, bows north It is not acceptable to berth ARGUS on ARK ROYAL.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1842/22 to ARGUS).SHEFFIELD's 1300/22. Request immediate information estimated time required by Maintenance Party to complete erection of balanced a/c. Estimated rate of transshipment unerected a/c from ARGUS to ARK ROYAL, 3 per hour. Impracticable to berth carriers alongside one another. Important that transfer should be completed by 2000/24.
(F.O. Force H, 1957/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).French
ships
Scuttling.

Information shows that French merchant vessels, unless given special orders to the contrary before leaving harbour, have most stringent orders to scuttle themselves or take other action to prevent their ships and cargoes falling intact into British hands. French ships may be expected to take following action.
(D.N.I. 1420/22 to S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

FORT DE
FRANCE
interception
by BULOLO
8/4.

At 2015Z plus 1/8 in 027° 39' N 028° 06' W. BULOLO stationed ahead of S.L. 70 sighted fully lighted FORT DE FRANCE. Signal to stop not obeyed therefore 2 bursts of M.G. and tracer fired wide of her. Ship then stopped and signalled "Attaque Britannique" with her position. Further orders obeyed. Master informed Boarding Officer that he had orders to make signal on approach of British warship. BULOLO ordered to send FORT DE FRANCE to Gibraltar using minimum compulsion and obtain cancellation of Attaque signal. No sign of attempt to scuttle. Master and Mate appeared resigned and stated that similar ship captured in approximately same position in March, also that navigation lights were burnt to avoid submarine attack. Ship on passage Martinique to Casablanca with bananas, sugar rum, small general cargo. Crew of 38 all French except 1 Chinese Steward. 13 French passengers 2 women 2 children. Considerable number of private fire-arms found on board. Ship routed North of Madeira.
(BIRMINGHAM, 1445/22 to Admty).

Suspicious
ship.

Consul, Les Palmas, 1630/22. See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.
HARPATHIAN.

TORBAY

Leaves vicinity of Gibraltar 1500/23 for patrol in accordance with Capt. (S) 1 1945/20 and 2015/21 (route) TORBAY proceeds on the surface by day at C.O.'s discretion as far as 7° E.
(Capt S.8 1905/22 to C. in C. Med).

UNBEATEN.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).UNBEATEN.
French
barquentine.

UNBEATEN reports sighting Breton Grand Banks barquentine in 045° 15' N 009° (corrupt group) W course 044° at 0800/17. Several fishing vessels sighted during 15/4 near 048° 30' N 007° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2110/22 to Admty).

French
Convoy.Gibraltar 0640/22 French Armed Trawler L'AJACCIEUNE escorting French Ship LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE light, GABRIEL GUIST'HAU laden, STRABON light SINFRA light. Passed westbound. (S.O.(I) Gib, 2111/22 to Admty. amplified 0905/23). *See p. 698.*AURILLAC
"R" Report
15/4.

About 22 survivors probably ex British ship AURILLAC reported in Fishing boat between Porjo Santo Island & Madeira. Investigating and preparing to send tug to pick them up if necessary and also search for another missing life boat said to contain a further 20 men. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 2340/22 to Admty).

South Atlantic.Enemy
Units.

My 1935N/15. Further indications suggest unit near 16½°S at 2357Z/14 now in North Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A. 0119N/22 to S.A. Stn).

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Admty 1312/12 and my 1223/16, endurance at 22 knots is 3700 miles. (QUEEN ELIZABETH 1004/22 to Admty).

RANDFONTEIN
BENVORLICH
TROLLEHOLME

Overdue shipping. Dutch ship RANDFONTEIN; Hospital ship BENVORLICH due 16/4. Norwegian ship TROLLEHOLME 17/4 at Capetown from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1034B/22).

BRITISH GENIUS.....

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

BRITISH
GENIUS

Overdue shipping BRITISH GENIUS due Durban 17th From Basra not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1035B/22).

SANGRO
RECCO
TODARO
ARCOLA

Italian tanker SANGRO left 19/4 and Italian tanker RECCO on 20/4 both from Teneriffe. Italian tankers TODARO and ARCOLA at Teneriffe have raised steam and were expected to leave 20/4 and proceed south. All vessels are probably painted dark grey. (C. in C. S.A. 1121N/22 to S.A. Stn).

DUCHESS OF
YORK, water
supply.

Your 0519/18 arrived after DUCHESS OF YORK had left Capetown. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1142B/22 to D. of S.T.)

Force U.

U will cease to exist as an independent unit at 1600/22. Signals for SEVERN are to continue to be routed via Freetown and Rugby G.A. routines. (C. in C. S.A. 1157N/22. to Force U.-)

ALCANTARA
NEWCASTLE.

My 2057/20 and your 1715/20. If Seafox is available at Simonstown ALCANTARA will probably go there and provision before joining S.A.D. If so passengers for NEWCASTLE will be retained in ALCANTARA for passage. NEWCASTLE is at Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 1217N/22 to S.O. Force U). Seafox available Simonstown. ALCANTARA leaves St. Helena a.m./23 and proceed direct Capetown. After embarking Seafox fuelling and provisioning ALCANTARA is to proceed K.33 passing through Centre K.34. ALCANTARA to come under R.A.S.A.D. from time of crossing 025° W. All personnel except sick in your 1413/21 are to be taken on to Capetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2055N/22 to ALCANTARA).

German
Intelligence.

Source C.3. Stated that German agents have orders to report sailings from Montevideo and Buenos Ayres of British ships. German ship of war supposed to be approaching this area. Also stated that German cargo ships en route. (N.A. Buenos Ayres, 1625/22, to D.N.I., R.A.S.A.D.)

FIJI

FIJI expects to leave S.L. 72 at 1400Z/30 (FIJI 1700Z/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).NEA HELLAS

Your 1315/17. NEA HELLAS now at Capetown expects to sail about 25/4 for U.K. via Freetown. Will have on board 100 service personnel including R.A. Murray for U.K. in addition to 114 R.A.F. personnel for Freetown. Remainder of service personnel transferred to MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1702B/22 to D. of S.T.)

KERSTEN MILES

German S.S. KERSTEN MILES reported to have left Teneriffe 0400/22. (C. in C. S.A. 1821/22 to S.A. Sqdn) (See also North Atlantic).

NELSON
repairs.

Docked Durban p.m./22. Estimated time to complete repairs considered essential 10 to 14 days subject to examination. State of ship in my opinion is as serious as RODNEY last December. Ship is now at 24 hours notice for steam and subject to examination will be at 72 hours notice if repairs are undertaken. Capt. Supt. Durban concurs. Request immediate approval for all important items to be taken in hand. (NELSON 1844B/22 to Adnty). Approved 1st S.L. 1025/23.

ARABIA
MARU

My 1221/17/3. Am informed Japanese ARABIA MARU will not now call Capetown but will return to Japan via Panama. (N.O.S. (I) Montevideo 1849/22).

SVEND FOYN &
SOUTHERN
EMPRESS.

Re repairs to D/G gear. (D.T.D. 2026/22 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Corvettes.

Your 0113/28/3. Experience with Corvettes has shown that under good conditions endurance will allow of escort to about latitude 028° N Corvettes then returning to Bathurst to fuel. Time spent at high speed will reduce this in proportion 16 knots for 8 hours reduces endurance one day. This is on assumption that Corvettes zig-zag continuously *at* all 11 knots and carry out search astern and abeam at dusk at higher speed Admtys 1335/1. S.L. Convoys take an average of 15 days to reach latitude of Azores. (C. in C. S.A. 2135N/22 to Adnty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy Ships
sunk 16/4.My telegram 184 19/4, same source states ships sunk by British on 16/4 contained Nazi war supplies but no (?tanks)
(M.A. Washington 0145/22 to W.O.)Hospital ships
attacked,
ESPEROS sunk.Fire (?cargo) ship has been sunk at Khalkis last two days. Hospital ship ESPEROS bombed and sunk yesterday off Missolonghi and another hospital ship hit today off Megara.
(N.A. Athens, 0957/22 to C. in C. Med).TripoliPhotographic R/C of Tripoli to ascertain damage from bombardment is urgently required.
(1st S.L. 1011/22 to V.A. Malta).GLOUCESTERArrives Malta for support of destroyer division 24/4.
(C. in C. Med. 1029/22).MovementsSummary No. 197.
(C. in C. Med, 1042/22) See Lion Copy.Athens
Communications.C. and W. report Athens off the air since 0940. Assumed through enemy air activity.
(C.T.C., 1130/22 to Admty).UPHOLDERRemain in vicinity of Lampedusa until 1200B/23 and endeavour to intercept two cruisers two destroyers which may be expected to approach island on approx course 45° at about 0600B/23.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1323/22 to UPHOLDER).Tunisia
Intelligence.Your 1858/16 and F.O. 2030/15. Following received from Navy Department, not in response to our request. From U.S. Consul Tunis 21/4 Tunisia waters are used by Italian vessels at rate of six daily with naval escorts and heading for Libya. These ships pass close to shore. 5 of them were sunk recently and Italian and German wounded are at Susa. It is reported armoured cars lorries and tanks destined for Libya are being repaired in Tunisia.
(N.A. Washington, 1401/22 to D.N.I)

Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1042/22 April.

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 22.4.41.

Time. 1708.

NAVAL CODE (O) BY W/T.

Addressed. Mediterranean Fleet and Submarines Mediterranean Fleet.
 Repeated. S.O. Force I., Force I., N.O.I.C. Alexandria.,
 N.O.I.C. Malta., S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area., Force H., B.N.A.
 Athens., F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Haifa., N.O.I.C. Port Said.,
 S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.

IMPORTANT.

Movement summary number 197 22nd April 1941.

Part A KOS 21 with three A lighters for Alexandria due
 p.m. 22nd. KINGSTON CORAL from Alexandria for Port Said due 1900.
 2nd Minesweeping Flotilla (H.M.S. ABERDARE and H.M.S. HARROW) sailing
 Port Said p.m. 22nd to arrive Alexandria during daylight 23rd.

Part B. Alexandria and Port Said sections of A N 29
 rendezvous at 1400 22nd in position 032 degs. 52' North 028 degs. 00' East
 routed through 44 and 38 escorted by H.M.S. GRIMSBY H.M.A.S. WATERHEN
 and H.M.A.S. VENDETTA. A S 26 in 032 degs. 32' North 026 degs. 50' E.
 East at noon 22nd for Alexandria escort by H.M.S. CARLISLE (ISIS?)
 and H.M.A.S. VAMPIRE followed by CHAKLA towing DESMOULEA and escorted
 by ANBER and LYDLIRD on same course.

A N F 29, six fast ships due to sail from Alexandria 1200
 22nd as directed for Suda Bay.

H.M.S. GREYHOUND arriving Alexandria from Singora 1200
 23rd with BARPETA.

Greek Destroyer HYDRA with one ship sailing Piraeus 1800
 22nd via Antikithera for Alexandria due 1800 24th.

Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY towing hospital ship VITA from
 Mersa Tobruk to Alexandria sailed 21st.

M E seven arrived Alexandria 0700 22nd. Time of origin
 1037 22nd.

1042/22

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. & C.I.C.

1st Lord.	D. of L.D.
1st S.L.	D. /S W.
2nd S.L.	D.M.S.
3rd S.L.	I.F.
4th S.L.	M.D.
5th S.L.	Duty Capt.
V.C.N.S.	Head of M.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.S.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.D.I.C.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	E.P.S.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (2)
D. of P. (2)	N.I.D.10 (Pay.Cdt. Wilson)
D.O.D. (F)	
D.D.O.D. (F)	
D.O.D. (H)	
D.D.O.D. (H)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.S.D.	
D.N.A.D.	

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Athens
Evacuations.

Officers (named) joining harbour F.O. A.M.'s staff and all naval matters are now dealt with by him. My intention is to accompany H.M. Minister to Crete. I am hoping to evacuate German Legation and prisoners 300 of British colony and few Greek personalities tonight but uncertain yet re ship.

(N.A. Athens, 1425/22 to C. in C. Med).
German Minister refuses to embark in ship provided. He demands that German and Italian Govts. be instructed before he leaves and also that ship has adequate life boats. Only chance I can see is to put him on board SALVIA at Nauplia tomorrow evening. Request immediate approval. Am describing SALVIA as sloop.

(N.A. Athens, 2345/22 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air
Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600/22/4. All times G.M.T. 1614 4 formations of M.E. 109s with 1 JU 88 attacked Island. 1 ME 109 destroyed confirmed, a second ME 109 probably destroyed 2155, approx 20 enemy aircraft successively attacked dockyard after dropping several flares. Bombs dropped over Dockyard area and other localities. Superficial damage to Naval property, no damage to Army or R.A.F. property. Some damage to civilian property. No casualties. 0305, small formation enemy aircraft dropped bombs Kalafrana and Grand Harbour area without causing damage or casualties. Bombs reported dropped in sea.

(H.Q. Med., 1645/22 amended 0630/23).

NORBURG
ITHACA

N.A. Ankara reports German ships NORBURG and ITHACA expected to pass Istanbul on 22nd or 23/4.

(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1651/22 to Admty).

ITHACA.

Greek
Supplies.

My 1239/5. Re loss of NORTHERN PRINCE being serious for Greek powder factories, and F.O.S/Ms 2333/18. In view of situation in Greece these goods are no longer required. Request full outfit torpedoes may be embarked and if possible additional spare torpedoes for Malta in mine casings.

(C. in C. Med., 1738/22)

Operation "Dunlop".....

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation
"Dunlop".

Confirmed call sign of fighters in LYGON F.O. Force H. to signal A.O.C. Mediterranean call sign of escorting Fulmars vide Admty. 1636/12 para 10.
(Air Ministry 0745/22 to A.O.C. Med).
Communication arrangements.
(S.O. Force H., 1939/22 to H.Q. Med).

DERNA
(Italian).

Arrival 21/4 from Genoa.
(Barcelona, T.H.I. 2000/22).

BANKURA
URANIA
DRACO
damaged, Tobruk.

Steamer BANKURA damaged by enemy action 21/4. (details.)
Ship now anchored and moored aft to wreck. Unable to make temporary repairs locally.
Ship URANIA damaged by enemy action 21/4
My opinion of this ship now constrictional total loss. Ship DRACO(?) again badly damaged by enemy aircraft.
(S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk, 2038/22 to D. of S.T.)

East Indies.

Mines.

Danger from floating mines exists in north channel south of latitude of Sheik Ul Abu Light.
(D.S. 595).

RANCHI

My 0746/14 RANCHI is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban a.m./24.
(C. in C. E.I. 0630Z/22 to RANCHI).

CAPETOWN

Your 0500/16 and Admty. 1224/19. Details of salvage work. Still a certain risk of possible loss of ship. Propose landing all guns etc. On completion it is for consideration whether CAPETOWN should be towed to Suez for temporary repairs or another port for permanent repairs which it is considered ship would have good chance of reaching with these concrete bulkheads.
(CAPETOWN 1155Z/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

C in C.
LEANDER.

My 2216/20 para 2. Bad weather has prevented my proceeding Kuwait by air. Now intend to embark in LEANDER from SEABELLE at mouth of Rooka Channel. About 0500Z/23 and subsequently sailing for Colombo via Bahrein.
(C. in C. E.I. 1203Z/22 to Admty).

2050/22nd April.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

70 SA

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 23.4.41.

Time 1020

CYPHER.

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed War Office.

08388. I/58648 cipher 21/4.

Genuine pro-ally French source Syria with good contacts reports.

(One) Revolution expected break out in Syria and neighbouring countries with object diverting British and French Forces. Time to coincide with arrival German Forces by air and sea to which French will make only token opposition.

Two. Consignment arms reached Jabel Druse from Caucasus via Iraq.

Three. Fougere no longer fear British attempt to occupy Syria as British Forces in Palestine now believed very small.

Four. Soule on return from Palestine reported British demoralised and prepared to cede anything to secure French economic co-operation. French Consul General Jerusalem apparently warned him he was wrong.

Five. Turkish will to resist Axis is weakening.

Comments. If French complacence can be assured value to Germany of landing air borne troops in Syria cannot be over estimated. Other sources however disagree that French will be complacent. Report now submitted probably hearsay from uninformed talk amongst French Officers who openly discuss possible descent by air of German Troops from Leros where they believe troop carrying aircraft to total capacity 2000 men have been concentrated. There is no suitable Airdrome Leros nor do I believe report re arms reaching Jabel Druse from Caucasus. On contrary one consignment German arms reliably reported passed through Iraq recently for Iran. Para. four above Soule. Cannot credit Soule who is conducting present barter negotiations with remark alleged.

2050/22

Advance copies sent D.C. D.C.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.

Recd. from W.O. 0640/24 April.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T)

PARL. SEC.

NAV. SEC.

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

D.N.I. (4)

D.O.D. (H)

D.D.O.D. (H)

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.S.D.9.

W.D.

I:P.

Admiral Chalmers.

Admiral Dickens.

War Diary.

22.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

German
Activities
Persian
Gulf.

Information received that German Legation in Teheran are collecting German seamen. Possibility they may be used in some of the 5 German or 3 Italian ships now at Bandar Shahpur to try and block the river below Abadan. Also one Italian ship at Bandar Abbas. Request you inform British Minister Teheran.
(1st S.L. 1328/22 to C. in C. E.I.)

NAPIER
NIZAM

Sailed E.T.A.Mombasa 1000Z/26.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1424Z/22 to N.O.I.C. East Africa.)

Intelligence.

Interrogation of officers of White Flag Deputation from Nocra.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 1904Z/22) See Lion Copy.

China.

Dutch
Warships.

Movements.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0444Z/22 to Admty, C. in C. E.I.)

Air Bases,
Malaya.

Your 1711/20. Remarks.
Grateful if this question could be carefully reconsidered and that I may be informed as soon as possible of definite and final decision.
(C. in C. China 0703Z/22 to Admty).

PIERRE L.D.
French.

Left 22/4 for Marseilles via Dakar.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon, 0804Z/22).

Flying boats
in Indian
Ocean.

X. 7138 327/2. Two flying boats will shortly be sent to Ceylon to operate in the Indian Ocean. The instructions governing the action of aircraft against shipping at sea in Air Ministry letter S. 43020/36 of 8/2/40 impose certain restrictions on an aircraft who sights a merchant ship which might be a possible raider. With these restrictions it is feared that the ship might escape particularly if the shadowing aircraft has to return to re-fuel at her base without relief. No doubt aircraft operating in the Atlantic have been faced with a similar problem.
2. Please cable latest Air Ministry instructions

on this.....

706(A)

SECRET

M E S S A G E

1901z/22 April
IN

DATE: 25.4.41
RECD: 1823

From N.O.I.C. Massowa

Naval Cypher A 2 by cable

Addressed S.N.O. Red Sea, Repeated C in C East Indies, S.O.(I)
Alexandria for MICE, N.O.I.C. Port Sudan.

Interrogation of Officers of White Flag Deputation from
Nocra reveals:-

- (a) No defence on Islands nothing known of mine fields.
- (b) All repetition all Islands were ordered by Italian High Command to destroy C D and AA guns.
- (c) No E Boat has been to Nocra. Boat machine gunned by our aircraft was resident motor launch in which two men wounded. After this attack April 13th white flag hoisted.
- (d) 5 or 6 scuttled merchant vessels Gubbet Sogra names unknown except CAZZINI sunk by our aircraft.
- (e) 6 large tugs scuttled (corrupt) Nocra vicinity 4 small tugs afloat in one of which Deputation crossed.
- (f) Garrisons from other Islands leave Nocra.
- (g) All Nocra population wish to return to Massowa leaving only prison officials, guards and some 500 native prisoners.
- (h) No repetition no Greeks at Nocra. Deputation sent on to Arequipa.

1901z/22

Advance copy Ops O.D. O.I.C.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- Ops (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.S.D. 9
- D.N.I. (4)
- M (2)
- D of P (3)
- E.P.S.
- Admiral Bellairs.
- D of L.D. (2)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.P.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)

EM

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Flying boats
in Indian
Ocean (contd).

on this matter.
3. Has it been found necessary to give pilots of aircraft working on trade defence considerable latitude and discretion in the action that they should attack after sighting a merchant ship in the Ocean.
(C. in C. Far East, 2314/18 to Air Min).

America & West Indies.RESOLUTION.

Berthed at U.S. Naval Dockyard Philadelphia noon/22.
(N.C.S.O. Philadelphia, 1245/22 to Admty).

H.X. 123
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Your 1358/19 necessitates sailing H.X. 123 one day earlier than expected. It is hoped ROYAL SOVEREIGN will arrive in time to take this convoy but with only 3 R class Battleships which require considerable upkeep it is not possible to provide capital ship escort for all H.X. convoys. Request whether a Home Fleet Battleship can be made available for H.X. 124 in view, of your 0117/19 and your 1130/20. (Sighting of BISMARCK and cruisers.)

TUSCANIA
GIORGIO FASSIO
(Italian).

Reported Mexican Govt. has taken over and will trade locally with them between Mexico and Houston.
(D.S. 596).

U.S.
Coastguard
Cutters.

At request of N.A. Washington am communicating direct regarding coastguard cutters. Work of taking over proceeding satisfactorily complete British crews are now on board two and will go to sea 23/4 for two days instructional cruise with American crews. Anticipated that PONTCHARTRAIN, SARANAC, MENDOTA and TAHOE will commission at New York with crews from MALAYA on 30/4 and should be ready to sail in company about three days later. CHELAN and CHAMPLAIN are at New York and will be commissioned with crews from RESOLUTION as soon as officers now on passage in ABERDEEN become available. SEBAGO and CAYUGA expected at New York by end of April when propose commission them with crews from RESOLUTION. SHOSHONE and ITASCA are expected New York mid May and early June respectively. SHOSHONE will be manned by RESOLUTION and ITASCA by MALAYA. Request. (a) Collective title for ships of class. (b) New names. (c) Call Signs. (d) Route instruction for first group.
(MALAYA, 2026Z/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).NORDERNEY

Cancel last sentence of my 1744/6.
(D.E.W.D. 2028/22 to C. in C. A.W.I.,
C. in C. S.A.)

Fuelling
H.M. Ships
in U.S.A.

(B) of your 1459/27 and 1022/13 from C. in C. A. and W.I. It is not thought that advantages to be obtained justify an approach to U.S. at present having regard to the legal issue involved. Should a special need arise for one of H.M. ships to obtain fuel in circumstances which would constitute a breach of international law, or should the position change as a result of the working of the Lease and Lend Act, consideration will be given to approaching State Dept.
(V.C.N.S. 2052/22 to N.A. Washington).

Trinidad.

Re Admiralty requirements in La Retraite area.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2151/22 to Govr., Trinidad).

French
Deserters.

S.O.(I) Jamaica's 0949/21. Request the four French ratings be interrogated regarding Past movements of S.S. BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC and other ships on same route. Whether ships run direct from Biscay ports to Antilles or whether they touch Casablanca; Conditions in occupied ports.
(D.N.I. 2332/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Australia.MILLIMUMUL

British trawler MILLIMUMUL sank near Newcastle, N.S.W. after a mine had fouled her trawl, on some date before 18/4/41 Five of crew saved, 7 missing.
(D.S. 595).

S.S. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

My 0729Z/11. QUEEN ELIZABETH left Fremantle with 5,650 tons fuel, request estimated quantity required Ceylon Fuelling to capacity ? demand amended to read 4500 tons
(A.C.N.B. 1034Z/22 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.EMPIRE
ENDURANCE
(torpedoed
20/4)

053° 20' N 021° 00' W 270° 15. Have 24 survivors from EMPIRE ENDURANCE one boat found 052° 50' 022° 50' at 1430/21. One 053° 12' 022° 30' at 2120/21. Propose turning for Clyde at 930 unless otherwise ordered. Available evidence admitted possibility of one boat still afloat. Submit aircraft (?proceed) for conclusive search.
(TRILLIUM. 0700/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0700. Unless shortage of fuel necessitates return continue search. Catalina aircraft is being sent.
(C. in C. W.A. 1013/22 to TRILLIUM, BEAGLE).

ESKDENE
(torpedoed
8/4).

British ship PENHALE arrived Pernambuco 22/4 with complete crew British ship ESKDENE. Latter ship was torpedoed by a submerged S/M at 0600 G.M.T./8 in position 34° 24' N 23° 51' W. All crew well.
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco, 1410/22 to S.O.(I) Freetown, and S.O.(I) Montevideo 1743/22 to Admty).
My 1743/22.
Pernambuco reports ESKDENE's officers state that submarine resembled silhouette of German U 27 of 37 class. Master states enemy gun fire poor range about one mile, two torpedoes fired. Re C.B.'s.
Four distress messages were radiated on emergency transmitter but were not picked up by DADEHALE (?PENHALE) which rescued crew at 1300 G.M.T./8 seven hours after attack.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2207/22)

SS JHELUM
(torpedoed
21/3).

S.O.(I) Freetown's 2041/8. JHELUM torpedoed and sunk at 2150 G.M.T./21/3 in aprox. 21 N 25 W. Chief Engineer and 5 natives released from Senegal and returned Freetown via BATHURST on 9/4. Others interned. Remainder of crew seven Europeans 27 natives left in two boats, one of which is referred to in S.D.(I) Freetown 2041/8/2, the other is third boat referred to in S.O.(I) Freetown 1053/13.
(C. in C. S.A. 1611/22).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (contd).TWEED
(torpedoed
8/4).

S.O.(I) Freetown's 1707/14. TWEED torpedoed 8/4 at 1030 G.M.T. in 7° 43' N 10° 01' W by submarine identified by Master as U.45 class but described by Chief Engineer as Italian ONIDA Class. Crew all German. Submarine had sunflower device on conning tower and notwithstanding Master's description was probably the one which sank PORTADOC. One European two natives missing. Remainder of crew landed French Guinea. 6 Europeans 1 Native released and sent Freetown remainder detained.
(C. in C. S.A. 1613/22 to Admty).

HARPATHIAN
(torpedoed
8/4).

My 1310/20 Chief Officer HARPATHIAN reports while on Trawler on 19/4 a.m. he sighted ship of about 8500 tons lightly loaded apparently had Danish colours painted downward fore and aft about 8 miles off Cape Bojador Spanish Morocco steaming slowly southward.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1630/22 to Admty).

CLAN MACIVER
(torpedoed
18/3).

Your 1513/20. At 2305Z/18/3 CLAN MACIVER position 58° N 24° W attacked by two submarines. First delivered torpedo attack 20° on port quarter and missed. Second submarine surfaced 35' later 300 ft. on port beam was attacked by gunfire and forced to dive after second shot, the enemy being broadside on to the stern. At 2315/18/3 barred transmissions heard hearing 135°. W/T watch was kept on 375 to 500 Kcs when at 0624Z/29/3 E barred signals of short duration were transmitted from F.G.A. on 375 ksc.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1646B/22 to Admty).

ENA DE
LARRINAGA.

My 1118/18. Survivors now arrived Pernambuco. Master states S/M had square conning tower and also that he personally threw C.Bs overboard. Survivors being sent to New York on orders from Ministry of Shipping.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1709/22 to Admty).

ST. HELENA
(torpedoed
12/4).

N.C.S.O. Freetown's 2032/14. Interrogation of crew of ST. HELENA all of whom were saved indicates that submarine was German probably U 13 class.
(C. in C. S.A. 1851/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.22.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/MS Reported.

1241

By D/F at 1241/22 position of Italian U/boat was 49° to 50° N 13° to 15° W.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1329/22 to D.5)

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1440/22).

15/4.

Admty 1108/15. Request I may be informed if this U boat transmission indicates that KING GEORGE V who was in that position at the time stated was sighted and reported. When possibility of doubt exists as to the nationality of an enemy U Boat it is requested that it may be stated to facilitate setting D/F Watch.
(C. in C. H.F. 1952/22 to Admty).

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

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

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

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

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

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTHome Commands.Enemy Units
at Narvik.

At 0110 today, the Admiralty informed ships and Authorities concerned, that the enemy force sighted at Narvik yesterday is not thought to include a BISMARCK class battleship, both of which are believed to be in the Baltic.

Northern
Patrol

ARETHUSA and GALATEA this evening resumed patrol in the Iceland Faeroes passage. C.S. 1. in NORFOLK is patrolling in the Denmark Straits.

British Air Operations.

22 aircraft attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night.

Blenheims operating off the Dutch coast today claim to have hit a coasting vessel and a flakship and to have caused the total loss of an 800 ton merchant ship in an escorted convoy.

Enemy Air Operations.Heavy attack
on Plymouth.

Plymouth was heavily attacked again by more than 150 aircraft between 2140/22 and 0326/23. The weight of the attack was upon Devonport. Practically the whole of the buildings in the South Yard were demolished by H.E. or fire, but damage in the North Yard is less serious. Considerable damage was caused to Naval establishments. LEWES has been damaged and will be out of action for several weeks.

Two convoys were attacked tonight off the east coast of Scotland, but no damage is reported except slight damage to two ships from machine gun bullets.

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperation
S.N. 71.

R.A. (M) left Port Z.A. today with 4 minelayers and 3 destroyers for a mine-laying operation in Denmark Strait. C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with KENYA is providing escort.

Aircraft laid mines off Brest last night.

Liverpool was opened at 1559 and Barking Creek (Thames) at 1104.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven and the port was closed from 0318 to 0933.

North Atlantic

The survivors of SS AURILLAC, which made a warship raider report on 15/4 in 37° 9' N 18° 43' W., state that the ship was sunk by a U-Boat.

It is reported from Washington that PRIMAUGUET has recaptured FORT DE FRANCE and sent her to Casablanca, and that the prize crew placed on board when BULOLO captured the ship on 8/4 is being sent to Gibraltar.

War Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean

URGE arrived at Gibraltar today. She is to sail for Malta on 28/4.

Operation by
14th D.F.

D. 14 (JERVIS) with JUNO, JAGUAR and JANUS who arrived at Malta at 1031 yesterday with UTMOST, left this evening, to intercept an enemy convoy of 5 merchant ships and 4 destroyers reported in 34° 50' N 12° 4' E., course 138° at 1736 B

Air and
Mining Attack
on Malta.

Malta was attacked last night with bombs and mines for the third successive night on this occasion very heavily. More damage has been caused to the dockyard, A/S trawlers and lighters. V.A. Malta reports that it will be difficult to keep the harbour open.

Western
Desert.

S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk reports that BANKURA (damaged 21/4) has received further damage from bombing.

Danger area -
Expansion.

Benghazi was bombed last night.

See Situation Report 25 April and signal today.
Greece.

Situation

It is reported that British and Imperial forces have taken up a defensive position extending from Thermopylae southwestward of the Gulf of Corinth. The Greek armies in Epirus and Macedonia are reported to have surrendered.

The Greek Govt. has withdrawn to Crete. The Greek Admiralty have offered Greek warships to act under the orders of C. in C., Meditn. It is believed that the Greek destroyers QUEEN OLGA, IERAX and PANTHER are at Suda Bay.

/Operation "Demon"

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean-Greece, Contd.Operation
"Demon"
(Evacuation of
Imperial troops
from Greece)

The evacuation of non-essential personnel of the Imperial forces and certain equipment from Greece has begun. Detailed plans are prepared for emergency or deliberate evacuation and a Combined H.Q. has been established.

Greek
Naval Forces.

The following Greek Naval units arrived at Alexandria today:- Cruiser GIOGIOS AVEROFF, repair ship HE~~LE~~STOS, destroyers PAUL COU~~ND~~OURIOTIS, AETOS, SPETSAI, submarine GLAU~~CO~~S and T.B.D's ASPIS and NIKI.

East Indies

The towing of CAPETOWN from Port Sudan to Suez, for repairs, has been cancelled for the present. The ship's bulkheads are being strengthened.

C. in C., E.I., left the Shatt-el-Arab in LEANDER early this morning.

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Clyde
Patrol
M/L's.

Request that a Flotilla of eight M/LS be allocated for Clyde patrols to replace patrol vessels temporarily detached from my command. These vessels should be of the 12 knot type. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/23.).

Anti E-Boat
Measures
in East Coast
Convoys.

Dispositions to be adopted. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 1059/23 to Rosyth Escort Force.). See Lion Copy.

6th M.L.
Flotilla.

Your 1626/6. Request I may be informed when sixth M.L. Flotilla will join my command. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/23.).

Clyde
Dry Docks
situation.

Western Approaches and merchant ship repairs docking requirements, it is envisaged, will keep dry docks on Clyde full until third week in May. RESTIGOUCHE and COLUMBIA require docking but not urgently. These two can be docked as convenient later. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1801/23.).

Four
Destroyers
for S.A.

Four destroyers from Western Approaches may be required for service in South Atlantic. Request you will make proposals. (A.C.N.S(H) 1903/23, to C. in C. W.A.).

Plymouth
Command.
Request for
additional
Destroyers.

My 1837/12. LEWES has been damaged in recent air raids and is likely to be out of action for several weeks. This leaves TYNEDALE only as A/A escort for convoys in Plymouth Command. Convoys between Falmouth and Milford Haven and Bristol Channel and vice versa now average about 25 ships and have to include ships with special cargoes such as tankers. This does not permit of adequate A/A escort and it is impossible to provide special escort for ships designated urgency one. Further convoys between Falmouth and Dartmouth have now to sail without any A/A escort. It is therefore requested that additional HUNTS may be allocated to the Command as soon as possible. (C. in C. Plymouth 1947/23.).

716(A) P

SECRET

MESSAGE

1059/23rd. April. IN

From C. in C. Rosyth.

Date 23.4.41.

Recd. 1302.

NAVAL CYPHER (A (1)) BY W/T.

Addressed Rosyth Escort Force.

IMPORTANT

COUNTER MEASURES TO E BOATS ON CONVOYS

Destroyer dispositions for East Coast Convoy protection when The NORE Destroyers are present, during dark hours, between Outer Dowsing and Aldeburgh light floats.

(i) 2 destroyers from 21 or 16 flotillas remain concentrated and carry out a wide zigzag at high speed from 2 to 5 miles ahead of convoy searching with A. S.V.

(ii) S.O. Rosyth Escort Force Destroyers take Station abreast of second or third ship from Van of Convoy

crossing over close a head of leading ships from seaward to landward bow and vice versa as may be most expedient.

(iii) Second Escort Ship of Rosyth Escort Force zigzag 2 miles astern of convoy. This vessel to be fitted with a S.V. if possible.

(iv) Corvette and /or A/S Trawler stationed on seaward or landward flank of convoy by S.O. of Escort according to condition of weather and moon. The primary duty of these vessels is to deal with casualties and pick up survivors.

(v) M.L.S. if in company with Convoy stationed at easy visibility distance astern of rear ships of Convoy their duty being to deal with casualties and survivors.

(vi) This applies to all East Coast Convoys except those escorted by H.M.S. LEEDS or H.M.S. LUDLOW. When either of these two destroyers are present both destroyers Rosyth Escort force remain close to Van as in paragraph 2, the Corvettes or if no Corvettes is present, one K/S Trawler being stationed in rear astern of M.L.S. if these are present.

1059/23.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N. S. (H)
- A.C.N. S.(T) (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
- Ops (4)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.S.D. 9
- D.A/S.W.
- D.T.S.D.

- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Basement
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. of P. (3)
- M (2)
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)

D.H.

War Diary.23.4.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.Iceland
Fixed A/S.
Defences.

Your 1707/19. It has been decided that strengthening of Iceland Fixed A/S Defences must take precedence over those of Orkneys. Arrangements. (D.A.S.W. 1313/23 to A.C.O.S.).

Movements.RODNEY.

Scapa arrival; RODNEY, PIORUN, GARLAND, and SALADIN. (A.C.O.S. 0115/23.).

FURIOUS.

Your 0037/23. Date of completion remains P.M. /6/5. Date cannot be advanced owing to effect of air raid on 15/4. Ship will be ready to leave Belfast on 7/5. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1137/23.).

Your 1842/22. Complete p.m./6/5. Leave Belfast a.m. /7/5. Arrive Clyde p.m. 7/5. On arrival oil 2800 tons embarking 10,000 gallons D.T.D. 230 and also Squadron personnel and stores continuing later work until completed. Fly on aircraft in Clyde Approaches first daylight opportunity afterwards. (FURIOUS 1546/23.).

A.F.D.7.

Estimated A.F.D. VII will be in $050^{\circ} 45'$ N., $004^{\circ} 50'$ W., 1200 today, speed $5\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Suggest dock continue direct to Clyde, ATHERSTONE and BLENCATHRA being relieved near Smalls, ATHERSTONE reporting intended R/N. (C. in C. Plymouth 1157/23.). Reference 1107/23 from C. in C. Plymouth. Request instructions. Position 1800/23 $051^{\circ} 23'$ N., $004^{\circ} 56'$ W. (ATHERSTONE 1748/23.).

/Request.....

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

A.F.D.7.
Contd.

Request you will detail VIVIEN and CHEVREUIL to escort A.F.D. V.11. from vicinity of Smalls to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1413/23, to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.).

CACHALOT.

My 1117/21. Departure postponed 24 hours to complete defect. (S.3. 1648/23.).

AGAMEMNON.

R.A.(M)'s 1656/22. AGAMEMNON will be ready to sail from Rosyth for Port Z.A.p.m./29. (subject to satisfactory equipment trials). Request two Destroyers with good H.A. Armament may be provided as escort from Rosyth. No escort available from Rosyth command and consider it undesirable to include AGAMEMNON in an E.C. Convoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 1843/23 to R.A.D. H.F.).

Operations.

Notice
for
Steam.

Notice for steam for ships at Hvalfjord is to be at your discretion. (C. in C. H.F. 0932/23 to F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S.).
Keep steam at 4 hours notice. (C. in C. H.F. 0933/23 to BIRMINGHAM, BEDOUIN, SUFFOLK, ARROW, TARTAR, ESKIMO, EXETER, RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.).
My 1225/29/3 notice for steam. For 2030 read 2100. (C. in C. Nore 0943/23.).

Operations
N.C. and
N.H.

Operations NC and NH will be carried out weather permitting. (V.A. Dover 1235/23.).

/Denmark.....

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

My 1446/21. Movement of patrol to eastward was only intended for operation S.N.9. (C. in C. H.F. 1514/23 to F.O.C. 1st.B.C.S.).

East
Coast
Patrols.

My 1105/23. Drifter patrols in alternative positions for shelter. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1552/23.)
My 0925/23. Patrol H.Q. covered by KINGS GREY only. Patrol H.S. covered LIDDOCK. WARSTAR deleted. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2045/23.)
My 2045/23. Patrol H.Q. now covered by KINGS GREY and WARSTAR. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2315/23.).

TRIDENT.

On completion of defects and working up about 28/4 TRIDENT is to be sailed for a patrol in Bay of Biscay on the line joining positions 83 and 84. (F.O.S. 1611/23.).

SEALION.

SEALION is to be sailed on 28/4 for two days A/S exercises at Dartmouth and thence to patrol in Bay of Biscay on the line joining positions 77 and 72. (F.O.S. 1612/23.).

Intended
Patrol
movements.

Intend following movements to take place shortly. (A) SUFFOLK is to relieve F.O. C.S.1 in NORFOLK on Denmark Straits Patrol, ships meeting at Hval Fiord if circumstances permit. (B) F.O. C.S.10 in NIGERIA, with EXETER, to replace GALATEA and ARETHUSA on Patrol in Iceland-Faroes passage. (C) F.O.C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with KENYA to return to Scapa on completion of operation S.N.71. (C. in C. H.F. 1852/23.).

Iceland-
Faroes
Patrol.

ARETHUSA and GALATEA resume patrol as ordered in my 1959 20 (569 H D). (B.C.S.1. 1857/23.).

War Diary.23.4.41.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Norwegian
Coast
M/V's
attacked.

Night 21/22 April. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. Day 22/4. One aircraft attacked a heavily laden cargo vessel of approx., 2000 tons flying Norwegian flag, heading North off Egereen Island. One bomb struck aft of the funnel. Vessel is claimed as a total loss although not actually seen to settle. ~~attacked.~~

A third aircraft bombed a minesweeper of approximately 500 tons 3 miles west of Egereen Island. One bomb entered the water under the stern of the vessel which is claimed damaged. (H.Q.B.C. 0105/23.).

Escorts.

R.A.M's 1647/22. Air escort by 18 group arranged as follows:-

1. A/S Escort by Anson or Albacore A/C from 0930/23 till 1300/23 then by Hudson A/C until 2100/23 then by Whitley A/C until 0700/24.
2. Close protection by Blenheim A/C from 0930/23 till dusk/23.
3. A/S escort by Sunderland A/C from 0700/24 till 1200/24 when 15 group will take over escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 0538/23 to R.A.M.).

C. in C. Rosyth's 1538/23.

Owing to shortage of long range aircraft and heavy commitments of convoys near Iceland regret that no A/S aircraft is available after 1600/24. Aircraft have been ordered not to use R/T.

(C. in C. W.A. 1916/23 to R.A.M.).

Height of
Balloons
and Kites.

Amendment Signal No. 25 to S.D. 158 (2) Amend para. 12 (ii) (a) as follows. Delete sub. para (a) and substitute new sub. para. (a) as follows. "Balloons and kites may only be flown during the hours of darkness up to a height of 300 ft. and cables will be rendered non lethal. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 0928/23.).

Patrols.

3 Whitley A/C will take off about 1600 today and patrol between following positions. (C. in C. Rosyth 1530/23. Correction Recd. 1923/23.).

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday. 721

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Patrols.
Contd.

My 1145/10. When patrol "A" cannot be flown, patrol "X" and/or "Y" will be instituted. These are designed to locate a 25 knot enemy leaving Brest between dusk - 30 minutes and dusk plus 4 hours.

2. Mean line of patrol is from 44° 24' N., 08° 21' W. to 48° 36' N., 11° 22' W., patrol "X" covering the northern half.

3. If sufficient aircraft are available one or both patrols will be extended to cover enemy's departure throughout the night. You will be informed when either of these patrols is instituted.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1909/23.).

Own A/C.
flying through
Balloon
Barrages.

S.7231. Losses arising from our aircraft impacting our Balloon cables is very much higher than appears possible if the regulations are being adhered to and your assistance is requested in investigating the instances where aircraft under your control have flown through Balloon Barrages.

The following incident occurred on 13/4, Would be appreciated if you could state the reasons for the pilot taking the course he did.

"At 1330/13, an Albacore aircraft from Worthy Down flew through barrage at Eastleigh at approximately 1000 feet and landed on Eastleigh aerodrome. Balloons were flying at 4,500 feet but a lane was open for aircraft leaving and entering aerodrome. At 1235 hours R.N.A.S., requested all balloons close hauled or failing this lane "B". The lane "B" was close hauled at 1303 hours, it not being considered advisable to have all balloons down owing to 10/10th cloud cover." (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1721/23.).

Brest.

Night 22/23. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest. Seventeen Wellingtons and two Stirlings attacked these ships and dropped twenty-five tons of bombs in the target area. The ships were not seen owing to intense flak and searchlight glare. No direct hits are claimed. (H.Q.B.C. 1913/23.).

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

722

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth
bombed.

Plymouth heavily attacked by more than 150 aircraft between 2140/22 and 0326/23. Weight of attack on Devonport. Serious fires in S. Dockyard, where Ropery, Terrace residences, and other buildings have been burnt out. Fires in R.N.B., N., Dockyard, Royal Marine Barracks, and R.N.H. Very extensive fires in civil area of Devonport, Stonehouse, and Millbay Docks. Many H.E.'s were dropped and it is feared casualties and damage will be heavy. Big fires are still burning. (C. in C. Plymouth 0449/23.). Reports of Damage. (Passive Air Defence Officer, Plymouth. Received 1100/23, S.C.E. Devonport 1800/23.).

Convoy
W.N. Odd.

Fighters have been despatched to ^{"Material"} ~~MATERIAL~~. (Lyness 0834/23.).
Convoy ~~MATERIAL~~ is being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C. My position 58° 28' N., 2° 44' W. (ALYNBANK 1001/23.).
Fighters are being sent to the assistance of ~~MATERIAL~~. (Lyness W/T 1011/23.).
Enemy aircraft attacking convoy, ~~MATERIAL~~. My position 57° 6' N., 1° 54' W. (HASTINGS 2145/22.).
M. 2145 - Enemy aircraft still in vicinity. (HASTINGS 2150/23.).
My 2150. 2 aircraft no hits. (HASTINGS 2154/23.).
Fighter A/C despatched to assist Convoy ~~MATERIAL~~. (Rosyth W/T 2155/23.).
Enemy A/c bombing convoy ~~MATERIAL~~. My position 57° 3' N., 1° 56' W. (HASTINGS 2207/23.).
M 2207 - 1 - AP 1 - No hits. (HASTINGS 2214/23.).

Peterhead
bombed.

Two bombs dropped Peterhead 2130/22. One near Admiralty store slight damage. Stores intact. One damaged quay at North wall. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0959/23.).

Thames
Estuary.

Enemy air activity over the Estuary for the night 22/23rd April was very slight. At 2225 plot gave an aircraft over Barrow Deep and five surface explosions were seen in area near B.6 buoy. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1308/23).

Convoy E.N. Odd.

Aircraft shadowing Convoy ~~USAGE~~ ^{"Usage"}. My position 57° 47' N., 1° 40' W. (GLEANER 1620/23.).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

723

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

Convoy
E.N. Odd Contd.

Convoy being attacked by enemy Aircraft in 58° 12' N., 2° 16' W. (GLEANER 2200/23.). (ALYNBANK 2208/23.). Convoy being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 120° from Noss Head distance 20 miles. (CAPE ARGONA 2230/23. Enemy aircraft attacking convoy bearing 120° from Noss Head distance 20 miles. Course 325°. (Odd No. Convoy 2255/23, to Scapa W/T.)).

NORTHERN REWARD.
(Armed Boarding
Vessel.)
damaged.
LORD ASHFIELD
attacked.

NORTHERN REWARD returned Aberdeen was attacked by one A/C believed Heinkel position 57.08 N. 01.58 W., at 2128/22. Three bombs dropped from astern, one near miss and M.G. Rudder both dynamos damaged. LORD ASHFIELD now at Peterhead attacked by one unidentified A/C position 57.45 N., 01.55 W., at 1449/22/4. No damage. No casualties in either ship. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1717/23.).

GLENFINLAS.
(Bombed
6/4.)

My 2104/21 and F.O.i/c Harwich 2230/22. Tow postponed 24 hours owing to unsuitable weather. (C. in C. Nore 2112/23.).

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

724

Mining.

Liverpool.

Cancel my 1007/21. Port of Liverpool is closed. Subject to confirmation port will be opened at 1000. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0200/23.).

My 0200/23 Port of Liverpool open. Until further notice port will be closed half an hour after sunset and opened at 0800. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1558/23.).

Milford Haven.

Port is closed owing to suspected mine-laying. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0318/23.). My 0318/23. Port is now open subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0933/23.).

S.N.71.

Departure Port Z A. R A (M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, ST. MARYS, ACHATES, ANTHONY. (TRELAWNEY 0935/23.).

River Thames.

Cancel my 1635/21. Barking Creek is now open to traffic. There is a mine in the Saltings in River Roding 50 feet south of Sheriffs timber wharf but it is not anticipated it will do any harm if it explodes. (F.O.I.C. London 1104/23.).

At 1142/23 two Mines detonated as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1629/23.).

Operation B.S.55.

By TEVIOT BANK. Particulars. (A.C.N.S.H. 1731/23.).

Bristol Channel.

At 1503/23 one Mine detonated 326⁰ 2.9 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S. Bristol Channel 1735/23.).

Ramsgate.

Following received from Kingsgate Bay 1625/23. Coast watching post an explosion has just occurred 200 yards N.E. of this post believed to be a mine. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1745/23, and 1800/23.).

Blyth Seaham Sunderland.

Ships for Blyth, Seaham, Sunderland, should be diverted to Tyne. Minelaying suspected. (C. in C. Rosyth 2350/23 to VERSATILE, VALOROUS.).

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

725

Enemy Intelligence.

Narvik.

C. in C., Rosyth's 0846/22.
After investigation composition of enemy force reported at Narvik on 22/4 is not certain but it is not thought to include battleship of the BISMARCK Class both of which are believed to be in the Baltic. (D.D.I.C. 0110/23.).

Enemy Convoy.

A/C reports Convoy of 12 merchant ships and 2 destroyers bearing 090° distance 10 miles course 000°. My position 52° 30' N., 4° E. (Nore 0750/23.).

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest 0830/23. Both battlecruisers still present. (D.D.I.C. 1040/23.).
At 1330 hours. Both battle cruisers still present in same positions. Details of other ships in port. (St. Eval 1615/23.).

German Main Units.

Positions. (D.D.I.C. 1326/23.).

German Recognition Signals.

Admiralty 2018/29th January. German pyrotechnic recognition signals continue as follows during April.
3. These signals should not be simulated unless essential to secure safety. (D.S.D. 1755/23.).

E-Boat Call Signs.

Your 2209/22. These call signs belong to German craft operating off Brittany Coast. The traffic is taken elsewhere and read daily. (D.N.I., 1822/23, to F.O.I.C. Humber.).

Lorient.

Lorient. Four probably five submarines present in following positions. (P.I.S.St.Eval 2020/23.).

2 Fishing Vessels of Ijmuiden.

At 1912. 2 Dutch Fishing vessels in 52° 40' N., 4° 10' E., 22 N W Ijmuiden. These vessels were at northern turning point and it is interesting to note that yesterdays patrol reported fishing boat at southern turning point. A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2135/23.).

War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

T10

Shipping.

W.S. Convoy
Messages.

H.G.58.

In future all messages referring to W.S. Convoys are to be in Cypher even if sent by T/P. (D.N.I., 1056/23, to C. in C.'setc.). Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K., all the ships of H.G.58.(C. in C. W.A., 1059/23, to Capt., Baxter R.N.R.). H.G.58 had 24 ships; of which 4 were Allied and 4 neutral. 13 cargoes of iron ore and pyrites, 6 general, 3 fruit, 1 mineral ore, and 1 steel plates and scrap. (D.S. 597.).

W.S.8A.

Admty., 1150/22. Amend my 1240/21, (N.T. in W.D.) as follows (1) (a) A/S Escort. HAVLOCK from Liverpool. OTTAWA, SAGUENAY, RESTIGOUCHE, PIORUN, BEAGLE, LEGION, HESPERUS, HURRICANE, HARVESTER, from Clyde (b) Ocean Escort, REPULSE from Clyde (c) for 0600/25 read 0600/27. (C. in C. W.A., 1457/23 to N.O.I.C.'s Liverpool, etc.). Amended 1856/25.)

W.S.8B.

Your 1817/10, and 1807/22. Anticipate ten destroyers available W S Eight B. (C. in C. W.A., 1508/23, to Admty.).

Shipping and Convoys.

→ W.S.8.A.
Route.
REPULSE to
escort.

Cancel A.M. 1922/17 and substitute. Route for W.S.8.D. (D.O.D.(H) 1620/23, to C. in C. W.A., etc., - see Lion Copy - and 1640/23 to H.Q., F.C., and H.Q.C.C.).

Cancel My 1159/15, and My 1085/16 to RODNEY only. Ocean escort for W.S.8 A on leaving U.K. is to be provided by REPULSE. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1630/23 to C. in C. W.A., H.F., etc.).

Leave O B 314 in time to R.V. with W.S.8A at outer end of Liverpool swept channel and act as A/A escort to Clyde. Return to Belfast on completion of escort duties. (C. in C. W.A., 1807/23, to AVON VALE.).

/Atlantic.....

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1620/23rd April. OUT.

To:- C. in C. Western Approaches 658, Date 23.4.41.
 F.O.i/c Liverpool,
 F.O.i/c Greenock,
 Reptd. F.O.C. North Atlantic 927,
 F.O.C. Northern Patrol 718,
 C. in C. South Atlantic 689,
 C. in C. Home Fleet 190,
 B.C.1 639,
 MAURITIUS,
 F.O. Force H 730,
 REPULSE (Basegram)
 C.S.15.

Naval Cypher (A.1)

From Admiralty,

Cancel A.M. 1922/17 not to all addressees and substitute Route for W.S. 6A.

Position A.	225 degs	6 miles from Oversay.
B.	56 degs. 45' N.	13 degs. 00' W.
C.	55 degs. 00' N.	20 degs. 00' W.
D.	47 degs. 30' N.	27 degs. 30' W.
E.	37 degs. 20' N.	22 degs. 45' W.
F.	28 degs. 00' N.	25 degs. 00' W.
G.	09 degs. 30' N.	17 degs. 20' W.

thence to Freetown.

H.Q.F.C. and H.Q.C.C. have been informed so far as route concerns them.

1620/23.

D.O.D. (H)

Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st Lord. | |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D. (H) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.N.I. (4) |
| 3rd S.L. | D.S.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D.N.A.D. |
| 5th S.L. | D. of L.D. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.A/S.W. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.M.S. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | I.P. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | W.D. |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | Duty Captain. |
| D. of P. (2) | Head of M. |
| D.O.D. (F) | D.T.S.D. |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | D.D.I.C. |
| D.O.D. (H) | E.P.S. |
| N.I.D.10 (Pay Comdr. Wilson) | D.T.D. (2) |
| | D.T.D. (M) |

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War Diary.

23.4.41.
Wednesday.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

Atlantic
Shipping
Advices to
Canada.

Your 1038/22/3. Arrangements made for Admiralty to advise you daily of all sailings both independently and in convoy for Atlantic Seaboard of Canada and U.S.A. including Gulf of Mexico and Bermuda. (D.T.D. 1751/23, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa.).

War Diary.

23. 4. 41.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

FURIOUS.

A.M. 1914/22. FURIOUS is to complete her refit as soon as possible but all boilers are to be taken in hand and rendered effective. Report date of completion. (1st. S.L. 0037/23.).

BOUVET IV.

Arrival BOUVET IV with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1034/23.).

DAHLIA.

Your 2046/14. DAHLIA can only make 5 knots and is unreliable. Consider it is undesirable to sail her to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1452/23.).

MOST SECRET

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

729

General.

Raiders.

Intelligence since 16/4. (D.D.I.C., 1405/23)
See Lion Copy. My 1405/23. AURILLAC
survivors state ship was sunk by U/B.
(D.D.I.C., 2223/23)

SECRET.

MESSAGE

1405/23rd Apr. OUT

Date 23.4.41

To C. in C. Home Fleet, 187
 N.A. Washington.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 924.
 C. in C. South Atlantic, 684.
 N.C.I.C. Simonstown, 699
 R.A. South America Division, 15
 C. in C. America & West Indies, 285.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, 77
 C. in C. China, 789
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 799
 C. in C. East Indies, 889
 New Zealand Naval Board, 120

729(A)

Naval Cypher (C)

From Admiralty.

NITE

My 1715/16, AURILLAC sunk by raider 2143/15/4 in vicinity 37° 09' N. 18° 43' W. Survivors in boats believed near Madeira. Attacker probably armed merchant raider though RRRR made. May have been SANTA CRUZ but more probably another raider.

No incidents this week. Possible that raiders from Indian Ocean and South Atlantic, which have been out for about a year are returning and being replaced by fresh ships, but D/F has indicated units in both areas within last ten days.

TEMPLE MOAT sunk by U/B, but finding of MARATHON'S boat indicates latter ship was raider loss.

Oil and wreckage probably from VOLTAIRE found in 14° 31' N. 40° 32' W on 7/4

1405/23.

D.D.I.C.
 (Green Line 8)

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 Nav. Sec.
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 Ops (4)
 O.D. (5)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.T.D. (4)
 D.T.D. (M)
 Cdre. Holbrook.
 O.I.C. (3)
 D. of P. (3)
 D.S.D. 9
 D.A/SW.
 I.P. (3)
 W.D.
 D.P.D.
 D.S.D.
 M. (2)

War Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticOperation
"Dunlop"

Your 1957/22. Estimated time to complete erection of remainder of aircraft is 12 hours. ARGUS to confirm as soon as possible. (D.N.A.D. 0036/23 to S.O. Force H.)

AURILLAC
Survivors.

My 2340/22. 21 survivors from SS AURILLAC sunk by submarine 15/4 landed at Machico and brought to Funchal. Second Officer at Porto Santo with lifeboat. No casualties. Tug is being prepared to search area North of Madeira South of 35° N., and between 16° W and 18° W., for other boat but cannot leave before midday. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 0237/23 to Admty.)
N.C.S.O. Funchal 0237/23. If fuel permits investigate this area while on passage. (F.O.C.N.A., 2344/23 to MAURITIUS)

S. THOME
(Portuguese)
Contraband.

Intercepted letter dated 8/4 from Portuguese America Tin Co., Belmonte, Portugal, to their San Francisco Office state hastening shipment of Ilmenite to Coframet (Paris and Lyons) via Lisbon in order to take advantage of sailing of Portuguese S. THOME on 25/4. Further states that up to date 550 tons have been shipped from Belmonte Plant. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1059/23 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

Italian
Fleet.

Request early signal summarising probable disposition of effective Italian battleships and cruisers. (S.O. Force H., 1101/23 to Capt. O.S. Alexandria)
Your 1101/23 information is far from conclusive but estimated force available is as follows:- One battleship LITTORIO class, Taranto; Three Battleships CONTE DI CAVOUR Class, Upper Tyrrhenean Sea; 8" Cruisers, two Taranto, One Messina; 6" Cruisers, two Palermo, two Taranto, two Southern port. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 2332/23 to S.O. Force H.)

/Operation...

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Operation
"Dunlop"

My 1625/31. Request paras 2 and 7 inclusive be considered as applicable to operation "Dunlop" amended as follows. (S.O. Force H., 1137/23 to N.O.I.C., Malta)

FORESIGHT
FURY
REPULSE

E.T.A. Northern Entrance 1900/23 FURY in company. REPULSE request mail may be diverted to Clyde forthwith. My position 036° 10' N. 008° 00' W. (FORESIGHT 1234/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TORBAY

Departure 1300 in accordance with Capt. (S) 8 1905/22. (S.O.I. Gib., 1300/23)

French
Convoys.

2 passed Gibraltar eastbound p.m./23. Details in D.O.R. 25/4.

FORT DE FRANCE
reported retaken
by PRIMAUGUET

Following from Navy Dept. (1) from Dakar 22/4. Arrived CAP PADAREN from Indo-China with rice; FEZ, OUERGHA and DALNY from Morocco.

(2) from Casablanca 21/4. French FORT DE FRANCE retaken by PRIMAUGUET and escorted to Casablanca. British prize crew being sent to Gibraltar by French. (N.A. Washington 1552/23 to Admty.)

W.D. Note:- FORT DE FRANCE intercepted by BULOLO at 2015Z plus 1/8/4 and ordered to Gibraltar. See BIRMINGHAM 1445/22/4.

URGE

My 1256/20. URGE will be ready to sail 26/4 but in view of the length of her recent operation intend to sail her for Malta p.m./28. (F.O.C.N.A. 1602/23 to C. in C., Med.)

Yugoslav
Ships.

Your 2200/21/4. Yugo Slav Minister very weak. Request firm instructions be given him to order ships to Gibraltar unconditionally. (N.C.S.O., 1725/23 to Admty.)

/UNBEATEN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

732

North Atlantic-Contd.

UNBEATEN

Departure in accordance with Capt. S. (8)
1110/23. (S.O.I. Gib., 1800/23)

for info see pg 735 -

ANTONAE QUARTO

My 1101/18. Wood oil-fired Drifter
ANTONAE QUARTO returned to Oporto leaking
and almost without fuel after five days
at sea. Do not consider prudent to risk
passage to U.K. Can vessel be employed
in Gibraltar? (N.A. Lisbon 1811/23 to
D.S.V.P.)

TROVATORE
ERNANI
CHERCA

Italian Vessel TROVATORE moved to alongside
ERNANI and is passing over coal to ERNANI
CHERCA moved to quay discharging Palm
Kernals. Informed on reliable authority
in order to be able discharge manganese
ore of which 2000 tons on board. (Consul,
Las Palmas, T.H.I. 1930/23)

South Atlantic

STIRLING
CASTLE

My 0202/15. STIRLING CASTLE after
release at Durban is now to proceed to
Australia to load meat instead of to
Plate. She should proceed direct to
Melbourne with utmost despatch. Request
proposed date of sailing Durban and
arrival Melbourne.
(D.S.T., 0337/23 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown)

C.F. 1.
DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS

DORSETSHIRE escorting convoy C.F.1.
consisting of ILLUSTRIOUS, MONARCH OF
BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN sailed from
Capetown 0600/23 for St. Helena in
accordance with C. in C., S.A.'s 1857/20
and C. in C., A.W.I.'s 0952/19. S.O.A.
18 knots. E.T.A., 0800/27.
E.T.A. position (a) of C. in C., S.A.'s
1857/20 is 1100/29 and position (b) 1400/4/5
3. E.T.A. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS
OF JAPAN at Freetown 1800/15.
All times are G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C., Simonstown 0630Z/23 to Admty.
etc.)

/RANDFONTEIN...

War Diary

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

733

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

RANFONTEIN

Overdue shipping. My 1034/22. RANFONTEIN arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1015B/23)

Repairs to NELSON

Your 1844B/22. Approved. (1st S.L. 1025/23 to NELSON)

ALCANTARA Visit to Rio

Your 1225/21 and my 2055/22. Regret that now ALCANTARA must provision and aircraft is available I must send her to Cape for both. She should be near area K.33 about 8-9/5. If visit to Rio de Janeiro is desirable before end of April consider you should go there as proposed unless there is any further development to prevent. (C. in C., S.A., 1255N/23 to R.A.S.A.D.)

CATHAY

Departure 1700/23 on patrol near (could be 26° or 27°) 21' W. (S.O.I. Freetown 1807/23 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS Walrus

ILLUSTRIOUS 1003/20. As ILLUSTRIOUS can operate one Walrus the aircraft now on board is to be retained for passage. Intend that aircraft should be disembarked at Trinidad pilot and maintenance personnel returning to South African Station. (1st S.L. 1838/23 to C. in C., S.A.)

Shipping Routes

Cancel my 1905/6/1, further instructions for routing in south Atlantic will follow. (D.T.D. 2118/23 to A.I.G. 26)

PORTADOC 7/4
(Torpedoed 4/4)

See BR. 1334 Page 50

S.O.I. Freetown's 1246/9 and 1707/14. PORTADOC torpedoed on 4/4 at 1530 G.M.T. in approx. 08° N., 15° W., thought by submarine U.33 class bearing sunflower device on conning tower. Ship was shelled after abandonment and Master and crew were questioned and given course to Freetown by submarine commander. Whole crew landed French Guinea, 7 released and sent Freetown, remainder detained. (C. in C., S.A. 2131N/23 to Admty.)

/LECH.....

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

734

South Atlantic-Contd.

LECH
TEBRO

Rio de Janeiro reports German ship LECH now receiving oil in drums and sea stores preparatory to sailing. Italian ship TEBRO at Santos has taken 450 tons coal. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2148Z/23)

NORDERNEY
German

At Para, has drawn fires. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2216Z/23)

French
shipping

Reported movements at Dakar (B.2) (S.O.I. Freetown, 2229N/23 to Admty.)

Mediterranean

Corinth
Canal

Your 1822/11 and A.M. 1956/15. Confirm that Corinth Canal will be blocked. (1st. S.L. 0044/23 to N.A. Athens)

EXETER
6" Cruiser

Your 0009/18. I am quite sure that EXETER will be more use on trade route so will be content with a large 6" cruiser. Essential she should have R.D.F. and a good AA armament. (C. in C., Med. 0841/23 to Admty.)

Situation

Report No. 5. for period 18/4 to 22/4. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 1001/23) See Lion Copy.

Tripoli

My 1111/21. Following is amplified estimate of damage based on reports of observers. Weight of shells fired 530 tons. (C. in C., Med. 1003/23 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

German
Minister

Your 2345/22. Put him on board any of H.M. Ships. (C. in C., Med., 1021/23 to N.A. Athens)
No suitable method of getting German minister out of country so have agreed to his remaining here. (N.A. Athens, 1701/23 to C. in C., Med.)
Postpone action on my 1021/23 regarding German Minister. (C. in C., Med. 2017/23 to N.A Athens)

/Greek Navy....

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1001/23 April

IN

From N.O.I.C, Alexandria.

Date 23/4/41
Recd. 1313

734(A)

NAVAL CYPHER D BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, Repeated V.A.L.F., F.O. Force H., C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMMEDIATE

Situation report number 5 covering period 18 to 22 April inclusive.

(a) Western Desert. Frequent bombing and minelaying raids on Mersa Tobruk during which H.M.S. GREYHOUND slightly damaged, 2 merchant ships sunk by bombs. H.M.S. LADEBIRD and H.M.S. ATHIS supporting Army on coast. Seaborne raid on Bardia night 18/19 with 460 men from H.M.S. GLENGYLE. (No) enemy (?seen) in Bardia. Bridge and store dumps destroyed. 67 men lost way and believed to be captured. H.M.S. GLOUCESTER bombarded Menastir results not known.

(b) Aegean. North and South Convoys continue to run. 5 A Lighter arrived Suda Bay for Operation DEMON. BRITISH LORD near missed and abandoned. BRITISH SCIENCE torpedoed by aeroplane. Frequent air raids on Crete.

(c) Greece. Heavy air raids on Piraeus. Greek Destroyer PSARA damaged by bombs, Greek Destroyer HYDRA sunk by bomb. Greek Hospital Ship damaged by bombs. Necessary shipping being sent to Greece for Operation DEMON. H.M.S. GLENROY ran aground at Boghaz Pass when proceeding.

(d) Adriatic. H.M.S. REGENT sent to Kotor to evacuate British subjects found place in enemy hands. Awaiting further news.

1001/23.

Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

- 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) (2)
- 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.D.O.D. (H)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.../S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P.

- W.D.
- Duty Captain
- Head of M. (20)
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.F.S.
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.P.D.
- N.I.D.10 (Pay. Crd. Wilson)

* On 20th.
see p. 610.

22nd

Mediterranean

734(B)

SECRET

1003/23 April

IN

FROM: C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet. DATE: 23.4.41

RECD: 1725

NAVAL CYPHER (D) by W/T

ADDRESSED: Admiralty Repeated C. in C. Middle East,
S.O. Force H, N.O. i/c Malta, A.O.C. in C. Middle
East, 743 Squadron (F.A.A.), A.O.C. Mediterranean.

IMPORTANT

122. My 1111/21.

Following is amplified estimate of damage to Tripoli (Africa) based on reports of observers of 3 spotting and 6 flare dropping aircraft of H.M.S. FORMIDABLE. All items confirmed by at least 2 witnesses.

(A) Damage to shipping (i) 3 merchant ships in Naval basin on fire, one seen to sink. (ii) one merchant ship 300 yards off Spanish Quay hit by 15 inch and sank almost instantly. One 400 yards south east of naval basin hit by 15 inch exploded and burnt out (iii) one merchant ship outside harbour off Karamanti Mole hit and on fire (iv) one destroyer at Karamanti Mole hit. (v) smoke coming from at least three ships in southwest sector of harbour either from damage or smoke screen.

(B) Damage to harbour facilities. (1) Spanish Quay hit by two certain and two probable 15 inch salvos causing large columns of smoke from warehouses and offices. Quay hit continuously for ten minutes by smaller calibre probably six inch (ii) two 15 inch salvos on narrow neck west of Spanish Quay. Foreshore to and including Governor's Office repeatedly hit (iii) Karamanti Mole repeatedly hit.

(C) Damage to military objectives (i) large fire in fuel depot south of Karamanti Mole. Buildings smoking in the vicinity (ii) large building near base of Karamanti Mole demolished. Either part of government office or military headquarters (iii) three or four 15 inch salvos near or on railway station caused fires (iv) 15 inch salvos on or near power station vivid flashes (v) army stores hit. Small fires.

2. About (?50) % 15 inch salvos could not be observed due to large clouds of dust when salvos fell on shore. Fire from destroyers was directed on harbour and probably caused other damage to shipping.

3. Flares illuminated excellently but spotting difficulty owing to dust and smoke some of which may have been deliberately generated to provide cover from initial

air/

734 C

- 2 -

air attack.

4. Weight of shells fired 530 tons.

1003/23

(Advance copy sent 1st Lord, A.C.N.S.(F),
C.S.O. to 1st S.L., Ops., O.D., O.I.C., Press)

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) (2)
ParlSec,
Secretary
Nav. Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P. (3)
Ops. (4)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D. 9
D.N.A.D.
D A/S W
D.T.D. ████████
D.S.D. ████████
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.T.S.D.
E.P.S.
D.P.D.
M. (30)

JH

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.Greek Navy

Greek Admiralty offer all Greek men of war to operate as necessary under your orders. I believe Greek Destroyers QUEEN OLGA, IERAX, and PANTHER are at Suda Bay. (N.A. Athens, 1101/23 to C. in C., Med.) *Accepted. (C. in C., 2158/24)*

Benghazi Bombed.

Operational Summary No 317 up to 1200/23. Day 22/4. 8 Blenheims bombed Benghazi harbour bombs bursting on 2 ? Moles with 1 hit on ship and further bomb very near another ship. 1 ship 10,000 tons, 1 ship 3,000 tons, 2 ships 200 feet believed torpedo boats approaching Benghazi harbour from south west.

Suda Bay Bombed

Crete. 21/4. 10 Cant 1007's and 4 J.U. 88's bombed Suda Bay damaging road. 22/4. 10 JU. 88's bombed Suda Bay. No damage reported.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1101/23)

Return from Tripoli Bombardment.

My 1111/21. Fleet has returned to Alexandria. No casualties. No air retaliation on 21st, another Cant 1007 shot down and one Dornier 24 forced to land on the water badly damaged. Intended "Cucumber" raid on Benghazi night of 21/22 cancelled as R.A.F. decided to attack with Wellingtons. On 22nd ship was sighted by air R/C and three JU 88 threatened attack, Fulmars intercepted. One JU 88 shot down, one set on fire and probably down, and 3rd got away damaged. TRUANT did excellent work as a navigation beacon off Tripoli Harbour.
(C. in C., Med., 1103/23 to Admty.)

UNBEATEN

Your 1603/21 and Capt. (S) 1. 0203/22 UNBEATEN sails for Malta 1800/23 routed North of Ibiza, thence South of Majorca to position (Q) 038° 03' 007° 00' and route as in V.A. Malta's 1445/14. UNBEATEN proceeds on the surface at C.O's discretion as far as 007° E. (Capt. S. 8 1110/23 to C. in C., Med.)

Sailed - Serp 732

/Malta.....

War Diary

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta
Air Raid
Damage.

Air report 19 to 22/4. Enemy has attacked the harbours with bombs and mines in 3 successive nights, last night very heavily. BRECONSHIRE Destroyers and submarines have been extremely lucky so far to escape damage. More damage to Dockyard, A/S trawlers and lighters. I may be able to keep harbour open but it is going to be difficult as scale of attack seems likely to be increased. Day raids have been mostly R/C and fighter in course of which 3 CR 42, one ME 109 destroyed confirmed, and one C 800, 42 one ME 109 probables. (V.A. Malta 1120/23 to C. in C., Med.)

Cyprus

Following from Chiefs of Staff No 81 to C. in C., Med. and C. in C., M.E. We assume that amidst your many cares you are keeping your eye on Cyprus. Reports of preparations for attack on Crete may be cover for a descent on Cyprus. (1st S.L. 1238/23 to C. in C., Med.)

LISBOA
LIVORNO
SULLBERG

April 22. Arrival German LISBOA, departures German LIVORNO, SULLBERG, for Marseilles. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1445/23)

M.V. Sunk
by URGE

(18/4, sup. 7/4.)
+ 636.

Further details of attack by URGE. First torpedo missed ahead, second hit and target's engines stopped. URGE turned circle and fired third torpedo at range of 900 yards hitting under bridge. Ship sank at 1212. Ship was unescorted and no air activity resulted from attack. (Capt. S. 8. 1508/23 to F.O.S.)

German
LARISSA

Passed Chanak 0700/22 for Mediterranean local Authorities informed. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1530/23 to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE
(Torpedoed 31/3
off Crete)

Your 1322/4 para.2. On 20/4 Germans claimed U-Boat sank BONAVENTURE in Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 1619/23 to C. in C., Med.)

/KIRRIEMOOR....

MOST SECRETWar Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.KIRRIEMOOR
ASCANIUS
Collision.

KIRRIEMOOR touched SS ASCANIUS when berthing Port Said 22/4. Only damage to KIRRIEMOOR bent guard rail. ASCANIUS not at fault. Slight possibility of damage to starboard propeller ASCANIUS (KIRRIEMOOR, 1647/23 to Admty.)

Malta
Air Raid

Report Malta up to 1600/23/4. All times G.M.T. Evening 22/4. 1840 to 2005 hours large scale raid on dockyard by about 40 ME. 110's and JU.88's many flares dropped followed by large number of bombs and mines. Navy A.S. trawler damaged, drawing office direct hit where fire started but soon under control. Many communications affected. Army. Garrison Sergeants Mess destroyed by direct hit. No R.A.F. damage. Considerable civilian damage Vallette. Raid now in progress by enemy fighters protecting 1 aircraft on recco. (H.Q., R.A.F, Malta 1700/23)

German
Signals.

Admty. 1703/11/3. Reliable information indicates that German pyrotechnic recognition signals used in your area during April are as follows:-
These signals should not be simulated unless essential to secure safety.
(D.S.D. 1732/23 to C. in C., Med. etc.)

UPHOLDER
TRUANT

My 1323/22. Reconnaissance shows cruiser movements delayed 24 hours. UPHOLDER remain in vicinity of 035° 26'N. 012° 28'E until 1200B/24 then proceed to operate off Kerkenah. Four merchant ships 3 torpedo boats left Marettimo 1200B/23 speed ten knots for Kerkenah and Tripoli. TRUANT proceed to intercept convoy in vicinity of 033° (?33) 012° (?48')
(S.O. (S) Malta, 1820/23 to UPHOLDER, TRUANT.)

/Arrival.....

War Diary

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Arrival of
Greek Units etc.
at Alexandria.

Arr. 23/4. Cruiser GIORGIOS AVEROFF
repair ship HEDHESTOS. Destroyers PAUL
COUNDOURIOTIS, ASPIS, NIKI, AETOS, SPETSAL,
Submarine GLAUCOS. C. in C., Med. in
WARSPITE, VALIANT, FORMIDABLE, ORION, AJAX,
BARHAM, KANDAHAR, GREYHOUND, ABERDARE,
WIDNES, HARROW, CARLISLE, HERO, HAVOCK,
KIMBERLEY, KINGSTON, HASTY, DEFENDER,
HOTSPUR, ISIS, VAMPIRE. HEReward.
(S.O.I) Alexandria 1850/23)

"J" Class
Operation.

Four J Class Destroyers leave Malta at
1945B to pass through approx. 034° 00'
013° 00' to intercept enemy convoy five
merchant ships and four destroyers
reported in position 034° 50' 012° 04'
course 138° speed. 10 knots at 1736B. Enemy report after
any attack is scanty.
(S.O. (S) Malta 1945/23 to UPHOLDER, TRUANT)

URANIA
BANKURA
(Bombed at
Tobruk 21/4)

25th. URANIA discharged 15 tons, now a
total loss. BANKURA discharged 2 tons,
badly damaged.
(ST.D., Mersa Tobruk, 2134/23 to D. of
S.T.)

BANKURA
DRACO
URANIA
Damage.

My 2038/22. BANKURA further damage by
enemy aircraft engine room and stokehold
now filling also after hold from tunnel.
DRACO mainly upright. My opinion only
method of salving is out ship in half fore
part of stokehold. URANIA diver reports
shell plating badly damaged from engine
room bulkhead for full length aft.
Consider this ship total loss.
S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk, 2159/23 to D. of S.T.)
(W.D. Note. BANKURA and URANIA damaged at
Mersa Tobruk, 21/4. DRACO (Bombed and
damaged 11/4) now further damaged.)

Danger
Area.

My 1332/19. Navigational warning is being
broadcast at 1200/25 G.M.T. (re danger areas
in Eastern Mediterranean). (Text, see
Lion Copy) (Head of M. 2204/23 to C. in C.,
Med.)

/High speed....

Mediterranean

2204/23 April
OUT

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

To C. in C. Mediterranean 268,
Repeated V.A. Malta 735.
F.O.C. North Atlantic 936.
S.O. Force H. 733.
Air Ministry,
H.M. Ambassador, Angora.

Date 23.4.41.

738(A)

593

NAVAL CYPHER and INTERDEPARTMENTAL CYPHER V. II

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

My 1332/19. Navigational warning is being broadcast at 12 noon 25th April G.M.T. in following terms:-

The German and Italian Governments having recently announced that the Eastern Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea and the greater part of the Adriatic are dangerous to shipping, His Majesty's Government give notice that the limits of the area in the Mediterranean which they declared dangerous to shipping in February 1941 are extended to the eastward along the coasts of Libya and Egypt from Benghazi to Ras-el-Kanais, thence in a 024° direction to a point three miles 180° from Cape Khelidonia in Turkey, thence along the limits of Turkish territorial waters to Greek territory, thence along the coasts of Greece, Albania Yugoslavia and Italy to Cape Sta Maria di Leuca in Italy. Lat. 39° 48' N Long. 18° 22' E (approximately) All waters within this area are dangerous to shipping and any vessels disregarding the terms of this notice will do so at their risk and peril.

2. Request you will arrange for similar broadcast to be made not before 12 noon 25th April G.M.T.

3. Within this area aircraft, surface ships and submarines may attack at sight any vessel navigating without our permission, Turkish territorial waters are to be respected and care is to be taken to avoid interfering with Turkish coastal shipping which, on account of navigational difficulties in some areas navigates outside territorial waters.

4. H.M. Representatives at Angora and Beirut are being instructed to inform you and Headquarters, R.A.F. Middle East 24 hours in advance of the time of sailing, route, speed tonnage and chief distinguishing features of any neutral ship which is permitted to navigate in this area.

5. One neutral ship has been chartered by United Kingdom Commercial Corporation to carry chrome ore from Fethiye in Turkey to Port Said and proposal has been made that Turkish ships should engage in this traffic. As there is no British consul at Fethiye, advance notification of each ship's sailing would be difficult. Request therefore that you will make any arrangements you consider necessary with H.M. Ambassador, Angora, for routing these ships.

20/23
for Seal of M. (86)
Approved by War Cabinet

1st Lord
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
G.S.O. to 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)

D.T.D. (2)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C.
D.C.O.
Head of M. (12) and for F.O. and M.E.W.
D.A./S.W.
D.N.A.D.
Hydrog.
D.E.W.D.
D. of L.D.

D.D.T.S.D. (C.O.)
I.P.
W.D.
E.P.S.
N.I.D. 10 (Paymaster Gen. Wilson)

War Diary

23.4.1941.
Wednesday 739

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

High Speed
Oilers.

Your 1827/11. Negotiations are now in progress for NECSHO type tankers. Should these be successful it is intended to allocate one to the Mediterranean. (D.O.D. (F) 2321/23 to C. in C., Med.)

Situation

Appreciation, Greece, Libya, Egypt, etc. (C. in C., Middle East, 2344/23 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

East Indies

RAMB IV

Your 2240/2. Inspection of hospital ship RAMB IV shows: (a) Ship marked as Hospital ship (b) carrying sick wounded and ship-wrecked only. (c) No circumstance to disentitle her. to protection of Hague Convention. (2) Request disposal instructions. (3) Mideast have asked if she is available for use in Middle East where she is urgently required. (C. in C., E.I., 0430Z/23 to Admty.)

CAPE SABLE
CITY OF DURBAN

Admty. 2325/19. CAPE SABLE and CITY OF DURBAN are to be sailed for U.K. as early as practicable. Request intended date of sailings. (C. in C., E.I., 0806Z/23 to S.N.O. Red Sea, N.O.I.C., Simonstown)

Basra
Base.

Now that Basra has become an important army supply base I consider a sea (transport) organisation is necessary there and should be established before next (large?) convoy arrives. Request action accordingly. (C. in C., E.I. 0932Z/23 to D. of S.T.)

INDRAPOERA
WARWICK CASTLE

My 1000/18 INDRAPOERA completes repairs 27/4. Is ship to proceed U.K. My 1201/21. If WARWICK CASTLE cannot be spared to proceed M.E. can INDRPOERA be used to embark these troops to M.E. first and then proceed U.K. afterwards? (S.S.T.O. India 1025Z/23 to D of S.T.)

/CAPETOWN....

Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2344/25 April.

From C. in C. Middle East.

IN.
Date 24.4.41.

Recd. 0630.

73 (A)

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office.

IMPORTANT.
38555.

Unnumbered cipher 23/4.

Following from Commanders in Chief in reply to Chiefs of Staff No. 78 of 16th April.

Part 1. Any firm appreciation most difficult present juncture owing rapidly changing and uncertain situation instructions contained Chiefs of Staff No. 77 and 80 agreed with our views regarding future policy holding of Crete and use of Suda Bay of greatest importance from Naval point of view and its denial to enemy is essential both from naval and air aspect but resources do not permit immediate and adequate reinforcement. Land operations in Western Desert are conditioned by lack of armoured troops, general plan is therefore to check enemy by holding defensive areas denying water supply at Tobruk Mersa Matruh Maten Bagush, meanwhile organising light forces to observe and delay enemy advance across desert area from Sollum eastwards. Next to shortage of A.F.Vs. most pressing need is anti tank and anti aircraft weapons. Must be prepared for internal security problem Egypt and also Palestine from threat of land attack and as result of bombing our ability deal with these effectively depends on whether reinforcements available by time situation develops.

Part 2. Ref. your question one. Land threat enemy forces operating forward area appear temporarily to have outrun their communications and unlikely able operate other than defensively pending reinforcement by 15 Armd. Div. now moving forward from Tripoli which in worst case might arrive Tobruk early May. Until enemy can make use of port in Cyrenaica consider can only employ his forces including 15 Armd. Div. against Tobruk for limited period. Alternatively Armd. Div. with maintenance by air might raid up to Matruh but sustained operations this area depend use of Cyrenaican ports. These estimates take into account M.T. captured from us by enemy during recent advance. If enemy could continue to use Tripoli as freely as in past together with ports in Cyrenaica, should be able build up large force of German one Armd. Div. and one Colonial Armd. Div. Italian one Armd. Div. and one motorised division for offensive action from July onwards.

Part 3. Air threat. Main threat to Egypt primarily from German air force. At present difficult correctly estimate force which will be allotted. Even after liquidation Greece Germans likely retain proportion Air Forces now in Balkans to influence Turkey and Russia. They can also operate from Greece against Crete and by using Rhodes against Egypt and Palestine. With connivance Vichy just possible enemy might use aerodrome Syria to influence Iraq and Iran and threaten Abadan oilfields. German air force very mobile thanks to large numbers transport aircraft available and rapid moves from Balkans to Mediterranean theatres would present no great difficulty. Estimate that approximately 250 transport aircraft available. With assistance of these he could maintain at least 400 operational aircraft working from aerodromes between Benghazi and Bardia. Use of ports in Cyrenaica would enable him increase this number of total forces available consider 150 long range bombers might well be made available against Egypt from Mediterranean bases. Aerodromes would not be limiting factor operating these forces. Additional air threat to our fleet at sea communications under the new conditions is clear. Also possibility enemy airborne force against Syria, Cyprus, Crete or Egypt.

Against

Against these increased potential dangers to Egypt we shall have fighting on one or two major fronts only an ever increasing air force experienced in desert warfare which should be able to give effective support to our land operations, and by enterprising action, neutralise an enemy air offensive against Egypt.

Part 4. Ref. your question to naval measures against enemy sea and land communications are by bombardment of Tripoli by battlefleet, attacks on convoys by destroyers and F.A.A. air craft based on Malta, minelaying by F.A.A. aircraft in Tripoli, heavy concentration of submarine between Cape Bon and Tripoli, which will be increased as submarines from Home arrive. Submarine patrols off Benghazi and Tripoli-Sirte area. Inshore squadron for bombarding along coast. which has already been backed up by cruiser and will if necessary be supported by battleships fire. Though not possible keep permanent patrols off Benghazi destroyers patrols carried out nightly along coast as far as Tolmete. Stress that naval forces far above operations have to be on scale out of all proportion tasks or naval risks entailed in order try and meet air threat large superiority numbers enemy aircraft. Plans have been made for landing raiding parties from Glen ships and destroyers behind enemy lines but our experience during the winter months was disappointing several raids being cancelled on account of weather. R.A.F. contributing at present by limited attacks Tripoli from Malta and bombing ports and transport Libyan L. of C. from Egypt.

Part 5. Ref. your question three. Outline plan for evacuation prepared here Inter service staff to assist detailed planning evacuation arrived Greece 17th April. Conference already held Athens with General Wilson. Detailed plans for emergency or deliberate evacuation prepared. Combined H.Q. established. Civilians non-essential personnel and certain equipment already left Greece.

2344/23 A

Note. by C.4. tels.

Message delayed owing to mutilation.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.M.S.
A.C.H.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
D.C.
E.P.S.
Head of M.
I.P.
W.D.

Received by hand from War Office at 2020/24 April.

³24.4.1941.
Wednesday

War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies-Contd.

CAPETOWN
Repairs.

CAPETOWN 1155/22 is being passed to you. Request decision on par 2 and 3. Para 1 is approved. (C. in C., E.I., 1254Z/23 to Admty.)

Master (TAI KOO) is at present assisting with construction of concrete bulkheads and general strengthening of CAPETOWN after completion of which he is confident ship could be towed with safety to Bombay via Aden, Masirah Bay and Karachi provided departure from Port Sudan expedited to avoid monsoon. He proposes to tow. C.O. CAPETOWN agrees. (N.O. i/c Port Sudan, 1516Z/23)

Cancel my 1224/19. CAPETOWN is to remain at Port Sudan for the present. (V.C.N.S. 2319/23 to C. in C., E.I.)

LEANDER
EMERALD
YARRA
Force T.
CALEDON

Admty. 1718/21. Following are my intended dispositions.

LEANDER after fuelling Bahrein to take me to Colombo arriving 29/4 and subsequently as necessary on shipping route.

EMERALD and YARRA to remain in Persian Gulf under S.N.O. Persian Gulf for present and probably until arrival of next force convoy (B.P.2) depend on situation.

Force T on completion of boiler cleaning at Bahrein about 30/4 to return to shipping route but to visit Colombo if necessary to exchange aircraft for overhaul. I assume CALEDON is to remain at Suez in accordance with Admty. 2152/18. (C. in C., E.I., 1305Z/23 to Admty.)

Reporting
of H.M. Ships.

My 1448Z/16. Another case of a flight steward in flying boat passing through Basrah 22/4 indicating H.M. Ships at Bahrein to passengers was reported to me by a military staff officer. Suggest windows of civil aircraft should be made opaque. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1330Z/23)

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Yugoslav
Ships

Shanghai's No.75 of 22nd. Mast suggests that Wheat Board should not despatch further Yugo-Slavian ships to China Ports North of Hong Kong, any further cargoes already booked being discharged and transhipped at that port.
(C. in C., China, 02132/23 to Admty.)

Singapore
Staff.

First Naval Member and C. in C., China much impressed, as a result of present conference, with necessity of building up naval staff at Singapore as soon as possible. Proposals. (C. in C., China 0947/23 to Admty.)

BUFFALO
(Mined 4/4)

My 1133/5. Board of Enquiry Report.
(C. in C., China 11362/23)

TOMISLAV
Italian armed
guard.

Request report of circumstance of an Italian armed guard being placed on board Jugo Slav TOMISLAV. Report further possibility of armed guard being removed, observing, ship is under charter to Australian authorities and all Yugo Slav ships have been warned to disregard orders which may be received from sources under enemy control, vide a.m. 2312/6.
(D.T.D. 2016/23 to N.L.O. Shanghai)

23.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Shipping
Intelligence

Information is required of all outward bound trans Atlantic shipping particularly for benefit of air patrol based on Newfoundland. Request information defined in my 1151/21/3 may include shipping bound for Caribbean.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/23 to Admty.)

LETITIA

UKARM 96 - Ref. R.A. 3rd. B.S. 974 timed 1717/19, report whether LETITIA can be taken in U.S.A. for permanent repairs when sufficiently seaworthy and if so, yard selected. (D. of D. 1246/23 to B.A.R.M.)

Ex- U.S.
Ships.

State of four ex U.S. fast Merchant ships will be (a) all unarmed except for light anti-aircraft guns (b) only EMPIRE CURLEW degaussed. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1744/23 to Admty.)

MONT AGEL
(French)

Arrived 23/4, Pointe a Pitre. (St. Thomas 1804/23)

SUDEROY I
SUDEROY II

Ex Norwegian Whale Catchers SUDEROY I and SUDEROY II left Halifax 23/4 for Capetown via Trinidad, Pernambuco, Takoradi, and Walvis Bay. E.T.A. Trinidad 4/5. Vessels are manned by Norwegian Merchant Seamen with experience in similar ships and signed on under British B. of T. Articles.
(C.O.A.C., Halifax 1808/23 to Admty.)

ERLANGEN
(German)

Following from Navy Dept. From Buenos Aires 21/4. Many ratings from GRAF SPEE have joined crew of German ERLANGEN, which is expected to sail from Puerto Montt between 20/4 and 26/4 to supply German raiders south of Cape Horn. (N.A. Washington 1831/23 to Admty.)

Vesca
Telegrams

Your 1223/14. Concur for a trial period of two months after which position will be reviewed again. (D.T.D. 2003/23 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

/Air search....

23.4.1941.

Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Air
Search

My 1722/20. Consider air search to maximum depth might be discontinued in view of Admty. 2248/23, which indicates that enemy heavy units are probably not in Atlantic at present.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 2232/23 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

REVENGE
RAMILLIES
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

REVENGE and RAMILLIES are to part company with their convoys and return to Halifax forthwith.

H.X. 123 is to sail on programme date and ROYAL SOVEREIGN should be sailed to overtake convoy as early as possible.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2248/23 to R.A. 3 B.S. etc.)

War Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedAURILLAC
(Sunk 15/4)

See North Atlantic. Formerly believed sunk by raider. British, 4733 tons, bound independently from Takoradi for Workington. (D.S. 597)

EMPIRE ENDURANCE
(Torpedoed 20/4)

My 1013/22. Did Catalina aircraft arrive to assist search? If so when did aircraft leave. (C. in C., W.A., 0423/23 to TRILLIUM)

Cancel my 1021/23. Continue search until life boat reported by aircraft in 053° 25' N., 021° 45' W., at 2025/22 has been picked up and you are satisfied there are no further survivors to be rescued. (C. in C., W.A. 1247/23 to TRILLIUM)

Your 1247/23. Search of position indicated reveals one empty Carley in 056° 37' N., 022° 01' W., and dead whale which might be mistaken for boat. 056° 25' 021° 36'. Ideal weather conditions prevail. Fear search practically exhausted and propose return to base unless further information available. Unable to communicate previous to today. (TRILLIUM 2358/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

UMONA
(Torpedoed 30/3)

My 2124/18/4. Information from two Europeans. Torpedoes one at 2015 and one about 2030. Vessel sank within minute of second torpedo. Position about 90 miles S.W. from Freetown. Re C.B.'s. On 3/4 submarine approached survivors on a raft interrogated and provided food and water. Capt. and crew Germans, submarine painted light grey. One gun forward 4" or 4' 7" one A/A machine gun on deck aft tripod. Yellow sunflower painted port side conning tower. Class of submarine not determined. Ship was zigzagging. (C. in C., S.A. 2031N/23 to Admty.)

War Diary23.4.1941.
WednesdayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines ReportedEstimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C., 1432/23)

0230/15

Master Portuguese vessel ^{*}INESPERADO reports
sighting S/M of Cadiz 0230/15 Assess D.O.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1806/23 to Admt.)^{*}IN: INES LORRADO

2041.

By D/F at 2041/23, position of German
U-Boat was approx. 57° 30' N., 6° 30' E.,
This position is only an indication of
the area.
(D.D.I.C., 2130/23)

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western
Approaches
destroyers.

The Admiralty have informed C. in C. W.A. that four of his destroyers may be required for service in the South Atlantic. C. in C. W.A. asks that the question may be re-considered, as depletion of his forces cannot, in his opinion, be accepted.

NAIAD.

NAIAD is to proceed to the Mediterranean. She will sail with W.S.8A as already arranged.

Shipping.

The Admiralty propose that L.M.S. Railway ships of speed 12 knots and above should run in pairs and not in convoy between the Clyde and Methil. There are 34 such ships.

Coastal convoys in the western Channel and Bristol Channel are to revert to day sailings.

British Air Activity.

Blenheims operating on the coast of Norway hit and claim as a total loss a tanker of 1500 to 2000 tons 23 miles S.W. of Stavanger. A fishing vessel was also sunk.

A force of 59 aircraft attacked the battle cruisers at Brest last night. A hit or very near miss on the battle cruiser in dock is claimed.

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24.4.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth
again
attacked.

Plymouth was attacked again last night, by about 75 aircraft between 2147/23 and 0143/24, the main weight of the attack was on the Millbay, Stonehouse, Mount Wise and Devonport areas. The South Yard suffered further damage and in the North Yard the generating station has had to close down. The oil fuel installation at Thanckes has been damaged and further damage was caused to Naval establishments. Salvage vessel MISS ELAINE was sunk a.m. today at Millbay Docks; there is reasonable hope of salvage.

Attack on
Portsmouth.

A raid on the Dockyard developed at 2200/23. Damage was not excessive, and there were no casualties.

VERDUN and Convoy F.S.470 were attacked unsuccessfully at 1025 in 52° 24' N. 2° 4' E.

S.S. CROHAM has been damaged by recent bombing and is at Peterhead.

Convoy W.N. 18 was attacked off Bell Rock between 2133 and 2225 today. S.S. DOZIUS was slightly damaged and was beached on arrival at Methil. The escorts believe they hit the attacking A/c.

S.S. DANDARA (213 tons) claims to have brought down a German aircraft by Lewis gun fire at 1100Z/24 in 61° 40' N. 14° 35' W. N.O.I.C. Iceland believes the claim to be substantiated. The skipper was wounded.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Three Beauforts laid mines last night off Brest and 6 Hampdens off Lorient and Quiberon.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected off the east coast, particularly off the Tees and the Tyne, between Orfordness and Yarmouth. from Sunderland to St. Abbs Head, and off Milford Haven.

Mines were detonated today in the Medway, off Plymouth and Milford Haven.

The Tyne was closed from 0027 to 0935 and Blyth from 0009 to 1331. Liverpool was opened at 1558 during daylight hours only. The Humber was closed at 2336.

North Atlantic.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports that if immediate action is not taken the Germans may be able to prevent the sailing of the Yugoslav ships at Lisbon.

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War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Dunlop".

S.O. Force H. in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, FEARLESS, FORTUNE, FURY, and FORESIGHT left Gibraltar this evening for Operation "Dunlop".

Operation
"Salient".

DIDO, ABDIEL, KELLY, KELVIN, JERSEY and KIPLING arrived at Gibraltar early this afternoon and left late this evening with JACKAL and KASHMIR for Operation "Salient".

Operation
by D.14.

D. 14 who left Malta yesterday evening, failed to locate the southbound convoy reported off Kerkensh Bank at 1736/23 or the two cruisers and 2 destroyers covering the convoy to the eastward. One 3000 ton northbound vessel believed to be ADRIA or SPEZIA was intercepted and sunk.

GLOUCESTER arrived at Malta this morning to reinforce 14th D.F. in operations against enemy convoys.

Malta.

Last night was the first night since 10/4 without an air raid or an alert at Malta.

About 30 enemy aircraft attacked Malta this evening, the objectives evidently being the dockyard and Luqa. Some Aircraft were destroyed and damaged at the latter.

Western
Desert.

Heavy air raids on Tobruk continue and the reservoir was damaged, but the port is working satisfactorily. Gunboats are supporting the army along the coast. S/M patrols are being maintained off Benghazi.

It is reported that A.B.V. FIONA was attacked and sunk at 1515/18 by 7 dive-bombers, 50 miles N.W. of Sidi Barrani.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

750

Mediterranean-Greece.

Aegean.

C. in C. Meditn. reports that there have been heavy air attacks on the Greek ports, and during the last 48 hours 25 ships, mostly Greek are reported to have been sunk. Four ships have been sunk or damaged at Suda Bay. YORK has been slightly damaged by near miss.

Operation
"Demon."

C. in C. Med. reports that all his light forces except GLOUCESTER will be engaged in the evacuation of the Imperial forces from Greece during the next few days.

It is intended to sink Greek destroyer BASILIEUS GEORGIOS I tonight, as repairs to her are not completed. It is hoped also that the Greeks will sink the floating dock. Demolition of the dry dock by the British will probably commence tomorrow.

Suda Bay.

Suda Bay was twice bombed today. No damage to ships is reported.

Greek
Naval
Forces.

C. in C. Med has accepted the offer of the Greek Adty. to place their ships under his order. The following arrived at Alexandria today:- Destroyer PANTHER, S/ms TRITON, NEREUS and KATSONIS. The S/m's were brought down by Commander Baker and junior officers, their C.O's refusing to do so.

Two Greek
hospital
ships sunk.

The Greek Hospital ships ANDROS and POLIKOS^C are reported to have been bombed and sunk today at Loutrake and Methona respectively.

* BR 1237 Page 158a - Ships sunk 23/4.
x LOUTRAKI + METHONI

War Diary.

24.4. 1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Policy.

Iceland
Ship
Repair
Work.

Suggest that until depot ship is ready destroyers whose defects require (? berthing) alongside should proceed to U.K. Repairs which can be effected at anchor will be dealt with, as will all repairs to trawlers and escort ships as far as possible. Inner harbour greatly overcrowded and ships waiting to unload for several days. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0209/24).

4th D.F.
and 20th
D.F.

Consequent upon transfer of 5th D.F. for service abroad, the 4th D.F. is to be transferred to Plymouth Command. They will be replaced in Home Fleet by three destroyers of 20th D.F. now being converted from minelayers at Immingham, and by NESTOR and JUPITER, who complete 30/4 and mid May respectively.

(ii) F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. is to arrange for Captain (D) 4 in COSSACK with ZULU to exchange present duties with ACHATES and ANTHONY in R.A. (M)'s screen.

When released by R.A.M. COSSACK and ZULU are to proceed to Scapa and R.A. (D) H.F. is subsequently to sail them for Plymouth.

(iii) Transfer of MAORI and SIKH is to be arranged by R.A. (D) H.F. as NESTOR and JUPITER become available. (C. in C. H.F. 1146/24). *See also p 757*

M.F.V's
at Aultbea.

Your 2214/11. Concur new allocations will satisfy requirements. (C. in C. W.A. 1257/24).

Four W.A.
Destroyers
for S.A.

Your 1905/25. I request very urgently that question be reconsidered as depletion of W.A. Forces cannot in my opinion be accepted, but if this be inevitable I propose that four selected long endurance ex-American Destroyers be taken.

(B) If however it is considered essential that 4 modern destroyers of good endurance and therefore not VS and WS must be surrendered alternatives available in W.A. are five H. Class, of which one is already in South Atlantic, four Canadians, three B-Class, two Poles PIORUN and GARLAND, and the L. Class of which only LEGION is at present available.

/ (C) Removal.....

24.4.1941.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Policy Contd.

Four W.A.
Destroyers
for S.A.
Contd.

(C) Removal of H Class of Canadians would mean loss of a complete fast escort group, which would have to be replaced by ships from other groups.

(D) Removal of B Class would mean loss of two groups Commanders and one Commander Second-in-Command. These are three of the most experience Officers in W. A. Command and have already changed ships once in order to keep them here.

(E) Removal of L-Class (when available) would mean loss of my most powerful reinforcements, equipped with latest A.S.V. and H/F D/F.

(F) Of these alternatives, I suggest taking the Canadians. If this is not acceptable, then the H-Class, in which case BRILLIANT could join my command in place of HIGHLANDER (C. in C. W.A. 1524/24, to Admty.).

One
HUNT for
Plymouth.

C. in C. Plymouth 1947/23. Request you will detach one HUNT for temporary service with C. in C. Plymouth.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1651/24, to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Hastening
passage of
Small craft.

Endeavour must be made to hasten the passage of small craft to new bases particularly when re-allocated to convoy port for servicing. Reason for necessary delay is immediately to be reported.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1726/24.).

Fairmiles
for Iceland.

Consideration is being given to stationing 110 foot A/S Fairmile Motor Launches at Reykjavik. Request report on available ships as follows:-
(Adty., 1942/24, to N.O.I.C. Iceland.).

War Diary.

24.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Defence of U.K.

Belfast
A/A Gun
Defences.

Adty., suggest ^{in view of} relatively low scale of H.A.A. defences now at Belfast compared with those approved for west coast ports it is desirable to further increase these and if necessary divert guns allocated to west coast ports to Belfast. Understand from W.O. that there will be 8 guns over-plus production this month and these can be made available for despatch to Belfast by month end in addition to 12 guns already arranged for. Request you consider taking this course.
(Air Ministry 1530/24 to Fighter Command.).

Movements.

A.F.D. 7.

Sailed VIVIEN and CHEVREUIL to carry out instructions contained in your 1413.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0014/24.).

PORPOISE
CLYDE.

F.O.S.'s 1156/10 para. "B". Ready to sail 8/5. (S.3. 0935/24.).

Operations.

Raise steam with all despatch orders follow.
(C. in C.H.F. 0022/24 to INGLEFIELD, MAORI.).

East
Coast.
Patrols.

My 0920/24. Patrols H.S and H.T being covered by VIDONIA only. WARSTAR deleted. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1555/24.).
Patrols returning to harbour owing to stress of weather. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1746/24.).
My 1746/24. Patrols have now returned to Harbour. Weather permitting will sail 0800. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 2110/24.).

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

754

British Air Activity.

Dutch
Coast.
One M/V
claimed
sunk.
4 M/Vs
claimed
damaged.

Day 23rd April. One A/C obtained a hit on the stern of one of two coastal vessels of 650 tons 18 miles west of Bergen-Aan-Zee. The second aircraft delivered separate attacks on two Flakships of 1,000 tons 10 miles west of Borkum obtaining a direct hit on one ship. One A/C bombed a merchant vessel of 2,000 tons in a convoy just off the Hague, one burst observed in the water right against the stern of the ship which was also machine-gunned. One A/C obtained three direct hits on a merchant vessel of 800 tons in a convoy of 12,17 miles north of Ijmuiden and also machine-gunned it. The vessel is claimed as a total loss. The second aircraft made two attacks on two merchant vessels of 1,000 tons 35 miles west of Ijmuiden causing the first vessel to turn towards the Dutch Coast with much steam pouring from the funnel.
(N.Q.B.C. Recd. 0719/24).

Recognition
procedure.

My 1226/18. The instructions regarding ship aircraft recognition procedure do not apply to single engined aircraft which may be assumed to be friendly in this command.
(C in C. W.A. 1012/24).

Patrols.

Following patrols are being flown P.M. today
~~SEPT STAB FROST STAB HORNB.~~ "Bark", "Stab", "Trost", "Stand",
"Horn Li."
(C. in C. Rosyth 1015/24).
Special R/C of Tromso, Harstad, and Narvik.
being carried out tonight 24/25.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1544/24).

Brest
Borkum.

On night 23/24 61 aircraft attacked the Battle Cruisers. Accurate observation difficult. Many bursts seen including one big explosion in the area of the torpedo boat station and the dry dock and a Wellington crew saw cruiser alongside quay and claim a hit or very near miss on the quayside whilst two others straddled No. 1 dry dock. 2 Hampdens attacked two small cargo vessels about ten miles north of Borkum, one appeared to be hit as a burst of flame was seen nine seconds after the bomb burst.
(H.Q.B.C. 1635/24).

/On A/C flying.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (contd).

Own A/C
flying through
Balloon Barrage.

Request you will comply with Air Min.,
1721/23, forwarding your observations to
Admty with copy to Air Min.
(D.N.A.D. 1947/24 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth
bombed.

Raid in dockyard developed at 2200
Details of damage. No casualties.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0152/24).

Plymouth
Bombed.

Attacked by about 75 aircraft between
2147/23 and 0143/24. Main weight of
attack on Millbay, Stonehouse, Mount Wise
and Devonport Areas. H.E. and many
thousand I/Bs. Details of damage.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0525/24) (S.C.E.
Devonport 1800/24).

VERDUN.
F.S. 470.

1 airplane bearing 010° distance 2 miles
my position 52° 24' N., 2° 4' E.
(VERDUN 1025/24).
My 1025 - 4 bombs - fighter chasing,
no hits.
(VERDUN 1030/24).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday,

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
W.N. Even.

1 showing aircraft bearing 040° in 57°
57' N., 2° 1' W.
(GLEANER 1306/24.).
Convoy ~~W.N. Even.~~ is being shadowed by 2 enemy
aircraft.
(GLEANER 1320/24).
Fighters despatched to assist.
Convoy ~~W.N. Even.~~ (?Lyness 1335/24).
One enemy A/C shadowing convoy ~~W.N. Even.~~ *Metric*.
My position 57° 20' N., 1° 38' W.
(GLEANER 1544/24).
Fighters are being despatched to assist *Metric*.
~~W.N. Even.~~ (Rosyth 2205/24).

Convoy W.N.17
TARIA
RIO AZUL
damaged.

Convoy attacked by enemy aircraft 2145 to
2200/23 in 57° 03' N., 01° 56' W. Dutch
Motor Vessel TARIA 10354 tons and British
Steamship RIO AZUL slightly damaged by
machine gun bullets. Two bombs near
missed TARIA. Both vessels proceeded with
convoy. No casualties. (C. in C. Rosyth
1435/24).

CROHAM
bombed.

(British 391 tons). Intend sailing
ABEILLE IV with S.S. CROHAM in tow escorted
by H.M.T. ACHROITE. S/S CROHAM has sustained
damage by recent bombing and is proceeding
to Lewes Yard Aberdeen for repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1547/24).

MISS ELAINE

(Salvage vessel) Sunk at Millbay docks
Plymouth a.m./24. as result of enemy action
No casualties. Reasonable hope of salvage
(C. in C. Plymouth 1624/24).

GLENFILAS
(Bombed 6/4).

My 2104/21 and 2112/23/4 and F.O.I.C.
Harwich 2230/22. Tow postponed further
24 hours owing to unsuitable weather.
(C. in C. Nore 2144/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Blyth

Port closed due to enemy mine laying.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0009/24).
Blyth Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1331/24).

Tyne.

Tyne closed due to enemy minelaying
Anticipated port will reopen at noon.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0027/24).
Port of Tyne open.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0935/24).

Thames
Estuary.

Two mines detonated as follows at 0714 and
0737 today. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1114/24).

1st M/L
Squadron
Programme.

Your 1936/22. Concur. (C. in C. H.F.1453/24)

Milford
Haven.

Two Mines detonated at 0450/24 and 0505/24
as follows. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1802/24).

Plymouth

Red mine detonated 0705/24. 146 degrees
Breakwater Beacon 100 yards.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1822/24).

Operation
S.N.71.
escort.

C. in C. H.F. 1146/24 COSSACK and ZULU are
to sail a.m. tomorrow to R/V with
R.A.M.L. near Reykjanes Passage at 1300/25.
R.A.M.L. is requested to detach ACHATES and
ANTHONY to Hvalfiord after COSSACK and
ZULU have joined. (R.A. 1st B.C.S. 1901/24).

See p. 751

London
Docks.

Details of sweeping at East End Albert Dock,
and unsuccessful attempt to detonate mine
at Sherry's Wharf Barking Creek.
(Commander M.R.F. 1945/24).

Humber.

Humber is closed to navigation. Enemy mine-
laying. (F.O. Humber 2336/25).

War Diary.

24.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Photographic R/C. of Brest at 0830/24 shows
two Battlecruisers both present.
(D.D.I.C. 1220/24.).

Shipping & Convoys.

CONFIDENTIAL.

MESSAGE. 0029/24th April.

OUT.

Addressed: C. in C. Rosyth 706.
A.C.O.S. 312.
C. in C. Western Approaches 682.
Repeated C. in C. Nore. 958.

Date. 24. 4. 41.

758(A)

P/L BY T/P.

From Admiralty.

NITE.

At the Admiralty recently a meeting was held with the Marine Superintendent of the L.M.S. Railway Company and some of the Company's Masters. It was urged by the Masters that vessels of 12 knots and over operating on the coastal routes should run in pairs and not in convoy between the Clyde and Methil. Their proposal was that these pairs should pass through the Sounds of Islay and Mull in daylight and also arrive at the Pentland Firth at daylight or as soon after daylight as possible.

2. From the above it would appear that:-

- (a) The special exhibition of coast lights for these ships would not be necessary.
- (b) The period of greatest danger would be when eastbound pairs were passing through the Moray Firth in daylight.
- (c) That pairs in E.C. convoys would have to leave these convoys so as to keep to the programme proposed in paragraph 1.

3. As regards paragraph 2 (a) above you may consider it preferable for these ships when eastbound to arrive at Pentland Firth about sunset, in which case the Sounds of Islay and Mull would not be used as this vicinity would be passed through in darkness.

4. If attacked by enemy A/C the usual distress message would be made on 500 K/Cs and position given. Constant W/T watch would be maintained.

5. The Ministry of Shipping has prepared a list of vessels at present operating on commercial service in the coasting trades with reported speeds of 12 knots and over. The number of such ships is 34 i.e. 17 pairs.

6. In view of the desirability of expediting coastal shipping your sympathetic consideration to and early remarks on the above proposal is requested. It is realised that surface escort would not be possible. These ships would be given priority in the fitting of A.A. weapons available.

0029/24.

D.T.D. (983)

Approved by A.C.N.S. (T).

A.C.N.S. (T) (2).
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4).
O.D. (5).
O.D. 8.
D.N.I.
D. of S. 2A.
D.T.D. (2).
D.T.D. (2).
D.S.D. 9.
D. of S.T.

I.P. (3).
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C.
W.D. ✓
I.M.N.G.
D.S.D. (2).
D.N.A.D.
D.N.O.

War Diary.

24.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping & Convoys.

L.M.^s.
Ships.

Proposal to run L.M.S. Railway ships between Clyde and Methil in pairs and not in convoy. (A.C.N.S.(T) 0029/24 to C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., C. in C. W.A.). See Lion Copy.

S.L.70.

Congratulations on bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of S.L.70. (C. in C. W. A. 1807/24, to Vice-Adm. Goldsmith.).

Day Sailing
to Resume.

My 1537/19. Convoys are to revert to day sailings beginning with ^{Wheat} ~~Wheat~~ from Falmouth and ^{Skipper One} ~~Skipper One~~ and ^{Two} ~~Two~~ from Milford Haven and Barry respectively, both sailing A.M./29 the next sailing to be 1/5 and thereafter every 3 days. Plymouth portion ^{Wheat} ~~Wheat~~ is to sail by day to Falmouth on 28/4, the next sailing to be 30/4 and thereafter every three days. ^{Skipper One} ~~Skipper One~~ is to sail by day 30/4 and ^{Watch} ~~Watch~~ by day 1/5 next sailing of ^{Skipper One} ~~Skipper One~~ and ^{Watch} ~~Watch~~ to be 3/5 and thereafter every three days. The last night sailing of ^{Skipper One} ~~Skipper One~~ and ^{Two} ~~Two~~ will take place 27/4. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1907/24, to N.O.I.C.'s).

W.S.8A.

Following ships will part company with convoy W.S.8 (A) in position "E":- CLAN CHATTAN, CLAN LAMONT, CLAN CAMPBELL EMPIRE SONG, NEW ZEALAND STAR. They will then proceed with REPULSE and NAIAD as escort. MAURITIUS will afford ocean escort for the remainder of the convoy from position "E". C. in C. W.A., requested to inform F.O.C.N.A. of the time and date of R.V. for MAURITIUS. Route from position "E" is not to be divulged until convoy is clear of U.K. Separate Commodore for the portion of WS8. (A) referred to in para. 1 is not required. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1931/24, to C. in C. W.A.).

BENALBANACH.
W.S.8.B.

Expected to complete loading at Swansea p.m. /27. Request you arrange for this ship to be sailed when escort is available to Clyde, where she will await sailing of Convoy W.S.8.B.(D.O.D. (H) 1935/24 to C. in C. W.A.).

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24.4.41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

S.S. CARRIB.

Great Yarmouth 24/4 departure tug KROOMAN at 0945 to assist S/S. CARRIB. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1020/24.). Have arrived position assigned no call sign of ship. Have you any advice. (KROOMAN 1210/24 to Admiral Chatham, F.O.I.C. Dover.).

SCIMITAR.

Has defects to forecastle which will require 7 days alongside. Can be taken in hand about 2/5. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0209/24.).

SPEEDWELL.

Owing to minor engine repairs and defects due to heavy weather sailing of SPEEDWELL and NIGER delayed. (SPEEDWELL 0919/24.).

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

761

North Atlantic.

TAKU
UNION.

S.O. Force "H"'s 2107/23 not to Admty. Intend to sail submarines as follows. TAKU at 1300/26 for patrol in area C. in accordance with Capt. (S) 1's 2015/21. UNION at 1800/26 for Malta. Routes. (Capt. S.8. 1350/24 to C. in C. Med).

Yugoslav
Ships,
TALAS,
PAVLA.

Your 1312/23 /4 Instructions in 1736/21/4 were given in writing to Masters. Chief Officer, Chief Engineer and 17 members of crew of TALAS deserted into Spain during night of 23rd. Master states this probably due to crew's unwillingness to cross Atlantic in an old ship. PAVLA is being detained pending further instructions. Master now states speed of ship 6 knots but with some encouragement and supply of additional life-boat does not anticipate any trouble with crew. (F.O.C.N.A. 1508/24 to Admty).

Yugoslav
Ships
Lisbon.

Consider it urgent that a representative of Yugoslav Gov. should fly out to Lisbon at once to take charge of shipping and to co-operate with me so as to ensure the sailing of Yugoslav ships. Consider present Charge d'Affaires quite ineffective and that if immediate action is not taken Germans may be able to prevent the sailing of these ships. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1645/24 to Admty).

Operation
"Dunlop".

My 1137/23. In the event of postponement request repetition of report referred to in para 3 and 4 of my 1625/31 on succeeding day. Very early report of arrival of "Dunlop" and "SABINE" units would be appreciated. (S.O. Force H., 1711/24 to V.A. Malta).

EMPIRE
TROOPER.

Intended to sail EMPIRE TROOPER escorted by PRIMULA for Freetown a.m. /26. (FOCNA, 2006/24 Admty amended 1700/25)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

762

North Atlantic. (contd).

Operations
"Salient"
"Dunlop".

Departure DIDO, ABDIEL, KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, KELVIN, JERSEY, KIPLING, for "Salient" S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, FEARLESS, FORTUNE, FURY, FORESIGHT for "Dunlop". (S.O.(I) Gib., 2344/24 to Admty amended 0846/25).

South Atlantic.

BENVORLICH

Your 1034B/22. No hospital ship named BENVORLICH known. Request confirmation. (D. of S.T. 0032/24 to S.O.(I) Capetown).

TOUAREG.

Pointe Noire arrival 21/4 French ship TOUAREG. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0816/24).

KOENJIT

Overdue shipping. KOENJIT (ex Danish STJERNEBORG) due Capetown 19th from Colombo not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1009B/24).

ALCANTARA

My 1120/1. Your 2055/22. Request ALCANTARA may now be ordered to proceed to L 32 from Cape. Your 1255/23. In view of S.O.(I) Montevideo 2204/23 and further information of activity of enemy Merchant ships, intend to postpone visit to Rio De Janeiro till later. (R.A.S.A.D. 1137Z/24 to C. in C. S.A.)

ASTURIAS
CUMBERLAND.

Oiler ABBEYDALE arrives sea R/V black noon/27. Enemy activity and weather permitting, R/V with her p.m./27 and embark your draft. Part company not later than dark/27 and proceed patrol K.32 K.33. CUMBERLAND if possible K.33 about 30/4 to fuel from Oiler ABBEYDALE at F.O. then patrol L.31 L.32. (R.A.S.A.D. 1203Z/24 to ASTURIAS).

/Wreckage.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd). 763

Wreckage
and
Searchlight
seen.

Greek ship SALAMINIA reports passing in 33° 10' S 16° 39' E on 24/4 two waterlogged life boats several floating cattle and sheep carcasses and probably one corpse. No name seen on boats. British ship DROMORE CASTLE reports sighting at 2100/23 in 30° 45' S 14° 23' E course 130° a low powered searchlight one point on starboard bow visible ten secs distant ten miles which swept horizon.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1237/24 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Italian
penetration
of C. Verde
Island.

Sal Island. Special representative of Italian air line now at St. Vincent organizing supplies of butter, sugar, gas oil, gasoline etc., bought in quantities much greater than ground staff require. Submit ALA LITTORIA Cape Verde Island be placed on black list, if this does not stop sales will report names of merchants still trading.

Portuguese schooner RAPIDO employed only on (?service) Italian air line should also be black listed.
(B.C. Sierra Leone 1415/24. to Embassy, Lisbon).

Transport of
Aircraft.

Your 2210/19
Shipment of aeroplanes as deck cargo will not involve delay provided particulars are communicated in advance so that floating cranes may be available if necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 14312/24 to D. of S.T.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy
M.V. sunk
by D. 14.

Capt. (D) 14 with four destroyers failed to locate the Southbound convoy reported off Kerkenah Bank at 1736/23 or the two Cruisers and two destroyers covering convoy to Eastward. One 3000 ton Northbound vessel was intercepted and sunk in the clash.
(V.A. Malta 0941/24 to C. in C. Med).
My 0941/24 Vessel sunk believed to be either ADRIA or CITTA DI SPEZZIA Class. Enemy showed no opposition although fitted with a medium sized gun fore and aft. Owing to necessity.,

of our force.....

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

764

Mediterranean. cont.

Enemy
M.V. sunk
by D. 14.
(contd).

of our force intercepting southbound convoy time did not allow pick up of survivors. As enemy had no time to W/T before sinking request this many not be made public yet a while so as to leave enemy guessing. (V.A. Malta 2040/24 to Admty).

Benghazi
and Rhodes
bombed.

Operational Summary No. 218 up to 1200/24/4/41. Details. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1044/24.)

Enemy
M.V. sunk by
URGE 18/4.

URGE reports enemy tanker sunk on 18/4 sighted at 5000 yards after hearing H.E. Second of two torpedoes fired at 1137 hit and targets engines stopped. A third torpedo was then fired and hit under bridge. Enemy sank at 1212. Target identified by distinctive break in fore castle and ventilators abaft bridge. She hoisted verticle shapes and flags similar to recognition siganls after firing hit. Ship was unescorted and no air activity resulted from the attack. (F.O.S. 1121/24 to Admty).

NAIAD

It has been decided that NAIAD is to proceed to the Mediterranean. She will sail from U.K. as already arranged with W.S.8 (A). (1st S.L., 1158/24 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., C.S. 15).

Greek
Evacuations.

Braigs 1550/23 not to N.O.I.C. Suda Bay or R.A. Alexandria Admiralty. Concur proceeding with programme tonight 24/25 but whatever losses may be incurred consider most desirable to move balance of force that Peloponnesus for all subsequent evacuation from Southern ports if move is practicable. Admiralty pass to Troopers, EQAM. pass to G.O.C. Greece. (C. in C. Med. 1214/24 to F.O. attached Military N.O.I.C. Suda Bay etc.)

/TINOS (German).....

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

765

Mediterranean. (contd).

TINOS
(German).

Arrived 24/4.
(Cartagena 1215/24).

REGENT

Return to Malta through $035^{\circ} 20' 015^{\circ} 00'$ and $035^{\circ} 20' 014^{\circ} 10'$. If medical advice required signal for it when safe to do so.
(Cdr. S.I. 1356/24 to REGENT).
If casualties require early medical attention proceed Malta reporting your position and E.T.A. (route). direct to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 1000/28.
(Capt. S.I. 1519/24 to REGENT).
My 1356/24 is cancelled by Capt. (S) I's 1519/24.
(Cdr. S.I. 1911/24 to REGENT).

Malta.

Report Malta up to 1600 hours 24/4. Night 23/24 first quiet night since 10/4. Day 24, 2 morning reccos by Ju 88's at 20,000 feet.
(H.Q. Med., 1600/24).

Convoy A.G. 14.

List. Left Alexandria 1200/24 due Suda Bay 0400/26. Escort CARLISE, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON. Cargo Nil.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria 1630/24 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy A.G.15

(List). left Alexandria 1430/24 due Suda Bay 1830/26. Escort VAMPIRE, KIMBERLEY, AUCKLAND.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria. 1635/24 to Admty. etc.)

Greek Evacuation.

All my light forces with the exception of GLOUCESTER and four "J" class destroyers of Malta force will be engaged in evacuation of Imperial Forces from Greece during the next few days.
(C. in C. Med., 1812/24, to Admty).

TRUANT refit.

V.A. Malta's 1355/24. Proposed refit of TRUANT at Bombay). My 702/SM 790 of 24/4 proposes that TRUANT be refitted in U.S.A. (F.O.S., 1822/24 to Admty).

/Movements.....

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

766

Mediterranean. (contd).

Movements.

Dep. 23/4 PROTECTOR arrival 24/4 CHAKLA, ARTHUR CAVANAGH, MILFORD COUNTESS, All. Greek Destroyer PANTHER, Greek S/MS TRITON, NEREUS, KATSONIS. Dep. 24/4 KANDAHAR, DEFENDER, CARLISLE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, VAMPIRE. (S.O.(I) Alexandria. 1842/24). *See previous page*

Enemy A/Cs.

Weekly locations of German and Italian Air Forces. (D.N.I. 1856/24 to N.A.'s Athens, Ankara etc).

*
ITHACA
(German).

Passed Canakale (Chanak) 0605/24 for Mediterranean. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1921/24 to Admty. N.A. Athens).

* ITHACA

Greek Demolition.

Repairs to Greek Destroyer BASILIUS GEORGIOS I are not completed so she is being (?sunk) tonight as also I hope is floating dock by Greeks. British demolition of dry dock will probably start tomorrow 25/4. I expect to proceed to near Nauplia 26/4. (N.A. Athens, 1928/24 to C. in C. Med).

Greek Navy.

Your 1102/23. Please inform Greek Admiralty that I am delighted to accept their offer and shall welcome valued assistance of his Hellenic Majesty's ships. (C. in C. Med., 2158/24 to N.A. Athens).

BELLONA

German. Arrived 23/4. (Valencia T.H.I. 2205/24).

LISBOA

German left 23/4 in ballast, destination unknown. (Valencia T.H.I. 2205/24).

Situation

Report No. 6
(C. in C. Med., 2244/24) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2244/24 April

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 25/4/41
Recd. 0517

766(A)

NAVAL CODE "X" BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated F.O. Force H, Air Ministry,
S.B.N.O. Canal Area.

IMPORTANT

(2 DEMON)

147. Situation report Number six.

(1) Aegean. Operation LEMON see my 1812/24. Heavy scale of air attack Greek Ports. 23 ships mostly Greek reported sunk Piraeus area last 48 hours. 4 ships either sunk or damaged Suda Bay. Slight damage YORK by near miss. BRITISH LORD damaged but in tow. 23/4

(2) Adriatic. Kotor in Italian hands. REGENT made no contact with allied subjects and during dive bombing attacks sustained slight damage. REGENT returning Malta.

(3) Western Desert. No material changes heavy air raids Tobruk but port working satisfactorily and 7 J U 87 and 3 enemy fighters shot down by fighters. Gunboats supporting Army along coast. Submarine patrol being maintained off Benghazi.

(4) Malta. See V.A. Malta 0941/24. GLOUCESTER is reinforcing.

2244/24

Advance copy 1st Lord, C.S.O. to 1st S.L.,
A.C.N.S.(F), Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F),
D.D.I.C., D.P.D.

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)(2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.C.D.(F)
D.C.D.(H)
D.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.
E.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2)
N.S.D. IO (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

707

East Indies.

STRATHMORE
INDRAPOERA

Your 1201/21 and 1025/23 no objection to proposed use of STRATHMORE.
No objection to use of INDRAPOERA for voyage India/Middle East provided P.S.T.O. Egypt has no more urgent requirement. My 1341/23 refers.
(D.S.T. 0349/24 to P.S.T.O. India.)

SUPETAR
suspicious
crew.

Field Security Officer Port Sudan reports concerning Yugoslavian S.S. SUPERTAR Suspect Master and wireless operator have Axis sympathies. Crew mixed nationalities. Possibility of Germans and Italians sailing with false papers. Recommend fuller investigation on ship's arrival Suez. 26/4. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1020Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Port Tewfik).

DELPHINIUM.

Simonstown departure 1137/24. DELPHINIUM for Durban, E.T.A. 1000/27.
Route from Durban for onward passage to Mombasa and Aden will be in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1110 / 18.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1203B/24).

China.

Staff
Policy.

Chiefs of Staff No. 6 to C. in C.'s Far East and China. Re question of Staffs and operational control.
(1st S.L. 1203/24) See Lion Copy.

NIEWAMSTERDAM.

Your 2255/19 anticipate NIEWAMSTERDAM will be ready to sail P.M./26. Request instructions (R.A. Malaya, 1231Z/24 to D. of S.T.)

DESIRADE
PIERRE L.D.

French ship DESIRADE passed Sunda Strait 22/4 for Madagascar. My 0503/23 French ship PIERRE L.D. cargo in tons 8100 rice 400 pepper for Dakar and Marseilles.
(Capt O.S. Singapore 1339Z/24 to Admty).

R.N. Air Station.....

MOST SECRET

China.
M E S S A G E

OUT

1203/24/April

To:- C. in C. China, 802.

Date 24.4.41.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME.

767(A)

From Admiralty.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 6 to Commanders-in-Chief, Far East and China. Begins.

Reference G.H.Q. F.E. 17461 and 17593.

We fully appreciate strain on your staff due to extra commitments resulting from co-operation with the Dominions, Dutch and United States and we realise importance of having a portion of your staff concentrated on strategic planning.

2. We have given careful consideration to your requests for additions to original staff with which you were provided to undertake functions laid down in your directive. In issuing this directive we had in mind that you would restrict yourself to general operational control. By this we mean higher direction and control as distinct from detailed operational control which should continue to be the functions of the army and air force commands. You must also co-ordinate matters of major military policy and strategy. We would not wish your staff to be drawn into operational and administrative details which would inevitably lead to need for expansion of your establishment which we cannot possibly afford.

3. We are forced by the expansion of all three Services to exercise a most rigid economy in staffs. For example the Royal Air Force are now faced with a 20 per cent all round cut in staffs to allow the expansion to continue. We cannot therefore provide you with any additional officers of B.G.S. grade but will send you one army and one air force officer both grade II to ease the strain on your present staff.

4. Need for liaison officers in war is apparent and we understand that you are considering this question at conference now being held. In view of urgent need for economy in staff officers you should consider expedients such as making use of any liaison officers which the Service Departments and the Dominion Governments may already have decided to establish in Netherlands East Indies in war.

ends.

1203/24

Secretary to First Sea Lord.

1st Lord.	D.O.D. (F)	Head of M.
1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (F)	D.T.S.D.
2nd S.L.	D.O.D. (H)	D.D.I.C.
3rd S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	E.P.S.
4th S.L.	D.F.I. (4)	D.T.D. (2)
5th S.L.	D.S.D.	N.I.D.10
V.C.N.S.	D.N.A.D.	(Pay.Cdr. Wilson)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of L.D.	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. A/S W.	
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	D.M.S.	
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	I.P.	
D. of P. (2)	W.D.	
	Duty Capt.	

War Diary.24.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.China. (contd).R.N. Air
Station.

Your 1025/18, transfer to Morib approved. Request suitable short title and address be signalled.
(Head of Air to C. in C. China, 2147/24).

America & West Indies.U.S. Warships
Recognition.

H.M. Ambassador's telegram GLEAM 34 and GLEAM 37. Likely that presence of U.S. war-ships will result in frequent claim reports from merchant vessels unless some means of establishing genuine identity of U.S. Warships is introduced. Also danger of enemy warship purporting to be American. Recommend existing recognition procedure for use with merchant vessels be extended to U.S. warships. Reporting ships would not communicate direct with C. in C. A.W.I. but through U.S. base, vide art. 17 of I.C.B. A/40. Therefore essential that U.S. base ship should be stationed at Bermuda for this duty. Aircraft tender already at Bermuda could probably do this.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1117/24 to N.A. Washington).

SURCOUF.

Employment on A.W.I. Station. Date of leaving U.K.
(A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. A.W.I. 1243/24)
See Operation Vol.

Vesca
Routine.

Your 2003/23. re VESCA telegram to Admiralty. This routine will commence May 1st.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1521/24 to Admty).

Minefields
Information
for U.S.A.

In order to provide for mutual co-operation (and evidently with reference to Western Hemisphere defence plan No 2.) Navy Dep. ask for location of British Minefields in British Territorial Waters in Western Hemisphere, particularly in those locations where U.S. bases established and timely exchange of information and procedure for U.S. vessels entering British Territorial Waters in Western Hemisphere. Proposal.
(N.A. Washington, 1911/24 to Admty) (Reply 1849/25).

/Enemy Raider.....

War Diary.24.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).Enemy
Raider.

Inform Navy Dept. that W/T transmission at 1918 G.M.T. /23.4.41. indicated German raider or supply ship in approx 32° N; 63° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1952/24 to N.A. Washington).

DELHI

Leave Trinidad 26/4 and proceed to New York via Mona Passage and thence most direct route so as to arrive Ambrose Light at 2100Z/ plus 5 on 2/5.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 2152/24 to DELHI).

Fast U.S.
Ships.

4 fast ex U.S. merchant vessels leave Halifax as a convoy at 0900 Q/25.
(R.A.3 B.S. 2240/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.24.4.1941.
Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/MS Reported.

- 0006 By D/F at 0006/24, position of German U-boat was West of Lewis near the Flannan Islands. (D.D.I.C. 0045/24).
- 0121 By D/F at 0121/24 position of German U-boat was approx 56° N 27° - 29° W. (D.D.I.C. 0225/24).
- 0947 By D/F at 0947/24. Position of German U-boat was approx 51° - 52° N. 19° - 20° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1026/24).
- 2235/21 Master of Portuguese Trawler ALBERIA reports he averted a collision with unknown S/M at 2235/21/4 in 36° 53' N 10° 7' W. Captain of S/M spoke very broken English but as it was a very dark night he himself was invisible. (B.2.) (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1525/24 to Admty) This was H.M.S. URGE see 1338/25.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Indications that fresh U Boats may be on passage from Northern North Sea to N.W. Approaches and it is likely that dispositions will be considerably altered. (D.D.I.C. 1407/24).

U-Boat Signals.

Established that U-boats transmit a signal on 352 ksc. when, having made a convoy first sighting report, they wish to home co-operating U-boats on to the convoy for a mass attack. Owing to lack of M/F D/F in certain convoy escorts arrangements are to be made for a D/F guard to be kept on this frequency in at least one ship of each convoy when in S/M waters. Bearings obtained must be passed at present only by day by V/S in plain language to Commodore of Convoy and Senior Officer of escort. Under consideration to draft further operators for these duties and to supply coding and communication facilities.

/Utmost discretion.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.4.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

U-Boat
Signals. (contd).

Utmost discretion is to be used in passing information contained in para 1 to Marconi operators and only those of known reliability in British ships should be employed of D/F guard work.

(A.C.N.S. (T) 2212/24 to N.C.S.O.s Mersey etc., amended 1253/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

From 0001 B.S.T. today, U.S. Naval and Air Forces will carry out periodic sweeps along the trade routes and in focal areas in the Atlantic west of 26° W and north of the Equator, and later in the North and South Atlantic areas west of 36° W and in the Pacific east of 180°.

Any Axis Naval ships encountered will be shadowed and reported in plain language, but U.S. forces will take no offensive action nor will they interfere in any encounter between our own or enemy forces.

Arrangements have been made for recognition procedure between the British and U.S. forces, and the U.S. forces will be kept informed of the approximate position and movements of British naval and merchant ships.

MOST SECRET.

25.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home commands.

W.N.
Convoys.

The Admiralty have directed that W.N. convoys are to be reduced from seven to six per 14 days, in order to synchronise with E.C. convoys, as proposed by C. in C. Rosyth on 16/4, until another A/A ship is available.

British Air Operations.

68 aircraft attacked Kiel last night. Le Havre, Ostend and Wilhelmshaven were also attacked.

6 Blenheims bombed the E boat base at Ijmuiden.

Blenheims attacked shipping at dawn today off the Dutch coast and damaged or sunk a 1500 ton vessel in the Nieuwe Waterway and slightly damaged another.

A 7000 to 8000 ton vessel in an escorted convoy 25 miles west of Heligoland was hit and probably sunk and a 3000 to 4000 ton vessel in the convoy was also hit.

MOST SECRET.

25.4.1941.

Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Enemy Air Activity.

The Norwegian tanker POLARSOL, independently routed to Curacao, was attacked at 0749 today in 61° 40' N 130° 40' W and was set on fire and abandoned.

Mining.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of ships lost or damaged by mines, in spite of continual heavy minelaying by the enemy.

Aircraft last night laid mines off Copenhagen and the Frisian Islands.

Navigation was resumed this evening in the Thames as far as Sea Reach Buoy No. 4. The Royal Albert Dock is open.

The Humber was opened at 1138. Tyne was closed at 2251.

Mines were detonated in the Firth of Forth off the Humber, Sheerness, Mumbles (Bristol Channel) and Milford Haven.

MOST SECRET.25.4.1941.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Danger
Area.

on 23 April
The British Govt. ~~today~~ announced an extension of the danger area in the Mediterranean. The area covered includes the entire Adriatic, the Aegean, and the eastern Mediterranean west of a line drawn from Egypt to Asia Minor outside Turkish territorial waters. The line runs from a point on the coast of Egypt 100 miles west of Alexandria to the coast of Anatolia just over 100 miles east of Rhodes.

UPHOLDER has been ordered to torpedo the wrecks of one merchant ship and one enemy destroyer aground on Kerkenah Bank (part of the convoy sunk by D. 14 on the night 15/16 April).

Operation
"Dunlop."

Operation "Dunlop" has been postponed 24 hours on account of weather.

Disposition
of S/ms.

C. in C. Med., has ordered Capt. (s)1 to make immediate proposals for the disposition of the Mediterranean submarines. Four O, P or R class are to operate from Gibraltar, CACHALOT, RORQUAL, T class and remainder of the O, P and R class at Alexandria, and the U class at Malta.

Malta.

Further damage was caused at Luqa last night during air raid on Malta. There were two attacks; mines were dropped and harbour objectives were bombed. Extent of damage not yet reported. Two mines were detonated by L.L. sweepers.

Western
Desert.

There was a further heavy minelaying raid on Tobruk last night but the Channel has been kept clear. CHAKLA and escort are taking reinforcements to Tobruk. APHIS has been assisting the military by bombarding M.T. concentrations. Matruh was bombed today.

Benghazi was bombed last night.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.4.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Greece.Operation "Demon".
"DEMON"

The military situation has made it necessary suddenly to advance the evacuation of the Imperial forces from Greece by 3 days. There is now no fighter protection of any sort available in Greece. C. in C. Med states that the only hope of getting our troops out of Greece without very serious loss of life in face of the enormous weight of air attack is to move them in fast ships and small ships by night for which purpose he must employ every possible destroyer and cruiser. He has had to denude the Western Desert and the battle fleet will have to sail without any destroyers if emergency arises. The Admiralty hoped C. in C. Med. would be able to have four of the 14th D.F. at Malta, as well as the 5th D.F. (from U.K.) but the C. in C. replies that this is out of the question for the immediate moment.

13,500 men were taken off from Raptis and Nauplia areas last night, to Suda Bay (apparently by COVENTRY and destroyers escorting THURLAND CASTLE). ULSTER PRINCE ran aground in Nauplia harbour and was abandoned and subsequently bombed and burnt out. Two Sunderlands made 2 return journeys to Crete today from Kalamata and Gytheon, but subsequently all personnel had to be evacuated from there by sea; food was dropped by air.

Corinth Canal.

At 1723 today the Admiralty gave orders that the Corinth Canal was to be blocked as soon as possible.

The enemy have landed at Euboea to attack Khalkis.

Lemnos.

It is reported in the press that, German troops landed on Lemnos this morning and overcame the garrison.

MOST SECRET.

25.4.1941.

Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Greece (contd).Greek
Naval
Units.

Further Greek naval units have arrived at Alexandria, viz. Destroyer QUEEN OLGA, ~~but the remaining~~ but the remaining 4 destroyers have been sunk or severely damaged by air attack in the last few days. Ships are being given 10 days to reorganise and effect repairs before commencing to operate, this period will also enable the attitude of the officers and men to be gauged. GIORGIOS AVEROFF is now flying the flag of the Greek Admiral.

YORK
damaged.

YORK at Suda Bay has sustained further damage from near misses and two salvage divers have been killed and two more injured. Attempts at salvage are however being continued.

America and West Indies.

Four fast ex U.S.A. merchant vessels left Halifax as a convoy this morning.

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War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Provision
of Escort
Vessels.

Your 0035/23 and my 1325/8.
By retaining the 73rd M/S Group at Scapa I could spare 4 ships of the 15th A/S Group for this duty. In view of the poor minesweeping performance of the 63rd M/S Group it is not advocated to send the 73rd M/S Group to Iceland but that they should be employed at Scapa on A/S and escort duties in lieu of 15th A/S Group and in an emergency on minesweeping. In addition four A/S Drifters could be made available for harbour patrols in Iceland. This would necessitate withdrawing two harbour A/S patrols from the Flow. As these Drifters are only fit for harbour service I am very doubtful whether they could make the passage to Iceland. (A.C.O.S. 0935/25).
Request early approval of proposal contained in A.C.O.S. 0935/25 as I wish to have the additional trawlers at Hval Fjord as soon as possible. (C. in C. H.F. 1732/25).

KLIPPAREN.
GULMAREN.

Swedish ~~KLI~~PPAREN and ~~GUL~~MAREN sail from Faroes for Gothenburg routed as follows.
2. Ships should not be molested.
3. N.O.I.C. Faroes is to report time of sailing to addressees. (D.O.D. H. 1057/25).

1st M/L
Flotilla.

Your 1640/24. and A/L M/T S.D. 301/41 of 19-4-41. Intend to release M/L's of 1st Flotilla to be fitted as Minelayers as soon as a Division of 11th M.L. Flotilla is available at Lowestoft to relieve them. Anticipate this to be on 3/5 approx. (C. in C. Nore 1144/25).

CLEVELAND
for Plymouth.

A.M. 1651/24. CLEVELAND detailed. Will be sailed for Plymouth p.m./26. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1513/25).

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Belfast
A/A Gun
Defences.

Agree 8 H.A.A. surplus from this months production should be sent without delay to Belfast raising existing strength plus allotments now agreed to R. Total of 36 H.A.A. (H.Q.F.C. 1515/25 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

PORPOISE.

My 0935/24. Ready to sail 15/5. (S. 3 1654/25).

REPULSE.

Arrived REPULSE, RESTIGOUCHE, SAGUENAY, and HARVESTER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1713/25).

Operations.

East
Coast
Patrols.

Patrols remaining in harbour owing to stress of weather. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 0940/25).

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

SUFFOLK is to sail from Scapa p.m./26 and is to proceed to Hvalfjord.
2. NORFOLK is to leave patrol to arrive Hvalfjord a.m. 28th.
3. After exchange of information SUFFOLK is to proceed patrol as ordered by B.C.S.1, or in his absence C.S.1 and NORFOLK is to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1125/24).
Two destroyers are to be sailed from Scapa to Hvalfjord to act under orders of F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. (C. in C. H.F. 1407/25 to R.A.D. H.F).
Proceed passing Switha 0800 to-morrow to Hval Fiord to act under orders of F.O.C.1. B.C. S. (R.A.D. H.F. 1750/25 to ECHO, ACTIVE)

/Iceland.....

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War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Iceland-
Faroes
Patrol.

C.S. 10 in NIGERIA, with EXETER is to sail from Scapa A.M. 26th to patrol the Iceland Faroes passage to westward of mine barrier.

Two. Object is to cover shipping route in N. W. Approaches against enemy surface forces operating from Eastward.

Three. C.S. 2 in GALATEA with ARETHUSA is to leave patrol A.M. 26th and return. (C. in C. H.F. 1517/24).

Dover
Patrols.

No patrols tonight unless weather moderates. (V.A. Dover 1519/25).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

The following patrols will be flown today from First Light. ~~UNST, STANS, HORNLII,~~ (C. in C. Rosyth 0250/25).

R.C. of Trondheim by PRU Spitfire from Wick taking off at 1430 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1338/25).

My 1909/23. Owing to no PRU report this morning patrol Y will arrive patrol at 1730/25 remaining until 0001/26. (C. in C. Plymouth 1519/25).

Two Whitley Aircraft will fly the following sweeps to-day taking off approx. 1930. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/25).

My 1519/25. Patrol 'Y' withdrawn at 1945. (C. in C. Plymouth 2001/25).

M/V's
attacked.
Tanker
sunk.

Day 24/4. One A/C attacked one of two tankers of 1500 to 2,000 tons, 23 miles southwest of Stavanger. A direct hit is certain and the tanker is claimed as total loss.

Three other aircraft attacked the W/T Station at Utsire. At least one building was destroyed.

Two A/C attacked and sank a fishing vessel 65 miles west of Penmarch Point. (H.Q.B.C. 0255/25).

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War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
W.N. 18
DOLIUS
damaged.

Convoy attacked between 2135/24 and 2225/24 off Bell Rock. S.S. DOLIUS 5507 tons slightly damaged. (C. in C. Rosyth 0207/25) 420. My 0207/25. Convoy was attacked by 1 A/C 037 degrees Bell Rock 9 miles. 4 bombs dropped at 2135 near motor vessel DOLIUS which was beached on arrival at Methil owing to leaks. No casualties. Ship was 5th in starboard column. A/C believed hit by fire from escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 1451/25). DOLIUS damaged and speed reduced off Bell Rock. Am remaining in company unless relieved by trawler. (JASON 2242/25).

POLARSOL.

LKJG position 61° 40' N. 13° 40' W. attacked by plane. (Wick Radio 0749/25). 150° from Myrdale Jokul Light Iceland. A fire after attack by plane. Please send help immediately. (Unknown Ship LKJG 0803/25, 1018/25).

Plymouth.

A delayed action bomb at R.N. Hospital exploded at 1600/24. Following damage. Details. (S.C.E. Devonport 1815/25).

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated as follows at 0019/25. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0911/25). There was very slight air activity over the outer estuary during night 24/25. At 1630/24 a mine detonated apparently spontaneously about 170° 15 cables from the Medway Gate. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1454/25).

Ramsgate.

My 1800/25. A second explosion occurred within 20 yards of first explosion reported in my 1800/25 at 2108/24. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1034/25).

/Humber.....

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25.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Humber.

Humber open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1138/25).

Spurn
Point.

The following four mines exploded to-day. Details.

Three Spontaneous explosions occurred as follows. Details. (F.O. Humber 1807/25).

Swansea.

Exploded Red Mine by LL 091° 3.45 miles from Mumbles Head Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1145/25).

Three Mines exploded by Sweeper today. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/25).

River
Thames

My 1537/20. Navigation in river Thames may now be resumed as far as No. 4 Sea Reach Buoy. Details of restrictions. My 1915/22 remains in force. Royal Albert Dock is open for traffic. (F.O.I.C. London 1835/25).

Firth of
Forth.

1. 23/4. One mine which may have been Acoustic exploded in 037 degs. Inch Keith 1700 yards.

2. 25/4. One Blue mine exploded 129° Haystack 1½ cables. (C. in C. Rosyth 1939/25 and 2200/25).

Tyne.

Port of Tyne closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2251/25).

CONFIDENTIAL. M E S S A G E

1915/25th April.

OUT. P

To. Cs. in C.
F.Os. in C.
N.Os. in C.

} At Home,

Date,

25.4.41

781(A)

(Not to be communicated to the Press).

P/L BY T/P

From Admiralty.

Their Lordships have noticed with much satisfaction the steady decrease in the number of our ships that have been lost or damaged by mines. In spite of continual heavy minelaying by the enemy our ports and harbours are kept open.

This great success is due to the sustained gallantry and devotion to duty of the officers and men of our minesweepers. The experimental and training shore establishments, the dockyards and the degaussing organisation have all contributed their share to this splendid achievement.

Their Lordships wish their congratulations and thanks to be conveyed to all concerned.

1915/25

for D.M.S. (Tel. 859)
Approved 1st Lord.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
E.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.M.S. (3)
M. (3) For issue of Branch Acquaint.
D.D.T.M.
D.T.M.
W.D.
I.P. (3)

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War Diary.

25.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Narvik.

Visual R/C of Narvik at 0300 reported present one large ship with a smaller ship alongside and on the opposite side of the Fjord a 3rd ship, possibly a cruiser. Reconnaissance was hindered by intense enemy A.A. (D.D.I.C. 1157/25).

Kiel.
Wilhelmshaven.
Bremerhaven.

Preliminary results of photographic reconnaissance on 25/4.
Kiel:- Two HIPPER Class cruisers one of which was in floating dock. One Pocket Battleship in No. 6 dry dock.
Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven:- No major units. (D.D.I.C. 1810/25).

Shipping
Movements
from
Belts.

German W/T traffic shows activities by local auxiliaries which suggests a movement from the Belts to Oslo or the Skaggerack. Movement could be important but there is no indication as to what types of vessels are concerned. (D.D.I.C. 1857/25).

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 1800/25 showed one Battlecruiser in dry dock. The T.B. jetty could not be seen owing to haze. (D.D.I.C. 1955/25).
My 1955/25. Examination of photographs shows both battle cruisers present in usual berths. (D.D.I.C. 2103/25).

Convoy
off
Ushant.

1 Convoy bearing 160° 8 miles course unknown my position 48° N. 6° W.
(? A/C Duty H. 2245/25 to 19 Group H.Q)

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25.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CLYDE.

Am aground Coulport. Please send tug.
(CLYDE 1514/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

STAD. AMSTERDAM.

Dutch STAD Amsterdam returned from SC 29
for repairs. Cause of distress fire at
sea. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1516/24).

H.43.

My 1546/23. Sailing of H. 43 postponed
owing to defects. (C. in C. Nore 2044/25).

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S. 9.

Following ships intended (list of 22)
(D. of S.T., 0555/25 to P.S.T.O. W. of
Scotland, etc).

Stern
Lights.

Reported that many ships in convoy continue
to exhibit white stern lights. Attention
of Masters should be drawn to A.M.S.I.
574, Sec. (A) paras. 4 and 9 now in course
of distribution. Blue stern lights only
should be used by ships in convoy.
(D.T.D. 1223/25).

W.S.8 A.

Intend sailing Clyde portion of W.S. 8 (A)
and PRETORIA CASTLE escorted by C.S. 15
in NAIAD, REPULSE, OTTAWA, SAGUENAY,
RESTIGOUCEE, PIORUN, BEAGLE, LEGION,
HESPERUS, HURRICANE, HARVESTER at 2030/26
to R/V with Liverpool portion 0600/27
in position 225° Oversay 6 miles thence
as in A.M. 1620/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
1557/25, 2308Z/26 to Admty).

W.N. and
E.C. Convoys.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1757/19. WN Convoys
are to be sailed to synchronise with EC
convoys in order that additional A/A
protection may be provided from Pentland
Firth to the southward. This will result
in existing WN cycle being amended from
7 convoys to six convoys per 14 days.
Existing cycle should be reverted to
when JAN VAN BRAKEL is available for
A/A duties. (D.T.D. 1813/25 to C. in C.
Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Clyde).

H.X. 118.

On time at R.V. One straggler, all now
arrived. (D.T.D 1905/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Details of H.X. 118 (D.S., 596, 23/4).

S.C. 27.

On time at R.V. FAVORIT straggler bombed
and sunk. Remainder arrived. (D.T.D.
1912/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Details of S.C.
27. (D.S. 595, 22/4).

Tankers.

In view of the great value of tankers,
signals concerning their movements are
to be made in cypher only. (D.T.D.
1917/25 to A.I.G. 12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TROVATORE
ATLANTA
(Italian).

TROVATORE yesterday discharged coal into Woermann Lighters. ATLANTA has discharged olive oil for which permission granted by M.E.W. for shipment Buenos Aires and is now loading cargo previously discharged into warehouse ex/ERNANI IBOK). (B.C. Las Palmas 1230/25).

TAKU
UNION.

Movements.
(Capt. S.8. 1603/25 to TORBAY, UNBEATEN).

PANDORA

Your 1945/20 not to Admty. Can you say when PANDORA will be required for patrol? She is due to refit in U.K. May. Admty 2237/13/12 and your 1247 30/12 refer. (F.O.C.N.A. 1658/25 to Capt. S.1.)

French Ships.

French armed trawler LA SETOISE passed Gibraltar westbound at 1115/25 escorting French S.S. SAINT CYRILLE, OUED SEBOU II, ROUENNAIS, THISBE and TADORNE (DOR).

French
Convoys.

1 passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1628/25, escort SERGENT GOUANE, 1 passed westbound at 1600/25, escort SIMOUN.
Details in D.O.R. 27/4.

Yugoslav ships,
Lisbon.

Proposal in your 1645/24 not practicable. Yugoslav authorities have instructed their Minister in Madrid to assist Charge D'Affairs in persuading crews to obey orders. Arrangements made to try financial persuasion if necessary on crews of ANTE MATKOVIC and OLGA TOPIC.
(Head of M. 2346/25 to NC.S.O. Lisbon).

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BENVORLICH

Overdue shipping my 1034/22, cancel BENVORLICH.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0946B/25).

MAUD

Overdue shipping. My 1007/24 MAUD arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1036B/25).

→ BABITONGA

Santos reports German ship BABITONGA leaving harbour, 0020 local time/25.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1101Z/25, to Admty).

NORDERNEY
LECH
(German).

NORDERNEY and LECH may be leaving at any time. Believe NORDERNEY has permission to sail.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro. 1246/25).

TEBRO
(Italian).
WINDHUK
(German).

Santos reports (A.2.). Italian ship TEBRO has changed berth close to German ship WINDHUK. Reported ready for a sea and clearance obtained.
(S.O. (I) Montevideo 1541Z/25).
My 1541Z/25 Santos now reports ship has not yet cleared.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1906Z/25).

→ BABITONGA
(German).

25/4 BABITONGA cleared for Vladivostock
(Santos T.H.I. 1908/25).

HIMALAYA
(Italian).
LECH
(German).

Rio De Janeiro reports HIMALAYA is receiving 300 tons of Diesel oil fuel. LECH is continuing fuelling.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2114Z/25 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.German
Occupation
of Lemnos.

German troops landed at 0500/25 on Lemnos. The small Greek garrison of infantry and police fought the invaders for over 4 hours. The attack followed an ultimatum from the German forces that had previously occupied Samothrace, 30 miles N.E. of Lemnos. A semi-official Greek statement says that enemy disembarked troops from military transports which had arrived in the harbour of Bournia with aircraft escort. (The Times 26/4/41).

Use of
Tunisian
Waters.

Following reports received.

(a) Tunisian waters used by Italian vessels at rate of six daily with naval escorts and heading for Libya. These vessels pass close to shore. Five of them were sunk recently and Italian and German wounded are at Susa. Reported armoured cars, lorries and tanks destined for Libya are being repaired in Tunisia. (C.2.)

No truth in statements that Germans are disembarking troops in Tunisia. (B.2.)

Comment. From above it appears that Germans have not disembarked in Tunisian ports but probable that they make use of territorial waters en route to Libya.

(N.I.D. 0049/25 to C. in C. Med).

REGENT

Your 1519/24. Proceeding to Malta my position 37° 26' 19" 49' E.T.A. off Marsamxett 0800B/26.

(REGENT, 0101/25 to Capt. S.I.)

Tripoli
bombed.

Special Operational Summary. Times G.M.T. 2 Wellingtons 148 Sqn. attacked Tripoli harbour night 24/25. 2 Wellingtons unable to take off owing enemy action against Luqa Aerodrome during night. Over target from 1945 hours to 2045 hours. Hits on customs wharf, seaplane hangar and Government offices straddled.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 0720/25).

/Destroyer Strength....

25.4.1941.
Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Destroyer
Strength.

Failure of Capt. D. 14 to locate Convoy during night 23/24th points to larger forces being required. Hoped it may be possible for four destroyers now at Malta to remain there after arrival of 5th Flotilla.
(1st S.L.1031/25 to C. in C. Med). *Reply: 2315/25.*

Rhodes
Bombed.

Operational Summary No. 319 up to 1200/25. Night 23/24. 1 Wellington dropped 2500 lbs bombs on Rhodes main harbour causing violent explosion.

Air Raid,
Suda Bay.

Crete 24/4. Suda Bay twice bombed by 4 Cant 1007s with 1 BR. 20 10 Ju. 88s respectively. Buildings damaged no casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1033/25).

Malta Air
Raids 22/4.

Valetta Harbour and Approach attacked. 0050B/
22. Parachute mines dropped from varying heights between 300 and 1000 feet combined with intense bombing of harbour objectives. 25 Heinkel 3 and Ju. 88's in first raid and 40 in second. Aircraft approached from N.W. direction along coast and dropped parachute mines to seaward. Two mines so far detonated by L Sweep. One aircraft shot down in first raid and one probable damaged in second raid. 2 mines were dropped in St. Paul's Bay area, one exploded in the air and the other detonated one minute after striking ground. One mine also exploded on land in Valetta.
(V.A. Malta, 1135/25 to Admty).

YORK.

YORK has sustained further damage from near misses and two salvage divers have been killed and two more injured. If as is most likely the frequency and weight of attacks increase we may have to abandon attempt at salvage but at present we are persevering.
(C. in C. Med. 1147/25 to Admty).

S/Ms

My 0948/12. Admty 1952/17. Request you will construct rush proposal for disposition of Mediterranean S/Ms. Four O, P or R at Gibraltar. CACHALOT, RORQUAL, "T" class and remaining O, P and R at Alexandria, "U" class at Malta. Proposal should include arrangements to comply with Admty 1752/21.
(C. in C. Med, 1151/25 to Capt. S.I.).

Sailings from.....

25.4.1941. 789
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Sailings from
Marseilles.

Report from Secret Source states:
At 0700/22 12 vessels in Marseilles were requisitioned by Germans and crews replaced. Unknown number of ships sailed from Marseilles during night of 23rd/24th in the direction of Spain with munitions and arms (heavy and light machine guns were observed being loaded) and small aluminium boats. All this material was loaded at night. Names of vessels painted out. Vessels will be conveyed by two sloops. (B.2.)
(D.D.I.C. 1301/25 to C. in C. Med).

LIVERPOOL

It is intended to sail LIVERPOOL from Suez about 3/5 via Colombo and Singapore to San Francisco. Detailed programme will be signalled to all concerned.
(C. in C. Med. 1435/25).

Possible attack
on Crete.

Your 2235/21. Greek M.A. source was Turkish General Staff. Later information was that Italian troops in Dodecanese were being drawn in to Rhodes leaving about 10,000 in Leros. Turkish General Staff regard above movement as defensive. Recent naval information does not indicate preparation of sea borne attack.
(N.A. Angora, 1631/25. to D.N.I.)

Malta
Air Raid.

Report Malta up to 1600 hours 25/4. All times G.M.T. Nil report.
1838 about 30 enemy aircraft raided Island. Targets evidently dockyard and Luqa. Many bombs dropped each area including Valletta. Several flares dropped illuminating objectives. Parachute mines also dropped round harbour area. Four sticks of bombs dropped Luqa area of which some unexploded on aerodrome. Camp electricity supply temporarily u/s. Some damage to naval buildings. No naval casualties. Considerable damage to civilian property in Valletta, but no casualties.
(1715/25 H.Q. R.A.F. Malta).

Corinth Canal.....

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Corinth Canal.

Information received shows Germans wish to avoid damaging Corinth Canal. Reports also indicate that it may be the intention to seize canal by use of parachutists to ensure its security (A.I.) Immediate action should therefore be taken to block canal by explosives followed by blockships as soon as possible.
(1st S.L. 1723/25 to C. in C. Med).

Greek Naval Units.

Have authorized Stores and Provisions required by Greek Naval Vessels at Alexandria to be supplied from Naval source and essential repairs to be undertaken.
(C. in C. Med. 1745/25 to Admty).

MAURO CROCE (Italian).

Left for Genoa, 23/4.
(Barcelona ?1824/25).

Operation "Dunlop".

Your 1137/23. Weather unfit. Postponed 24 hours.
(V.A. Malta, 1848/25 to F.O. Force H.)

Movements.

Arrival 24/4 AUCKLAND, CHAKLA, Greek Dest. IERAX.
Departure 24/4 HOTSPUR, HEReward, DECOY, HASTY, ORION, ISIS, HERO, HAVLOCK, TRIUMPH, arrival 25/4 GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN SEA, A 6 KIRRIEMOOR, AMBER, LYDIARD, KINGSTON CYANITE, SVARNA, Greek Destroyers *BASILISSA / OLGA.
Departure 25/4 AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, NUBIAN.
(S.O. (I) Alexandria 1906/25). *See also p. 192*
QUEEN OLGA

Benghazi.

Aircraft R/C p.m./24 reports one 240 foot motor vessel under way in Northern Basin Benghazi, one 150 foot vessel at end of Northern Breakwater. One 5000 ton merchant ship 12 miles off shore heading for Benghazi.
(Capt. S.L. 1909/25 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy Wrecks. Kerkenah Bank.

Proceed to torpedo wrecks of one merchant ship and one enemy destroyer aground inshore of No. 3 and No. 4 buoys Kerkenah bank. There are submerged wrecks of other ships in vicinity.
(V.A. Malta 2024/25 to UPHOLDER).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).USK.

Intense A/S activity in the area. Withdrawing to Cape Bon or further south as directed. Arriving Cape Bon Sunday morning. (USK. 2100/25 to S.O. (3) Malta).

Situation.

Report No. 7.
(C. in C. Med., 2257/25 to Admty). See Lion Copy.

Operation "^{Demoni}~~DEMON~~" (Evacuation of Imperial forces from Greece).

Movements.

24/4. Arrival PHOEBE, NEBOJSCA, (Yugoslav S/M) WATERHEN, GRIMSBY, VENDETTA, RODI, RUNO, KIRKLAND, THEMONI, BEST FRIEND, ARRAYBANK, ROCOR. Departure STUART, VOYAGER, CALCUTTA SALVIA, Yugoslav S/M. NEBOJSCA Greek S/M. PAPANICOLIS (2 corrupt groups) HYACINTH, ULSTER PRINCE, DESTRO.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay. 1735/25).

Evacuation from Megara.

After dark GRIFFIN send PENNLAND towards Suda Bay close inshore. GRIFFIN, DECOY, HASTY, HAVOCK proceed to arrive pier south of ruins Minocain position 037° 58' 023° 21' by 2300 passing half mile off Moni light. COVENTRY, destroyer, and THURLAND CASTLE must take 5500 from Megara beach tonight. COVENTRY, WATERHEN, VENDETTA and WRYNECK escort THURLAND CASTLE to Suda Bay. Remainder proceed at 20 knots.
(V.A.L.F. 1755/25 to DECOY, GRIFFIN, GRIMSBY).

PENNLAND.

Take PENNLAND to S.W. and detach her at dark to proceed (?Suda Bay) close inshore. Then rejoin COVENTRY.
(V.A.L.F., 1802/25 to GRIFFIN).

Monem^{asia}asia.....

Mediterranean.

491(A)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2257/25 Apr 41 IN

From ?C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 26/4/41
Reed. 1140

NAVAL CYBER (OR) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated F.O. Force H, V.A. Malta,
S.B.N.O. Canal Area.

IMPORTANT

Situation Report Number Seven.

1. Demon. Our Air Force in Greece now negligible which renders operation more hazardous. Military pressure on covering position not yet heavy but enemy have landed Babosa to attack Khalisa. Situation regarding evacuation last night not yet clear. Evacuation from port left is successful numbers unknown. ULSTER PRINCE lost off Nauplia no details known.
2. Western Desert. 21 JU 87 with fighters attacked Tobruk yesterday three down some damage to reservoir Channel has been kept clear into Tobruk despite further heavy mine laying raid last night. CHAKIA and escort proceeding Tobruk with reinforcements. AMHS assisted military attacks on M.T. concentrations in Capu Cafuzzo Area.
3. DESEWLEA has been towed to Port said successfully by CHAKIA and BRITISH TORD to Alexandria. GEMROY a'lost though considerably damaged.
4. Number of Greek Warships have arrived Alexandria, see my 2251/25.

2257/25.

Advance copy 1st Lord, A.C.N.S.(F), C.S.O. to
1st S.L., Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C., D.P.D.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- ... (2)
- ... (2)
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (H)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- D.O.D. (F)
- D.D.O.D. (F)
- D.H.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.H.C.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A./S.W.
- D.M.S.
- I.P.
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- Duty Captain.

- Head of M. (20)
- D.T.S.D.
- D.D.I.C.
- E.P.S.
- D.T.B. (2)
- N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd). *Operation "Demon".*Monemausia
SALVIA
HYACINTH
MUROTO.

Your 1658/25 and 1030/25. SALVIA is being sailed from Suda Bay to arrive Nauplia 2100/26 and sweep anchorage down to 8 fathoms. She is to withdraw down coast South of 037° N by daylight and embark party from Monemausia for passage to Suda Bay. HYACINTH is being retained at Suda Bay. MUROTO is at Suda Bay damaged by bombing and requires 48 hours for repairs. (V.A.L.F. 2357/25 to F.O. (A) Med).

Greek Naval
Units.

B.N.A. Athens 1101/23 and my 2158/24. Following ships have arrived Alexandria. Cruiser GIORGIOS AVEROFF now flying flag of Admiral Kavadias (?). Destroyers QUEEN OLGA SPETSAL, AETOS, IERAX, PANTHER, COUDOURIOTIS. T.B.D. NIKI and ASPIS. Depot ship HEPHESTOS and S/MS NEREUS, TRITON, GLAUCOS, KATSONIS. S/M PAPANICOLIS is expected shortly but remaining 4 destroyers have been sunk or severely damaged by attack in last few days. Ships have 10 days in which to reorganise their crews and effect repairs before commencing to operate. The Greek S/MS were brought down by Commander Baker and junior officers the C.O.'s refusing to do so. These C.O.'s have however now arrived by destroyers. I consider it will be advisable to treat ships with reserve as regards issue of confidential matter until Greek situation has crystallised. The period of reorganisation will be useful in this respect. (C. in C. Med 2251/25 to Admty). *p. 790*

GLENROY
damaged.

GLENROY has been ashore and damaged will take several weeks to make good. Propose sending her to Bombay or Durban to dock as this cannot be undertaken at Alexandria in present condition. (C. in C. Med. 2303/25 to Admty).

Situation shortage.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.25.41941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).Situation
shortage of
destroyers
D.14 not to
remain at
Malta.

Your 1031/25. It is for the immediate moment out of the question to retain D. 14's force at Malta as well as 5th D.F.

(2) The state of affairs here at the moment do not seem to be realized by T.L. The military situation has made it necessary suddenly to advance evacuation by 3 days and there is now no fighter protection of any sort available in Greece. In consequence, the only hope of getting British Imperial troops out of Greece without very serious loss of life in face of enormous weight of air attack is to move them in fast ships and small ships by night. For this purpose it is essential that I employ every possible destroyer and cruiser.

I have thus had to denude the Western desert and battle fleet will have to sail without any destroyers if emergency arises.

(3) I intend to leave four destroyers of 5th D.F. at Malta plus JANUS who is undergoing small repair which is maximum I can afford at moment till evacuation is properly in hand.

(4) It is true that a larger force at Malta is desirable, but however much these forces are increased the enemy will still be able to evade since root of trouble lies in enemy air preponderance which allows him to keep constant watch on our attacking forces whilst his fighters prevent our doing likewise to his convoys. In consequence evasion becomes relatively easy. The successful passage of German convoys in home waters appears to point to similar experience.

(C. in C. Med 2315/25 to Admty).

East Indies.U.S.10
W.S.7.

As QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH would run short of water if their passage to Suez was delayed intention is to hasten their passage to Suez to arrive as soon as possible.

Remainder of U.S. 10 is being delayed so as to arrive Suez four days after W.S. 7.

(C. in C. E.I. 0608Z/25, to Movements, Middle East.)

CAPETOWN.....

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

CAPETOWN
repairs.

C. in C. E.I. ashore's 1254/23. I have approved para 1 and 2 and have asked C. in C. Med. to send a Constructor Officer to advise on para 3 of CAPETOWN's 1155/22.
(C. in C. E.I. Afloat 0823Z/25 to Admty).

PARAMATTA.

My 1153/24 PARAMATTA will leave Massawa 30/4 to join Med. Fleet.
(C. in C. E.I. Afloat 0935/25 to C. in C. Med).

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

REGENSBERG
(German)

Left Kobe 22/4. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0752Z/25).

TOMISLAV,
Italian armed
guard.

Your 2016/25. Circumstances have been reported by Consul General Shanghai to Ministry of Shipping who have been asked to pass all telegrams to you. On 24/4 Japanese Naval Authorities informed Resident N.O. Admiral and myself that Italian action unwarranted and compromises Japan's neutral position. They have protested on their own initiative to Italian S.N.O. and Italian Ambassador demanding withdrawal of guard. Although reduced guard still remains on board anticipate its early withdrawal in view of Japanese intervention. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0717Z/25 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

Search for
Enemy
Units.

Your 2232/25, concur. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0010/25 to C. in C. A.W.I).

U.S. Warships
Recognition.

Information received from U.S. Naval Authorities that U.S. warships may be at sea in Atlantic Ocean. In order that mutual recognition may be possible S.P. 02291 K is to be brought into force at 1200 G.M.T/25, and is to be used for all recognition in both North and South Atlantic Oceans west of 30° W. except as stated in my 0025/25.

Circulation of this message ashore is to be restricted to such authorities who by reason of their duties require this information. (1st S.L. 0020/25 to "A" Message, Home, N.A. S.A).
Instructions in detail. (D.S.D. 0025/25)

/DIOMEDE.....

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

DIOMEDE.
to intercept
Spanish
MARQUES DE
COMILLAS.

Ambassador Washington Tel. 1798 of 24/4 addressed F.O. DIOMEDE is being sailed from Bermuda p.m./25 to endeavour to intercept MARQUES DE COMILLAS. Request instructions whether ship may be stopped inside American neutrality zone. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1151/25 to Admty).

Arrival and departure DIOMEDE in execution of my 1151Z/25. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1809/25 to Adty).

S.S. MARQUES DE COMILLAS of Spanish Ybarra line is due to sail for Spain from New York on 25/4 usually takes normal route 8-9 day passage. Italian ex N.A. Washington, Admiral Lais, is on board and has been granted safe conduct which does not cover his baggage. Also on board German agent Else Weustenfeld female. If intercepted Admiral Lais' baggage may be removed also enemy agent baggage. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2347/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A).

Inter-
communication.

Recognition procedure and communications between U.S.A. Navy Dept. and Adty. (N.A. Washington 1642/25 to C. in C. A.W.I. and 1750/25 to Adty).

SAN AMADO.
EMPIRE
LEOPARD.
NICOLAOU
VIRGINIA
GLAISDALE
raider
report.

Your 1249/18 N.C.S.O. Aruba reports SAN AMADO challenged incorrectly by ship similar to OU 6329 (1) page 3 No 90 but shorter poop and longer after well deck. Estimated speed 16 knots. On Master challenging stranger made H.M. Ship and indecypherable group. Master sent distress message. Stranger subsequently made unknown signal letter GNKU and ordered Master to cancel distress message. Master refused and also denies having cancelled message subsequently for fear of revealing position by D/F after losing sight of stranger. He reports other ships involved EMPIRE LEOPARD and Greek NICOLAOU VIRGINIA and Br. GLAISDALE. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1819/25 to Adty).

/U.S. Warships....

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd)

U.S. Warships.
Recognition.

Your 1117/24 para.1. Concur see my 1846/25 to N.A. Washington. Para 2 Concur but both routes should be used until experience shows which is best. (D.S.D. 1845/25 to C. in C. A.W.I).

H.X. 123,
Escort.

Your 2248/23. As arrival of ROYAL SOVEREIGN is delayed intend sailing RAMILLIES p.m./26 to overtake H.X. 123. DERBYSHIRE escorting H.X. 123 and proceeding Reykjavik with Iceland local escort for subsequent patrol carries 25 officers and 247 other ranks Air Force personnel. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1847/25 to Adty);

Minefields,
Information
for U.S.A.

Your 1911/24 para. 1 (a) No British offensive minefields exist. Only British controlled minefield is at Halifax of which details are to be provided by C. in C. A. & W.I. forthwith. Your para. 1 (B) U.S.N.A. London will be provided with information as to British offensive minefields by D.M.S. Admiralty and as to British controlled minefields by D. of L.D. Admiralty. Arrangements for recognition procedure for U.S. vessels to enter British ports are given in A.M 1848/25. This may take a few days and until arranged prior notice must be given. Your para. 2. Concur. Above refers to Atlantic Oceans West of 26° W. (D.S.D. 1849/25 to N.A. Washington).

U.S.
Merchant
Ships.

Your 1224/14. Subject to your concurrence all Reporting Officers will be informed that if and when they receive from their Intelligence Centre the keyword 'Chatfold' they should commence telegraphing in code to 'Chatfold' Ottawa movements of all U.S.A. merchant ships. (D.N.I. 1855/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

American
M.T.B's.

Your 2213/10 to N.A. Torpedo carrying M.T.B's are having hulls overhauled and engines sent to Packard for refit. Refit will take 4 to 5 weeks. Do not anticipate boats can be delivered to U.K. until towards end of June. (Consul-General, New York. 2050/25 to Admtty).

War Diary.

25.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

MILLIMUMUL
Mined.

Is Press report that Trawler MILLIMUMUL recently sunk by mine near Newcastle N.S.W. correct? If so do you consider mine was laid in November or is it evidence of renewal of Pacific Raider activity?
(D.D.I.C. 1058/25 to A.C.N.B)

War Diary.

25.4.1941.799
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

AURILLAC
(torpedoed
15/4).

I am arranging to repatriate 21 officers and men ex AURILLAC by Portuguese S.S. LIMA expected to sail for Lisbon tomorrow Saturday night. (Consul, Funchal, 1620/25 to F.O.C.N.A).

EMPIRE
ENDURANCE
(torpedoed
20/4)

Arrived TRILLIUM with 24 survivors from EMPIRE ENDURANCE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2032/25)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1510/25).

1200

(B.2) S/M nationality unknown reported 1100 G.M.T./25 to northward of Porto Moniz proceeding in direction approx. E.N.E. (Consul, Funchal 1226/25 to Admty) (F.O.C.N.A 1809/25 to N.A. Stn).

2235/21

N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1525/24. re trawler ALBERIA and unknown S/M. This was URGE. (S.O.I. Gib., 1338/25 to Admty)

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Iceland-Faeroes
Patrol.

C.S. 10 sailed today from Scapa in NIGERIA with EXETER to patrol the Iceland-Faeroes passage to westward of the mine barrier with the object of covering the shipping route in the N.W. Approaches against any enemy surface forces operating from the eastward. C.S. 2. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA left patrol this morning.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled between 1407 and 1424 today. No naval casualties or damage occurred.

Convoy
A/A escorts

In view of the spread of enemy air attack to all our coasts available A/A escorts are to be allocated on the scale of one per convoy in W.A., Plymouth and North of Scotland areas, and two per convoy on the coast between Rosyth and Portsmouth. It will be some weeks before this scale of escort can be achieved. Changes in allocations are to be made accordingly.

British Air Operations

Blenheims today operated against shipping off the Dutch and Norwegian coasts. Probable damage to ships off the Dutch coast is claimed, and off Fede Fjord a 1000 ton ship is reported to have been hit and sunk.

801

26.4.1941.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

In the N.W. Approaches SS MOUNTPARK, a straggler from S.L. 69, was attacked early this morning and sank later. Norwegian TAI SHAN, independently routed, was approached this afternoon by a F.W. which was driven off, damaged (possibly crashed later), by the fire of TAI SHAN and a fighter aircraft, before any bombs were dropped.

Convoys F.S.472 and F.S.473 were bombed this evening in the Thames Estuary and off Cromer respectively, no damage being caused.

A.P. Trawler DONNA NOOK was bombed and damaged off the Tyne late this evening.

Bombs were dropped tonight in the Shetlands.

Mining

Four Beauforts laid mines off Brest at 0500 today.

Mining by enemy aircraft last night was suspected in Liverpool Bay.

Mines were detonated today in the Tyne, Hartlepool, Thames and off Falmouth.

The Tyne was opened at 1025; Blyth was closed from 0030 to 2209, and Liverpool was closed at 2345.

War Diary

26.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

UNBEATEN, USK, UTMOST, UPHOLDER, URSULA, UPRIGHT and TRUANT are being disposed to attack an enemy convoy which is expected to pass Kerkenah from Italy about 28/4 and 2/5. A surface force will be sent from Malta to attack, if available.

Yugoslav
Naval Units.

Yugoslav M.T.B's KAJMAKALAN and DURMITOR arrived at Alexandria today.

Turkish
territorial
waters.

Vessels identified as enemy may now be attacked within Turkish territorial waters, but not within the Dardanelles Straits.

Western
Desert.

Sweepers are keeping the channels to Tobruk clear; minor damage has been caused to them from bombing. LADYBIRD has bombarded Gazala and late tonight APHIS was bombarding enemy column on top of Sollum Escarpment at Halfaya Pass. Lack of adequate fighter support is being badly felt in Tobruk where the scale of air attack has in consequence increased. Lack of fighters is also making the work of the gunboats precarious.

Greece

Operation
"Demon"

The embarkation arrangements for tonight are detailed in V.A.L.F. 0205/20. Some 23,700 men are to be taken off from six points, mostly in merchant ships and a few in H.M. Ships. The destination of the troop ships will be signalled.

Last night, 5,500 men were got off from Megara for Crete. PENNLAND was sunk by bombing before any troops had embarked.

/By midnight....

MOST SECRETWar Diary26.4.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMediterranean- Greece, Contd.

By midnight tonight 11,000 troops from Greece had reached Crete. GLENEARN has been damaged by bomb in 37° 5' N., 23° 3' E., it appears that no troops were on board.

At Suda Bay, ROVER has been damaged by near miss and is unable to proceed under her own power. YORK has again been slightly damaged by near miss.

Corinth Canal bridge was captured this morning by German parachute troops. (See p. 205A, June)

Australia

MILLUMUMUL fouled a mine in her trawl ~~today~~ in approx. 33° 34' S., 151° 56' E., and sank. The mine is believed to have been one of the field laid in November 1940. (See 22/4)

804

26.4.41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Invergordon
Sub-Command.

Your 1245/20. Approved.
(Head of M. 1002/26.).

15th A/S
Group.

A.C.O.S. 0935/25. 15th A/S Group is to be sailed for Iceland forthwith.
2. Four A/S Drifters are to be ready to leave Scapa at eight hours' notice.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1032/26.).

4th D.F.
and
20th D.F.

Consequent on the transfer of the 5th D.F. to the Mediterranean the 4th D.F. is being transferred to the Plymouth Command.
2. The 20th D.F., JUPITER from 5th D.F., and NESTOR from 7th D.F. will join the H.F., when ready for service. (D.O.D. H. 1546/26.).

6th
Escort
Force.

I intend to reinforce Iceland escort force with 6th Escort Force sailing with O.B.315 and 316 on 27/4 and 28/4 respectively.
(C. in C. W.A. 1702/26.).

A/A Convoy
Escorts.

In view of the spread of enemy air attack to all our coasts, it has been decided to allocate available A/A escorts on the scale of one per convoy in the Western Approaches, Plymouth and North of Scotland areas, and two per convoy on the East Coast. It will be some weeks before this scale of defence can be achieved.
2. In order to implement these decisions, the following changes in allocations are to come into force, arrangements being made as necessary between Commanders-in-Chief.
(1st. S.L. 1745/26.).

War Diary.26.4.41.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.A.F.D.7.

Arrived A.F.D.7 in tow of tugs SUPERMAN, QUEENSCROSS, and EMPIRE HENCHMAN escorted by VIVIEN with propeller defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0626/26.).

12th Escort Group.

Remainder of 12th escort group sails for Iceland 28/4 and will be available for duty specified in my 1124/21 paragraphs (f) and (g). (C. in C. W.A. 1113/26.).

Operations.T.L.C. Operations.

Operations at Tiree and Benbecula by T.L.C. likely to extend several weeks. Question of escort both for protection and assistance in event of breakdown important. No permanent escort can be given by N.O.I.C. Greenock or other local authority. Suggest trawlers or drifters from other sources be allocated for duration of operations. (V.A.C.T.C. 0758/26.).

Iceland-Faroes Patrol.

Scapa departure F.O.C. 10th C.S. in NIGERIA, (A.C.O.S. 1046/26.). EXETER.

East Coast Patrols.

Patrols remaining in harbour owing to stress of weather. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1047/26). My 0920/26. Patrols will not be covered tonight. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1750/26.).

Dover Patrols.

No patrols tonight unless weather moderates. (V.A. Dover 1456/26.).

ST. DENISE LOUISE.

Reference ^{"Greenock"} ~~AV-115~~. The French fishing vessel ST. DENISE LOUISE manned by a British crew, is engaged on a reconnaissance to the fishing grounds West of Ushant, and is expected to return to Newlyn on Sunday or Monday next.
2. F.O.I.C. Falmouth has been informed verbally. (D.O.D.H. 1738/26.).

806

War Diary.

26.4.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Dover
shelled.

Nine shells fell in Dover Harbour and six in the town between 1407 and 1424 to-day. Military casualties two killed five wounded. No naval or civilian casualties. No damage to naval property. (V.A. Dover 1836/26.).

CONQUEROR.

Proposed operations. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1947/26. See Operations Volume.

British Air Activity.

Attacks on
M/V's.

On 25th April. Two aircraft attacked a vessel of approx. 1500 tons entering Rotterdam along the Nieuwe Waterway. Two bombs struck the vessel. Extremely doubtful if the vessel made port. Two other Blenheims attacked a 1000-Ton M/V off Ijmuiden. Bombs fell close enough to cause minor damage. A/C sighted a convoy of three M/V's and five escort vessels 25 miles due west of Heligoland, one aircraft attacked a vessel of between 7000 and 8000 tons scoring a direct hit from 80 feet. This vessel is claimed as very severely damaged and probably sunk. Another vessel of 3/4000 tons was also attacked by this formation, one direct hit was obtained on the stern causing severe damage. (H.Q.B.C. 0126/26.).

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Hovn Li"} ~~HORRLE~~ will be flown to-day commencing 0930. (C. in C. Rosyth 0720/26.). One Sunderland A/C Left Sullom Voe 1600/26 for R/C of Narvik. E.T.A. 2300/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 1620/26.).

Offensive
Operations.

1. Up to six A/C to attack E boats at Ijmuiden at first light ^{27/4.} ~~27/4.~~
2. Carry out operation ~~Platoon~~ ^{Platoon} 3 today.
3. A/C are to stand by for operation QA and QB tonight. (Chatham 1122/26 to Bircham Newton.).

War Diary.26.4.41.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Stavanger Area.

Photographic R/C of aerodromes in the Stavanger area on 25/4 show more aircraft than have been seen at any time since August 1940. Included is a striking force at Sola of 51 aircraft. (D.C. 0301/26 and D.D.I.C. 1245/26.).

MOUNTPARK.

(British, 4648 Tons) Request you will sail with despatch Tugs PRUDENT and SALVONIA to assist MOUNTPARK in 56° 14' N., 12° 18' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1129/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.).

A/C Report of sighting. (Plymouth 1615/26.). From MOUNTPARK 56° 21' N., 11° 57' W. approx. Require immediate assistance. Have wounded (Valentia Radio 1616/26.).

Intercepted at 1638 G.M.T. from MOUNTPARK. Sinking by stern. Have wounded. Assistance required immediately. No receiver. (Port Patrick Radio 1633/26.).

MOUNTPARK position at 1800/26 056° 15' N., 012° 08' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1838/26 to SALADIN.).

Wounded and part of crew of MOUNTPARK on board here. Wireless demolished, slowly sinking, position 056° 15' 012° 09' West. We are proceeding to our new destination. (UMTALI 2240/26.).

Convoy E.N. Even.

Convoy ^{"Paddle"}PADDLE is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 56° 28' N., 2° 14' W. Course and speed of convoy 030°, 7 knots. (ALYNBANK 1442/26.).

Fighter a/c despatched to assist convoy ^{"Paddle"}PADDLE. (Rosyth W/T 2030/26.).

Convoy F.S. Even.

Enemy is bombing convoy ^{"Arena"}ARENA in 51° 32' N., 1° 6' E. (VIMIERA 1900/26.). Course and speed of convoy 227° 8 knots.

TAI SHAN.

(Norwegian, 6962 Tons) Attacked by F/W at 1415/26 in 59° 17' N., 10° 6' W. Details. A/C report. (Pitreavie 1915/26.).

/Convoy.....

808

26.4.41.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.Convoy
F.S.Odd.

~~Enemy.~~ Fighter assistance is requested for Convoy ~~Enemy.~~ My position 53° 35' N., 0° 53' E., Course 135 4 knots. (VORTIGERN 2106/26.). My 2106. 1 J.U.88 2 bombs dropped near merchant ship and machine gunning. No damage or casualties. (VORTIGERN 2126/26.).

GLENFINLAS.
(Bombed
6/4.)

My 2104/21 and subsequent signals. Tow postponed further 24 hours owing to unsuitable weather. Vessel now due to sail 0200/28. (C. in C. Nore 2200/26.).

DONNA NOOK.

(A/P trawler) Bombed and damaged near T 2 buoy. A/P trawler MORGAN JONES and examination vessel in company. DONNA NOOK has entered harbour, one man injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2315/26.).

Mining.Blyth.

Port closed due to suspected enemy mine-laying. Estimate reopen noon. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0030/26.). Port of Blyth open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2209/26.).

North
Shields.

One Magnetic Mine detonated by L.L. in 097° N., Pier Light 14 Cables at 0739/26. (P.M/S.O. North Shields 0920/26.).

Tyne.

Port of Tyne open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1025/26.).

London
Docks.

King George V Dock will be open to traffic from 1400 today. (F.O.I.C. London 1248/26.).

Harwich.

Explosion reported in 51° 54' 45" N., 01° 18' 26" E., at 0755/26. Presumed ground mine. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1503/26.).

/Explosions.....

04

War Diary.

26.4.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Explosions
Off Butt of
Lewis on
20/4.

Report has been received that at 2245/20/4 three heavy explosions accompanied by flashes took place in 58° 35' 55" N., 07° 12' 0" W. If weather is suitable all M/S Trawlers 47 and 48 Groups are to be sailed to search area radius ten miles for position tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1754/26, to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).

Thames
Estuary.

Mine exploded N W of Mucking No. 1 buoy close inshore. No damage. (F.O.I.C. London 1842/26.).

Hartlepool.

My 1008/26. Mine exploded spontaneously no damage to personnel or property. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1900/26.).

S.N.71.

1st. Minelaying Squadron pass Reykjanes Passage 1100/27th S.O.A. 18 knots routed as follows. Request air escort accordingly. (C. S. 18. 2026/26.).

Falmouth.

While clearing area to N.W. of 192 QZS one mine cut in position 50° 6' 2" N. 4° 58' 31" W. Mine sank by rifle fire. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2154/26.). Your 1754/26. Weather unsuitable at present for Minesweeping. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2215/26.).

Liverpool

Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2345/26.).

Enemy Intelligence.

Rumoured
transfer of
German Cruiser
to Russia.

Swedish M.A. states that a second German Cruiser may have been transferred to Soviet Union during last few days. B.4. (N.A. Moscow 1600/26.).

Unknown
Unit.

By D/F at 1558/26 position of unknown enemy unit, probably small surface vessel, was approx. 68° N., 3° W. This position is an indication of the area only. (D.D.I.C. 1640/26.).

810

26.4.41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

E. Coast
Convoys.

Special care is to be taken to explain the route of East Coast convoys to those Masters who are unfamiliar with the Channels; pointing out the more important turns and navigational marks. (D.T.D. 1257/26. to C. in C. Rosyth & Nore.).

L.M.S. Railway
Ships.

Your 0029/24. Concur with C. in C. Rosyth s 2259/24. (A.C.O.S. 1252/26 to Adty.).

Blue Stern
lights.

My 1141/8. A further test of blue stern lights is to be carried out in Convoy F.N.60 sailing from Southend on 29/4. (D.T.D. 1408/26.).

A/A ships.

Allocations of A/A ships to convoys. (1st. S.L. 1745/26.).
See Policy.

Reporting
positions.
Zigzagging.

Admiralty Message "FD". On a number of occasions recently, merchant ships attacked by raider or U-boat have reported their positions totally inaccurately. Attention is drawn to A.M.S.I.225. Failure to transmit a correct position greatly reduces the chances of rescue and also endangers other shipping.

2. Two ships recently torpedoed were not zig-zagging in accordance with A.M.S.I.338. Strict compliance with Admiralty instructions is of the utmost importance. (D.T.D. 1826/26 to G.B.M.S. in all areas, 1828/26 to AIG 12.).

Opening fire
on enemy
A/C's.

The numerous instructions in A.M.S.I.'s regarding opening fire on enemy aircraft are still not being complied with. Request N.C.S.O's at Home and Overseas be directed to call the special attention of masters to the vital importance of these particular instructions whether sailing independently or in convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1940/26, to Adty.).

/Tankers.....

War Diary.

26.4.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. Contd.

Tankers
abandoned
prematurely.

There have been several cases recently of tankers damaged by enemy action being prematurely abandoned. It should be impressed once again upon all concerned that no ship should be abandoned while there is the slightest chance of salvage. In particular it should be stressed that tankers especially when in ballast are very difficult to sink.

(A.C.N.S. (T) 2022/26 to C's in C.
F.O's i/c, N.O's i/c. ~~AM HOME~~ at Home.

War Diary.26.4.41.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.CLYDE.

Refloated and anchored Loch Long.
No apparent damage. (CLYDE 0126/26.).

MURDOCH.
(Grounded.).

(British, 2717 Tons). Departure Tug KROOMAN to assist S.S. MURDOCH off Palling 0815. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0820/26.).
BASSET reports that MURDOCH struck wreck of HERPORT in position S 60 W from 58 buoy 1½ miles. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1231/25.).
s.s. MURDOCH Sunderland to London in convoy, finally took the ground approx., 040° 1½ miles from Caister C.G. Station. All crew taken off uninjured except one. (N.C.S.O. Yarmouth 1530/26.).
Fear total loss. (Chief Salvage Officer, Yarmouth 1636/26.).

CUTTY SARK.

My 1838/15/3. CUTTY SARK has developed serious condenser defects which have been taken in hand by TITANIA. (F.O.S. 1243/26.).

SALVONIA.

Engine trouble. Returning at slow speed to Loch Foyle. (SALVONIA 1441/26.).

SCIMITAR.

Cancel my 0209/24. Repairs are being taken in hand by HOOD, and SCIMITAR will be ready for sea 2359/26. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1931/26.).

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force H.

Your departure for the Mediterranean was broadcast by Toulouse at 2100/25 en clair. (D.D.I.C. 0027/26 to S.O. Force H).

S.S. CUIDAD
DE TROPICMELILLA.
* CUIDAD

66 shipwrecked seamen including 16 Chinese will sail in S.S. CIUDAD TROPICMELILLA bound for Alicante leaving leaving Teneriffe April 30th. Ship will call at Gibraltar to disembark these men. (A.N.A. Madrid 1057/26).

EMPIRE
ADVOCATE.

Your 0749/25 received after EMPIRE ADVOCATE had sailed for Oban. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1226/26 to Adty).

STORAA.

Dutch Legation states Dutch vessel STORAA certainly in Port Lyautey - may leave for occupied Holland. Will endeavour to obtain report of sailing. (A.N.A. Madrid 1711/26 to C. in C. S.A, F.O.C.N.A).

GAMO.

Your 1125/21. GAMO and cargo may be released in view of special circumstances which will be explained in later message. (D.E.W.D. 1816/26 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

Ships
with.
Aircraft.

Owing to considerable delay to ships because of congestion, submit ships with aircraft for Takoradi should be so loaded and despatched to call Takoradi first port and Freetown next. (M.S.R. Freetown 0829N/26).

S.S. ZAMZAM
CRAFTSMAN.

Overdue shipping. Egyptian ZAMZAM due Capetown 21/4 from Pernambuco, CRAFTSMAN due Capetown 21/4 from U.K. both not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1006B/26).

/S.S. MAUD.....

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

S.S. MAUD.

Overdue shipping Norwegian Ship MAUD due Capetown 20/4 from New York not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1007 B/24). *Should be on page 186*

Positions & Movements.

C. in C. S.A. 1541/26 See Lion Copy.

S.S. YORKWOOD.

Arrived Freetown 5/4 with cross bunker on fire. Extract of statement made by the Master to the M.S.R. Freetown. Begins "This vessel was loaded with iron ore and 200 tons of carbide at Lourenco Marques. Orders given to the Captain were to proceed to Durban and take sufficient coal to reach the N.E. Coast of England from Durban allowing 30 days steaming and 5 days spare from Freetown. This necessitated YORKWOOD shutting out 600 tons of iron-ore and but for the incident of fire in his cross bunker, he would have required no coal from Freetown. This, I submit, is a gross waste of tonnage. Ends. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1753/26 to B.C. Lorenzo Marques).

CAPO ROSA.

Buenos Ayres reports although the Italian ship CAPO ROSA appears to have raised steam she shows no signs of moving. (N.S.O. (I) Monte Video 1808Z/26)

MONTEVIDEO (German).

Owners have petitioned Courts to lift embargo on ship at Rio Grande Do Sul. (D.S. 599, 26/4).

Routeing of Shipping.

Southbound Shipping from Las Palmas should be routed East of 20° W. as far as practicable out of sight of land and not less than 60 miles from Cape Verde. (D.T.D. 1824/26 to B.C. Las Palmas).

SECRET+

MESSAGE.

1541/26th April IN

From C in C South Atlantic

Date 27.4.41.

814A

Recd 0458.

Naval Cypher D by W/T

Addressed R.A.S.A.D. 342. N.O. i/c Simonstown 771.

NITE

Week (?beginning) April 26.

Freetown, H.M.S. ALBATROSS, H.M.S. VINDICTIVE,
H.M.S. DRAGON, H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. WISHART, H.M.S. HIGHLANDER
H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. ESPERANCE BAY, H.M.S. CLEMATIS
H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. DUNEDIN, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. SURPRISE
H.M.S. MARGUERITE, **ANCHUSA.**

Freetown - U.K., H.M.S. CILICIA and H.M.S. LONDON
escorting S L 71. H.M.S. DUNNOTAR CASTLE and H.M.S. FIJI
escorting S L 72.

Freetown - Gibraltar, H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH with
local escort H.M.S. FOXHOUND and H.M.S. DUNCAN. H.M.S.
VIDETTE escorting tanker.

Gibraltar - Freetown - H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS.
Freetown area, H.M.S. BULOLO, H.M.S. ASPHODEL,
H.M.S. CALENDULA, H.M.S. CATHAY, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER,
H.M.S. SEVERN.

Cape - St. Helena, H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS
St. Helena - Cape, H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. ERICA,
H.M.S. SNAPDRAGON.

Capetown - H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE.

Simonstown - H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE, H.M.S. NEWCASTLE.

Durban - H.M.S. NELSON, H.M.S. RANCHI, CITY OF DURBAN.

Plate area - H.M.S. ASTURIAS.

Rio de Janeiro area - H.M.S. CUMBERLAND.

U.S.A. - H.M.S. CANTON.

U.K. Port H.M.S. PRETORIA CASTLE, H.M.S. MORETON BAY,
H.M.S. ARWA.

Mombasa - H.M.S. CORFU.

1541/26

1st Lord

1st S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

Ops. (4)

O.D. 8.

O.D. (5)

M. (2)

O.I.C.

Mails

Advance copy to Ops. O.D. O.I.C.
Trade.

Movts.

D.S.D. 9.

D.P.S.

I.P. (3)

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

D.N.A.D.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

Admiral Bellair³.

Admiral Bailey

MOST SECRET.

IN M E S S A G E

1630/26th April. IN.

From G.O.C. West Africa.

Date 26.4.41.

Time 2215

814(B)

CIPHER.

Addressed War Office. Repeated Spears Mission Brazzaville (for General de Gaulle).

MOST IMMEDIATE.

09149 G/2221 cipher 26/4.

FIRST OF TWO PARTS.

Most Secret.

1. Have just returned from visit to Brazzaville where I met General de Gaulle and General de Laminat. Discussions on the military situation disclosed almost complete identity of view between us. Two conferences were held, first between de Laminat and self and second between de Gaulle de Laminat and self.
2. Information regarding respective forces, order of battle, state of training, equipment, and armament was exchanged.
3. Present strategic situation was discussed. Agreed vital points were (a) British - Freetown, Takoradi (b) Free French-Largeau, Fort Lamy. Loss of two latter would cut important land and air route Lagos-Kano-Fort Lamy-Khartoum.
4. Air and ground attacks by Germans and Italians based on Murzuk now a potential danger. Estimated until enemy was able to establish air bases further south than Murzuk no serious danger existed to L. of C. to Middle East but if enemy could operate from bases, say, at Largeau or Zinder, air threat to Khartoum-Kano line would immediately become acute.
5. Estimated enemy could now operate in northern Chad with light mechanized forces, but that it seemed improbable they could employ these in large numbers until organisation had been built up and that this would probably take two or three months. Weather during this period would also be likely to limit scale of operations. It was considered it would be possible for considerable forces, including probably armoured units, to operate by September and at latest by October.

LAST PART. Most Secret.

6. Conference considered enemy operations would probably have the following objects in view - firstly protection of southern Libya against raids such as those of long range desert patrol by occupation of northern region of Chad. Secondly occupation of Largeau and consequent practicable threat to communications through Fort Lamy. Finally occupation of Fort Lamy.
7. To meet these attacks French are deficient in aircraft A.A. guns and A/T guns. As you are aware I have none available. In view of great importance of these L. of C. I consider it essential Free French and ourselves should be provided with all these means if we are to meet this threat.
8. An examination of air problems in West Africa by a senior R.A.F. officer in conjunction with Free French and myself is most essential. Urge most strongly that request for a senior R.A.F. officer to be attached to my H.Q. vide my Tel. G/2513 Feb. 3rd should again be considered.

9. Detailed recommendations of requirements in A/T and A.A. guns follows.

1630/26

Ad. copies sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.N.I.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

C.S.O. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Duty Capt.

E.P.S.

Hd. of M.

I.P.

W.D.

N.I.D. 10

Recd. from War Office,

Payn, Cdr, Wilson.

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→ USK

Operating off Cape Bon. (Cdr. S.1, 0025/26 to UTMOST).

REGENT.

Further delay. Have dived. E.T.A. off Marsamxett 2200/26. Have 1 Officer, prisoner of war. (REGENT 0730/26 to Cdr. S.1)

→ USK
DIDO
ABDIEL
Destroyers.

DIDO, ABDIEL and six destroyers will pass through Sicilian channel southbound during the night of 26/27. Do not cross 038° N until aft 0001 B/27 then operate in Area L. 037° 00' N. 011° 00' E. (? 11 or 57) - 40 - 30 retire to N.W. from Almina Pt. if necessary. Destroyer observed 1130B/24 standing by oil patch and two explosions in vicinity 037° 15' 011° 06'. (Cdr. S.1 1002/26 to USK).

Destroyers
sunk off
Kerkenah
15/16
April.

My 1125/16. From Air photographs of wreck a FOLGORE Class destroyer is shown aground. Therefore it is probable that the destroyers sunk were the LUCA TARIGO, one FOLGORE and one SPICA Class. UPHOLDER has been detailed to proceed to torpedo this destroyer and one merchant vessel which are aground inshore of Number 3 and 4 Buoy Kerkenah Bank. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1246/26).

My 1002/26 last sentence. This destroyer reported sunk by mine. (S.O. S/M Malta Force 2025/26 to USK)

Benghazi
bombed.

Six further Wellingtons bombed Benghazi night 22/23 April.
Night 24/25 April two Wellingtons bombed Benghazi.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1043/26).

PERSEUS.

Leaving Malta 2000/26 and after diving outside Grand Harbour expect to arrive at finish of searched channel approx. 2300. (S.O. (S) Malta 1126/26 to REGENT).

/ABBAZI.....

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

ABBAZIA.

Istanbul arrival Italian ABBAZIA (N.C.S.O. Galata 1254/26).

Enemy Hospital Ships.

In view of deliberate bombing of Hospital Ship VITA and other hospital ships in Greek waters should I capture enemy hospital ships encountered at sea? These are seen frequently. (C. in C. Med 1254/26 to Adty).

Greek Hospital Ships.

On 24/4 the Greek hospital ships ANDROS 2068 tons, and POLICOS, 875 tons, were bombed by aircraft and sunk at Loutrake and Methona respectively (D.S. 599, 26/4).

x LOUTRAKI
+ METHONI

KBR 1337 Page 1557

Andros Sunk 23/4

Orders to S/M's on patrol.

Enemy convoy expected to pass Kerkenah from Italy about 28/4 and 2/5. Take up following dispositions UNBEATEN in area E. 037° 50' 011° 30' - 000° - 30 - 30 USK in area L 037° 00' 011° 00' - 000° - 40 - 30 UTMOST off Kuriat by PM/27; B.S. para 4 establish patrol line 4 034° 40' 011° 40' - 090° - 10 - 180° - 40. UPHOLDER in position W. 034° 40' 011° 40' URSULA in X. UPRIGHT in Y. TRUANT in Z 034° 40' 012° 18'. Object of patrol line is to attack before report during daylight only and to shadow and report in Self Evident Code after sunset. If surface force from Malta are not available to intercept South of line W. Z S/M will be ordered to attack during night and not make report. S/Ms are not to be attacked. URSULA and UPRIGHT leave Malta 27th through 035° 20' 012° 40' for X. and Y.

Important that submarines on line be in accurate position from 1400 until sunset S/T communication advised. Anticipate convoy will endeavour to arrive Tripoli (Libya) dawn 29/4 and 3/5. UNDAUNTED will relieve TRUANT as ordered later. (Cdr. (S) 1 1254/26 to S/M's on patrol). My 1254/26 USK reports intensive A/S activity North of Marittimo. Retire to westwards if necessary. (S.O. (S/M's) Malta 1615/26 to UNBEATEN)

/Tankers.....

817

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Tankers.

Your 2321/23. I trust urgency is fully realised by negotiators observing matter was first raised in October. These oilers seem a long way off and meanwhile BRECONSHIRE is my only standby. (C. in C. Med 1256/26 to Adty).

Libyan
convoys.

Position of R/V with Italian destroyers. (N.A. Washington 1425/26) See A & W.I.

TAKU
UNION.

TAKU sailed 2030/26 and UNION at 2100/26 in accordance with Capt. (S) 8's 1350/24 (for patrol) (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 2120/26).

Turkish
territorial
waters.

Para. 3 of my 2204/23. Vessels identified as enemy may now be attacked within Turkish territorial waters by H.M. Ships and aircraft provided.
(a) Care is taken to avoid damage to persons and dwelling houses ashore.
(b) Attack are not made within the Dardanelles Straits. (V.C.N.S. 2302/26 to C. in C. Med).

Luqa
attacked.

During night raid 24/25 April further damage Luqa. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta No. T.O.O. Rec. 2336/26).

F.A.A.
personnel
interned in
French
Africa.

Am informed that all F.A.A. personnel now interned in Tunisia are being transferred to Medea, Algeria. (V.A. Malta 2215/26)

Situation
Report.

GLENEARN damaged, ULSTER PRINCE probable Total loss through grounding, ROVER damaged YORK further minor damage. Western Desert Operations etc. (C. in C. Med 2342/26) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2342/26 April

IN

From. C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date. 27.4.41.

Time. 1120.

817A

NAVAL CYPRER (D) BY C. & W.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated. S.O. Force H., V.A. Malta.,
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area.

IMPORTANT.

183. Situation report number 8.

1. DEMON. 11000 troops from Greece now reached Crete. H.M.S. GLENNHORN damaged by bomb in engine room in position 037 degs. 05' N. 023 degs. 03' E. not yet known if she can be saved it appears no troops were on board. ULSTER PRINCE ran aground and is now inside breakwater at Nauplia likely to be total loss. H.M.S. SALVIA, HELICINEH, and MUCO swept clear approaches to Nauplia now withdrawn to Suda Bay.

2. Suda Bay. H.M.S. ROVER damaged by near miss and unable to proceed under her own power. H.M.S. YORK again near missed but only minor damage.

3. Western Desert. .. Tobruk channels being kept clear by sweepers but these have received minor damage from near misses. H.M.S. LADYBIRD bombarded GAZALA and H.M.S. ALPHIS is now bombarding an enemy column which has appeared on top of Sollum Escarpment at Halfaya Pass. Lack of adequate fighter support being badly felt in Tobruk where the scale of air attack has in consequence increased. Lack of fighters is also making work of gunboats somewhat precarious.

4. First part of M N B D O should be loaded in Haifa ready to leave for Suda Bay on 30 April.

5. Two Yugo Slav motor torpedo boats one ambulance and one Yugo Slav Submarine arrived Alexandria tonight Saturday.

2342/26

Advance copy sent P.O., C.S.O., 1st S.L., D.P.D., Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (F), D.D.I.C. ...C.N.S. (F)

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D. of S.V.
D.M.S.
I.P.

W.D.
Duty Capt.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D.10 (Paym. Cdr. Wilson).

Naval, see 2247/27
p. 842A

REN

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation "Demon".

Embarkation.

Arrangements, night 26-27/4 (V.A.L.F. 0205/26 to Cruisers and Destroyers, Med Fleet)
See Lion copy.

NUBIAN

Join me in position 060° Cape Malea 7 at 0700/26. (V.A.L.F. 0025/26 to NUBIAN).

FLAMINGO.

Your 2235/25. Proceed to reach Kalamata 037° N. 022° E. by 2200/26. (V.A.L.F. 0146/26 to FLAMINGO).

HAVOCK

Your 1825/25. HAVOCK will be sent but must embark troops also if necessity arises. (V.A.L.F. 0359/26 to F.O. (A) Med).

My 0205/26 Making provision for all requirements in your 1336/25 barring accident It will be retransmitted. (V.A.L. F. 1211/26 to F.O.(A) M)

My 1500/26 (N.T. in W.R) If it would facilitate arrangements to lift rear guard at D beach tomorrow night 27/28 O.C. troops is prepared to postpone evacuation of Monemvasia on 27/28, thousand being lifted on 28/29. Request decision be communicated. (F.O.A.M. 1624/26 to V.A.LF).

Mediterranean.

818/A1

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

0205/26 April

From. V.A.L.F.

Date. 26.4.41.
Time. 0226

NAVAL CYPHER A.2. BY W/T

CORRECTION

Addressed. Cruisers Mediterranean Fleet., Destroyers Mediterranean Fleet., H.M. Ships C. LCUTTA, CARLISLE, COVENTRY, FLAMINGO. Repeated. F.O., A.M., S.B.N.O. Suda Bay.

IMMEDIATE. EMERGENCY.

Embarkation arrangements night 26/27.

Point C - RAPHINA - H.M.S. GLENGYLE 3000 men, H.M.S. NUBIAN, H.M.S. DECOY, H.M.S. HASTY nil.

Point D - RAPHNIS. - SALWEEN 2500 men, H.M.S. CARLISLE 500, H.M.S. KANDAHAR 300 H.M.S. KINGSTON 300. Point south of Nauplia harbour. - SLAMAT 2500 men, KHEDIVE ISMAIL 1700 H.M.S. CALCUTTA 800 H.M.S. ISIS 500 H.M.S. HOTSPUR 500.

Position 20 - Tolon. - H.M.S. GLENEARN 2500 men H.M.S. DIAMOND H.M.S. GRIFFIN H.M.S. HAVOCK Nil.

Point Z - Kalamata Harbour. - DILWARA 3200 men, CITY OF LONDON 2400 Costa Rica 2400, H.M.S. PHOEBE, DEFENDER, FLAMINGO, HERO, HEReward. Nil.

*COSTA RICA

Essential that transports close to few cables from shore to save time (? loading).

All escorting forces except H.M.S. FLAMINGO, DECOY, HASTY and HAVOCK and all troop ships r/v with me in position 69 steering 180 degs. repetition 180 at 1300/26.

H.M.S. CARLISLE and CALCUTTA pass appropriate portion of this signal to ships in company before this time.

H.M.S. STUART will remain with me. H.M.S. FLAMINGO proceed Kalamata direct. On arrival Point C H.M.S. NUBIAN is to proceed Port Saint Nikolo Zea Island embark 600 men and return to escort H.M.S. GLENGYLE. H.M.S. DECOY and HASTY are to reach Point C by 2200. H.M.S. HAVOCK is to fuel and reach (?Tolon) by 2330 and embark G.O.C. and staff. Destroyers calling at Suda Bay take minimum fuel necessary. Destination for troop ships will be signalled.

Tolon

0205/26

Advance copy sent C.S.O. to 1st S., P.O., A.C.N.S. (F), Duty Capt., D.C.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)

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.D.C.D. (H)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P.
V.D.

Duty Capt.
Head of M. (12) to
pass to W.O. &
A.M.
E.P.S.
N.I.D.10 Pay.Cdr.
Wilson.

For Lion

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S. 10A.

(i) On completion of fuelling p.m./27 convoy U.S. 10A consisting of QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH, escorted by CANBERRA is to leave Trincomalee for Suez. Speed 25 knots. (ii) The Straits of Perim are to be passed through in dark hours early in the night of 1st 2nd May. After passing Perim CANBERRA is to proceed to Aden, and convoy is to disperse and ships proceed at full speed to Suez so as to arrive p.m./3/5.

(C. in C. E.I. 0354Z/26 to CANBERRA).
As convoys U.S. 10 and W.S. 7 would have arrived Suez within a day of each other had they both continued passage according to programme, Adty directed that W.S. 7 was to have preference over U.S. 10 in unloading. (ii) As QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH however cannot be delayed in Ceylon owing to lack of water facilities these two ships will form U.S. 10A and leave Ceylon to arrive Suez 3/5. Remainder of U.S. 10 will form U.S. 10 B and leave Ceylon about 3/5 to arrive Suez 10/5 W.S. 7 is due Suez 6/5. (C. in C. E.I. 0552Z/26 to A.C.N.B, N.Z.N.B).

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

DIOMEDE to
intercept
MARQUES DE
COMILLAS.

Your 1151/25. This may be done if essential. (A.C.N.S. (F). 0307/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.). My 2347/25. MARQUES DE COMILLAS speed 14 knots is routed as follows. South of Nantucket light ship thence through 42° 05' N., 50° 00' W. 44° 40' N., 30° 00' W., 40° 08' N., 13° 00' W. thence to destination. (D.D.I.C. 0719/26, to C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A.).

My 1151/25. Consider it essential that ship be brought to Bermuda if intercepted for thorough examination of passengers and documents. Unless otherwise ordered intend DIOMEDE to place strong guard on board to prevent as far as possible destruction of documents and carry out preliminary examination en route to Bermuda. Two experts from Imperial Censorship have embarked in DIOMEDE with this object in view. Telegrams referred to are being repeated to DIOMEDE. (C. in C. A. W. I. 1012/26 to Adty.).

NAKO MARU.

Los Angeles reports:- P.C.O. New York states NAKO MARU picked up four Germans from crew of ORINOCO off Tampico 9/5 another two stowed away. Vessel called here for bunker only and sailed 19/4 direct for Yokohama. Am pressing local Naval Intelligence for active investigation subject my Tokio 3. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1127/26.).

Information
for U.S. Navy
Dept.

In order to provide for mutual co-operation Admty., have instructed me to supply U.S. Navy Dept., with details of controlled minefield at Halifax forthwith. Request you will do this. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1131/26, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

Italian Convoys
to Libya.
NORDERNEY.

Following from State Department.
(1) Italian destroyers meeting convoys from Sicily rendezvous at Jerba Island of Abbot a and Zarzis. A further report states that exact meeting place as Capwya Geness Island off Gerba. Date very recent reliability not stated.
(2) German Government is exerting extreme pressure on Brazilian Government to permit NORDERNEY to sail, and latest indications suggest this may be permitted. Dated 25/4 from Rio de Janeiro. (N.A. Washington 1425/26 to Admty.).

War Diary.

26.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

ORINOCO
HAMELIN.
Renamed.

ORINOCO, 9660 tons, at Tampico, renamed PUEBLA. HAMELIN, 4351 tons, at Vera Cruz, renamed OAXACA. Both ships seized by Mexican Govt. (D.S., 599, 26/4.).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Due Trinidad 7/5 and could arrive Norfolk 12/5. Request information date and time ship is required. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1652/26 to N.A. Washington.).

New Zealand.

CROMARTY.

From Panama 27/3 to Auckland not yet arrived. Vessel known to have experienced engine trouble. (N.Z.N.B., 0014Z/26, to Admty.).

822

26.4.41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EMPIRE
ENDURANCE.

Names of survivors landed at Greenock.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1151/26).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions. Indefinite
and unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1407/26).

823

27.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Northern
Patrol.

At 2000 today the estimated dispositions were as follows: EXETER patrolling S.E. of Iceland. NIGERIA patrolling west of Faeroes. SUFFOLK, ECHO and ACTIVE in 61° 38' N., 15° 40' W., proceeding to Reykjavik NORFOLK returning to Reykjavik from the north-westward. LACONIA in N.P. 71.

REDER AU MORIOU

M.L. 157 brought French sailing vessel REDER AU MORIOU in to Plymouth this morning. The vessel was sighted in 49° 59' N., 4° 10' W., at 1210 today.

H.X. Convoys

It will not be possible to provide capital ship escort for all H.X. convoys at present; battleships will be employed as escorts as often as they are available, and the arrangements made by the Admiralty (1606/27) should ensure escorts being available when enemy attack is most likely)

U-Boat
Campaign.

Norwegian SS RIMFAKSE, on passage from Loch Ewe to Reykjavik was torpedoed and sunk at 0150 today in 60° 10' N., 8° 54' W.

British Air Operations

Two Blenheims attacked the battle cruisers at Brest last night, six Le Havre and four the E-Boat base at IJmuiden.

Blenheims today operated off the North and North-West coasts of France and claim to have sunk a patrol vessel* and damaged fishing vessels.

* UJ 121 damaged.

824

27.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Attacks on
Shipping
SS CELTE
abandoned.

SS CELTE was bombed by F.W. at 0725 today in 61° 10' N., 11° W., and was abandoned.

Convoy W.N. 19 was attacked off Wick at 2145 today, and Dutch SS MELISKERK received minor damage from a 1000 lb. bomb which failed to explode. A further attack was made at 2220, but was unsuccessful. A trawler which went to assist MELISKERK was damaged in the first attack.

WESTMINSTER and Convoy "Pilot" were attacked twice this evening in approx 52° 30' N., 2° 5' E., but were not damaged.

SS WILLIAM S DANIELS in Convoy F.N.459 was bombed and damaged at 1754 off Gork L.V. The convoy was subsequently attacked twice, apparently without success.

* H

F.C. PATIA
(A/A Ship)
Sunk.

PATIA (A/A Ship) was attacked three times off the Tyne this evening and was sunk by A/C ~~torpedo~~^{bomb}. The enemy aircraft was brought down.

Attack on
Portsmouth.

Portsmouth was attacked from 2150 to 2315 today. Damage was caused in the Dockyard and to Naval Establishments.

War Diary

27.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Four Beauforts laid mines off Brest last night.

Mines were detonated at Portsmouth today. The east entrance was closed at 0952, and the sailing of Convoy C.E. 32 was postponed 24 hours in consequence.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven.

Liverpool was reopened at 1130 and was closed for the night at 2100.

North Atlantic.

The Governor of Gibraltar wishes to evacuate 4500 civilians. He reports that if more than 2000 at most are left during siege they will jeopardise the defences of the fortress.

South Atlantic

SS EMPIRE SUCCESS reported a S/M in 6° 20' N., 13° 19' W., at 2045 today.

SS PENDEEN reported a suspicious ship at 1353 in 2° 24' N., 20° 45' W.,

826

27.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation
"Dunlop"

Malta reported Operation "Dunlop" successfully completed, at 1655 today. 23 Hurricanes accompanied by 1 Sunderland, 2 Glenn Martins and 3 Fulmars were flown off from 6° E. under very favourable conditions and arrived safely. No shipping was seen en route. The Sunderland was machine gunned and sunk 20 minutes after landing, by 2 attacking aircraft.

Western
Desert.

The Army have been withdrawn to Buk Buk and all fighters are now withdrawn from Tobruk owing to the vulnerability of the landing ground. APHIS attempted to bombard the enemy advancing column in the Sollum-Halfaya area, but weather and lack of fighter protection forced her to withdraw to Mersa Matruh.

Operation
"Demon"

Last night, 8000 men were taken off from Kalamata area in transports; 4300 from Nauplia area, including 1000 feared lost in SLAMAT which was bombed and set on fire after troops were embarked and was sunk by torpedo from DIAMOND. The latter and boats from SLAMAT were bombed continuously. DIAMOND rescued about 650 troops and WRYNECK 100 and both destroyers were bombed and sunk in 36° 30' N. & 23° 34' E whilst proceeding to Suda Bay. COSTA RICA is also believed to have been sunk.

*See 824

By 2247 today it was estimated that 34,000 troops had embarked, leaving a further 8000 to embark tonight. The majority landed in Crete, but one convoy containing partially laden transports sailed today for Alexandria.

GLENEARN, reported damaged yesterday, is approaching Kisamo Bay in tow of GRIFFIN.

/COSTA RICA.....

War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean-Greece.Operation
"Demon"-Cont.

COSTA RICA is in tow of DEFENDER, who carries the Yugoslav Crown jewels, SLAMAT is believed sunk but the majority of the troops on board saved.

By 27/4 inclusive 543 persons had reached Egypt by air, including almost all air crews. The last Sunderland from Scaramanga on 24/7 carried 79. 1076 R.A.F. arrived in Crete by other means up to 26/4. The King of Yugoslavia, King of Greece (23/4) General Wilson and members of the Greek Govt. were evacuated by air to Crete.

Major General Weston R.M. has assumed command of all troops in Crete. Agos aerodrome is reported to be in enemy hands.

Corinth
Canal.

The blockship for the Corinth Canal was bombed and sunk before arrival, but the other arrangements appear to have been carried out.

Greek
Naval
Units.

The Greek Navy, after wavering for a day, is reported to have recovered magnificently. Destroyers PSARA and HYDRA were bombed and sunk (the latter between 18 and 22 April), firing to the last, and KING GEORGE was damaged by bombing and had to be sunk. (believed 24/4).

At 2305 today N.A. Athens reported that all further movements of Greek small shipping seem now to be almost impossible, as ships are sunk everywhere. It is reported that most of the Greek mine-sweepers and tugs are sunk and the rest are without crews.

Greek S/m PAPANICOLIS arrived at Alexandria today.

Yugoslav
Naval
Units.

Yugoslav S/m NEBOJSCA arrived at Alexandria today.

828

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

It is reported that the Vichy French Admiralty have announced danger zones within 10 miles of the coast off Diego Suarez and Tamatave.

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

0142/27th April. OUT.

To:- "A" Message Home 264AZ North Atlantic 109AK, Date 27.4.41.
South Atlantic 138 AG,
America & West Indies 130 AJ. 828(A)
Naval Code (J)

From Admiralty,
IMMEDIATE.

The following is in amplification of A.Ms
0020/25 and 0025/25 which it amends.

2. In defence of the Western Hemisphere and beginning at 0001 B. S.T. Friday 25th April, U.S. Naval and Air Forces may be encountered at sea in the Atlantic West of 26 deg W (repetition 26 deg W) and North of the Equator and later in the North and South Atlantic Oceans West of 26 deg W and in the Pacific East of 180 deg. S.P. 02291K is therefore now to be used in both North and South Atlantic Oceans West of 26 deg West (repetition 26 deg) except as stated in A.M.0025/25.

3. U.S. Forces will be carrying out periodic sweeps along the trade routes and in focal areas and it must be anticipated that false raider alarm signals will be initiated by merchant vessels although the latter are being warned.

4. U.S. ships will show lights by night to the Eastward of longitude 65 deg W when North of latitude 20 deg N and to the Eastward of 60 deg W when South of latitude 20 deg N. To the Westward of this line, U.S. ships may darken ship at night at their discretion.

5. Should U.S. Forces encounter any Axis Naval ships, they will shadow them and will broadcast in plain language on 500 kc/s their position. These reports will be continued every four hours or more often if necessary. Confirmation of these reports and also any information regarding suspected Axis supply ships will be received by British shore authorities from U.S. sources and re-transmitted as necessary to H.M. Ships using normal British methods.

6. U.S. forces will take no offensive action nor interfere in any encounter between our own or the enemy forces.

7. U.S. forces will be in possession of the approximate position and movements of British Naval forces and merchant shipping. The Admiralty will keep British forces informed of the position of U.S. forces as necessary though this information should not be relied upon for recognition.

8. This information is of the highest secrecy. Its distribution is to be limited strictly to the minimum number of essential Naval Officers.

0142/27

Asst. Secy. to 1st Sea Lord.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (F)

D.N.I. (4)

D.S.D.

D.D.O.D. (F)

D.D.I.C.

D.N.A.D.

Cr. Hd. of M.

Duty Captain

I.P.

W.D.

N.I.D.10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

D. of P. (2) (P.D.09890/41)

A.C.R.

A.G.R.M.

W/T Room

} Informed message
} given restricted
} circulation.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.U.S.A. Naval
Operations.Admty 0142/27 "A" Mge. Home, N.A., S.A.,
A.&. W.I. See Lion CopyHOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Policy put forward in your No. 474/HF/001325 of 24/4 is approved, subject to the proviso that the number of ships which should proceed to sea must depend on the possibility of interception both as regards nature of information and time. The operation of sufficient aircraft from Iceland in immediate future to meet your requirements can only be made at expense of trade protection. (1st S.L. 1534/27 to C. in C. H.F.).

Oerlikon Guns
for
4th D.F.

Consider fitting of two Oerlikon guns in each ship of 4th. D.F. to be highly desirable. Request arrangements be made for supply at Plymouth as early as possible. (C. in C. Plymouth 1723/27).

Movements.CACHALOT

A.M. 1822/19. CACHALOT is required to take special S.A.A. ammunition for Malta in place of .303 S.A.S. previously arranged.
2. Air Ministry are sending this ammunition by road to arrive Devonport a.m./28.
3. Delay to sailing of CAHCALOT is accepted. (A.C.N.S. F. 2120/27).

Operations;Northern
Patrol,.

Scapa arrivals C.S.2 GALATEA, ARETHUSA. (A.C.O.S. 0629/27).

Ice Report.

By MONTCLARE.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0806/27 to R.A.N.P.)

Biscay Patrol.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).Biscay
Patrol.
SEALION
TRIDENT.

Intend to sail H.M.S. SEALION from Dartmouth Sanctuary p.m./30 on completion of independent exercises to patrol in Bay of Biscay North area (route). Request C. in C. Plymouth will inform SEALION of any movements affecting him on night of 30th April/1st May. (Capt. S.5 1005/27).

There are no indications that battlecruisers will leave Brest in the near future. Cancel patrol positions given in my 1611/23 and 1612/23. TRIDENT and SEALION are to patrol in Bay of Biscay South and North areas respectively. Object as in F.S. C2. (F.O.S. 1047/27).

REDER
AU MORIOU.

Arrived Plymouth 2000/27 French sailing vessel REDER AU MORIOU escorted by M.L. 157. Vessel sighted in 49° 59' N 04° 10' W at 1210/27. (C. in C. Plymouth 2004/27).

British Air Activity.M/Vs
attacked.

Day 26/4. One aircraft attacked a 4,000 ton ship in a convoy 2 miles north west of Ameland and probably caused damage to the vessel. A further two aircraft bombed a flakship of 800 tons 7 miles north of Schiermonnikoog. Ship probably damaged. One aircraft attacked one cargo ship of 1,000 tons off Fede Fjord. The ship was sunk. (H.Q.B.C. 0146/27).

Patrols.

Following Air Patrols today. "Hornli" taking off 1,000. "Stand" taking off 1900. (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/27). Dusk R/C of Narvik carried out to-night Sunday. (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/27).

Escort for.....

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Escort for
1st M.L.
Squadrons.

Your 2026/26 received at 0746/27. Regret no air escort available. (C. in C. W.A. 0946/27 to C.S.18).

Own A/C
shot at.

On 5/4 a Havoc from 85 Squadron reports that about 0515 while over sea 8 to 10 miles East of Harwich and while coming landwards over a convoy at 10,000 to 11,000 feet he was shot at. He was again shot at by shore batteries and light A.A. while skirting North of Harwich balloon barrages. Details. It has been ascertained that a Ju.88 was in the vicinity at the time and while flying out to sea was engaged by L.A.A. sites at Martlesham (at 0515) and Bawdsey (at 0524). I am to request that a report of the circumstances which led up to this Havoc being attacked by our defences may be submitted for Air Staff consideration. (Air Ministry F.O.6 1740/27).

Enemy Air Activity.

POLARSOL
(Bombed 25/4).

Tug ZWARTEZEE took POLARSOL in tow position 061° 29' N 013° 05' W at 2235/25, orders to proceed Reykjavik. All crew on board POLARSOL and fire controlled. CAPE*PRINCE acts as escort, as she has two wounded crew on board. (LANCASTER 0030/27).

* 7 PORTLAND
See below.

My 1443/27. Proceed so as to arrive 0000 Butt of Lewis 10 miles at 0700/28 to R/V with POLARSOL in tow of ZWARTE ZEE and take over escort from CAPE PORTLAND. Failing further orders POLARSOL is to be taken to Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 1714/27 to LEOPARD, CAPE PORTLAND.)

MOUNTPARK
(Bombed 26/4).

MOUNTPARK has sunk. Return to Lough Foyle. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0505/27 to PRUDENT).

A/C Attacked by

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.A/C attacked
by BEACON
GRANGE.

Following has been received from BEACON GRANGE Begins:-
At 0200/27 G.M.T. 060° 05' N 011° 05' W opened fire on low flying plane carrying 2 green lights horizontal. He was using searchlight vertically down and when fired on dropped red lights. At same time dark object was seen on water showing occasional dim white light. Ends. BEACON GRANGE proceeding on voyage.
(NORTHERN SUN 1420/27).

A/C over
Shetlands.

An unidentified aircraft coming from East about 2300/26 circled round over Sandwick and at 2317 dropped 4 bombs 1 mile west of Sandwick Post Office. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1521/27).

DOLIUS
(Bombed 24/4).

My 1451. DOLIUS was refloated at 1330 and is now anchored in shallow water in Inverkeithing Bay.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1953/25 and 1625/27).

WILLIAM H.
DANIELS.

(British 1764 tons). Bombed off Cork Lightship.
(Portishead Recd. 1754/27).

GUILLEMOT

Help one aircraft ? ? my position 51° 56' N 1° 24' E.
(GUILLEMOT 1844/27).

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ^{"Pilot"}PILOT. My position 52° 30' N 2° 5' E.
(WESTMINSTER 1954/27).
My 1954. 2 Bombs no hits. (WESTMINSTER 1956/27)
One enemy aircraft attacking Convoy ^{"Pilot"}PILOT my position 52° 23' N 2° 7' E.
(WESTMINSTER 2050/27).
Following has been read:-
My 2050 - 4 bombs no hits.
(WESTMINSTER 2051/27).

Convoy W.N. 19.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
W. N. 19.
Trawler and
MELISKERK
(Dutch 5045 tons)
damaged.

Fighters being sent to assist Convoy.
(Rosyth 2008/27).
Help - Convoy ~~MUSTER~~ being attacked by
one enemy aircraft.
My position 58° 25' N 2° 42' W.
(JASON 2147/27).
Help - 1 Enemy Aircraft attacking convoy ~~MUSTER~~ ^{"Muster"}
my position 58° 21' N 2° 36' W.
(JASON 2220/27).
Tug is being sent to assistance of MELISKERK.
(F.O.C.O.S. 2242/27).
Trawler attending MELISKERK damaged in
first attack. Second attack missed badly.
(JASON 2255/27).
MELISKERK. Live bomb on deck. Steering
gear damaged. Please advise urgent.
(HORNPIPE 2300/27 to A.C.O.S.)
MELISKERK has emergency steering gear rigged
proceeding slowly on course. Am standing
by. Position 58° 26' 30" N. 2° 42' W.
(HORNPIPE 2330/27).
Take MELISKERK to Kirkwall. Expect Fighter
Escort from just light. At 0330 report
expected position at 0445/28.
(A.C.O.S. 2339/27 to BUCCANEER).
Convoy W.N. 19 attacked by enemy aircraft
105° Wick 16 miles at 2145/27. Dutch Steamship
MELISKERK bombed, steering gear disabled.
Tug BUCCANEER proceeding from Scapa to assist.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2351/27).

Convoy
F.N. Odd.

One aircraft shadowing Convoy "Pilot". My
position 52° 33' N 2° 5' E.
(SHELDRAKE 2039/27).
Fighter Aircraft have been despatched to
assist convoy ~~PILOT~~ "Pilot".
(Nore W/T 2104/27).
One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy "Pilot"
my position 52° 35' N 2° 8' E.
(SHELDRAKE 2136/27).

GLENFINLAS
(Bombed 6/4).

My 2104/21 and subsequent signals. Tow
postponed further 24 hours owing to unsuitable
weather.
Further signal will be made when it is intended
to sail the tow.
(C. in C. Nore 2224/27).

War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Eastern Entrance is closed to shipping owing to mines.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0952/27).
At 0840/27 one Green Mine detonated by S.A. Gear. Details.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1853/27).

Explosions
off Hebrides.

47 and 48 Group sailed to comply with your 1754/26.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0956/27).
When weather is suitable sweepers are to be sailed in accordance with my 1754/26. New centre of sweep to be 58° 34' N 7° 50' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1110/27).
Your 1110/27. Sweepers report search made but nothing found. Intend further search tomorrow before returning to Stornoway.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1943/27).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool re-opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/27).
Port of Liverpool closed from 2100 to 0730/28.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1929/27).

London
Docks.

Royal Victoria dock is open to traffic with restrictions (details).
(F.O.I.C. London 1216/27).

Milford
Haven.

Details of mines detonated.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1621/27, 1627/27).

Dover Area.
German Mine
recovered.

German type W mine washed ashore at Pegwell Bay apparently cut but with 70 feet of mooring wire. Condition exceptionally good and evidently very newly laid. In view of easterly type of weather recently it seems probable mine was laid to the northeastward. Arrangements are being made for a search sweep Dumpton Buoy to South Falls.
(V.A. Dover 1910/27).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.TAANEVIG.

Wick arrival 1825/27/4 Norwegian vessel from Stavanger. Name TAANEVIG. Type fishing vessel, registration marks VA/9/S length 46.6 feet beam 16.7 feet. Detained. Number of crew four. Destination not definite, purpose not definite, no fishing gear. Speak English very well. (R.N.O. Wick 1905/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Tankers,
Secrecy.

Cancel my 1917/25. In view of the great value of Tankers they are, so far as is feasible, to be treated as H.M. ships regarding the secrecy of their movements. It is realised that convoy sailing telegrams and similar messages must be made exceptions. Attention is called to C.A.F.O.870. (D.T.D. 1702/27 to A.I.G. 12.)

D.E.M.S.
and enemy
aircraft.

For N.C.S.O.'s and D.E.M.S. Officers. Instructions in A.M.S.I.'s regarding opening fire on enemy aircraft are still not being complied with. N.C.S.O.'s at Home and Abroad are to call special attention of Masters to vital importance of A.M.S.I.'s 229 and 311, whether sailing independently or in Convoy. Particular cases of non-observance of these instructions are to be investigated and if necessary reported to Admiralty. (D.T.D. 1828/27 to A.I.G. 26 and 19).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

RIMAC
sunk.
A/S LORD PLENDER
damaged.

Two ships in collision half a mile Long Hope Sheringham Buoy. Stand by and report. (WALLACE 0336/27 to GUILLEMOT).

Your 0336. S.S. RIMAC sunk. LORD PLENDER has 14 survivors, two men missing. LORD PLENDER slightly damaged, able to proceed. Intend to order her to Humber after further search.

(GUILLEMOT 0513/27 to WALLACE).

My 0513. Search abandoned. Rejoining F.S.73. LORD PLENDER proceeding to Humber. (GUILLEMOT 0614/27).

Your 0513 report position in which RIMAC sunk. (C. in C. Nore 1129/27 to GUILLEMOT).

My 1145. Position of wreck of RIMAC reported to be 53° 04' 24" N 01° 18' 00" E.

Request Q.Z.H. may be issued.

(C. in C. Nore 1405/27).

Fourteen survivors of steamship RIMAC landed by LORD PLENDER at 1355, include master and North Sea pilot. Three of crew missing.

(F.O. Humber 1539/27).

ROSEMARY

Was in collision at 0017/27 with CARRICK-MACROSS in 339° South Bishop Light 11½ miles. Sustained damage necessitating docking which can be done at Milford. Estimated repairs one month.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1205/27 1838/27).

CELTE
(Derelict).

TENNESSEE reports at 0945 G.M.T. beings Steamship CELTE derelict 061° 01' N. 010° 44' at 0730 G.M.T. today. Drifting approximately 50 true. 0940/27 Ends.

(A.C.O.S. 1315/27).

Search for survivors of CELTE derelict. Position.

(S.O.N.T. 1512/27 to NORTHERN SKY).

Clyde Area.
Dry-docking.

Programme.

In order to complete these dockings and maintain merchant ship repairs it is requested that no other war ships requiring dry docking may be meanwhile sent to Clyde, Ardrossan or Troon.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1748/27).

DORINE.

Departure tug 'LADY BRASSEY' to assistance of S.S. DORINE.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2052/27).

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

GIANNA M.
(Italian).

Left here today 27/4, 0200, direction not known. Description. (Consul Las Palmas 0930/27 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A. 1424/27 to N.A. Station).

URGE.

Intend to sail URGE at 2030/28 for Malta (route). URGE proceed on surface by day at discretion of C.O. as far as 007° E. (Capt. (S) 8 1110/27 to C. in C. Med).

Force H.
Operation
"Salient."

and s. are 038° 41' N. 003° 53' E.
200 17 knots. Postponement of "~~SALIENT~~" yesterday not understood unless due to your 1848/25. Inform DIDO of frequency to be used by her fighter escort. Force H sighted by one Heinkel. (S.O. Force H., 1200A/27 to V.A. Malta).
Note. See S.O. Force H. 1527/28.

Gibraltar
Evacuation
plans.

My 4403, 6/2 and succeeding telegrams. Consider in view of situation that evacuation of 500 asked for should take place as early as possible. Suggest I be authorised to commence sending parties should any accommodation in ships become available. I consider also that all preparation for further evacuation of 4000 be made now available. Shelter accommodation for civilians and their rations makes it imperative that above numbers be got away before anything approaching seige conditions commence. If at the maximum more than 2000 are left during seige they will jeopardise the defences of the fortress. (Govr. Gib., 1455/27 to W.O)

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 27/4 1303, French Destroyer L'ALCYON, French s.s. BAMAKO, ? SAVOIE, EDEA, SAN ANTORIO all full Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1715/27 to Admty, C. in C. Med).
x SAN ANTONIO

Enemy A/C
Report of
British Units.

Italian plane bearing 060° from Gibraltar reported enemy ships probably south of Balearic Islands at 1658 B.S.T. (F.O.C.N.A. 1726/27 to S.O. Force H).

War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CAPOROSA.
(Italian).

My 1808/26. Buenos Aires now report that CAPOROSA raised steam to work pumps for cleaning bilges. Unlikely to sail without stores and fuel. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0131Z/27)

DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS
and convoy.

St. Helena arrival 0600/27 DORSETSHIRE ILLUSTRIOUS and convoy. Oiler BRITISH GRENADIER has not called yet. (General, St. Helena, 0800/27 to Admty etc). St. Helena departure 1700/27 DORSETSHIRE and convoy. (G.O.C. St. Helena, 1830/27)

KOENJITEX,
ex Danish
STJERNEBORG

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1009/24 ship is not proceeding to Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1046/27 to Admty).

Prisoners
in French
Hands.

Now in French West African territory distributed between Dakar, Conakry, Benty and up country 61 British Officers and men and 38 British Indians from JLILUM, MEMNON, TWEED, PORTADOC and ALMKERK. Stated by survivors released that policy of French is to release those under 18 and over 48 and also natives. Ages of those who have arrived in Freetown suggests this policy is possibly being put into effect. 18 European and 11 natives having recently arrived. (C. in C. S.A., 1209/27 to Admty)

"Q"
Report
PENDEEN.

Following has been read. QQQQ 02.24 N., 20.45 W., PENDEEN, Suspicious, T.O.R. 1230Z. (Freetown W/T 1353/27) Cancel my 1212/27. (PENDEEN 1250/27 to Freetown) (1353/27 from Freetown W/T refers).

MONARCH OF
BERMUDA.
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

Your 1335/19. Request information if any Ocean escort will be provided for MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN from Freetown or if they should be sailed independently. (C. in C. S.A. 1741N/27 to Admty).

DUNEDIN.
C.F.1.

Departure 1800/26 DUNEDIN to R.V. with Convoy C.F. 1 in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1857/20 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0630/23. (S.O.I. Freetown 2017N/27 to S.O.I. Singapore)

Italian
GIANNA M.

Sailed from Las Palmas a.m./27. Description. (C. in C. S.A. 2051N/27 to S.A. Sqdn) See also North Atlantic.

839(A)

M E S S A G E

0120/27th April.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From War Office.

Date 28.4.41.

Time -

CYIPHER.

Addressed C. in C. Middle East. Repeated C. in C. India.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

63643 cipher M.O.5. 26/4.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 83.

Your CR/57558 in which presume C. in C. Mediterranean concurred.

Naval dependence on Kirkuk fuel is a strong reason for ultimate responsibility for demolitions remaining with you.

In view of War Office cable 61637 (M.O.5) of 15/4 do you consider as we do, that when G.O.C., Iraq has assumed command the authority for issuing executive orders for demolitions in Kirkuk oil field should rest with him although he will be under orders of C. in C. India.

Please repeat your views to C. in C. India.

Reference authority for head of I.P.C. and A.I.O.C. cable from War Office follows.

Please pass to C. in C. Mediterranean as from Admiralty and A.O.C. in C. Middle East as from Air Ministry.

0120/27

Received from War Office at 1740.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (F)
D.D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Captain.
E.P.S.
Head of M.
I.P.
W.D.
N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

840

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Benghazi
bombed.

Operation Summary No. 321 up to 1200/27. Night 25/26. 3 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi, bombs falling on or very near 1 ship and breakwater. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0959/27).

DIDO
ABDIEL
USK
UNBEATEN.

My 1002/26. (DIDO & ABDIEL passing through Sicilian Channel night 26/27) Light forces delayed 24 hours and have been informed of your new area L and UNBEATEN's area E. (Cdr. S.1, 1038/27 to USK).

TRUANT.

Your 1859/25. It is intended TRUANT should have a short rest in Malta where she should arrive 29th and then proceed to Gibraltar carrying out a patrol en route. (C. in C. Med., 1051/27 to Admty).
Cancel my 1531/25. Recall TRUANT, to arrive Malta 1/5. After short rest shore at Malta, sail TRUANT for patrol and Gibraltar to comply with Admty. 1859/25. (Capt. S.1. 1831/27 to Cdr. (S) 1).
C. in C. 1051/27. My 1831/27 for 1st May read 29th April. (Capt. S.1. 2355/27 to S.O. (S) Malta).

Turkish
Ports.

Ships for Turkish ports should at present be sailed for Mersin or Alexandretta only. (C. in C. Med., 1119/27 to R.A. Alexandria etc).

Convoy
Interception.

My 1254/26. During operation S/Ms taking part are to keep watch on 8260 kc/s between routines so as to intercept and if necessary pass on enemy reports. Area south of 035° N. and west of $015^{\circ} 30'$ E. has been declared a S/M sanctuary. Surface Force only retaliate if attacked. S/Ms on patrol line WS when shadowing should not cross mean course of enemy from time of sight. After contact convoy is to be shadowed and reported until surface attack or dawn irrespective of where this may lead to, returning to position afterwards. (Cdr. S.1, 1147/27 to S/M's on Patrol).

Operation
"Demon".

Your 1624/26. Intend to embark at Monemvasia on night of 28/29 only. (V.A.L.F. 1341/27 to F.O.A.M.).

/PANDORA.....

841

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(Contd).

PANDORA.
TAKU.

Your 1658/25 and C. in C. Med. 0952/26 Request you will sail PANDORA as soon as ready and rest for patrol off Naples North of 035° 00'. TAKU will be ordered to operate South of this latitude when date of sailing of PANDORA is known. On completion of this patrol PANDORA will return to U.K. on date to be decided later. (Capt. S.1. 1425/27 to F.O.C.N.A).

REGENT's
Visit to
Kotor 22/4
bombed.

REGENT reports that on arrival at Kotor Dawn 22/4 whole area was occupied by Italian Army, no Italian naval unit present. Understood Yugo Slavia Navy except 2 torpedo boats and submarine NEBOJSCA were at Tivat. To contact British Minister an Officer had to call on Italian S.N.O. and Lieut. Lambert was sent after 2nd Lieut. Amando has been handed over as hostage. While awaiting officers return REGENT was attacked by 2 Italian dive bombers which dropped seven large and several small anti personnel bombs before attacking with machine guns. Captain decided to leave and dived out of harbour with hostage on board. Captain 1st Lieut and P.O. Biddle slightly wounded. Next of kin of Lieut Lambert have not been informed. Preliminary inspection shows at least 90 cracks in container and leaking rudder gland.

REGENT was fortunately unable to induce the enemy to open boom on his arrival or he would have been trapped. He went through 2 Yugo-Slavian mine fields when entering and finally got out the proper way through the good offices of a Yugo-Slavian N.O. He lay for 9 hours in harbour flying his largest white ensign whilst surrounded by the Italian Army and escaped from a difficult and at the time farcical situation thanks to his own coolness and determination and the lack of interest shown by the Italian Navy. (V.A. Malta 1431/27 to C. in C. Med., Admty etc. amended 0950/29).

/Malta.....

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War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta
Air Raid.

Report Malta up to 1600/27/4.
Day 27/4, 3 alarms from 0740 to 0950.
First 1 J.U. 88 with small number of ME. 109's followed by approx. 12 M.E. 109's in 2 formations, circled outside Island for nearly an hour. 2 of them dived on Kalafrana and machine gunned Sunderland which had landed only 20 minutes before. This occurred whilst "Dunlop" aircraft approached Island. Sunderland caught fire and sank. Total loss. 1 casualty. (H.Q. Malta 1655/27 to Air Ministry).

→ Greek &
Yugoslav
Warships.

Arrivals 26/4. Yugoslav M.T.B's KAJMAKALAN DURMITOR. Arrivals 27/4 VOYAGER, PROTECTOR, Yugoslav Submarine NEBOJSCA, Greek Submarine PAPANICOLIS. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1728/27).

TORBAY
TAKU.

As it is possible TAKU may be delayed on passage, keep 20 miles N. of position L throughout 1/5. (Capt. S.1, 1829/27 to TORBAY).

Enemy Use
of French
Shipping.

Admty 1301/25/4. Same source now reports 6 cargo vessels left Marseilles during night 25/24/4. Further 4 left a.m./24. Several of these marked P.L.M. and all crews German carrying ammunition loaded by German stevedores. (B.2). Another secret source (B.3) reports during night 26/27/4, 5 German vessels flying French flag carrying munitions explosives and aluminium plates were to leave Marseilles for Bordeaux and Brest and that at 0400/27/4, 3 Italian vessels of 6000 tons, names painted out, were to leave for Brindisi under escort carrying munitions and explosives, and that a French vessel of 4000 tons will leave noon/28 for Brindisi with rubber aluminium and wool escorted. (D.N.I. 2227/27 to C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta etc).

Situation
Report.

(1) Operation "Demon" - progress. Damaged ships GLEN/EARN, COSTA RICA. SLAMAT sunk.
(2) Western Desert. (3) Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS
→ Yugoslav NEBOJSCA, KAJMAKALAN and DURMITOR arrived Alexandria 26/4. (C. in C. Med 2247/27) See Lion Copy.

/Operation.....

2247/27 April.

842(A)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 28. 4. 41.

Received 0759.

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated F.O. Force H. S.B.N.O. Canal Area.

IMPORTANT

198. Situation report number nine. DEMON. Total so far embarked estimated 26,000 possibly additional 8,000 from Kalavata. This leaves a further 8,000 or possibly 16,000 for embarkation tonight 27/28. Majority landed in Crete but one convoy containing transports partially laden sailed today for Alexandria. Damage so far reported. GLENEARN approaching Kisamo Bay in tow of GRIFFIN, COSTA RICA in tow of DEFENDER, SLAMAT probably sunk majority of troops hoped saved. Yugo Slav Crown jewels in DEFENDER. Major General Weston R. (M) has assumed command of all troops in Crete. Argos aerodrome reported in enemy hands.

2. Western desert. Army have withdrawn to Buk Buk and all fighters now withdrawn from Tobruk owing to vulnerability of landing ground. APHS attempted bombardment of enemy advancing column Sollun-Halfaya area but weather and lack of fighters protection forced withdrawal to Mersa Matruh.

3. Hy 2342/26 para 5 ships were Greek PAPANICOLIS, Yugo Slav NEBOUSCA KAJMAKIAN and DURMITOR.

2247/27.

- 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) (2).
- C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
- D. of P. (2).
- D.O.D. (H).
- D.D.O.D. (H).
- D.O.D. (F).
- D.D.O.D. (F).
- D.N.I. (4).
- D.S.D.
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A/S.V.
- D.I.S.
- I.P.
- Head of M. (30).

DPN
 WD
 Duty Capt.
 DTSD
 DDIC
 EPS
 DTD(2)
 VIDIO (Ray Con Wilson)

843

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Operation
"Demon"
blockship
sunk
PSARA.
HYDRA
sunk.

Gen. Heywood and I arrived Suda Bay with ? minister from Greece (Greek) Maniadakias and Admiral Sakell.etc. Only Serb men of war located are two C.M.Bs. and one S/M which passed through here recently for Alexandria. The block ship for canal was bombed and sunk before arrival but other arrangements appear to have been carried out. The Greek Navy did waver for a day but it has recovered magnificently and I hope that full credit will be (? done) to it and Greek seamen. Both PSARA and HYDRA were bombed and (?) sunk firing to last also KING GEORGE had to be sunk due to bomb injury. All further movements of Greek small shipping seems now almost impossible as ships are sunk everywhere latest being at Kithera and Milsanda. I am informed most Greek minesweepers and tugs are sunk and rest are without crews. (N.A. Athens 2305/27 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.

Force T.
HERMES.

On completion of boiler cleaning and fuelling A.M./30, Force T. is to proceed to Colombo at 15 knots. HERMES is to dock on arrival for quick cleaning and coating of bottom. Oiler PEARLEAF is to be sailed on 29/4 for Port Victoria, Seychelles. (C. in C. E.I. 0527/2/27 to S.O. Force T).

CANBERRA.
U.S. 10.

Departures CANBERRA and Transport QUEEN ELIZABETH at 1030Z/27 and Transport QUEEN MARY at 1200Z/27. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1355/27 to Admty etc).

Madagascar
Mined Zones.

Vichy French Admty. have announced danger zones within 10 miles of the coast of Madagascar off Diego Suasez and Tamatave. (D.S. 600, 27/4).

War. Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Interception
of Suspicious
ships.

Policy (Air Ministry 1545/27 to C. in C Far East).

America & West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1838/25 received after leaving Capetown. Intend to discharge present pilots, observers and air gunners at Trinidad where aircraft is disembarked. (ILLUSTRIOUS 0615/27 to Admty).

"R" Report
AMSTERDAM.

RRRR 39.00 N. 46.50 W. at 1603 G.M.T. Large Warship closing on AMSTERDAM (Halifax 1205/27).
Dutch ship AMSTERDAM reports large warship closing her in position 39° 00' N. 46° 50' W. at 1603 G.M.T. Is American warship in this vicinity? (C. in C. A.W.I. 1301/27 to N.A. Washington) Cancelled, see 0105/28.

Convoy
Escorts,
A.M.C's.

Following is a repetition of my 1506/25 which was wrongly cyphered: Your 1936/15. If accepted policy is for S.C. Convoy to join up with even number H.X. convoy during period of Iceland local escort suggest A.M.C. with S.C. section might leave convoy at R.V. with that escort and return to Halifax. This would speed up escort cycle and ease programme. (ii) A.M.C. to visit Bermuda occasionally with personnel and stores and for practice firing. Recent casualties and number of ships refitting make this difficult at present. RANPURA from S.C. 29 must visit Iceland to land passengers and stores. (ends). (F.O.3 B.S. 1524/27 to Admty)

/H.X.....

845

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday:

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

H.X. Convoys
Escorts.

Your 1725/22. Not possible to provide a Home Fleet Battleship for H.X. Convoys at present. Realised that it will not be possible for you to provide Capital ship escort for all H.X. Convoys. Meanwhile, policy is to sail battleships as escorts as often as they are available. When available intelligence indicates that the chance of enemy surface attack is slight. Admty will order battleships to leave their convoys early and return to Halifax as was done in A.M. 2248/23. This policy will increase the number of convoys for which battleship escort is available for part of the voyage and if our intelligence is correct will ensure escorts being available when most needed. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1606/27 to R.A. 3).

Corvettes
Manned
by R.C.N.

Your 1616/8 Adty are grateful for your agreement to continue manning of 10 corvettes and welcome proposal that vessels should be lent to R.C.N. for period of war or so long as they continue to be manned by Canadian personnel. Under A.F.O. 307/41 British Govt. are liable for all costs other than pay and victualling of personnel. Request confirmation that your intention is that entire costs of running and maintenance of 10 corvettes during period of loan should be chargeable to Canadian funds. (2 S.L 1707/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

N. Atlantic
Patrol to
Intercept
Enemy tankers.

Your 1552/25 and 1243/24. Suggestions. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1801/27 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Fast
Merchant
Ships.

Your 2240/24. Crews of 4 fast merchant ships were provided. One from LETITIA, one from MALAYA, 5 officers named in your 1417/12/3, 4 officers and 33 ratings passengers for U.K. and remainder from CANTON. (R. A. 3 B.S. 2243/27 to Admty).

/U.S. Warships.....

845(A)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1801/27 April

IN

From. C. in C. America & West Indies.

Date. 28.4.41.
Time. 2028.

NAVAL CYCLES (3) BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated. S.O. West Indies Force., F.O.C.N.A.

North
Atlantic
Patrol
to intercept
tankers.

~~276~~ Your 1552/25 and your 1243/24 ~~not to all~~
~~addressees~~. Suggestion for operation of patrol for interception of
enemy tankers in North Atlantic, as result of experience gained
of weather conditions during recent patrol by S.O. West Indies Force
in ~~1552~~ DESPATCH which included fuelling at sea.

(i) Most favourable area for fuelling at sea in
summer is that part of North Atlantic anti cyclone lying to the
North of Axis, assuming anti cyclone is an ellipse whose major
Axis in summer runs East North East from about 030 degs. North
045 degs. West to the Azores.

(ii) To avoid shipping enemy tankers are likely to use
Western Portion of this area defined roughly by line joining
following points. P 030 degs. North 045 degs. West Q 037 degs. North
043 degs. West R 040 degs. North 035 degs. West S 033 degs. North
035 degs. West.

(iii) Intend to operate Cruiser Patrol in this area when
other commitments permit. Cruiser would patrol with oilers in company
and remain 14 days in area.

(iv) Intend to operate French Submarine SURCOUF
principally in this area when under my orders. Propose she should
patrol area for as long as possible on passage from United Kingdom.
to Bermuda.

(v) Suggest attention of United States Naval Authorities
be drawn to this area for information of Atlantic Patrol,
particularly when British Cruiser is in area and favourably placed
to act on enemy report.

1801/27

Note. This message has not been circulated to F.N.F.I. as was 1243/24.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. & O.I.C.

Most Secret.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | |
| 1st S.L. | C.O.D. (H) |
| 2nd S.L. | D.D.O.D. (H) |
| 3rd S.L. | C.N.I. (4) |
| 4th S.L. | C.S.O. |
| 5th S.L. | D.N.A.D. |
| V.C.N.S. | D. of L.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D. A/S N. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | D.N.S. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | I.P. |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | C.D. |
| D. of P. (2) | Duty Capt. |
| D.O.D. (F) | Head of M. |
| D.D.O.D. (F) | D.T.V.D. |
| | D.D.I.C. |
| | E.P.S. |
| | D.T.D. (2) |
| | N.I.D.10 (Pay. Mr. Wilson) |

WarDDiary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

U.S. Warships
in Atlantic.

Admty. msg. F.E.
Attention is called to recent U.S. Press notices repeated in this country that U.S. forces are to operate far into the Atlantic Ocean in defence of the Western Hemisphere and that they will report the position of warships they meet in a form which may be received by ships in the vicinity. Prompt reports should still be made of unidentified and suspicious vessels. These reports must be quickly cancelled if it proves that it is a friendly or neutral warship which has been reported. Advantage should also be taken of reports received from U.S. forces to take avoiding action. (D.S.D. Approved by 1st Lord 2539/27 to G.B.M.S., all areas).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.27.4.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.AURILLAC
(torpedoed
16/4).

Ref. Lisbon's 1734/25. Portuguese ship GORGULHO landed Funchal 19 officers and men ex British ship AURILLAC this morning. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 0931/27 to Admty). My 2540/22 and my 0931/27. Following are names of crew saved from missing lifeboats of British AURILLAC. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1230/27 to Admty).

VILLE DE
LIEGE.
(torpedoed
13/4).

WASTWATER picked up Master and 10 of crew VILLE DE LIEGE torpedoed 13/4 059° 50' N 029° 30' W. Master reports 3 other boats still adrift with remainder crew of 752 WASTWATER informed CHITRAL of this. Ship was struck by two torpedoes at 2323. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1607/27 to Admty).

EMPIRE SUCCESS.

Following message has been read. S S S S 6. 20, 13, 19 W., EMPIRE SUCCESS, course 090° speed 11 knots, sighted submarine. (Freetown W/T 2045/27, recd. 2047/27). (C. in C. S.A. 1846/27 to G.M.B.S. 6A recd., 2115/27).

S/Ms Reported.

2337/26.

D/F bearings at 2237/26 G.M.T. indicate German U-Boat between the Azores and Lisbon. (D.D.I.C. 0313/27).

0016

D/F bearings of German U boat at 0016 G.M.T. /27 were Lands End 202° third class Wick 190° third class Cupar 200° third class, Baldock 198° second class. (F.O.C.N.A. 0521/27 to N.A. Stn).

?

May have been Whale. (A/C U/502 1607/27 to Aldegrove.)

1550

A/C reported over enemy submarine in 056° 30' N 009° 25' W. at 1550. (C. in C. W.A. 1627/27 to SPEEDWELL, NIGER, WALKER, OTTAWA, F.O.C. 15th C.S.).

Attack U-Boat in.....

War Diary.

27.4.1941.
Sunday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/MS Reported.

1550 (contd).

Attack U-boat in $056^{\circ} 30' N.$ $009^{\circ} 25' W.$
Reliable fix, aircraft over U-boat.
(C. in C. W.A. 1632/27 to SALADIN).
Cancel my 1732/27. ?1632/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1658/27 to SALADIN).

1740

Attack S/M reported by aircraft in $061^{\circ} 10' N$ $020^{\circ} 00' W$ at 1740/27 reliable fix.
(A.C.W.A. 1910/27 to CHESTERFIELD, AMAZON.)
Aircraft report U-Boat submerged in $061^{\circ} 10' N$, $020^{\circ} 00' W$, at 1740/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1917/27 to SUFFOLK.)
Join O.B. 314 before dark unless in contact with U Boat.
(C. in C. W.A. 2058/27 to CHESTERFIELD, H.M.S. AMAZON.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.
Still indefinite and unreliable.
(D.D.I.C. 1355/27).

849

28.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Narvik.

Visual R/C of Narvik reported no German main units present at 0150 today.

British Air Operations

Blenheims operating off the north-west coast of France caused some damage to trawlers and claim to have hit and seriously damaged a 2000 ton merchant vessel off Knocke.

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy F.S.474 was attacked shortly before noon today in 52° 16' N., 1° 7' E., but no damage occurred.

It is reported that ELGIN destroyed a H.E. 111 which bombed the 4th M/S Flotilla unsuccessfully at 2150 east of Harwich.

Three convoys were attacked unsuccessfully after dark, one off Falmouth, one off Montrose, and one off East Anglia.

Yarmouth was bombed at 2053/27 and again at 0840 today. The dry dock was damaged.

28.4.1941.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

A search was made from Dumpton Buoy to South Falls, in consequence of a new German mine being cut yesterday. Nothing was found.

Royal Netherlands Naval Minesweeper CAROLINE was mined and sunk with all hands to-day off Milford Haven.

Mines were detonated today off Sheerness Portsmouth, the Tyne and Liverpool.

The East entrance to Portsmouth was re-opened at 1138. Liverpool was closed at night.

The Swedish press today reports Finnish SS LAPPONIA mined and sunk off Aalborg.

North Atlantic

See next page.

South Atlantic

The German LECH left Rio de Janeiro this evening.

MOST SECRETWar Diary28.4.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTNorth Atlantic. (Should be on previous page.)
~~Mediteranean~~

Three destroyers (HAVELOCK, HESPERUS and HARVESTER) from the escort of Convoy W.S. 8 A are to proceed to Gibraltar with the convoy for temporary service with Force H.

Mediterranean.

V.A. Malta badly needs 3 long range R/C aircraft fitted with A.S.V. gear, to work with destroyer striking forces at night operating against enemy convoys to Libya.

Western Desert.

Bad weather has held up operations and a large scale enemy attack in the Capuzzo area has not developed. Heavy dive bombing on Tobruk continues, and in the absence of fighter protection it is becoming difficult to keep the entrance swept clear.

Yugoslav Navy.

Particulars of the Yugoslav warships now in Alexandria, and of the fate of others, are contained in C. in C., Med's 2006/28.

Greece.Operation "Demon"

At 1346 today C. in C., Med. reported that about 35,000 men had so far been embarked, apart from 3000 in the Raptis area an unknown number of whom were embarked last night by destroyers. About 8000 men have been cut off in the Kalmata area (though embarkation may still be possible) and 4000 at Nauplia. There are 4000 men at Monemvasia.

GLENGYLE and 4 transports are being escorted in convoy to Alexandria (due 1200/29)

Corinth Canal

It is reported that the Corinth Canal Bridge was captured intact by enemy parachute troops. An attempt on Crete seems imminent. The enemy have captured Argos aerodrome.

/Command.....

War Diary

28.4.41.
Monday 852

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Greece, Contd.

Command of
Greek Fleet

The Greek Govt., ask that the Greek Fleet shall act under the orders of C. in C., Meditn. whilst leaving the Greek C. in C., the right to refer to the Greek Govt., in case he so desires.

East Indies

An incomplete distress report received at 0102 G.M.T. today indicates an unknown merchant ship attacked by an armed raider latitude north unknown, longitude possible about 63° E. LEANDER, CORNWALL, HAWKINS and EAGLE have been ordered to hunt.

28.4.1941. 853
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign

U-Boats have resumed attacks on escorted convoys in daylight.

H.X. 121
Attacked.

H.X. 121 was attacked in day light today in the N.W. Approaches and the following ships were torpedoed: Tankers CAPULET (in 60° 10' N., 17° W., at 1515) and OILFIELD, and SS CALEDONIA and PORT HARDY these three latter in approx. 60° 14' N., 15° 20' W.

INGLEFIELD attacked the S/M which torpedoed CAPULET. (A damaged submarine was reported to have been sighted by an aircraft at 1045/29 in 60° 0' N., 15° 45' W) C. in C., H.F. considers that INGLEFIELD and MAORI sank the U-Boat.

BEACON GRANGE (sailing independently) was torpedoed in approx. 60° 14' N., 15° 20' W.

(see 15.41)
p. 39

SS CITY OF NAGPUR, independently routed is reported to have been torpedoed this morning, about 600 miles west of Valentia. A Catalina flying boat sighted survivors in boats, and HURRICANE was detached from S.A. 1 to pick them up, which she did p.m./29.

South
Atlantic

SS CARPERBY reported a submarine at 1356Z today in 10° 2' N., 18° 56' W., she was undamaged and believes she hit the submarine.

War Diary.

28. 4. 41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Manning of
Canadian
built
Corvettes.

C.N.S. Ottawa has agreed that R.C.N. crews should continue to man the 10 Canadian-built corvettes in U.K, and T.L. have approved of these vessels being lent to R.C.N., to be commissioned as H.M. Canadian ships, for the period of war or so long as they continue to be manned by R.C.N crews. Request you will propose dates for transfer of vessels consulting C.C.C.S. as necessary and repeating signal to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (Hd. of M. 1033/28.).

East Coast
Convoys.
Critical Period.

The period from sunset till complete darkness sets in, is the time most frequently selected by enemy aircraft for attack on shipping on the East coast. All A A guns are to be manned during this period. If individual sailings can be so arranged that ships are not on passage during the above period so much the better. (C. in C. Rosyth 1312/28.).

3 destroyers
for Force H.

Three destroyers from the escort to W.S.8A are required to proceed to Gibraltar with convoy and subsequently for temporary service with Force "H". Request you will issue necessary instructions. (1st. S.L. 1324/28 to C. in C. W.A.).

Movements.

TRIDENT.

My 1219/26 para. (B) amend movement of TRIDENT to "read thence TRIDENT submerged by day through 48° 00' N., 07° 00' W., to patrol in Bay of Biscay south". (S.3. 0931/28 to F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth Adty., A.O.C. in C.C.C., S5.

SOMALI
BEDOUIN.

Return to base. (C. in C. H.F. 2303/28, to D.6.).
Informing R.A.D, H.F., (C. in C. H.F. 2336/28).

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

REDER AU
MORIOU.

My 2004/27. Fishing vessel REDER AU MORIOU brought into Plymouth with German Clearance from Brest 17/4. Crew consists of 19 Frenchmen she has no guns no W/T Gross Tonnage 60 tons owners Riov Pierre Marcel Laurient at Corts report will be sent as soon as received. First report states she wished to fish from English ports. (C. in C. Plymouth 1052/28.).

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

On completion of oiling proceed to patrol Denmark Straits. Adjust your patrol position as circumstances require keeping within about 80 miles A.M.Q.Z.X. 364, In absence of enemy information maintain your patrol for seven days returning to Hval Fiord for 48 hours if circumstances permit. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 1129Z/28, to SUFFOLK.). F.O.C. 1st. C.S. in NORFOLK and SUFFOLK arrived & sailed 1800. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1843/28.).

Northern
Patrol.

Request you will redispse trawlers Northern Patrol in line T R 30 to 39. (C. in C. H.F. 1217/28 to F.O.C.N.P.). TR lines 18 to 29 are to be vacated and trawlers redispsoed on lines TR 30 to 39. Request you will fill 32, 34, 35, 36 and 39 in that order of importance. ~~Kirkwall.~~ (F.O.C.N.P. 1545/28 to SONT. ~~KIRK WALL.~~).

Operation
Q.F.

C.in C. Nore 0803 A dated 12/4 amend to ready as follows. Para. 4. 0200/30. Para. 6. 1730/29. Para. 16 A. (11) for 4650 Kc/s read 3700 kc/s. (C. in C. Nore 1302/28 to EREBUS.). My 1614 1st. reference quoted is to Admty., and V.A. Dover only. (C. in C. Nore 1905/28.).

East
Coast
Patrols.

Following Patrols tonight Monday weather permitting carry out the following patrols tonight Monday (1) One Unit Motor Launches from South Leman to Smith's Knoll Buoy. (2) One Unit Motor Launches 5 miles 020° - 200° from 55 Buoy (3) A.P. patrolling F W S to be withdrawn and to reinforce F.W.B. and F.W.M. (C. in C. Nore 1925/28 to S.E. on E.C.C.D.).

HOOD.

B.C.S. One in HOOD, ACTIVE, ECHO, ANTHONY, ACHATES sailed. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2215/28.).

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.

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British Air Activity.Air Operations
off French
Coast etc.

Day 27/4. One Hampden with 4x 500 lbs., attacked the docks at Ijmuiden. Twelve Blenheims from 139 Squadron searched for shipping off Cherbourg and the North Coast of Brittany. No targets were found. Six Blenheims attacked, one of three patrol vessels 1250/1500 tons, 40 miles St. Mathieu Point. At least one direct hit was obtained. The vessel is claimed as a total loss. Two fishing smacks about 50 miles west of St. Mathieu Point are claimed as damaged. A Motor Yacht about 20 miles West of Ushant is also claimed as damaged. (H.Q.B.C. 0245/28.).

Patrols.

The following patrols will be flown today A/C taking off first light. "Fugle IV," "Trost," "Bert," "Stab," "Stand." (C. in C. Rosyth 0330/28.). 479. Continuous A/S escort will be taken over by aircraft of 18 group from noon today until arrival Port Z.A. (C. in C. Rosyth 1042/28 to R.A.M.) Admiralty's 0240/28. Request area between north coast of Iceland and ice limit, from North Cape to longitude 014° W., may be watched by aircraft until SUFFOLK resumes patrol. Object is to detect enemy forces breaking out. (C. in C. H.F. 1210/28.).

Following A/S sweep by Whitley A/C will be in operation today leaving Datum Point Cape Wrath about 1900 to reach furthest limit of patrol at dusk thence through following positions returning to Datum. (C. in C. Rosyth 1524/28.).

My 1042/28. Owing to other urgent commitments A/S cover will not be provided between 2030/28 and 0100/29.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1758/28, to R.A.M., C.S.18, C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., Adty.)

Your 1057Z/28. No standing daily patrols are now operating. Routine patrols TROST, STAB, BERT, STAND, SLEEVE, HORNLI, UNST., FAIR are flown on most days when weather permits. Patrol FUGLE is carried out if considered advisable when enemy forces are suspected. Other patrols near Iceland are carried out by 15 Group in co-operation with C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. Rosyth 2004/28, to B.C.S.1.)

DANDARA.
Enemy A/C.
shot down.

British ship DANDARA 213 tons claims to have brought down German Aircraft by Lewis Gun fire at 1100Z/24, in 61° 40' N., 14° 35' W. Believed Heinkel 111. After careful enquiry consider claim substantiated. Skipper wounded no other casualties. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1403/28.)

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28.4.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth
attacked.

Air Raid with H.E. and Incendiaries from 2150 to 2315. Casualties not yet known. U.X.P.M. on promontory in No 3. basin alongside BERWICK. Suspected U.X.P.M. on No. 3. basin, full details of damage yard not known yet. Damage to Naval Establishments (details)(C. in C. Portsmouth 0205/28. 0110/28.).

C. in C Operations Staff contacted. see A.P. 28/4.

POLARSOL.
(bombed 25/4.).

My 1714/27. POLARSOL is to be taken from R/V to Scapa, not to Stornoway. (C. in C. W.A. 0458/28 to CAPE PORTLAND.).

MELISKERK
(bombed 27/4.).

MELISKERK is proceeding to Kirkwall under own steam and hand steering. He will not take my tow but asks me to stand by. He is making good 7 knots.

(BUCCANEER, 0420/28, 0525/28.).

MELISKERK ex W.N.19 received only minor damage from direct hit by 1000 pound bomb which failed to explode. Bomb has now been removed and dumped out at sea.

Necessary repairs should be completed by 1/5/41. Vessel now anchored off Crookness Point. Require attendance by Drifter.

(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1745/28. S.V.O BERTHA 1820/28 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall.).

PATIA.

The Gunner a survivor from J.4276 ? J4267 - PATIA intended, reports ship attacked by one aircraft 2130 near 20 G Buoy.

First attack by m.g. and near miss. Second attack m.g. third attack hit by heavy bomb. Ship began to sink rapidly. Large number survivors landed. Enemy aircraft brought down.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0839/28.).

Convoy W.N.
Odd.

Fighters are being sent to assist ^{"Muster"} MUSTER. (Rosyth 0849/28.).

Convoy F.S.

Enemy is bombing Convoy ^{"Arena"} ARNA in 52° 16' N., 1° 57' E. (VALOROUS 1149/28.).

^{"Arena"}
/Help ARNA.....

War Diary.

28.4.41.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy F.S.
cont:-

"Arena"
Help ~~ARINA~~ in position 1959. Enemy is bombing. (HASTINGS 1150/28.).
My 1149 H.E. 111 No damage. (VALOROUS 1153/28.).
My 1150. One aeroplane. No hits. (HASTINGS 1205/28.).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Yarmouth bombed 2053/27 and again 0840/28. Six security lines down. No power to operate Fellowes. Dry Dock. Pumps and machinery temporarily out of action. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1159/28.).

GLENFINLAS
(Bombed 6/4.).

Cancel my 2104/21. Request you sail GLENFINLAS in tow of tugs ST. MELLONS, KENIA and SEA GRANT and escorted by SHEARWATER, KITTIWAKE, from Harwich for Tyne so as to pass Aldeburgh L.F. at 0430/29, thence by Q.Z.S. 172 and swept channels to Tyne. Fighter escort is being asked for from daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1212/28.).

WILLIAM H. DANIELS.
(Bombed 27/4.).

(Light Collier) now anchored in Harwich Harbour. Bomb through hatch and through ships side just above water line. We will make sea worthy. (Salvage Officer, Harwich 1220/28.).

Convoy
O.B. 314.

O.B. 314 is certainly being shadowed and an attack appears imminent. Afford all the air support you can. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1259/28 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

A/C. over
Scapa.

At 1340 unidentified A/C probably J U 88 passed over The Flow from West to East height approximately 14000 feet and was engaged by ground defences. No R D/F Plots received but visibility excellent. Friendly A/C was also in the area at the time. (A.C.O.S. 1750/28.).

Convoy "Pattern"
PATTERN.

"Pattern"
Help Convoy ~~PATTERN~~ in 52° 53' N., 1° 8' E. (QUORN 2040/28.).

/Convoy E.N. Even...

28.4.41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
E.N. Even.

Fighters are being sent to assist ^{"Mission"} MISSION.
(Rosyth W/T 2056/28).
Help ~~WATON~~ in 56° 44' N. 2° W.
(Lyness 2204/28).
My 2204 - 2 bombs no hits. (GLEANER 2212/28)

Falmouth to
Dartmouth
Convoy.

^{"Watch"}
Help WATON in 50° 17' N. 4° 35' W.
(Plymouth W/T 2139/28).

CELTE.
(bombed
27/4)

S.S. TENNESSEE brought in ten survivors,
one wounded, from French CELTE. Fourteen
survivors in Norwegian NEA including one
wounded. None missing. CELTE still
afloat at 0700/27. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 2220/28)
My 2220/28. CELTE was bombed in position
061° 01' N. 010° 44' W. (N.C.S.O. Loch
Ewe 2222/28).

Mining.

Off
Instrahull.

Norwegian S.S. GAISHAN reports mines
bearing Barrow Head 113° distance 13
miles Instrahull 259° 8 miles. (F.O.I.C
Belfast 0816/28 to Adty).

Sheerness.

Two S.A. mines detonated as follows:-
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0915/28).

Portsmouth.

Cancel my 0952/27 Port open.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1138/28).
One magnetic mine red detonated by L.L.
Details. (C; in C. Portsmouth 1704/28)

CAROLINE.

(Dutch M/S Vessel) Report loss by mine
with all hands of R.N.N. Minesweeper CAROLINE
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1444/28).

/North.....

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

North
Shields.

Details of mines detonated. (P.M.S.O.
North Shields 1720/28, 1722/28, 1732/28,
1732/28, 1800/28, 1820/28).

Dover
Sweeps.
3 German
Floating
Mines.

Search Sweep in Q.Z.S. 191 Dumpton Buoy to
South Falls by 4 Oropesa Trawlers 80%
nothing found.
Also in Q.Z.S. 117 to 2 miles 010% from
South Falls buoy 40% nothing found. Three
floating mines were sunk identified as old
German type V. (V.A. Dover 1855/28).

Liverpool.

Details of 10 mines detonated today.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1905/28, 2201/28).
Port of Liverpool closed from 2100-0730/29.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2120/28).

LAPPONIA.

Swedish press 28/4 reports Finnish S.S.
LAPPONIA 1,172 tons mined and sunk off
Aalborg. (N.A. Stockholm 2114/28).

Enemy Intelligence.

R/C of
Narvik.

Sunderland aircraft on Narvik R/C reports
warships no longer present. (C. in C.
Rosyth 0216/28 to C. in C. H.F. D.D.I.C.
0240/28).

Escorted
Convoy.

Following received from A/C B 235 SQD
2 Destroyers 8 Merchant Vessels steering
050° position 5 180 52° 42' N. 4° 2' E.
0722 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0821/28 to Adty,
Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0850/28).

Surface
Vessel.

By D/F at 2017 B.S.T. Bearings of
unidentified enemy surface vessel were
as follows. Position indefinite but
probably N. of 64° N. (D.D.I.C. 2112/28)
(C. in C. H.F. 2257/28).

/Brest.....

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (contd).

Brest.

No R/C of Brest up to 2000/28 owing to weather. (D.D.I.C. 2114/28).

E-Boats.

Suspected E Boat activity bearing on Carrier from West 150° approx. (Harwich W/T 2245/28 to Yarmouth W/T).

Red Light
off
Wembury.

Wembury reported red light showing for one second every 5 seconds for 4 minutes ceased 2310. Position 220° Wembury 5 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth 2314/28 to MACKAY).

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 8A.

A.M. 1640/23. Amend position "C" to read 54° 30' N. 22° 00' W. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1055/28 to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C). Amend route to pass through new position "C" 54° 30' N. 22° 00' W. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1057/28 to C.S. 15).

W.S. 8B.
Postponed.

Cancel A.M. 1807/22. Sailing of W.S. 8B has been postponed for about a fortnight and its composition will be modified. (D.O.D.(H) 1730/28 to C. in C. W.A, C. in C. H.F. etc).

Routing to
Oban and
Loch Ewe.

The following is promulgated to assist N.C.S.Os on East coast to decide whether ships sailing in E.C. convoys and destined to join O.B. or O.G. convoys should be routed to Oban or Loch Ewe (Details). (C. in C. W.A. 1237/28 to C. in C. Nore, Rosyth).

H.X. 121.

Reported by U/B at 1709 (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)

LONDON.
S.L. 71.

LONDON is to part company with convoy S.L. 71 after daylight 29/4 and proceed to Scapa. (V.C.N.S. 2318/28 to LONDON).

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

STONEFLY.

(M/S Trawler) In collision with H.M. M/S T CLEVELLA at 0225/28 off Peterhead. Bulwarks and upper bridge and wheel house and deck stanchions damaged. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0940/28).

BRITISH
FIDELITY.

Your 1203/24. Request information as to when it is anticipated BRITISH FIDELITY will be sailed observing that same tugs are required for towage of BRITISH RENOWN from Dartmouth to Falmouth. (C.C.R.T. 1817/28 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

ROSEMARY.

Request you will obtain statement from Master of S.S. CARRICKMACROSS proceeding Dublin following collision with H.M.S. ROSEMARY at 0017/27/4 in position 339° South Bishop Light 11½ miles. (D.T.D. 1921/28 to Navservoff, Dublin).

LEAMINGTON.

Have had serious electrical fire. Am rejoining convoy with GLADIOLUS (corrupt group) 26 at 1940. (LEAMINGTON 2255/28)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

FIRE Drake.
O. 24.

Estimated P.c. and s. FIRE Drake and O 24 at 0800/28 as follows:- FIRE Drake 035° N 015° 55' W. 005° 22 knots. O 24, 036° 25' N 016° 55' W 133° 7 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0008/28 to FIRE Drake S/M O.24).
E.T.A. 043° 00' N 015° 00' W 0800 zone
(-) one /29 speed 20 knots. Request onward route destination and E.T.A. be signalled to FIRE Drake.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

URGE

URGE leaves Gibraltar 2030/28 proceeds Eastbound through 035° 55' N 005° 00' W speed 8 knots. Inform Parracombe.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1050/28 to GARDENIA).
Departure URGE in accordance with Capt. (S) 8's 1110/27.
(S.O.(I) 2030/28 to C. in C. Med).

Operation
"A"
MIRROR.

Admty 1232/23/3. Operation A completed. Prolonged unsuitable weather has so far prevented (?completion of) operation B. MIRROR returned Gibraltar. Proposed new position for Operation B (c) 036° 52' N 013° 24' W as original position was in 2300 fathoms and required a period of settled weather conditions with no swell.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1220/28 to Admty).

PANDORA

Intend to sail PANDORA at 2030/29 for patrol in area C north of latitude 040° in accordance with Capt. S.1. 1425/27 (Route).
(Capt. S.8. 1322/28 to C. in C. Med).

WRESTLER

Departure in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1258/27.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1330/28, to QUEEN ELIZABETH).

Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Salient"

My 1200 A/27 was transmitted as W/T diversion to draw enemy air reconnaissance away from Salient.

2. Visibility on D.2 and D.3 favoured evasion and westerly wind facilitated preparation of Hurricanes. Destroyers screen slipped at 0445 in view of strong Westerly wind and sea affecting speed of retirement.

3. Hurricanes flown off in D.4 from 6° E under very favourable conditions. Total time to fly off one hour, delay caused by one engine defect of a Hurricane.

4. Subsequent visibility much reduced but at 0850 Heinkel III on Northerly Course made chance contact and disappeared in clouds before Fulmars could intercept. Destroyer screen rejoined noon, speed reduced to 18 knots to cover "Salient."

5. Visibility maximum from noon onwards. Enemy A/C detect by B.D/F at 143 45 shadowing from 40 miles astern.

6. Weather favours both Operations. Do not consider position of Force H located till Heinkel reported.

7. Admty 0027/26, consider this must be expected when ever Force H leaves Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H., 1527/28 to Admty).

Operation
"Dunlop"

Wish to express to you my great appreciation of your successful completion of operation "Dunlop".
DUNLOP.

(A.O.C. in C. Middle East 1936/28 to F.O. (H)).

FEARLESS
FURY.

Departure in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1258/27.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 2032/28 to QUEEN ELIZABETH, Admty).

FURY, FEARLESS, sail 2030 course to S.W. from Cape Spartel.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2040/28 to GARDENIA).

FEARLESS and FURY intend to pass through position 034° 30' N 01° 50' W. at 0830 Zone -1 29/4 steering 237° speed 25 knots.

(FEARLESS 2237/28 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic.

NELSON

Admty 1025/23. NELSON taken in hand at Durban 23/4 for docking and essential repairs. Ship is at 72 hours notice for sea. Anticipated date of completion ex trials 4/5, ready for sea 5th. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1216B/28 to Admty etc).

NICOLAOS
D.L.

Overdue shipping. Greek ship NICOLAOS D.L. due Capetown 26/4 from Trinidad not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1555/28).

BARNEVELD

Netherlands Shipping Co., report that Dutch BARNEVELD, 5597 tons, which left Freetown on 15/1 for Capetown, was captured or sunk by an enemy raider on 19/1. Master and Chief Engineer repatriated to Holland from Southern France. (D.S. 601, 28/4).

Destroyer for
Gibraltar.

Request you will send DUNCAN or FOXHOUND to Gibraltar with despatch. WISHART is to remain in the Freetown area for the present. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1606/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

FOXHOUND
DUNCAN.

FOXHOUND proceed Gibraltar at best speed. DUNCAN proceed in accordance with my 1355/28. (C. in C. S.A. 1621N/28 to FOXHOUND).

SEVERN
ANCHUSA

R/V with ANCHUSA in position 007° N 014° W 0600/29. ANCHUSA is to escort SEVERN to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1717N/28 to SEVERN, ANCHUSA.).

→ LECH
NORDERNEY and
MACEIO.
(German).

Asked for Clearance papers. N.S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C. in C. Africa. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1800/28).

→ LECH
sailed.

German ship LECH sailed one hour ago. (Rio de Janeiro 2015/28 to Admty). (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2312Z/28 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Extract from.....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

LECH
sailed (contd),

Extract from Fairmiss telegram from Rio De Janeiro T.H.I. 1614/28. "Departure 28/4 German ship LECH declared destination Bergen".
(M. of Shipping no T.O.O./29).

D.E.M.S. Personnel
in Plate
Ports.

Request Masters of British Ships arriving at River Plate Ports be instructed to lock up Uniforms of Military personnel before being boarded by customs. Slackness may lead to internment.
(D.E.M.S. Officer Buenos Aires, 1805/28 to Admty).

Vichy
French ships.

My 1839/5/2. In view of issue of emergency regulations enabling Union Gov. to requisition any foreign ship, request confirmation that instructions in Admty 1328/29/1 that Vichy French Merchant ships should be sent to Simonstown in preference to other Union Ports are no longer applicable. High Commissioner's telegram No. 148, 5/2 and Dominions Office reply No. 147, 7/2 regarding SONTAY and JEAN L.D. refer.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1815B/28 to Admty).
Your 1815/28 confirmed (D.E.W.D. 1738/29).

ALCANTARA.

My 2055/22 and R.A. S.A.D.'s 1137/24. ALCANTARA is now to proceed direct to L 32 at S.O.A. 15 knots coming under the orders of R.A. S.A.D. on crossing 025° W.
(C. in C. S.A. 1857N/28 to ALCANTARA.)

Enemy Unit.

Bearings of unidentified enemy surface vessel on 12700 kc/s at 1940 G.M.T. Traffic T.O.O. 2112. 35 Groups, last two GMHR FXTN.
(D.D.I.C. 2132/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

WRYNECK.
survivors
(bombed sunk.
27/4.)

Your 2250. Have recovered 14 survivors from WRYNECK on two carley floats in $036^{\circ} 30' 023^{\circ} 34'$. Both ships sank immediately at 1330 about one mile apart. Only boat to get away one whaler not yet located. Am searching area. Shall I continue search after daylight or comply with your 2250? (GRIFFIN 0230/28 to V.A.L.F.)

Turkey.

Discussion between Admiral Kelly and General Asim Gunduz 28/4. (N.A. Angora 1155/28, to Admty etc). See Lion Copy.

MONTAUBAN

French owned Steamer (?) MONTAUBAN sailed last 27/4 for Beirut where she is due to arrive daybreak 29/4. Repeated to Alexandria. (Consul, Alexandretta, T.H.I. 1200/28).

Orders to
TRUANT.

Leave position Z $034^{\circ} 40' 012^{\circ} 18'$ at 0600B/30 through $035^{\circ} 32' 014^{\circ} 10'$ to arrive Marsamussetto about 0800B/1/5. UNDAUNTED will leave Malta P.M./29 through $035^{\circ} 20' 012^{\circ} 40'$ to arrive Z p.m./30. (S.O. (S) Malta 1201/28 to TRUANT).

SURF and
HALCYON sunk.

D.S.T.O. Piraeus reported Yacht SURF T 98 and caique HALCYON T 99 sunk at Piraeus 6/7th April by enemy action and both must be considered total losses. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1219/28 to D.S.T.).

ABBAZIA
(Italian).

Istanbul. Departure 28/4 Italian ABBAZIA Braila, 29/4. (N.C.S.O. Galata, 1256/28 to Fairmiss N.C.S.O. Istanbul, 1251/28).

3 Destroyers
for Force H.

1st S.L. 1324/28 See Home Commands - Policy.

Ref. 1324/28.....

868(A)

1155/28. April.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

Date. 28.4.41.

Rec'd. 0635.

From N.A.A. ^{KA}Angora.

I.D.V. II BY CABLE.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, C. in C. Mediterranean H.M. Ambassador ^{KA}Angora (Saving)

AID.C. MOST SECRET.

From Admiral Kelly.

Discussed situation with General Asim Gunduz April 28th. Intention to defend Chatalja and Bulair unchanged.

2. General worried by gradual occupation of islands by Germans but will do nothing radical as that would mean war. They will assist in any way short of this. They are anxious that local forces (?be) formed by Greek officers especially in Mitylene and Chios, arms also would be required.
3. They will facilitate evasion of 2000 Greek soldiers of whom about 80 officers, all junior, from internment at Pergamos, and will help under ground from mainland when armed forces are organised. Their dispositions have adjusted to meet threat to Anatolia coast by invasion from island.
4. General Staff hope when situation permits that British flag be shown near islands and Turkish coasts.
5. Invasions up to present have been carried out in motor AKS found on Greek coast, escorted by aircraft. Turks give undertaking that no such vessels will be permitted to be sold or chartered to Germans who are reported active in Istanbul in this connexion.
6. General Staff are anxious about Egypt and hope troops now in Iraq may be moved to Palestine and replaced by others from India.
7. There is possibility that troops assembling in Rhodes might be used to capture Cyprus. They think attack on Crete from Dodecanese very unlikely.
8. General Staff would much appreciate information when released on fate of British forces in Greece.

1155/28.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

- 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) (2)
- 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.D.O.D. (H)
- D.N.I. (4)
- I.P.
- W.D.
- Duty Capt.
- Head of M.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. to Pay Cdr. Wilson.

Lin

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.4.1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.3 Destroyers
for Force H.
(contd).Ref. 1324/28 from Admty HAVELOCK, HESPERUS,
HARVESTER detailed.

(C. in C. W.A. 1622/28 to C. in C. Med).

Operation "Demon"."DEMON"
ULSTER PRINCE
Destroyed,
PENNLAND
sunk,
GLENEARN
Bombed,
SLAMAT
torpedoed
DIAMOND
WRYNECK
bombed sunk.
COSTA RICA.
feared lost.

Progress to date is still obscure but appears to be as follows. Figures necessarily approximate.

2. Night of 24/25 13,500 from Raptis and Nauplia areas to Suda Bay. ULSTER PRINCE ran aground in Nauplia harbour was abandoned and subsequently bombed and burnt out.
3. Night of 25/26 5,500 from Megara area to Crete. PENNLAND sunk by bombing before embarkation.
4. Night of 26/27 8,000 from Kalamata area in transports and Yugoslav crown jewels in DEFENDER. 4,300 from Nauplia area including about 1,000 feared lost in SLAMAT. 3,600 from Raphina and Raptis area. GLENEARN bombed in engine room before embarkation near Nauplia has been towed by GRIFFIN to Kissamo Bay and is now being towed by GRIMSBY to Alexandria, detailed damage not known. SLAMAT bombed and set on fire after embarkation Nauplia. DIAMOND and later WRYNECK were rescuing troops but nothing heard from them since. Feared both Destroyers may be lost, GRIFFIN proceeding to position.

COSTA RICA probably also lost, no details. G.H.Q. and F.O.A.M. moved in HAVOCK to Monemvakao. (? Monemvasia)

5. Total so far embarked therefore about 35,000. There remain 3,000 Raptis area possibly embarked night of 27/28. 8,000 Kalamata and 4000 Monemvasia to be embarked in warships night 28/29 as possible. A further 4,000 cut off and probably surrendered Nauplia.
6. One convoy of GLENGYLE and four transports being escorted to Alexandria due noon/29. Further convoy of slow ships will probably leave Suda Bay night 29/30 with unequipped troops and others not required in Crete.

7. Reported Corinth Canal Bridge captured intact by parachute troops but no information yet concerning blocking of canal. Air-borne troops also reported but not confirmed in Kithera Island and attempt on Crete seems imminent. Enemy capture of Argos aerodrome will increase already heavy scale of attack on Suda Bay and shipping. Hope to tow ROVER away shortly but YORK has been further damaged.

(C. in C. Med., 1346/28 to Admty).

Corinth
Canal.ROVER
YORK.

Op. "Demon" - - -

War Diary.

28.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Operation.
"Demon" cont.
Sinking of
SLAMAT,
DIAMOND,
WRYNECK.

215 cont 1941

My 1629/27. Night of 26/27 CARLISLE and
convoy lifted 8300 from Raptis area.
500 in Zea had left port Mikolo and were
not (?located). 2800 landed Suda Bay.
Night of 27/28 AJAX and destroyer lifted
4200 from Raptis area. All landed Suda
Bay. None left. DIAMOND and boats from
SLAMAT attacked continuously. DIAMOND
embarked about 600 and left position WRYNECK
joined DIAMOND and both returned for further
search. SLAMAT sunk by torpedo from
DIAMOND while WRYNECK rescued about 100 more.
Both ships proceeding Suda Bay when attacked
about 1115 in position 036° 30' 023° 34' by
six aircraft believed to be JU 88, direct
hits on both DIAMOND sinking immediately and
WRYNECK in 5 minutes. GRIFFIN sent to
search located 50 survivors during the night
and returned successfully at 0900/28. Sur-
vivors report constant machine gunning while
in the water. One Whaler reported to have
made towards Cape Malea. GRIMSBY towing
GLENEARN was N.W. of Gavdo at 0945/28, non-
essential crew disembarked, about 90 remain.
Convoy GA 14 sailed in accordance with my
1811/26 less GLENEARN, COSTA RICA and
SLAMAT. PERTH, PHOEBE and 6 destroyers
(?covering).
Tonight 28/29 PERTH, PHOEBE, and 9 destroyers
to Kalamata for about 8,000 troops and
Yugoslavian refugees. AJAX and 4 destroyers
to Monemvasia for 4,000. AUCKLAND, HYACINTH
and SALVIA to Kithera for 750.
(V.A.L.F. 1515/28 to C. in C. Med).

GLENROY

Your 2503/25. Approved for GLENROY to be
sent to Bombay for repairs and docking
subject to concurrence of C. in C. E.I.
(D.O.D. (F) 1717/28 to C. in C. Med).

Italian
Shipping
Intelligence.

Following Italian ships expected Benghazi
from Tripoli on dates shown. GIORGIO date
of arrival unknown. AUCTORITAS, SILPIA
BENGHAZI RATONI 29/4 with petrol, bombs,
ammunition, and aeroplane parts.

* BENGAS.

* SILPIA?

Photographic.....

War Diary.

28.4.1941.
Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Italian
Shipping
Intelligence.
Contd.

Photographic analysis 27/4 shows one 340-foot ship alongside outer end of N.E. breakwater with lighters alongside. Entrance to Northernmost inner harbour is partially blocked by 2 ships as follows. 5000-ton ship lying head N.E. stem close to outer end of inner Mole. 2000-ton ship lying head N., stern touching bow of 5000 ton ship. Gap 300 feet between N.E., breakwater and bow of second ship. (Capt. S.I., 1909/28, to TRIUMPH.) Believe 3 transports loaded with munition and petroleum are due Benghazi 29/4. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2013/28, to TRIUMPH.)

Yugo Slav
Refugees.

My 1543/28 (N.T. in W.D.). Capt. Clarke Hall Divisional S.T.O. Kalamata may be able to help to identify about 50 Yugo Slavian officials who were leaders in recent revolt. Special effort should be made to embark these. Remainder who include some woman should be taken if possible after all soldiers. (V.A.L.F., 1927/28, to PERTH.)

Greek
Navy.

Greek Govt., asks that Greek Fleet shall act under your orders whilst leaving the Greek C. in C. the right to refer to the Greek Govt., in case he so desires. Full powers are given Greek C. in C. to arrange with you all detailed arrangements for administration, pay, repairs and supply. Proposed this arrangement shall commence on 1/5. Financial arrangements will be discussed later between Governments. (N.A. Athens, 1930/28 to C. in C. Med.)

Yugoslav
Warships.

Capt. Kern, S.N.O. Yugo Slavia Navy now in Alexandria, reports following regarding Yugo Slavian Warships. Destroyer BEOGRAD, one engine badly damaged by bombs. ZAGREB blown up. LJUBLJANA still under repair since she was raised and cannot be ready for many months. DUBROVNIK nothing known. Of six M.T.Bs, two are in Alexandria and all others were in a more or less damaged condition, though perhaps two of them could be made to run in due course. Torpedo Boats went to Sibenik in consequence of false orders from 5th Columnists and were captured.

/Submarines...

28.4.1941. 872
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Yugoslav
Warships.
Contd.

Submarines. Nothing known except for Yugo-Slavian Submarine NEBOJSCA now at Alexandria. This latter arrived with a scratch crew and is unlikely to be of use for war service. Italians have announced that the two M.T.Bs and the NEBOJSCA were sunk by them and Capt. Kern asks that a denial be issued stating that they have arrived safely at a British port. Capt. Kern proceeding to make contact with his Government for instructions. The M.T.B's appear valuable craft and their crews kept for service.
(C. in C. Med., 2006/28 to Admty.).

Need for
Reconnaissance
A/C.

My 1240/26, to C. in C. Med. only. 3 long range reconnaissance aircraft fitted with A.S.V. gear and with experienced crews are badly needed to work with destroyer striking forces at night. Enemy convoys will probably proceed to south-westward of Kerkenah bank during night and with short dark hours of summer destroyers have very little time for searching, if they are to be clear of vicinity of Tripoli coast at daylight. (V.A. Malta, 2010/28, to C. in C. Med.).

Movements.

Monday 28/4. Arrived and sailed DIDO ABDIEL. Arrival KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, KASHMIR, JACKAL, JERSEY. Departure BRECONSHIRE, JERVIS, JUNO, JAGUAR. IMPERIAL. (V.A. Malta, 2235/28, to Admty.).

HERO.

Following has been read:- HERO 2125/28. Use your discretion. Make no promise for tomorrow ??? unless you hear ???. Sail by time ordered. (Made to Malta W/T from F.O. 2nd. in C. Med. Fleet. 8250/28.).

/Orders to

873

War Diary.28.4. 1941.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean Contd.Orders to
S/M's.
Contd.

While submerged submarines should patrol north and south in vicinity of their respective positions and not East and West along W.Z. Freedom of action allowed at night as weather conditions dictate. Today A/C Reconnaissance blank. (Cdr. S.I., 2305/28, to UPHOLDER, URSULA, UPRIGHT, TRUANT.

Situation.
Operation
"Demon".

Report No.10. Further to my 1346/28. Destroyers embarked unknown number from Raptis area night 27/28. Final embarkation tonight 28/29 (corrupt group) body including 1400 Yugo Slavs being taken in warships from Kalamata to Alexandria and others from Monemvasia to Suda Bay. HERO now reports Kalamata in enemy hands but strength of enemy uncertain and not yet known whether embarkation can still be accomplished. Capture of Kithera now thought to be unfounded and some R.A.F. personnel being evacuated from there in corvettes.

Western
Desert.

2. Western Desert. Bad weather has held up operations and large scale enemy attack Capuzzo area has not developed. Heavy dive bombing on Tobruk continues and in the absence of fighter protection it is becoming difficult to keep the entrance swept clear.
3. Intend the battle fleet to proceed tomorrow 29/4 to cover principal southward bound convoy from Suda Bay.
(C. in C. Med., 2352/28, to Admty.).

War Diary.

28.4.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

"R" Report.

Following read by Karachi radio on 500 kc/s at 0102 28 R 4 Times C H A R 658 (Corrupt) (?one) letter missed 316246 transmission ceased abruptly. No bearing as conditions very bad. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0335Z/28 to C. in C. E.I.). Cdre. R.I.N. 0335/28 being passed to you. Following also intercepted by Colombo Radio 0102 G.M.T./28 (begins) RR RR, RR RR unread N blank TH blank E 7 unread far (ends) Request remarks. (C. in C. E.I., 1348Z/28, to Admty.). Your 1348Z/28. Do you think this is a ship sighting LEANDER observing that reception distance on 500k/cs would indicate ship was near the Indian Coast. (D.D.I.C. 1924/28, to C. in C. E.I.). Reply: 0220/29. Incomplete distress report received 0102 G.M.T./28 indicates unknown merchant ship attacked by armed raider. Longitude possibly about 063° E., latitude unknown, but north. (Admiral Colombo, 2120/28, to Admty.).

EAGLE
CORNWALL.

Your 1147/26. EAGLE and CORNWALL in company are to leave Mombasa a.m. 1/5 and proceed to Durban with all convenient despatch. (C. in C. E.I., 1042Z/28, to CORNWALL.).

Iraq
Govt., and
Troop
Landings.

In reply to my verbal notification this morning M. of R.A. have just informed me that Iraq Govt., are unable to agree to landing of troops from three further ships arriving Basrah from India. (ref.S.N.O. Persian Gulf's telegrams to Bagdad 0953/27 and 1947/27.). I am arranging to see Rassufruncali as soon as possible. (CORNWALLIS, via Bombay W/T, 1245/28, to Admty.). Message from Embassy states Ambassador told Iraq authorities this afternoon about arrival of three (? more troop ships) (A 381,28/4.). Iraqis replied they will not agree. This for your advanced information pending receipt of Ambassador's telegram now en route. (R.A.F. H.Q., Iraq, 1335/28 to G.O.C. Basrah.).

/Orders.....

War Diary.

28.4.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Orders to
Force T.
(HERMES &
ENTERPRISE.)

My 1601 to S.O. Force T. only. Force T. is to proceed as soon as ready working up to 20 knots towards mouth of Shatt-el-Arab remaining south of 029° N., Oiler PEARLEAF and BRITISH LOYALTY are to remain at Bahrein. S.N.O. Persian Gulf inform Ambassador, General Basra, and A.O.C. (C. in C.E.I., Afloat, 1603Z/28, to S.O. Force T.). My 1603/28. My intention for Force T is that it shall be ready to take retaliatory action as required by you if passage of Convoy (?) up river is actively resisted. (C. in C. E.I. Afloat, 1757Z/28, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.).

032 S, see Ambassador Baghdad's telegram 4007 28/4 to F.O. re Basra situation. Convoy is due to pass Rooka Float at 0500Z/29. (C. in C. E.I., Afloat, 2253Z/28, to Admty.).

CAPETOWN.

Approve your carrying out proposals in N.O.I.C. Port Sudan's 1516Z/23 if you are satisfied ship can make the passage. Most undesirable that repair facilities at Suez should be absorbed by CAPETOWN. Disembarkation of guns and torpedo tubes must depend on need for ship to be able to protect herself. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1824/28, to C. in C. E.I. Afloat.).

Enemy
Shipping.

Position of scuttled German and Italian shipping in Italian East Africa. (D.S., 601,28/4.)
List, see pages 951, 952.

China.

SAGONA.

Norwegian SAGONA loading for Greece is to be diverted to Capetown for orders. (D.T.D. 1914/28 to N.C.S.O. Singapore.).

Far Eastern
Fleet.

Command of, on outbreak of war with Japan.
(Head of M., approved 1st Lord, 1722/28. to C. in C., China)
See page 875 A

HUSH

TOP SECRET

OUT

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

281722/April.

To. C. in C. China 831.
Info. C. in C. East Indies 33F.

Date. 28. 4. 41.

NAVAL CYPHER (F)

From. Admiralty.

HUSH

IMPORTANT

AIDAC

Your 0841/8.

A. On outbreak of war with Japan, C. in C. China becomes C. in C. Far East, and remains so until arrival of main fleet at Singapore or when decided by Their Lordships.

B. On arrival of main fleet at Singapore, or when so directed by Their Lordships, C. in C. Main Fleet, who will have been appointed to command the fleet on passage, will become C. in C. Far East but will remain in command of Main Fleet and fly his flag afloat. Title of Fleet will be Far Eastern Fleet.

C. Duties of C. in C. Far East will be:-

- (i) The exercise of general strategic control over Imperial Naval Forces in the area of the China, East Indies, Australian and New Zealand stations to the westward of the U.S. Pacific area as defined in ABC one Annexes II and III.
- (ii) The distribution of Imperial Naval forces in the above area subject to the concurrence of Australian Commonwealth Naval Board and New Zealand Navy Board as regards their forces.
- (iii) The strategic direction of all allied naval forces in the Far Eastern area as defined in ABC one, Annex III, paras. 28 and 31.

D. Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, New Zealand Navy Board and C. in C. East Indies will exercise operational control over the naval forces, other than the Main Fleet, operating on their stations.

E. C. in C. Far East will be provided with a Chief of Staff and a Chief Staff Officer.

The Chief of Staff would remain ashore to co-operate with shore authorities and allies during the C. in C.'s absence whilst the Chief Staff Officer will be afloat in the Fleet Flagship.

/F.

875B.

- 2 -

F. Above arrangements apply to situation Japan and U.S. belligerent. If one only of these powers enters the war the situation will be reviewed.

G. Term "C. in C. Far East" is used above to designate supreme British Naval Commander. This title is at present being used by Brooke-Popham but he is being asked if he would agree to his title being C. in C. Orient as this would save altering all out signal books.

281722.

for Head of M. (929)

Approved by 1st Lord.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (5)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
Naval Secretary.
D.O.D. (F)
D. of P. (2)
D.N.I.
E.P.S.

[Reply: See 905A]

Duty Captain.
N.I.D. O. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
Head of M. (8) (M/P.D.09836/41) and for C.I.G.S.
C.A.S.
W.C.O. (4)

E.C.

War Diary.

28.4.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

AMSTERDAM
"R" Report.

R.R.R.R. signal T.O.O. 1205/27, from Dutch ship AMSTERDAM is cancelled. (D.C., 0105/28 to A. & W.I., Area B., F.O.C.N.A.).

CONUS
overdue.

Ref. 1118, M. of Shipping 2/4 British Ship CONUS not arrived. (S.O. Kingston, J., 1128/28, to Admty. etc.).

*
HEIYO BUNYO.

List of Germans in Japanese Ship ^{*}HEIYO ^{*}BUNYO. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1214/28, to Admty., etc.).

* HEIYO MARU
* BUYO MARU

Information
for U.S.N.

Your 1849/25. Suggest full supply of Q.J. and W.J. messages be made to U.S. Navy forthwith as follows. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1522/28, to Admty.) Concur (A.C.N.S.(F) 1257/30.).

KIMIKAWA
MARU.

Callao reports KIMIKAWA MARU suddenly ordered proceed Japan direct. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1525/28, to Admty.).

ROSE MARIE
BLACK BEAR.

BLACK BEAR in collision with schooner ROSE MARIE at 0042/21 approx. 1 minute North of Le Chapeau Rock Boca de Monos. No damage to BLACK BEAR. (Capt. i/c. Trinidad, 1528/28 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

R.C.N.
Corvettes.

Your 1707/27. Confirmed it was our intention that all costs of upkeep and maintenance to be chargeable to Canadian Govt. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1546/28, to Admty.).

/U.S. Coastguard.....

War Diary.

28.4.41.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

U.S. Coastguard
Cutters.

C.O. Malaya's 2026/22. Can reply now be given as first vessel (commissions) on 30/4 and ceremony of handing over has been arranged. (N.A. Washington, 1629/28, to Admty.).

MARQUES DE
COMILLAS
intercepted.

Your 2347/25, MARQUES DE COMILLAS intercepted by DIOMEDE and being escorted to Bermuda. Expects to arrive A.M./30. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1642/28, to Admty.)

Australia.

MILLUMUMUL
(sunk 26/3.).

Your 1058/25. MILLUMUMUL sank 26/3, in approx. position 033° 34' S., 151° 56' E., by a mine fouled in trawling. Mine believed from encrustation to be one of field laid in November 1940. Navigation warning issued to Australia and New Zealand Station. From its appearance a mine washed ashore near Norah Head, N.S.W., on 7/4 was recently laid. (A.C.N.B. 1042Z/28, to Admty.).

War Diary.28.4.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.RIMFAKSE
(torpedoed
27/4)

At 0150/27 in position 60° 10' N. 08° 54' W. Norwegian S.S. RIMFAKSE on passage Loch Ewe to Reykjavik was torpedoed and sank in 2 minutes. Captain and 7 crew picked up from raft by S.S. HENGIST at 1225/27 and landed Scrabster. U/boat surfaced after attack, thought to have been of ocean going type. Master considers it possible that others of crew of 19 were picked up by U/Boat. (A.C.O. S. 1101/28 to Admty.) RIMFAKSE, Norwegian, 1334 tons, bound from Loch Ewe to Reykjavik (D.S. 602, 29/4). Ship torpedoed and sunk by U boat in (position - time) (C. in C. W.A. 1153/28 to C.S. 18).

S.S. RIMFAKSE sunk by a U-boat in (position - time) 11 of crew still missing. (A.C.O.S. 1412/28 to Ships and Authorities in area)

CAPULET.
(H.X. 121)

British tanker, 8190 tons, in Convoy H.X. 121. Torpedoed position 60° 10' N. 017° 00' W. back broken. DOUGLAS, LEAMINGTON, ROXBOROUGH in company. (Capt. D.3. 1515/28 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1515/28. Cancel my 1458/28. Remain with H.X. 121. (C. in C. W.A. 1653/28 to S.O. 3 D.F) See also Submarines attacked.

3 ships

A/C report U.Boat dived 060° 14' N. 015° 20' W. at 1930. 3 ships torpedoed. (C. in C. W.A. 2146/28 to DOUGLAS)

OILFIELD
CALEDONIA
PORT HARDY.
CAPULET.

1830/28 No. 21, OILFIELD, No 31, CALEDONIA and No. 53 PORT HARDY were torpedoed. LEAMINGTON and GLADIOLUS are still hunting this U boat. At 2116, DOUGLAS obtained an unconfirmed contact with U boat 700 yards and immediately dropped 3 depth charges on it. Returning to regain contact an object like a torpedo without a head appeared

/in exact.....

War Diary.

28.4.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OILFIELD
CALEDONIA
PORT HARDY
CAPULET.
(contd).

in exact position where the depth charges had been dropped which was then about 1000 yards ahead of centre of convoy. It was floating vertically and rising and falling as does a practice torpedo. Contact was not confirmed nor regained and search was abandoned after half an hour. It seems likely this was a mine fired by U boat assumed well ahead of convoy to enable U boat to get clear of screen. The 7 escorts were arranged as A/S screen 500 yards from convoy at the time. The F.W. was sighted in 060° 20' 30" N. 019° 33' W. at 0900 today. DOUGLAS was 5 miles astern of convoy when CAPULET was torpedoed and having picked up survivors was 10 miles astern at 1830. Finally joined convoy at 1955 in position 059° 58' N. 015° 45' W. (DOUGLAS 2330/28 to C. in C. W.A).

Submarines Reported.

2231/27.

D/F at 2231/27 gives position of an Italian U/Boat as 56.30 N. 22° W. The position is only an indication of the area. (D.D.I.C. 0013/28).

An enemy S/M has made a first sighting report probably Convoy S.L. 73. (C. in C.S.A 0918/28 to ESPERANCE BAY).

By
CARPERBY
1356Z.

SSSS 10 R. 02 N 18 R. 56 W. course 100 speed 9 knots CARPERBY sighted S/M. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1356Z/28). Following received Addressed Freetown W/T from S.S. CARPERBY. O.K. Think hit submarine (Freetown W/T 1344N/28).

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.28.4.1941.
Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.(contd).Estimated
U/boat
dispositions.

D.D.I.C. 1343/28.

Request following be broadcast G.B.M.S. Area 6A. Admty. message A.F. position 10.02. N. 18.56 W. (C. in C. S.A., 1254/28 to Admty).

1515. Admty message A.F., position 60° 10' N. 17° W. at 1415/28 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1651/28 to G.B.M.S. Area I).
1549. A/C reports an over enemy submarine in position 059° 16' N. 007° 23' W. at 1549/28. (A.C.O.S. 1558/28 to F.O.C.N.P. Admty etc. C. in C. W.A. 1614/28 to C.S.18).
1635. A/C report sighting s/m in position 059° 16' N. 007° 25' W. at 1635. Am investigating (LEOPARD 1645/28 to Admty.) My 1645/28. Area searched, large whaler sighted several times. Am rejoining POLARSOL. (LEOPARD 2000/28).
1709. Convoy H.X. 121 was reported by U/B at 1709 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 1748/28 to INGLEFIELD, MAORI, LEAMINGTON, DOUGLAS, ROXBOROUGH, VERONICA, GLADIOLUS, ABELIA..)
1946. It is possible W.S. 8A. was reported by U/B at 1946 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 2054/28 to C.S. 15)

Submarines Attacked.

1600. By A/C 59.16 N., 7.23 W., 55' N.W. by N. Butt of Lewis. Attack on firm contact. (D.S. 602).
2009. By A/C, 55.17 N, 9.14 W. 50' W. by N., Bloody Foreland. Bombs dropped on oil patch and possible P/S (D.S. 602).

/By.....

War Diary.

28.4.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (contd).

By INGLEFIELD
1620.

(see 1.5.41)
p. 39

Your 1458/28. ?Am attacking submarine which torpedoed CAPULET. (Capt. D.3, 1620/28 to C. in C. W.A) (D.S. 602).

My 1620/28. Attacked firm contact with 5 patterns. No visible result. Am remaining in vicinity with MAORI until 0800/29. Shortage of fuel necessitates return to Scapa then. Possibility of salvage remote. (Capt. 3 D.F. 1731/28 to C. in C. W.A).

If not in contact rejoin HX 121 immediately (C. in C. W.A. 2122/28 to Capt. D.3).

South Atlantic.

By CARPERBY.

S.S. CARPERBY at 1544/28 attacked U/B in 10.02 N., 18.56 W., 350' W. by N of Freetown. Believed one hit. No further details. (D.S. 602 29/4).

War Diary

29.4.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

CACHALOT left Plymouth this evening for Gibraltar. She is carrying special S.A.A. for the Mediterranean.

Dover shelled.

The German batteries at Calais, Wixsant and Gris Nez fired 62 rounds into the Dover area between 0841 and 1336 today. There were no naval casualties or damage.

E-Boat activity.
SS AMBROSE FLEMING
Sunk.

There was considerable E-Boat activity off the East coast in the early hours of this morning. E-Boats were first sighted and engaged by D.16 in WORCESTER with COTSWOLD at 0015 off the Norfolk coast and consider they hit one E-Boat with 4 inch H.E.

0203 EGLINTON and WHITSHEP engaged and considered they damaged one E-Boat. Two were driven off by WALLACE at 0207. One ship in northbound convoy of 57, SS AMBROSE FLEMING was sunk by torpedo. At 0405 the M.L. patrol near Smiths Knoll engaged 2 E-Boats and claim a 3 pdr. hit on one of them, and at 0546 2 M.G.B's on patrol in 52° 30' N., 3° 0' E., had a running fight with 2 E-Boats which escaped; M.G.B. 61 had slight damage from M.G. bullets and canon, but no casualties.

Northern Patrol.

The trawler patrol line has been moved 60 miles to the northward and eastward.

Greek Shipping.

Broadcast is being made to Greek Merchant ships to pay no attention to any orders unless they are satisfied they have come from the Greek Committee, London.

War Diary

29.4.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

12 aircraft attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night.

Blenheims operating off the French coast today claim to have severely damaged a 2000 ton ship in convoy off Ostend and possibly a 600 ton ship and to have hit a small ship off the Cherbourg Peninsula.

A 5000 ton merchant ship in convoy was attacked off Stavanger and hit amidships. A cargo vessel of 4000 tons was also hit off Stavanger.

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy escort vessels report that merchant ships in convoy are now taking a more active interest in their defence against air attack.

Convoy F.S.476 was attacked off the Tyne at 2135. SS KALUA was sunk and SS CORGLEN was slightly damaged.

Attack on
Plymouth

Plymouth was attacked last night by aircraft estimated to number 100. The main weight of the attack was at Bull Point R.N.A. Depot where extensive damage was caused. The adjoining Army Ordnance Depot was badly damaged and one magazine is believed to have exploded. Ex Belgian Trawlers (A/P vessels) OSCAR AUGUSTE (P.2) was sunk and ONS WELZYN (P.12) was damaged in the North Yard, where damage was done. Further damage was caused in the South Yard.

MOST SECRETWar Diary29.4.41.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORTMining

Harbour Launch No 278 was blown up this morning at Portsmouth.

South Atlantic

NATAL (German) arrived at Santos this morning, a Press message states 32 days out from Hamburg. She is the third German ship to cross the Atlantic in the last three months, the others being the LECH (arrived Rio de Janeiro on 3/3) and HERMES, ex-KARNAK (arrived Rio de Janeiro on 9/4)

MediterraneanAir Raids
on Malta.

During last night there were two heavy air raids on Malta, lasting 3 hours carried out by about 50 aircraft. The main targets were the harbours. Commercial Harbour Craft CORNFLOWER and a lighter were sunk. Bighi Hospital was damaged.

The dockyard was attacked again this evening and at 1850 the heaviest raid yet delivered against the Island commenced (See 30/4.)

Operation
"Demon"

Last night 3750 men embarked at Moxemvasia, 450 at Kalamata, and 750 at Kithera. Up to 1337 today it was thought that a total of at least 40,000 men have been taken off from Greece.

It has never been possible to obtain a definite figure from the Army, but it is believed the number to evacuate was between 50,000 and 55,000.

/The total....

War Diary

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean, Greece-Contd.

The total number of aircraft lost in evacuation operations is reported to be 1 Blenheim, 2 Sunderland, apart from those destroyed in Greece (13 were destroyed on the ground at Argos 23/4)

BARHAM, VALIANT, FORMIDABLE and destroyer left Alexandria this evening to cover Convoy G.A. 15 with evacuated troops from Suda Bay for Alexandria and Port Said. Suda Bay was subjected to a heavy air attack p.m. today, just after the convoy left.

Western
Desert.

CHAKLA A.M.C., ^{B.V.} was damaged today ~~and~~ in an air attack on Tobruk. Went aground with her upper deck awash.

APHIS carried out a successful bombardment of the Sollum area today and LADYBIRD yesterday. 9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

East Indies

Convoy
B.P.1.

Further troops arrived at Basra today.

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CAIRO.

Cancel my 1813/26. CAIRO is to go to Belfast when ready, exercising as desired on way. Thereafter CAIRO will operate with Irish Sea Escort Force as ordered by F.O.i/c Belfast until required for escort duty in Atlantic.
(C. in C. W.A. 1142/29).

Movements.

Eureka
Flotilla.

Sailed 0922 PRINCE LEOPOLD with Eureka Flotilla. E.T.A. Clyde 1530/30 destination 1830/30.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1022/29).

Operations.

E-Boats off
Sheringham.

6 EB Position 53° 8' N 1° 16' E.
(D. 16 0015/29).
My 0015. Have lost contact. (D.16 0044/19)
Star shell gun fire bearing N. 40 W. our position 035 Lowestoft (M.L. 106 0030/19)

Gun-fire off
Lowestoft.

Engagements
with E-Boats.
AMBROSE FLEMING
(British 1555
tons) sunk.

Engaged 2 E.B. 340 Smiths Knoll buoy 2 miles
1 E.B. escaped to east, 1 E.B. driven to S.W. under smoke screen. Am sweeping to South. Suggest aircraft co-operate.
(S.O.M/L Flotilla No. 1 0405/29 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth).
D. 16 reports wreck of S.S. AMBROSE FLEMING is in position 113° approx 2 and 3/4 miles from number 58 buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1059/29).
Summary of engagements with E-Boats night 28/29. 0015. D. 16 in WORCESTER sighted 6 E-Boats in M.F.C.E. 0816 but lost contact at 0044.
0203. EGLINTON and WHITSHED engaged 1 E-Boat near 57 C buoy. Considered certain that boat was damaged but lost in smoke screen.
0207. WALLACE drove off 2 E-boats to Eastward. No further details.
0405. M.L. Patrol near Smiths Knoll engaged 2 E-Boats and claimed one hit with 3 pdr.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements
with E-Boats
AMBROSE FLEMING
(British 1555
tons) sunk.
(contd).

0546. 2 M.G.B.'s on patrol in 52° 30' N 30 00' E. had running fight at high speed with 2 E-boats. Enemy escaped to Eastward. Slight damage from bullets in M.G.B. 61, no casualties.

Only casualty in convoy of 57 ships was SS AMBROSE FLEMING (1550tons) sunk by torpedo near 58 buoy. 11 of crew missing. 11 survivors in S.S. ISLE bound for Tyne. (C. in C. Nore 1224/29).

At 0500 M.G.B's 61,59 in action with two E-boats off Brown Ridge buoy, M.G.B. 61 closed to about 70 yards fired full magazines, Boulton and Paul and four Lewis guns many hits, whilst endeavouring to use depth charges second E-boat appeared and brought M.G.B. 61 under considerable fire from Cannon of about 38 milimetre and machine guns, damage done to hull and tanks. M.G.B. 59 engaged at 200 yards first E-boat with Oerlikon firing 100 rounds, Lewis gun four hundred rounds. Many hits observed. Second E-boat engaged at 600 to 800 yards with Oerlikon and Lewis gun 40 rounds, Oerlikon 100 rounds Lewis gun. M.G.B. 59 could not keep in touch owing to fire in stern sheets caused by over heating exhaust pipe. Duration of action 25 minutes ending in 270° Yuniden 25' at 0530.

(C. in C. Nore 1546/29).

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports.

M.L's 106,108, and 105, patrolling between Smith's Knoll Buoy and S. Leman Buoy engaged three E. Boats steaming S.E. in line ahead in position 340° Smiths Knoll Buoy 2 miles at 0345.

E. Boats became separated during action two escaping East and one engaged by patrol to S.W. S.O. of patrol claims one hit by 3 pdr. on latter and possible hits by 5 machine guns. Action ceased at 0352 fighters appeared at sea 0550 following signal asking for air co-operation. 1201 ends.

(C. in C. Nore 1547/29).

Your 1224/29. The manner in which the E-boat attacks were dealt with is most refreshing. (1st S.L. 2147/29 to C. in C. Nore).

Operation Q.F.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).Operation
Q.F.

My 1614/28. Operation Q.F. postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore 1036/29).
EREBUS is to be kept at 24 hours' notice for Operation Q.F.
(V.C.N.S. 1209/29).

East
Coast
Patrols.

Following patrols tonight.

- (1) 3 M.L. Smiths Knoll to South Leman Buoy.
 - (2) 3 M.L. vicinity of 55 buoy.
 - (3) 3 M.G.B. operation Q E 080° from Aldeburgh light float 5 miles.
 - (4) 3 M.T.B.'s returning Harwich from S.E. dawn 30th.
- (C. in C. Nore 1112/29).
Departure M.G.B's 60, 62, 64.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1932/29).

Northern
Patrol.
Trawlers.

My 1706/24. This line has now been moved 60 miles to northward and eastward.
(C. in C. W.A. 1137/29).

CONQUEROR.

My 1947/26. Proposed programme
1st May - cruise in Downs returning to Dover for the night. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1347/29)
Your 1347.
Owing to probability of shelling by day in present exceptional visibility it is considered that CONQUEROR should not pass Dungeness earlier than is necessary to reach Dover at 2100 tomorrow and that on the following day she should operate off Dungeness and to the westward.
(V.A. Dover 1819/29 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Your 1819/29 - CONQUEROR will be ordered not to pass Dungeness earlier than necessary to arrive Dover 2100/30. Request you will issue S.O.'s for operations on 1st.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2227/29).

Dover shelled.

Batteries at Calais Wixsant and Gris Nez fired 62 rounds into the Dover area between 0841 and 1336 today. Six fell to seaward of harbour and the remainder inland, mostly to northeast of Dover Castle. Seventeen shells observed to burst in the air. No naval casualties or damage.
(V.A. Dover 1835/29).

War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Helder &
Emden
bombed.
M/Vs attacked.

At 1355/28 A/C dropped 18 x 500 lb. bombs, across the shipbuilding yard in the centre of the Docks at Emden. Results not observed. Three Blenheims accompanied by fighters attacked a Convoy of 9 trawlers off Cape Gris Nez. Two of the Blenheims each attacked a separate vessel with bombs and machine guns and one is believed to have received direct hit. One Blenheim attacked a fishing vessel of about 50 tons off Brest. Two direct hits were obtained and the vessel disappeared. One Hampden attacked an M/V. about eight miles N.W. Knocke. The vessel of about 2000 tons was attacked with 4 x 500 lb bombs. * One Hampden attacked the docks at Den Helder with good results. *and was severely damaged. (H.Q.B.C. 0150/29).

Patrols.

~~Fuella~~
~~FUGLE~~ IV will be flown today 1st A/C arriving on patrol 1100. Patrol will be in operation till dusk.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0206/29).
~~FUGLE~~ (iv) will be flown today between 1100 and dusk, viz cross over patrol by Sunderland as follows.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0208/29).

Lc Patrols being flown today. TROST, BERT
STAND, STAB, HORNLI.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0308/29).
My 0308/29. 'Hornli' - 'Stand' cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0824/29).
My 0824/29 ~~HORNLI~~ now in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1210/29).
Catalina aircraft carrying out R/C of Hammerfest, Harstad, and Tromsø during night.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1330/29).

Own A/C to
keep clear of
Convoys at
dusk.

Merchant ships in convoy have been inspired to take much more active interest in their defence, and reports of escort vessels now say they are doing so. Reports also say that after sunset in the fading light our own aircraft in their keen efforts to help to protect their seamen friends frequently come very close to the convoy.

Request.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Own A/C to
keep clear of
Convoys at
dusk. (contd)

Request aircraft be warned that as the light fails they keep clear, both in the interests of their own safety and so that anything that approaches within range is a warrantable target. As soon as it gets too dark for air interception and fighting they should return to base.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1600/29).

Brest.

On Night 28/29 nine Wellingtons and 3 Stirlings attacked SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest and dropped 19 x 2,000 lbs., and 26 x 500 lbs. bombs in the target area. Thick ground haze made it impossible for any of the crews to identify the battle-cruisers, although one Wellington claims to have straddled dock 1 and a very brilliant white flash was seen in Port Militaire.
(H.Q.B.C. 1615/29).

Reports of
A/C approach-
ing Clyde.

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1610/29. Fully concur that immediate steps are necessary to remedy the present situation.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1659/29).

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth
bombed.
OSCAR AUGUSTE
(P.2) sunk.
ONS WELZYN
(P.12). damaged.

Plymouth Attacked by estimated 100 Aircraft between 2153/28 and 0133/29. Main weight of attack at Bull Point causing extensive damage to Water Mains, S.A.A. and one non-explosive store. Other damage. Details. Severe damage in South Yard by H.E. and fire. Fires now under control. Casualties few.

(C. in C. Plymouth 0356/29) (S.C.E. Devonport 1845/29).

As a result of enemy action A/P Trawler P.2 sank in No. 5 Basin and P.12 sustained damage.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1502/29)

My.....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth
bombed.
OSCAR AUGUSTE
(P.2) sunk.
ONS WELZYN
(P.12). damaged.
(contd).

My 0356/29. North Yard.
P.12 was not sunk but sustained damage.
RALEIGH received direct hit by H.E. on two adjacent concrete shelters which were demolished - two living huts destroyed and other minor structural damage. Casualties 42 dead and 13 injured.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2030/29).

CHOUANGHI.

CHOUANGHI was beached at Cremyll after damage by near miss by H.E. during night of 25/4.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1229/29).

A/C destroyed
by ELGIN.

M.S. IV reports that ELGIN destroyed Heinkel III in the vicinity of 54 Buoy at 2150 last night. Aircraft attacked from the beam from height of 200 feet in darkness with machinegun fire and bombs. One bomb dropped on either side of quarterdeck very close. Round from 12 pounder from ELGIN passed through aircraft which stalled and crashed with terrific explosion on starboard beam.
(C. in C. Norell13/29)

Bantry Bay.
FORT RONA
GOZO
(Trawlers) att-
acked on 17/4.

My 1205/21. Skipper of FORT RONA reports when fishing about thirty yards away from trawler GOZO at 2000/17 in Bantry Bay, two German planes probably Heinkel III circled and then dropped three or four bombs between the two ships to which FORT RONA opened fire. Plane then went off in direction of Fastnets. Second plane then attacked the FORT RONA dropping five bombs and also made off towards Fastnets. No damage no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1202/29).

CELTE.
(Bombed 27/4).

S.S. CELTE bombed by F.W. and abandoned in 61° 20' N 11° W at 0725/27; Survivors picked up by .S.S NEA and landed Scrabster. Names.
(A.C.O.S. 1845/29).

Convoy
W.N. Even.

Fighters are being sent to convoy ^{"Chitty"} ~~CHITTY~~.
(Lyness 2035/29).
Fighters are being sent to assist ^{"Chitty"} ~~CHITTY~~.
~~CHERRY~~. ^{"Cheery"}
(Lyness 2334/29).

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. mine detonated at 0204/29 as following. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0907/29).

Operation B.S.
55.

Intend to sail from Spurn Point at 0645/30 and arrive Tyne 1900.
Leave Tyne entrance at 0630/1 and R/V with minesweepers at 20D buoy at 0745. Thence through Gap B to initial position and begin laying from North to South at 1145/1. Return by Gap B to Tyne. E.T.A. 1930/1. Sail from Tyne 0600/2 for Humber. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1032/29).
S.O. Minelayers Immingham's 1032/29. Owing to delay in arrival of KITTIWAKE programme for operation B.S. 55 is to be postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore 1410/29).
C. in C. Nore's 1410/29. All times in my 1032/29 to be 24 hours later accordingly.
(S.O. M/L Immingham 1535/29).

East Coast
Sweeps.

'O' Sweep 117 Q.Z.S. searched 30% either side of centre line. Negative result.
'O' Sweep 151 Q.Z.S. searched 30% West of centre line. One new German 'Y' type mine swept up and sunk at 0510/29 in 51° 55' N 1° 44.9' E. One German 'Y' type floating in vicinity sunk. Intend carrying out further sweep on 151 Q.Z.S. tomorrow. Request fighter protection from 1000 till 1700.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/29).

PROFIT
(Mined 17/4).

Dangerous wreck of S.S. PROFIT has been located in 51° 47' 28" N 1° 30' 31" E.
(C. in C. Nore 1449/29 and 2323/29).

Sweep off
Hebrides.

Your 1110/27. 47 and 48 group minesweepers have returned from further sweep of this area and group M/S officer reports nothing seen.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1615/29).

Liverpool.....

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool will be closed from 2105/29 until 0730 /30.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1900/29).

Portsmouth
Harbour Launch
No. 278 sunk.

Regret to report that Harbour Launch No. 278 was blown up this morning by suspected magnetic or acoustic mine while proceeding from King Stairs to Horsey Island. No survivors.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1938/29),

AGAMEMNON

Escorted by ESKIMO and BROCKLESBY left Rosyth for Port Z.A.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1940/29)

Enemy Intelligence.

6 E-Boats
off Sheringham.

6 E-Boats in 53° 8' N 1° 16' E.
(D.16 0015/29).

Surface Unit.

My 2132/28. Bearings from Empire Stations of this transmission place unit to South of Ascension.
(D.D.I.C. 0044/29).

Bearings of
E-boats.

Harwich W/T 0144/29, 0148/29
0210/29, 0212/29
0249/29, 0310/29
0323/29.

M.L. 106 0219/29.
A/C Duty K. 0640/29 to Chatham.

Brest.

R/C of Brest at 0830/29 shows both battle cruisers present in same positions.
(D.D.I.C. 0930/29).
At 0800/29 both battle cruisers still present in same positions. Tug LAMBTTEEN in dry dock next cruiser no longer present. Large tanker has arrived Port Militar.
(P.I.S. St. Eval 1030/29).

Watching.....

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligenece. (contd).

Watching
Organisation
compromised.

My 1141/15. Great bend ^{Bar?} watching organisation has been compromised and is out of action since three weeks ago. Hope to establish again shortly.
(Stockholm 1155/29).

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

INFATIGABLE.
(French Salvage
Vessel.)

My 1730/28. ^{→ N.T. in W.D.} INFATIGABLE developed defects and was unable to comply.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0730/29).

NOTTS COUNTY.

In O.B. No. 314 escort. Developed Condenser and other engine trouble and has been ordered by AMAZON to return Reykjavik.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 0845/29),

DEVON

Your 1350/28. ^{→ N.T. in W.D.} DEVON is at Swansea for repairs after collision.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea. 1615/29).

RODNEY.

RODNEY has been placed at 24 hours notice for two days and subsequently at eight hours notice for a short period to repair and examine port main engine bearings.
(C. in C. H.F. 2011/29).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.W.S.8B.
W.S.8C.
BRITANNIC.

Confirmed that embarkation of W.S. 8 B. cancelled. W.S.8.B. comprising probably GEORGIC, CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, and AMANZORA will embark Liverpool and Clyde probably 15/5 and 16/5. W.S.8C. comprising BATTERY, ETTRICK, WINCHESTER CASTLE, NARKUNDA, and ORDUNA or ORMONDE will embark in Clyde on 8/5 and 9/5. BRITANNIC will possibly embark up to 2,700 personnel for Canada (date). (D. of S.T. 0618/29 to P.S.T.O. W of Scotland etc).

Altering
course in
S/M Danger
Zone.

Para 3 of my 1338/1/4 is cancelled and the following is to be substituted. When to Westward of 12° W all convoys in a Submarine Danger Zone should normally make a drastic alteration of course under following conditions:- (a) At dusk every day. (b) In circumstances set out in my 1843/15/3. In this case Admiralty will order the direction in which alteration is to be made or whether convoy is to maintain its original course. (c) Although Escorts of several convoys may be in the address of the warning signal only the convoy mentioned as being sighted is to alter course. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1153/29 to "A" Message, Home Stns).

Greek
Merchant
Ships.

Broadcast for 48 hours at conclusion of G.B.M.S. routines for all Greek Merchant ships:-
To all Greek vessels outside the Mediterranean from Greek Minister, London. Events in Greece have not changed arrangements made by Greek Gov. for employment of Greek shipping. Now that Greek soil is occupied by the enemy you may expect to receive messages which purport to come from your owners or from your Gov. Pay no attention to any orders unless you are satisfied they have come from Greek Committee, London, which Greek Govt. has authorised to control all Greek ships outside the Mediterranean, or that they come from British Authorities. Any other messages you receive will have come from the enemy and should be disregarded. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1933/29 to Rugby Radio).

Cancellation....

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. (contd),Cancellation
of "R" Reports.

For N.C.S.Os. Efforts to intercept raiders are being considerably handicapped by continued failure of merchant ships to cancel distress messages made in error. Impress on Masters importance of compliance with A.M.S.I. 378 and Admty Message "E.V." (D.T.D. 1952/29 to A.I.G. 26. A.I.G. 19).

Reports of
Movements.

N.C.S.O.'s at home are immediately to report by telephone to Admty, Ex. 2040, the arrival, departure or postponement of sailing of all independent overseas ships. In addition, a nominal list of ships arriving from convoy is to be telephoned. No confirmatory signal is required, but instructions contained in C.A.F.O. 870/41 para 3 are to be observed. A.M. 1711/20/3 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 2046/29 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plym. A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.

29.4.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

→ LECH

German ship LECH sailed from Rio de Janeiro at 1915/28. (D.D.I.C. 1122/29 to F.O.C.N.A. F.O.C.N.P., C. in C. W.A.) See also South Atlantic. *See also next page.*

South Atlantic.

→ LECH
(German).

Sailed from Rio de Janeiro 1915/28. (C. in C. S.A., 0007/29, to S.A. Stn.). My 2312/28. Rio de Janeiro reports LECH cleared harbour limits at 1945 local time. Ship has black hull and funnel, upper works light grey. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 1350Z/29, to R.A.S.A.D.). *See also next page*

ARAWA.
MORETON BAY.
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

?
Your 1730/28 and 0808/22.
In view of delay to WS 8B request ARAWA and MORETON BAY may be sailed for Freetown as soon as convenient. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE due U.K. about 11/5 should be available as escort on revised sailing date. (C. in C. S.A., 1111N/29 to Admty.).

NORDERNEY
(German).

Agents of NORDERNEY have visited Capt. of Port but information of clearance unknown. Ship today stowed and secured derricks and has raised steam. (N.C.S.O., Para, 1150/29, S.O.(1) Montevideo 1403Z/29.).

NATAL
(German).

NATAL arrived Santos A.M./29, N.S.O.(I) Freetown informed. (S.O.I., Montevideo 1243Z/29, to Admty, Santos, 1646/29 to Fairmiss.). *See also next page.*

/Enemy.....

War Diary.29.4.41.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.Enemy
Unit.

My 2132/28. Bearings from Empire Stations of this transmission place unit to South of Ascension. (D.D.I.C., 0044/29, to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. S.A.).

Orders to
ASTURIAS.

On your way north suggest you cover what you can of LECH's 9 knots circle to east of 045° west. She did not use coastal route to Frio (corrupt group). CUMBERLAND has also covered her 12 knots circle. (R.A.S.A.D. 1212z/29 to ASTURIAS.)

*See previous page*Enemy
Units.

D/F bearings at 1817z/28 indicate surface unit within (?150)miles of 023° S. 005° E. Reliability for type and position 70%. D/F bearings at 1857z/28 indicate surface unit within 150 miles of 026° S., 002° W., Reliability 70%. These are probably separate units. One may be an auxiliary. At 0208z/29 D/F bearings suggest a U near 015° S., 025° W. Reliability 50%. D/F bearings at 1940z/28 indicate probable surface unit within 300 miles of 018° S., 018° W. Might possibly be used to fuel U's. (C. in C. S.A., 1401N/29, to S.A. Stn.).

U/Boats
with
NATAL and
LECH.

Information received (B.3) states that two uncertain submarines were with NATAL which ship arrived at Santos last night not fully loaded. Informer also states LECH is meeting there two S/MS. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1414/29, to Admty., etc.). *See previous page*

ALCANTARA.

My 1255/23 and your 1137/24. Regret in view of indications of raider activity and no other force available must use ALCANTARA to investigate areas indicated on passage and delay arrival with you. (C. in C. S.A., 1507/29, to R.A.S.A.D.).

/Vichy.....

War Diary.

29.4.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Vichy
French
Ships.

Your 1815/28. Confirmed.
(D.E.W.D. 1738/29 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

FORT DE TROYON.
(French)

Sailed from Libreville for Duala 28/4.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1741/29.)

Danger Zone
for
Shipping.

Up to the present the most intensive area attack on independently routed shipping has been within 60 to 150 miles from Freetown and at night. This is the area in which shipping is most concentrated but protection more possible by day by air and A/S forces. (?Desirable) as far as possible ships should pass through this area by day at (?known) hours. Request masters may be instructed to pass through that position in their route which is one day's run from Freetown within one hour of 1700 zone plus one and to arrive off Port 24 hours later. Ships will not be able to enter after 1800, knowledge of the time will also help diversion if required: though actual date of passing position will not be known fact that error will be 24 hours or multiple of 24 hours will assist. (C. in C. S.A., 2301N/29, to N.C.S.O.'s Admty., etc.).

Mediterranean.

Evacuation from
Kalamata,
PERTH.

PERTH reports Kalamata occupied and operation abandoned. Have consulted Gen. Wilson who considers troops cannot reach Githion or Monemvasia night 29th and that only possibility is stragglers from eastern side of gulf using destroyers' boats. Do not consider this worth while. Probably only small number could be collected. Intend to leave 2 destroyers with (? bows) protection to evacuate about 500 from Milo, and could leave 4 destroyers for Kalamata. Request instructions as regards Kalamata. (V.A.L.F., 0131/29 to C. in C. Med.).

/REGENT's

War Diary.29.4.41.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.REGENT's
Visit to
Kotor 22/4.

Your 1431/27. Enquiries should be made of 2nd Lieut. Amando whether he has any knowledge of whereabouts of Mr. Campbell, British Minister to Jugo-Slavia. (1st. S.L., 0221/29 to V.A. Malta.)
Your 0221/29. This prisoner of War knew nothing. C.O. REGENT was first informed British Minister on 22/4 was at Ercegnovi and later at Kotor. C.O. inclined to believe Minister was at Ercegnovi. My 1431/27 1st para, for 16/4 read 22/4. (V.A. Malta 0950/29 to Admty.)

Troop
Convoys.

Re future East African requirements, and order of priority of release of personnel ships. (D. of S.T., 0617/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.) See Lion Copy.

Exchange of
Captives.

V.A. Malta 1431/27. In view of special circumstances of capture it is urged that negotiations should be undertaken with a view to exchanging Lieut. Lambert and 2nd., Lieut. Amando. (C. in C. Med. 0907/29, to Admty.)

Operation
"Demon".
numbers
evacuated.

What numbers if any had been evacuated previous to those given in your 1346/28? (1st. S.L., 0937/29, to C. in C. Med.)
Your 0937/29. This is not known definitely but consider it probable that under evacuation scheme a total of at least 40,000 has been taken off. (C. in C. Med., 1337/29, to Admty.)
Your 1337/29. What number was it intended to bring off under the evacuation scheme? (1st. S.L. 1420/29 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 1420/29. It has never been possible to obtain a definite figure from Army but it was believed to be between 50,000 and 55,000. (C. in C. Med., 1829/29, to Admty.).

/LIVERPOOL.....

6. P.S.T.O. India should report whether his requirements will need any of ships referred to in paragraph (5)

7. CITY OF ATHENS in C.M. 8. will revert to normal liner service and instructions as to further service will be given through Barker.

0617/29.

Director of Sea Transport.

1st Lord.	D.N.I. (4)
1st S.L.	D.S.D.
2nd S.L.	D.H.A.D.
3rd S.L.	D. of T.D.
4th S.L.	D. A/S
5th S.L.	D.M.S.
V.C.H.S.	I.P.
A.D.M.S. (H)	W.D.
A.C.H.S. (F)	Duty Capt.
A.C.N.S. (T) (2)	Hd. of R.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.
D. of P. (2)	D.D.I.S.
D.O.D. (F)	E.S.S.
D.D.O.D. (F)	B.E.D. (2)
D.O.D. (H)	N.I.D. 10 Paya. Odr. Wilson
D.D.O.D. (H)	D. of S.T.

War Diary.29.4.41.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. Contd.LIVERPOOL.

Following programme for LIVERPOOL intended (to S.Frisco). LIVERPOOL cannot anchor except in emergency.
(C. in C. Med. 0933/29, to Admty. etc.).

Operation
"Dunlop".

Request amount of petrol remaining in Dunlop Fulmars on arrival may be signalled.
(5 S.L., 1159/29 to V.A. Malta)
Reply: 1611/30.

Reconnaissance
A/C Malta.

V.A. Malta, has asked for 3 long range reconnaissance aircraft fitted with A.S.V, and experienced crews to work with destroyer striking forces at night from Malta. This is considered urgent requirement.
(D.N.A.D. 1404/29 to Air Min.).

Movements.

Summary 198, and arrangements for 30/4.
(C. in C. Med., 1544/29,) See Lion Copy.

Air Raid
on Malta.

Continuation of my I.274 29/4. (No Trace). Commercial Harbour Craft CORNFLOWER and 1 Fighter sunk. Some damage to Dockyard. Bighii Hospital damaged. No naval or dockyard casualties. Military casualties.
(Malta, 1620/29.)

R.A.F.
Evacuations
from Greece.

Supplementary Report to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Ops. Summary No. 323. Report on evacuation from Greece. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1726/29, 1727/29, 1728/29). See Lion Copy.

Operation "Tiger"
TIGER.

Following personnel and stores were embarked in NAIAD:- (a) For Malta.
(b) For Alexandria.
(D.O.D.(H) 1746/29 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

PERSEUS.

Orders to PERSEUS.
Possible that you may proceed to Port Said from (b). BARHAM, VALIANT, FORMIDABLE, and attendant destroyers left Alexandria 1400/29 to cover convoy returning from Crete - route unknown.
(Capt. S.I, 1845/29 to PERSEUS.)

902A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1544/29th April IN
From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 30.4.41.
Recd 0244.

Naval Code (O) Secret (Med) by W/T

Addressed Submarines on patrol.

IMPORTANT.

Movement summary 198.

H.M.S. LIVERPOOL leaves Alexandria a.m. 30th to arrive Port Said 0600 1st May carrying out gunnery firings on passage. H.M.S. GNAT leaves Port Said for Alexandria 30th. 10th M.T.B. Flotilla proceeds Port Said to Alexandria in daylight 30th. Part two H.M.S. BARHAM, H.M.S. VALLANT, H.M.S. FORMIDABLE and destroyer leave Alexandria 1400 29th Northwestward to cover G A 15. G A 15 left Suda Bay 1000 29th for Alexandria and Port Said routed via Kaso speed 10 knots escorted by H.M.S. CARLISLE and destroyer. H.M.S. ROVER in tow tug PROTECTOR left Suda Bay 0800 29th for Alexandria through Kytheria Channel and position 034 degs 10' North 023 degs 40' East escorted by H.M.S. GRIFFIN. H.M.S. PERTH, H.M.S. PHOEBE and six destroyers rendezvous with V.A.L.F. in position 045 degs Cape Drepano 10 miles at 1400 29th. H.M.S. HOTSPUR HAVOCK complete evacuation from Milo and other destroyers at Kalamata night of 29/30. H.M. Ships KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY probably rendezvous with F.O.C. 1st B.S. on 30th and may be employed on further evacuation in Greek Islands. H.M.S. PROTECTOR, GRIMSBY, towing GLENEARN in position 033 degs 49' North 024 degs (? 57') East at 0600/29 steering 140 degs 5 knots for Alexandria. H.M.S. APHIS, LADYBIRD in inshore squadron. CHAKLA and 4 lighters at Mersa Tobruk. Relief for minesweepers leave Alexandria 29th for Mersa Tobruk.

see search
no. 3529

Captain (D) 14 H.M.S. JUNO, H.M.S. JAGUAR, H.M.S. IMPERIAL left Malta about 2000/28 with BRECONSHIRE speed 18 knots Alexandria. DIDO and ABDIEL in company till dark 29th then proceed ahead to arrive Alexandria about 0800/30. Two destroyers to leave BRECONSHIRE at dusk 29th to rendezvous with F.O.C. 1st B.S. a.m. on 30th. H.M.S. KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY probably rendezvous with F.O.C. 1st B.S. on 30th and may be employed on further evacuation in Greek Islands H.M.S. GLOUCESTER and 5th D.F. operate from Malta T.O.O. 1543/29.

1544/29.

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. and O.I.C.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | D.O.D. (F) | |
| 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D. (F) | |
| 2nd S.L. | D.N.I. (4) | |
| 3rd S.L. | D.S.D. | |
| 4th S.L. | D.N.A.D. | |
| 5th S.L. | D. of L.D. | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.../S.W. | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.M.S. | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | I.P. | |
| A.C.N.S. (T) (2) | F.O.S. by Courier | |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | W.D. | D.D.I.C. |
| D. of P. (2) | Duty Captain | E.P.S. |
| D.O.D. (H) | Hd. of M. | D.T.D. (2) |
| D.D.O.D. (H) | D.T.S.D. | N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Williams |

5F

9028

SECRET MESSAGE 1726/29 April IN.

From H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East Date 23.4.41.

Recd. 2209

CYPHER.

RAF Report Greek Evacuation.

Addressed Air Ministry repeated A.H.Q. Iraq, A.H.Q. Aden, A.H.Q. Nairobi, H.Q. Malta, Dechief Pretoria, 203 Group. IMMEDIATE. X.1089.

A.848 29/4. The following signal in several parts. Part Part one begins. Supplementary report to Headquarters R.A.F. Middle East Operational Summary No. 323 dated 29/4.

Following is report on evacuation from Greece referred to in my signal A.844 27/4.

Para. 1 Plans for R.A.F. evacuation included removal of air crews and certain key personnel by air in Squadron and transport aircraft. Remainder by sea. Ground personnel graded in importance for evacuation being given to maintenance crews and technical tradesmen.

Para. 2. Squadron aircraft were evacuated as follows. 37 and 38 Squadrons flew to Egypt 17/4 and 18/4 personnel and equipment following by sea on 23/4. 24 Blenheims and 4 Lysanders total survivors of 11 84 113 211 Bomber and 208 Army Co-operation Squadrons flew to Egypt 23/4, Blenheims having previously made several return journeys between Greece and Crete, evacuating air crews. 14 Blenheim fighters 30 Squadron and 14 Gladiators 80 and 112 Squadrons also flew to Crete that day where they are now operating as part of air defence. Hurricanes of 33 and 80 Squadrons which remained in Greece to support the army were reduced by 22/4 to 14 operating from Argos. Further 6 from Egypt reinforced them there 23/4. The same day enemy fighters destroyed 13 on the ground and one in an air fight and rendered the aerodrome unusable. 5 survivors therefore withdrawn to Crete where they are now operating. One of these since lost in an air fight.

Para. 3 22/4. Bombays Lodostars and Sunderlands commenced evacuation of personnel from Greece. Maximum numbers available were 5 3 2 respectively, but number employed from day to day varied with circumstances. Maximum of 2 B.O.A.C. flying boats also assisted daily as required.

End of part one part two follows. 1726/29.

Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C. D.P.D.

Received from Air Ministry 0120/30th April.

- 1st I.ord
 - 1st S.L.
 - 4th S.L.
 - 5th S.L.
 - V.C.N.S.
 - A.C.N.S.(F).
 - Nav. Sec.
 - C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 - Ops. (4).
 - O.D.(5).
 - O.I.C.(2).
 - D.N.I.(4).
 - D.S.D.9.
 - M (2).
- D.P.D.
 - D.of P. (3).
 - E.P.S.
 - I.P.(3).
 - W.D.

Note by A.M.C.S. Parts being circulated separately, as received.

1727/29th April.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
902c.

From: H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.

Date 30. 4. 41.
Recd. 0200

CYPIER

Addressed: Air Ministry Repeated A.H. Q. Iraq, A.H.Q. Aden,
A.H.Q. Nairobi, H.Q. Malta, Dechief Pretoria, 203 Group.

IMMEDIATE

X. 1089. (Part 2)

~~A. 848 29/4.~~

Part 2. Begins.)

~~Supplementary report to Headquarters R.A.F. Middle
East Operational Summary No. 323 dated 29/4. Following is report
on evacuation from Greece referred to in my A. 844 27/4.~~

(Land planes operated under orders 204 Group
between Maaten , Bagush and Menidi or Eleusis, flying boats between
Scaramanga, Suda Bay and Alexandria under orders O.C. 201 Group,
temporarily located Suda Bay. Aircraft engaged made one return
flight every 24 hours arriving Greece dusk leaving dawn to avoid enemy
aircraft. ~~Operations directed by A.O.C. Greece. 23/4. Enemy air
attack rendered Eleusis and Menidi aerodromes and Scaramanga anchorage
unusable. Evacuation therefore continued by land plane from Argos
the flying boats making special trips only to Scaramanga. 3 Lodestars
landed Argos dusk that day immediately after heavy enemy air
attack and left following dawn with 31 evacuees. 24/4. A.O.C.
Greece moved by air to Crete. Argos aerodrome unusable from that
date through enemy air action. Bombays and Lodestars continued
evacuation from Crete to Egypt, latter making up to 3 return trips per
day. On April 24/4 1700 R.A.F. personnel were at Argos awaiting
evacuation by sea and small rear Headquarters with flying boats servicing
party at Scaramanga to supervise last minute evacuation from there.~~

~~End of Part 2. Part 3 follows.~~

1727/29

Received from Air Ministry 0450/30/4.
Advance Copy Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V,C,N,S,
A,C,N,S, (F)
Nav. Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)
Ops. (4)
D of P. (3)
M (2)
E.P.S.
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (3)
D.P.D.
W.D.
D.S.D. 9.
D.N.A.D.

SECRET.

M E S S A G E

1728/29th April. IN.

902D

From:- H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.

Date 30.4.41.

Recd 0240.

Cypher.

Addressed:- Air Ministry. Repeated A.H.Q. Iraq, A.H.Q. Aden,
A.H.Q. Nairobi, H.Q. Malta Dechief Pretoria,
203 Group.

IMMEDIATE X. 1089 (Part 3).

NOTWT.

A.848 29/4.

Part 3 Begins.

Supplementary report to Headquarters R.A.F. Middle
East Operational Summary No.2 1323 dated 29/4.

Following is report on evacuation from Greece
referred to in my A.844 27/4. By 25/4 12,000 of these had
moved from Argos to Kalamata and Gytheon. That day 2
Sunderlands made 2 return journeys to Crete from the 2 places
but subsequently all personnel had to be evacuated from there
by sea, a number crossing in small boats to Kythera. During
this period food was dropped by air.

Para 4. Detailed reports of evacuation flights
not yet available but by 27/4 inclusive 543 persons have
reached Egypt by air including almost all air crews. Air
evacuation Crete to Egypt still in progress as required.

Interesting to note last Sunderland from Scaramanga 24/4
carried 79. 1076 R.A.F. arrived Crete by other means up to
26/4. Shipping probably available for onward passage to
Egypt in near future.

Para 5. Following are important persons evacuated
by air additional to R.A.F. 17/4. King of Yugo-Slavia and
party in 2 Sunderlands Kotor to Scaramanga. Thence to
Alexandria following day. 23/4. King of Greece in Sunderland
Scaramanga to Crete. 27/4. General Wilson and members of
Greek Government in Sunderland Kyla to Crete.

Para 6., Total aircraft lost in evacuation
operations 1 Blenheim, 2 Sunderlands.

Para 7. Further details follow when available.
End of Part 3. End of message.

1728/29

Advance copy sent Ops, O.D. O.I.C.
Recd from Air Ministry 0445/30.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

Naval Sec.

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

Ops. (4)

D. of P. (3)

M. (2)

E.P.S.

D.N.I. (4)

I.P. (3)

D.P.D.

W.D.

D.S.D.9

D.N.A.D.

jr.

War Diary.

29.4.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Genoa
Closed.

Telegram No. 1373 ARPAR from Berne dated 28/4. Consul Geneva reports that Genoa is closed to all traffic. Informant states that closure is of great significance. No confirmation from Swiss authorities. Ends. Confirmation is being sought. 1928/29.

Operation
"Demon"
Yalamata
Evacuation.

From 1st. Sea Lord. It is of the greatest importance that we should by every possible effort try and bring away largest number of troops still remaining at Kalamata or other points along the coast. It is difficult to believe enemy can have arrived there in greater force than our own men who are trying to escape. I know you will do your best as always. (D.O.D. (F) Approved 1st. Lord, 2056/29 to C. in C. Med.).

Crete.

Summary of J.I.C. appreciation of scale of attack on Crete. (W.O., 2330/29, to C. in C. M.E.) See Lion Copy, p.9c3A.

Situation Report
No. 11.

C. in C. Med. 2331/29. See May 1, page 22.

East Indies.

LEANDER.

Arrival 0055Z/29 LEANDER wearing flag of C. in C. E.I. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0102Z/29.) My 1012/14 C. in C. E.I., has now returned to Colombo (place). (C. in C. E.I., 0224Z/29 to C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., etc.).

Force T.

My 1603/28 para. 1. If required to operate in accordance with my 1757/28, there is no restriction on position of Force T. (C. in C. E.I. (Afloat) 0105Z/29 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

"R" Report
0102/28
?CLAN BUCHANAN.

An incomplete message was read by Colombo Karachi, and Seychelles radio stations at 0102Z/28 on 500 kc/s. Receiving conditions bad, signal weak in all cases.

/Message.....

Mediterranean.

29.4.41

MOST SECRET

903A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From The War Office

Desp. 2330. 29/4/41.

Cipher

Addressed C. in C. Middle East.

Expected German Attack on Crete.

64141 Cipher (M.I. 14) 29/4.

IMMEDIATE

MOST SECRET. Following is summary of J.I.C. appreciation of scale of attack on Crete for your appreciation. Begins. German attack Crete by simultaneous air-borne and sea-borne expedition believed imminent.

Scale of air-borne attack estimated 3000/4000 parachutists of air-borne troops in first sortie. Two or three sorties per day possible from Greece and three or four from Rhodes. If Rhodes not used as dive-bomber base. All above with fighter escort.

Heavy bombing attacks to be expected immediately prior to arrival of air and sea-borne troops. Main fighter and dive bombing support probably based Rhodes. Following is our estimate based on establishments of operational aircraft available in Balkans for all purposes. 315 long-range bombers, 60 twin-engined fighters, 240 dive-bombers, 270 single-engined fighters. Last two categories would require extra tanks if operated from north of Corinth Canal. Only very small attacks from points south of this owing to aerodrome shortage in Morea but some 60/90 dive-bombers and similar number single-engined fighters could operate from Rhodes provided aerodromes in Rhodes not required for other operations.

Estimated that both troops and shipping ample for sea-borne operation, lighters for transport of tanks also believed available hence scale of sea-borne attack dependent of extent to which enemy can evade our naval forces. Re-inforcements enemy naval forces and shipping from Italy possible, but involves hazardous route round Cape Matapan, if Corinth Canal unusable. Ends.

Received by hand from War Office at 0025/30
Advance copy Duty Capt, D.O.D. (F)
& D.D.I.C.

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) (2).

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

D. of P. (2).

D.O.D. (H).

D.D.O.D. (H).

D.O.D. (F).

D.D.O.D. (F).

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 Capt.

Hd. of M.

D.T.S.D.

E.P.S.

D.T.D. (2).

N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

29.4.41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

"R" Report.
0102/28.
? CLAN BUCHANAN.
Contd.

Message appears an "R" distress message longitude perhaps 063° E. No other information yet received. (C. in C. E.I., 0218Z/29, to N.O.I.C, Simonstown.)
Your 1924/28. 4 R's were also heard Seychelles. Atmospherics bad in all cases, signals weak. LEANDER was not sighted. (C. in C.E.I., 0220Z/29, to Admty.)
My 0218/29. It is confirmed that an R distress message was made. Ship was probably CLAN BUCHANAN approx. position 005° 24' N., 062° 46' E. (C. in C. E.I., 0732Z/29, to C.O.S., Singapore, Admty.)

CORNWALL
HAWKINS
EAGLE.

? Force V.
(see page 940)

My 0222/29 and 0224/29. (i) As soon as ready CORNWALL proceed at 25 knots towards 002° N., 60° E. HAWKINS and EAGLE in company proceed at 18 knots towards same position. Object is to hunt down raider reported in my 1816/28. (C. in C.E.I., 0236Z/29, to CORNWALL, EAGLE, HAWKINS.)

"R"
Report.

The following message is repeated for information. My 2120/28. Approx. position of attack 005° 24' N., 062° 46' E. (Admiral, Colombo, 0756 G.M.T./29, to Submarines 3 and 6B.

Troops for
Iraq.

Tanker ashore in Rooka Channel. Keep convoy between 10 and 15 miles from Rooka float at present. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0245z/29, to LAWRENCE.)
S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0245/29. Convoy entered Channel at 0620 Z/29. (C. in C. E.I., 0730Z/29, to Admty.)
My 0730 29 S.N.O. Persian Gulf reports that convoy passed FAO without incident. (C. in C. E.I., 1022Z/29, to Admty.)
My 1757/28. If troopship arrives without incident and you then no longer require force T, request you will order them to Bahrein for fuel. (C. in C.E.I., 1240Z/29, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)
Convoy B P I arrived Basrah without incident. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1430Z/29, to C. in C. E.I.)

/LEANDER.....

War Diary.

29.4.41.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

LEANDER.

Fuel with all despatch and on completion proceed to pass through Kardiya Channel early a.m./30 and then proceed at 20 knots towards position 004° N., 060° E.
(C. in C. E.I., 0248Z/29 to LEANDER.)
Departure 0813 (0810) G.M.T. 29/4 LEANDER
(S.O.I., Colombo, 1018Z/29.)

Information
for U.S.
Navy.

U.S. Consul in Bombay under instructions from Washington has asked to be supplied with information about movements of all ships except British. Understand similar information likely to be asked for by U.S. Consul at other Ports. Request decision.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0646Z/29, to C. in C.E.I.)

U.S.10B.

My 0552/26. In order to avoid congestion at Suez, US 10 B will now sail from Colombo to arrive at Suez 13/5.
(C. in C. E.I., 1220Z/29, to A.C.N.B.)

Convoy
S.W.6.
CERES.

My 1146/21 SCYTHIA, BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, CAMERONIA and TALAMBA will form Convoy S.W.6 from Suez. Convoy is to pass Perim early morning in darkness. CERES is to escort Durban portion from Aden to position (d) and then proceed to Mombasa. Route for S.W.6 from Aden to Durban.
(C. in C. E.I., 1232Z/29, to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.)

Iraq
Situation.

Appreciation submitted on information available here. (M.I.C.E., 1320/29, to A.O.C., Iraq.)

Iraq
Govt.
Policy.

Most secret sources indicate that apparently friendly overtures of present administration are of a temporising nature while secret intrigue with Axis powers continues. Latter pressed to send air support to Iraqi forces against British in accordance with a plan brought by Tewfiq Shakir from Berlin.
(D.N.I. 1423/29, to C. in C. E.I.)

/Force T.....

21.10.1947

HUSH

TOP SECRET

905A

IN

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

291057Z/April

From C in C. China

Date 30.4.41.

Rec'd 0740

CHINA ONE T.T. BY W/T. CORRECTION

Addressed Admiralty

AIDAC. HUSH

495. Personal for 1st Sea Lord. Reference Admiralty's 1722/28 and C in C. Far East reply to Chiefs of Staff Far East 72 of 27 April.

If there are to be any changes of title I think they should take place now and not either on outbreak of hostilities or on arrival of Far East Fleet. Either of these alternatives must lead to confusion at a critical stage.

Two. Admiralty 1722/28 must of course have been drafted before consideration of telegraphic report of conference just held with United States and Dutch and Dominions, but apart from this I cannot help feeling that it takes too little account of all the changes that have occurred since Far East war memorandum was written.

Three. All our recent experiences and study of plans go to show that war in Far East would be best conducted from a combined headquarters on shore, preferably at Singapore.

Following are some factors affect this policy:

(a) The absence at sea of the supreme naval commander must render control of Allies and dominions very (?much) more difficult, as orders necessarily issued in his absence might well be resented.

(b) It is essential that the Naval command should be in close touch with G.H.Q. Far East and that the advantage of a long standing co-operation should not be lost by a change when active operations are in progress.

(c) The attempt to exercise supreme command from a sea going ship must further increase existing difficulties with communication.

Four. Admiralty's 1722/28 involves a change in supreme Naval command at probably a critical moment. The C in C. of Far Eastern Fleet would necessarily be pre-occupied with his Fleet and would be largely ignorant of local conditions, political matters and background, and in particular personalities, on which so much depends especially when dealing with Foreigners.

Five. I am convinced that the only sound policy is for the C in C. who is conducting operations from Singapore at outbreak of war to continue to do so after the arrival of Far Eastern Fleet, which as it is no longer our Main Fleet could be under less Senior Flag Officer.

/Six.

905B.

Six. I am of course only too ready to abide by any decision you come to but if policy in Reference 1722/28 from Admiralty is to stand I should be grateful to know what my own position will be after I have handed over the supreme command to C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet.

Seven. You will see from report of this last conference that Dominion Representative agreed a formula for command giving imperial authority a good deal more control over their ships than is envisaged in Admiralty's 1722/28.

1057/29.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (8)
V.C.N.S.

D. of P. (2)
D.N.I.
E.P.S.
Duty Capt.
N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
Naval Secretary.

.C./C.C.

War Diary.29.4.41.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Force T.Return to Bahrein forthwith to fuel.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1727Z/29, to
S.O. Force T.).KHAI-DINH
(French).Arrived and left 28/4, for Shanghai 2/5.
(N.C.S.O. Manila, 0613Z/29.)ChinaR.N. Air
Station
Malaya.Your 2147/24. R.N. Air Station, Morib,
Selangor, Malaya. Navy List title,
H.M.S. RAJAWALI, this being Malayan SPARROW-
HAWK. Request correspondence for
R.N.A.S. Morib may be addressed to C. in
C. China until further notice.
(C. in C. China, 0947Z/29 to Admty.)China.Indo-China.Your 0515Z/11 and Consul General Saigon's
No. 73 to F.O. of 12/4. Requesting
information from Adm. Decoux about rubber
and oil for Japan, docking of LAMOTTE-
PICQUET in Japan etc. (Hd. of M., 1429/29,
to C. in C. China.) See Lion Copy.

China.

906A

To:- Commander-in-Chief China 838
 Repeated:- Government of India
 Governor of Burma
 Governor of Singapore
 Governor of Hong Kong
 Governor of Strait Settlements

Date. 29. 4. 41.

Interdepartmental Cypher Special by Cable

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Your 0515Z/11 and Consul General Saigon's No. 73 to Foreign Office of 12th April.

From a most secret and reliable source we have information that Indo-China has agreed to let Japan have 25,000 tons of rubber for Germany and a further 15,000 tons for Japan herself, and that Indo-China has agreed that Japan should also have a claim on the 18,000 tons earmarked for France, if it cannot be shipped to France. We are proposing a reduction, beginning in May, of exports from Malaya to Japan to nil and we hope to secure the same action or a very substantial cut in exports from the N.E.I. but no action that we can take will be effective if Japan secures the above supplies from Indo-China. Our attitude is still that stated in Admiralty telegram 2230/9.

Meanwhile, tanker LOT has left Saigon for Madagascar with a full cargo of oil fuel. In view of this, we consider that next month's quota of oil for Indo-China should be cancelled and any further cargo allowed should only be made available if a French tanker is sent to pick it up.

Request you will ask Admiral Decoux for an immediate reply to message referred to in your 0515/11 about rubber, and give him above notice in regard to oil adding that, as it appears impossible for him to abide by the terms of the agreement, you will have no option but to recommend its denunciation. Request information whether you see any objection to denunciation. When communicating with Decoux you should also point out that we should regard the docking of LANOTTE-PICQUET in Japan as breach of the spirit of article 5 of the agreement.

1429/29.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (T) (2)
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 Nav. Sec.
 P.A.S. (S)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)

for Hd. of Military Branch
 Approved A.C.N.S. (F)
 D. of P. (2)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.E.W.D.
 D.S.D.9.
 D.D.I.C.
 D.T.D. (2)
 M. (35) (8 copies)
 and for M.E.W. (C.O.
 and P.A. Clutterbuck D.O.
 and China)
 I.P.
 W.D.
 Admiral Chalmers
 H.I.D. (10) Paymr. Cdr. Wilson)
 Lt. Capt.

m.d.

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Information
for U.S.A.

C. in C. A. & W. I. 1522/28. Concur supply will be made through U.S. Naval Attache in Ottawa. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1453/29 to Admty.).

RAKUYO MARU.
German
passengers.

Air letter 15/4 from Mexico to Germany referring to departure of Germans from Manzaniluo in Japanese ship RAKUYO MARU on 26/3 states "perhaps one of the few opportunities for letters or the last travelling opportunity." (C. in C.A.W.I., 1659/29, to Admty.)

Shipping
News
for
U.S.A.

Your 1855/25. Since my 1223/14 was sent D.N.I. Ottawa has visited Navy Dept. and looked into their arrangements. Concur therefore on your proposal. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1703/29 to Admty.).

U. S. Coastguard
Cutters.

UKARM No. 112.
Your 2026/22 para. (5)
(a) Collective title of ships of this class "cutters." (b) Probably most convenient that ships should retain their present names, having regard to their position under Lease-and-Lend Act, but views of U.S. Authorities should be obtained.
(d) First group to be sailed for Halifax when ready. R.A.3 is requested to arrange onward routeing to U.K.
(Controller. 1846/29 to MALAYA.)

N. Atlantic
Patrol.

Your 1801/27. Reply re weather in an area bounded on the North by a line drawn 100° from Bermuda, on the South by a line 076° from Antigua, and on the East by the meridian of 30° W. Request you will also patrol area detailed above and report relative weather conditions. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1915/29 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.New Zealand.Shipping news
for U.S.A.

American consul has requested movements of foreign shipping including allied shipping and foreign shipping under British control for information of Washington. Is there any objection to this?
(N.O. Wellington, 2143Z/29 to Admty).

Australia.U.S.11
U.S.10

My 1125/2. Request information anticipated composition of U.S.11. Your 0645/29. Division of U.S. 10 has delayed ILE DE FRANCE and as QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH cannot be handled in New Zealand no ship available New Zealand without unacceptable delay.
(A.C.N.B. 0655Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

Salvage
Bases.

Your 1245/25. Salvage Bases should be established at suitable ports each under General Direction of Senior Authority of the Port and in direct charge of an officer with practical Salvage experience. Details.
(Director of Salvage 1654/29 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.BEACON GRANGE.

British 10,119 tons. Have picked up 41 survivors of S.S. BEACON GRANGE torpedoed whilst sailing independently. Am still searching for one missing boat around position 060° 10' N 015° 45' W with aid of aircraft. (GLADIOLUS, 0650/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Request (See S/MS Reported). Instructions. Your 0650/29. Report situation now and whether any ship salvable. (C. in C. W.A. 1552/29 to GLADIOLUS). Your 1552/29. All torpedoed ships sunk except tanker OILFIELD in 060° 06' N 016° 06' resumption 1300 burning fiercely amidships down to waterline, consider unsalvageable. Drifting 270° one knot. One boat with 37 survivors from BEACON GRANGE still missing in same locality. (GLADIOLUS, 1820/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 1820/29. Continue search until further orders. Aircraft reported damaged U-Boat near 060° 00' N 015° 45' W at 1045/29). (C. in C., W.A. 2331/29 to GLADIOLUS)

CITY OF NAGPUR.

British 10,146 tons. Following received from Overseas Movements Controller:- Flying boat reports nine boats with survivors CITY OF NAGPUR in 52° 22' N 26° 31' W. T.O.O. 0652Z/29. (ends). (D.C. 0851/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Left the Clyde 25/4 for Freetown (D.S. 602 29/4). Confirmation Catalina flying boat AH 553 bound from Bermuda to Greenock reported sighting nine boats survivors from CITY OF NAGPUR in 52° 22' N 26° 31' W at 0600 G.M.T. 29/4. (O.A.M.C.U., Glos, 0855/29 to Admty). A/C reports survivors from CITY OF NAGPUR (position). Request you will detach HURRICANE to their assistance. (C. in C. W.A. 0926/29 to C.S.15). Pilot of ~~CATALINA~~ A.H. 553 reports sighting 9 laden lifeboats from CITY OF NAGPUR (position) at 0538 G.M.T. and one lifeboat under sail with 3 persons in (position) at 0825 G.M.T. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1805/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Survivors found (corrupt group) rejoining S.A.1. (HURRICANE, 2200/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 2200/29.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CITY OF NAGPUR. (contd).

Your 2200/29. Well done. Return to base and land survivors. A/C reported one lifeboat under sail with three persons in 53° 50' N 18° 18' W. at 0925/29. Carry out extensive search for this boat. A corvette from OG 60 has been detached to search. (C. in C. W.A. 2316/29 to HURRICANE). ✓ Aircraft reported 1 Lifeboat under sail with 3 persons 053° 50' N 018° 18' W. at 0925/29. If nothing seen detach 1 corvette to Search during daylight tomorrow. Corvette to report position of Convoy when well clear. (C. in C. W.A. 2308/29 to VANQUISHER).

3 ships in H.X.121.

(See 2146/28). Report situation forthwith and if any ships are salvageable. (C. in C, W.A. 0947/29 to DOUGLAS). Your 0947. No ships are salvageable. Escort in company LEAMINGTON, ROXBOROUGH, EGRET, MAORI, VIZALMA, ST. ELSTAN, ST. ZENO, ST. KENAN, VERONICA, ABELIA. P.c. and s. at 1030 B.S.T. 058° 48' N 012° 29' W 135° 8½. (DOUGLAS 1045/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

AGNETE MAERSK. (attacked 24/3).

British, 2104 tons, shelled by U/B on 24/3 about 675 miles W. of Ushant, now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 602, 29/4).

Resumption of Daylight Attacks.

Please warn all escorts that U-Boats have resumed submerged attacks on escorted convoys in daylight. H.X. 121 was attacked in daylight yesterday 28/4, at least three ships being torpedoed. (C. in C. .W.A. 1822/29 to Capt. D. Liverpool Greenock etc.)

S/Ms Reported.

0624

By D/F at 0624 B.S.T. U/B in 54° N 22° W unreliable fix. (D.D. I.C. 0822/29)

0921.....

War Diary.

29.4.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

0921 1 S/M on surface in 60.02 N., 15.45 W.
(GLADIOLUS, 0921/29).

South
Atlantic.

U/Boats with NATAL and LECH.
(N.A. Rio 1414/29, see FOREIGN STATIONS.
South Atlantic.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
One group operation North of 60° N.
Activity increased South of 55° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1414/29).

1421 By D/F at 1421/29, position of German
U-Boat was 52° - 53° N, 19° - 21° W.
unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1513/29).

1458 A/C report U-Boat in 059° 49' N 012° 51'
W at 1458.
(C. in C. W.A. 1547/29 to DOUGLAS).

1615 U Boat 5940 N, 13 10 W CO 1 V O 1550.
(A/C ?N.R.I. 1615/29 to Aldergrove).
Submarine crashed dived on our approach.
(A/C 1618/29 to Aldergrove).
Sweep through 059° 40' N 013° 10' W where
aircraft reported submarine and crash dive
at 1618/29.
(C. in C. W.A. 1757/29 to HELIOTROPE).

2244 By D/F at 2244/29, position of German U-Boat
probably homeward bound, was 49° - 50° N
12° - 15° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2324/29).

2314 By D/F at 2314/29 position of German U-boat
was 56° 40' N. 4° 40' E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2350/29).

War Diary.29.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/MS Attacked.By KENYA

Have depth charged possible S/M contact in position 059° 21' N 004° 13' W LEICESTER CITY reports contact in approx the same position.

(KENYA 1025/29 to A.C.O.S.) (A.C.O.S. 1329/29 to A.I.G. 36).

My 1025 A/C co-operation with LEICESTER CITY who has attacked stationary target believed non sub. LEICESTER CITY now proceeding with her convoy. KENYA's Walrus unarmed is now patrolling.

(KENYA 1120/29 to AC.O.S.)

My 1329/29. Now consider likely contact was whale since found on the surface in the vicinity.

(A.C.O.S. 1646/29 to Admty etc).

By SANDWICH,
ST. WISTAN,
21/4.

Ref. 322 A.C.I. sec. G para. 19 (A) Submarine sighted on surface between 8th and 9th column BERKEL Dutch 94 claims hit abaft conning tower 200 yards range. Periscope and bow or Stern sighted by SANDWICH, CORINTHIAN (96) at 0710. SANDWICH obtained contact at 0645 starboard quarter of 96, contact then lost, ST. WISTAN fired pattern at 0730 and 0738, SANDWICH 10 charges deep pattern at 0818 and further 2 charges at 0839. 3 minutes after last charges of SANDWICH pattern (corrupt group) further explosion felt and heard. Shortly after ST. WISTAN closing position of submerged object reported keel striking something metallic.

(B) Attack frustrated, no torpedo seen, rocket fired.

(C) ST. WISTAN ahead, SANDWICH astern.

(D) Nil.

(E) 0600/21 053° 31' N 017° 36' W.

(F) 212° 7 hour.

(G) S.W. 6, sea 45 visibility 3 miles.

(H) Poor attempt at attack.

(SANDWICH 2215/29 to Admty etc).

By LINCOLN.

LINCOLN, is standing in 0510 W 021° 52' W until daylight where suspected submarine was attacked three times by depth charges, contact now being lost. Am returning S.L. 71. Have ordered LINCOLN to proceed to Londonderry at daylight owing to shortage of fuel.

(SHERWOOD, 2354/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary

30.4.41.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Brest

No R/C of Brest had been possible today up to 2000; but, in the event of the Battle Cruisers there attempting to break up Channel, it is intended that all available M.T.B's from the Nore Command shall be ordered to concentrate at Dover.

816 and 827 Squadrons of the F.A.A. are to be placed forthwith under the operational control of C. in C., Coastal Command as a Torpedo Striking Force.

Shipping

C. in C., Portsmouth proposes to conform to the system of daylight sailings now in operation in the Plymouth Command for groups between the Needles and Dartmouth, provided fighter escort is available.

British Air Operations

14 aircraft dropped 18 tons of H.E. and 1100 incendiaries on Rotterdam Petroleum Harbour last night. 5 aircraft attacked the searchlights and docks at Rotterdam. Two aircraft attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest.

A Hudson reports having hit a 700 ton merchant vessel off Lodbierg.

War Diary

30.4.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on
Plymouth.

Plymouth was heavily attacked again last night by about 150 A/C, many H.E. and Incendiary Bombs and a few Parachute Mines being dropped. TRINIDAD (Cruiser completing) was slightly damaged by a direct hit, SS vessel PRINCE CHARLES was slightly damaged, French Tug PEUPLIER, A/P vessel PESSAC, (French) Picket-boat No 645 and ammunition storage ship MONCOUSQU were sunk. Six unexploded mines were reported this morning on the land near Plymouth, and considerable further damage was done in the Dockyard. Thanckes (oil Fuel Depot) received damage. The naval casualties so far ascertained are 6 killed and 14 injured, 3 seriously.

The sloop ERNE with Convoy E.C. 13 was bombed and damaged off Kinnaird Head at 2212 and is being towed into harbour. 4 attacks were made on this Convoy by 2 A/C during its passage; the ships of the Convoy are reported to have defended themselves well, and it is believed that 3 of the attacking aircraft were damaged.

SS ST. ROGNVALD was bombed at 2150 when 15 miles NNW of Kinnairds Head and Convoy F.N. 60 was bombed at 2200 off Alnwick it is believed without damage in either case.

Safety drifter PRESENT FRIENDS was damaged by near miss at 1625 off Tintagel Head.

War Diary

30.4.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

A/A Ships will be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m. to-morrow until further notice.

At Plymouth 3 mines detonated during today and 6 unexploded Mines are reported lying on land near the town.

SS PROWESS was mined off the Humber today; 4 mines were detonated by sweepers today off Spurn Point, Liverpool was closed at 2110 tonight and will be reopened at 0730 tomorrow.

North Atlantic

The sailing of all ships from Gibraltar for Genoa with approved Swiss cargoes is suspended until further orders.

South Atlantic

The American Consul at Dakar urges an exchange of French citizens held in British West Africa for 150 British subjects detained in French West Africa. It would assist him to know of the welfare of passengers and crew of BANFORA (intercepted 12/4) C. in C., S.A. proposes to let Dakar authorities know this, and also suggests that crew of POITIERS, interned since 26/11/40 at Freetown, should be repatriated or removed elsewhere.

War Diary

30.4.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation
"Demon"

V.A.L.F. and F.O.A.M returned to Alexandria today from Operation "Demon". C. in C. Med considers the total evacuations to date to be about 45,000 troops and R.A.F. Only 16 officers and 17 others were evacuated from Kalamata last night. The cause of failure to embark more is not clear until the return of PERTH.

The convoy returning from Greece was repeatedly attacked by E-Boats last night and although no losses were caused, no E-Boats were sunk.

Only 1 officer and 28 ratings from WRYNECK, and 10 ratings from DIAMOND, both bombed and sunk on 27/4, are reported saved.

Transport ships COSTA RICA and PENNLAND are reported lost without serious casualties. GLENGYLE and other ships were bombed and damaged today.

Heavy
Air Raids on
Malta.

Malta was subjected to another very heavy raid last night from 1850/29 to 0115/30 by 60-70 bombers, the heaviest yet. Severe damage was caused to ENCOUNTER, FERMOY and ABINGDON and to the Dockyard and a hospital. Electric light, water and telephone communications were seriously affected.

During today, two bombing attacks were made on the Dockyard, and mines were laid in the harbour and approaches. N.O.I.C. Malta considers that the harbour is becoming untenable by ships at night without the gravest risk, and suggests sending destroyers to sea nightly in spite of fuel shortage, but C. in C., Med. has decided that the risk must be taken, the ships being dispersed.

/Malta was....

30.4.1941.
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Heavy
Air Raids on
Malta-Contd.

Malta was heavily raided from 1830 to 2100 today for the third night in succession, the harbours being the targets. Severe damage was caused in the dockyard. No 3 dock received a direct hit on the caisson and the dock is flooded. ENCOUNTER and FERMOY received further damage, CORAL was damaged in dock, and TRUSTY STAR (the only heavy sweeper in action) was sunk, as was the ex-Italian POLINICE. More parachute mines were laid, and owing to the absence of sweepers there is grave risk of the harbour having to be closed. C. in C. Med. is unable to send another LL sweeper to Malta. ENCOUNTER's damage is so extensive that it is proposed to pay her off.

MOHAWK

A serious position having arisen in respect to the C.B.'s carried by MOHAWK who was torpedoed off Kerkenah Bank in the convoy action on 16/4. A determined attempt to break her up is to be made.

Genoa.

S.O. Force H considers a submarine would be profitably employed off Genoa and Capt. (S) 8 suggest PANDORA should be diverted to this area.

Whilst screening the Battle Fleet (covering convoy G.A. 15) JUNO and JAGUAR attacked and probably sank a U-Boat this evening in 32° 50' N., 27° 52' E.

Italian
Convoys.

The U.S. War Dept. states that the French Naval Authorities have rigorously protested against the continued use of Tunisian territorial waters by enemy convoys and Jerba Island as a R/V for destroyers.

MOST SECRETWar Diary30.4.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORTEast IndiesForce V,
raider hunt.

No further news of the raider reported early on 28/4 has been received. EAGLE, HAWKINS, LEANDER and CORNWALL have been ordered to patrol at 12 knots on the Western side of their respective areas.

Iraqi
Attitude

In view of a threatening attitude adopted by Iraqi military forces at Habbaniya, G.O.C. has proposed to Ambassador that in event of any hostile action we should take military control of Shatt-el-Arab area. Force T (HERMES and ENTERPRISE) were today ordered to proceed to a position 30 miles south of the mouth of the river, to support the landing of troops from convoy B.P.I in the event of opposition.

PARVATI
Sunk.

The Royal Indian Navy A/S vessel PARVATI was mined and sunk today near Mocha, Red Sea.

America & West Indies"Q"
Report.

2 "Q" reports early today from LYCAON and TRONGATE were subsequently cancelled, but at 1120 TRAFALGAR (Norwegian) reported a suspicious vessel following her in 44.43 N 29.32 W. Ottawa reported 2 hours later that this was not a U.S. ship.

U.S.
C.G. Cutters.

The first four cutters were commissioned today.

Information
for U.S.N.

Admiralty today approved to issue D/F bearing code and tables, and certain other information, to the U.S. authorities.

/B.H.X.....

MOST SECRET30.4.1941.
WednesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTAmerica & West Indies-Contd.B.H.X.

B.H.X. sections of the H.X. convoys are to be reinstated as soon as possible, and R.A. 3 B.S. has been asked for escort proposals.

Admiral Lais, ex-Italian Naval Attache to U.S.A., who was in the Spanish MARQUES DE COMILLAS, intercepted by DIOMEDE on 28/4, is to be removed and detained until satisfaction is obtained from his Government in regard to H.M. Minister at Belgrade.

Australia

Two further mines were swept up today in the enemy minefields off Cape Otway.

U-Boat Campaign

SS NERISSA (Halifax to Liverpool, independently routed) was torpedoed at 2230/30 in the N.W. Approaches.

War Diary.30.4.1941
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Broadcast of
W. A. Movement
Signal to H.F.
Ships in Area
B.C. in C. H.F. 1505/22 para 2. C. in C. W.A.
is requested to arrange accordingly.
(A.C.N.S(H) 1317/30).Operation of
M/L Flotillas
in W.A. Command.Your 1626/6. Intend to operate the M/L
Flotillas allocated to my Command in
following priority:- Stornoway, Holyhead,
Fishguard, Larne. Details.
Request action to repair existing slip and
provide requirements of an M/L base may
be expedited. Request that the arrival
of these Flotillas may be hastened, observing
that the Sixth Flotilla due at Holyhead
approx. 20/4 is now being retained in the
Nore Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/30).MONA'S ISLE
for A/A
Defence off
Tyne.As merchant vessels from Tyne are not
permitted to leave Harbour in the dark
those joining Convoys passing in dark hours
must leave harbour before dark and anchor
outside. I therefore intend to transfer
MONA'S ISLE from Methil to Tyne with a
view to her affording additional A/A defence
to ships anchored outside the Harbour
awaiting convoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 1610/30
and 1613/30).M/V's in
Neutral
Ports.
Concealment
of Service
Uniforms.For D.E.M.S. Officers. Attention of
Masters of British Merchant ships proceeding
to neutral ports is to be specially drawn
to importance of locking up uniform effects
of all service personnel before being
boarded by Customs Officers at such ports.
Slackness in this respect may lead to
internment. (D.T.D. 1714/30).A/S
Drifters
for
Iceland.A.M. 1052/26 para. 2. Notice for sailing
of four A/S drifters for Iceland is to be
amended to 24 hours. (A.C.N.S. H. 1754/30 to
A.C.O.S.).

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.
Works
in hand.

Your 63823 (M.O.8) 28/4. Description of works and requirements. (G.O.C. Iceland 1405/30 and 1103/1 to War Office).

A/S
Protection.

Your 1147/22. Arrangements for repair of Indicator Loops are contained in A.M. 1313/23.
2. Five additional A/S trawlers are being allocated for loop patrol vide A.M. 1032/26 and A.C.O.S' 1650/26 and will provide additional protection for Hvalfjord and adequate protection for Reykjavik without laying H.DA's which for technical reasons would be unlikely to prove satisfactory.
3. It is intended to augment the Hvalfjord defences by laying H.D.A.s on either side of the approach. (D. of L.D. 1715/30 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Additional
Staff
required.

Admiralty 0005/29. Following additions to staff are required.
Of the above Maintenance Commander and three Cypher Officers are required at once and it is requested that they may be flown here if possible. Approximately 47 Escort Vessels now based at Iceland in addition to 25 ships of Iceland Sub Command. (F.O. Iceland 1937/29).

Movements.

A.F.D.13.

Intend to sail A.F.D. XIII in tow of Tug LADY BRASSEY escorted by one A/A destroyer for Newhaven on 4/5. Route. (C. in C. Nore 2102/30).

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
Q.E.

Arrival M.G.B's 60, 64 and 62. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0701/30).

Engagement
with E-boats
on Night
28/29.

Following report from D.16 is forwarded in amplification of my 1224/29 Begins:-
Midnight 28/29 WORCESTER and COTSWOLD in single line ahead at 25 knots were zig-zagging ahead of northbound convoy. At 0006 altered course to starboard to investigate A.S.V. echo. At 0012 two objects sighted nearly ahead on course 095. Swing to starboard was continued to keep them ahead and close. At 0015 star shell fire was opened at an estimated range at 800 yards course then being 195° position M.F.C.E. 0815. Enemy were illuminated and intermittently engaged for about half an hour by whole gun armament firing independently on both sides. It is considered one E-boat was damaged by 4 inch H.E. time fuse shell fire from COTSWOLD. Three torpedo tracks only were observed from WORCESTER. General direction of chase was southerly across bows of convoy. A.S.V. and visual contact was lost at 0044 and station resumed ahead of convoy. At 0205 gunfire and star shell was sighted astern to eastward of convoy and closed at full speed, but action ceased before contact with enemy could be established. 2321/29 Ends. (C. in C. Nore 0806/30).

East
Coast
Patrols.

Following patrols tonight Wednesday. (1) 3 M.L's South Leman to Smith's Knoll Buoy. (2) 3 M.L's vicinity of 55 Buoy. (O. in C. Nore 1125/30).
My 1125. Patrol (1) cancelled. (C. in C. Nore 1323/30).
Harwich A/P Patrols not taking up positions tonight owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1722/30).

Operation
Q.F.

My 1614/28. Operation Q.F. will not take place today. (C. in C. Nore 1204/30).

/SCHARNHORST.....

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd)SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

It is possible that the German Battle Cruisers may break up channel in the near future.

2. If any definite information is received of an impending move from Brest all available M.T.B's from the Nore Command will be ordered to concentrate at Dover.

3. It is not intended to interfere with current M.T.B. operations for the present. (A.C.N.S. H. 1318/30).

AMBROSE
FLEMING.
(sunk by
E-boat 29/4).

Your 1425. AMBROSE FLEMING position fixed by surveyor as 125° actual position of 58 buoy 2 1/2 miles. (F.O. Humber 1745/30)

British Air Activity.Patrols.Following air patrols today. ^{"Stab" "Bvt"} STAB, BERT, STAB; HORNET. (C. in C. Rosyth 0236/30)
My 1145/10. Patrol A.A. being flown tonight owing to weather. Patrol B was withdrawn at 1830 but will be resumed A.M. 1st May unless R/C shows battle cruisers in harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 2228/30).Attacks
on
Shipping.

On 29/4 three Blenheims escorted by 18 Spitfires bombed two ships of 2,000 tons and 600 tons in a convoy 5 miles off Ostend. A probable hit was scored on the 2,000 ton ship. The smaller one was also possibly damaged. Both vessels were machine gunned. 2 aircraft attacked a M/v of 1,00 tons in company with a similar vessel and a 500 ton tender 20 miles north east of the Isle Brehat. The first aircraft dropped 4 X 250 lb. bombs from 30 ft. and an explosion was seen. Five aircraft sighted a convoy 5 miles west of Eigeroe consisting of a merchant vessel of 4/5,000 tons, one merchant vessel 1/1,500 tons, and an escort vessel of 600 tons.

Two aircraft attacked the large M/V and a direct hit was obtained. The other vessels were also machine gunned and the larger vessel is probably a total loss. The other 3 aircraft bombed the 1/15,000 ton ship from 50 - 900 feet. and in addition to near misses alongside, a direct hit was obtained on the stern. The vessel made a

/quick.....

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Attacks
on
Shipping.
(contd).

quick turn towards the land and is most probably severely damaged. A sixth aircraft attacked a cargo ship of 2,000 tons 20 miles south of Lindesnes from 200 ft. bombs slightly overshooting, but the vessel is possibly damaged. (H.Q.B.C. 0353/30).

Torpedo
Striking
Force.

816 and 827 Squadrons are to be placed under operational control of C. in C., Coastal Command as a torpedo striking force and are to be ready to move forthwith as directed by him. (D.N.A.D. 1428/30 to R.A.N.A.S).

Your 1428/30. Present state of squadrons is as follows. (C.D.B. 1827/30 and 1419/1 to Adty).

Admty's 1428/30. Request move of 816 squadron to North Coates and 817 squadron to Thorney Island (operations 1498 30th April) with torpedoes as soon as possible. (H.Q.C.C. 2150/30 to R.A.N.A.S.).

Operation "Fuller".
FULLER.

X 372. Reference Air Ministry letter DONC/OPS 15 dated 29/4. This operation will be known as operation ~~FULLER~~. (Air Ministry 1600/30).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S.476.
KALUA.
(British 722
Tons) sunk.

F.S.476 attacked off Tyne at 2135. s.s. KALUA sunk. No casualties. Reports indicate 2 other ships damaged but in no immediate danger. Assistance has been sent. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0013/30).
Position of wreck of KALUA is 095° from North Tyne pier light 7650 yards in 23 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1011/30).

/Plymouth.....

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Plymouth
bombed.
→ TRINIDAD
damaged.

Plymouth heavily raided for the second night in succession by about 150 planes between 2152/29 and 0141/30. Large number of H.Es and I/Bs dropped and also a few parachute mines. Details of damage. Casualties. So far ascertained: Killed 6 seriously injured 3, slightly injured 11. (C. in C. Plymouth 0520/30).

PESSAC/
sunk.

(A/P Vessel) My 0520/30. At daybreak today observation showed PESSAC to have sunk at her moorings in Yonderburz Trott during the night. (C. in C. Plymouth 1334/30).

→ TRINIDAD
damaged.
PEUPLIER
(Tug) sunk.
PRINCE CHARLES
(S.S. vessel)
damaged.

In addition to slight damage sustained by TRINIDAD, regret to report that during attack 29/30 April F.S. PEUPLIER and Picquet Boat No. 645 were sunk, 1 Officer and 3 ratings injured, 1 rating missing and PRINCE CHARLES was struck by light H.E. bomb Port Side Amidships causing slight damage and injuring 5. (C. in C. Plymouth 1745/30).
Air raid on night of 29/30th April caused the following damage. Details. (S.C.E. Devonport 1845/30).

Convoy
E.C.13.

Fighters are being sent to assist ^{'Pattern'.} ~~PATTERN~~. (Rosyth 0508/30).

ESSEX LANCE
(Bombed 12/3)

My 1501/28. Owing to weather please add a further 24 hours to all times. (F.O. Humber 0953/30).

* N.T.W.D.

GLENFINLAS
(Bombed 6/4).

S.S. GLENFINLAS, tugs SEA GIANT, ST. MELLONS, and SHEARWATER arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1606/30).

POLARSOL
(Bombed
25/4)

ZWARTE ZEE with POLARSOL in tow arrived Rothesay Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1725/20).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (contd).Convoy "Lunch"
LUNCH.

Fighter A/C are being despatched to assist... Convoy ~~LUNCH~~. (Rosyth 2037/30).
Convoy ~~LUNCH~~ request fighter assistance my position 55° 31' N. 1° 26' W. Enemy aircraft bombing. (HASTINGS 2200/30).
Some bombs, no damage, re HASTINGS. (VALOROUS 2210/30).

My 2200. 1 A.P. 3 bombs. No hits. (HASTINGS 2215/30).

Request fighter assistance Convoy ~~LUNCH~~ "Lunch" in 55° 35' N. 1° 27' W. (HASTINGS 2217/30)

Convoy
E.C.13.
ERNE.
(Sloop)
damaged.

ERNE bombed. Engines out of action. Approx. position 57° 52' N. 01° 55' W. Proceed to her assistance. Tugs are being sent. (C. in C. Rosyth 2212/30 to AMBUSCADE).
Cancel my 2212. SLEIPNER has ERNE in tow. (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/30).
Well done - tug is coming to relieve you escort tow to Harbour. (C. in C. Rosyth 2254/30 to SLEIPNER).

ST. ROGNVALD
(British,
932 Tons)
Attacked.

Convoy E.C. 13 attacked at 2150/30 in 57° 52' N. 01° 55' W. ERNE bombed, engine put out of action. Tug sent from Peterhead to her assistance.
Steamship ST. ROGNVALD on passage Aberdeen to Lerwick bombed at 2150/30 in position 15 miles N.N.W. of Kinnairds Head believed no damage. (C. in C. Rosyth 2323/30).
Bombs dropped in four attacks by two enemy aircraft. No further damage reported. Ships of convoy put up an excellent show. (JASON 2330/30).

War Diary30.4.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSMiningPlymouth

One unexploded magnetic mine lying in field near Plymouth. Reports of five more already received. Please arrange disposal. (C. in C Plymouth 1054/30 to D.T.M.)
2 mines exploded spontaneously and one Mine by Sweeper today. Details. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1519/30).

Minelaying
by A/C.

AP/952 30/4. Request mines be laid in area ~~Canterbury~~ and ~~Wilmington~~ by four aircraft nightly. Each area to be mined on alternate nights. (H.Q.C.C. 1135/30)

Operation
B.S. 55.

Arrival KITTIWAKE at 1225 (F.O.Humber 1259/30).
Operation B.S. 55 is postponed a further 24 hours on account of weather. All times in my 1032/29 to be 48 hours later accordingly. (S.O. M/L Immingham 1635/30)

Thames
Estuary.

2 mines detonated by L.L.Trawlers as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1453/30).
My 2244/2/2. A/A ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m. tomorrow until further notice. Orders for engaging aircraft are as in your A. 257 of 6/2. (C. in C., Nore, 2204/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

Spurn Point.

The following four mines exploded today. Details. (F.O.Humber 1811/30).

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed 2110/30 re-opened 0730/1/5. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2006/30)

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C on 30/4.

Kiel - Two HIPPER Class cruisers one of them in south floating dock. One Pocket Battleship in No. 6 dry dock. (PRU Benson 1545/30, D.D.I.C. 1615/30).

Brest.

No R/C of Brest up to 2000/30 owing to weather. (D.D.I.C. 2059/30).

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

VESPER.

VESPER while following VANESSA reports having struck (? submerged object) near Halsborough Sands. A/S Dome damaged. (VANESSA 0528/30).

Lifeboat.

Lifeboat with 3 men in 62° 52' N. 24° 5' W. (A/C 269 Sqdn. 0822/30 to 98 Sqdn).

RIPLEY.

Will be taken in hand for boiler cleaning and making good defects to complete P.M 6/5. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1032/30).

KINGSTON
TOPAZ.

Ex. E.C. 13, has put into Aberdeen with Engine Trouble. (C. in C. Rosyth 1752/30).

PAULINA
sunk.
EDINA
damaged.

N.O.I.C. Kirkwall reports Faeroes PAULINA Scrabster to Aberdeen, sunk in collision with British EDINA, Aberdeen to Kirkwall 0445/30. Approx. position 180° Noss Head 20 miles. No casualties. Only minor damage to EDINA who landed following survivors at Kirkwall. (A.C.O.S. 1957/30).

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S. 8A.

Cancel my 1051/25. Convoy is late MAURITIUS now to R.V. in 038° 25' N. 025° 20' W. at 1600 B.S.T/2. Course and speed of convoy 154° 14 knots. routed through position (e) (C. in C. W.A. 1022/30 to F.O.C.N.A).
My 1022/30. Amended R/V 038° 50' N. 025° 30' W. at 1600 B.S.T.2/5. (A.C.W.A. 1727/30 to MAURITIUS).

Course in
U/B night
attack.

Commodores of ocean convoys are to be instructed that they should not normally order an emergency alteration of course when attacked by U-boat at night if an A/S escort is in company. (D.T.D. 1348/30 to N.C.S.O's).

Daylight
Sailings,
Fighter
Escort.

Proposed to conform to system of daylight sailings now in operation in Plymouth Command for groups between Needles and Dartmouth, subject to an assurance of fighter escort being available. First group to sail in daylight is due to leave Needles 0800/2. Request I may be informed if on this and subsequent occasions I can count on fighter escort. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1723/30 to H.Q.F.C).

Recognition
Procedure.

For N.C.S.O's. The highly secret nature of the recognition procedure outlined in A.M. 640A of 25/12/40 and N.C.S.I. 181 is to be impressed on Masters of all merchant ships. (D.T.D. 2114/30).

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raider Situation.North
Atlantic.

My 1405/23.
British EASTLEA was possibly attacked by a raider in approx. position 23° N. 40° W. on about 30/3. This raider may have been the unit on which bearings were obtained on 23/4 about 200 miles E of Bermuda.

South
Atlantic.

British CRAFTSMAN overdue at Capetown may have been the burning steamship sighted on 12/4 about 01° 51' S. 22° 43' W. Swedish TROLLE HOLME also overdue at Capetown may have been attacked by same raider in first week of April in approx. 5° S. 10° W. Greek NICOLAOS D.L. who made an S.O.S. in 20° S. 22° 21' W. on 12/4 is now overdue at Capetown. D/F has indicated presence of at least two enemy units in South Atlantic. One probable raider was within 200 miles of 16° S. 19° W. on 28/4. Several signals intercepted on 28/4 may have been intercommunication between a raider and supply ship between St. Helena and Capetown. One may have been about 250 miles N.N.W. of Capetown on night of 23/4 when a searchlight was seen by DROMORE CASTLE. On 24/4 the Greek SALAMINIA passed wreckage in position 130 miles N.N.W. of Capetown.

Indian
Ocean.

Warship raider distress signals from an unknown ship, probably the CLAN BUCHANAN estimated to be 800 miles N.E. of Seychelles, were intercepted early on 28/4. D/F indications on 28/4 of an enemy unit S.E. of Capetown possibly in vicinity of Prince Edward Island.

Pacific
Ocean.

A mine thought to have been freshly laid was washed ashore on 7/4 near Norah Head N.S.W. (near Newcastle).
(D.D.I.C. 1922/30).

was NICOLAOS D.L. →

This was a mistake by
the ops operator in '02'S

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATION.North Atlantic.ALOUETTE.

Returning to Harbour with Stoessler on board.

(ALOUETTE, 0315/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Arrival ALOUETTE.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 1200/30 to Admty F.O.C.N.P.)

Swiss cargoes
for Genoa.

My 1928/29. Suspend sailing of all ships for Genoa with approved Swiss cargoes pending further instructions. M.E.W. has informed Lisbon.

(D.E.W.D. 1324/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Suspension cancelled.

See 1311/2/5.

VIDETTE

Your 1204/22. VIDETTE can be taken in hand for refit by Harland and Wolff, Belfast, on 12/5.

(D.O.D. (H) 1448/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GARDENIA
COLUMBINE.

Departure GARDENIA and COLUMBINE (route) direct to Freetown or as ordered by C. in C. S.A. E.T.A. Freetown 1500 zone + 1/7/5.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 1534/30 to Admty C. in C. S.A.)

Strategical
Situation, German
Intentions.

Report by special observer. Refers to Europe, North Africa, Middle East.

(N.A. Madrid 1618/30) See Lion Copy.

Operation
"B"

Your 1220/28. Proposed new position for Operation B. approved.

(D.O.D. (F) 1927/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
Convoy.

Gibraltar 30 /4 1230 French Destroyer L'ALCYON full steam IMERETHIE II laden westbound. 1845 French Destroyer TEMPETE, armed Trawler TADOURNE, AVEYRON, PALLAS, FRONSAC P.L.M. 24, all laden eastbound.

(S.O.(I) Gib., 2257/30 to Admty etc. amended 1715/1).

MOST SECRET

932A

MOST SECRET.

1618/30 April

TN

From N.A. Madrid.

Date. 1/5/41
Recd 1600.

Interdepartmental Cypher V. 12. By Cable.

Recirculation by N.I.D.III.

Addressed. D.N.I.

From a usually reliable source.

My 1929 April 26th.

Special observer's trip lasted seven weeks,

Following salient points of his report. Remainder by bag.

(a) De Brinon favours signature of tripartite pact. Germany exerting great pressure promises to respect French Empire. Does not insist on France declaring war Great Britain.

(b) Hitler's policy is to give France Belgian provinces of Namur and Luxembourg and give Belgium French provinces of Pas de Calais and Nord

(c) Russia being offered outlet to Persian gulf through Iran.

(d) Turkey has been offered Dodecanese.

(e) Over three million German troops covering Russian Frontier.

(f) 2 armoured divisions sent to Finland at Finnish request because of fear of Russian Aggression.

(g) German (? reserving) 42 armoured divisions. This must be accepted with reserve owing to liability to confusion of armoured with mechanised.

(h) There are three German divisions in North Africa; Two armoured one mechanised. About 60,000 men.

(i) Germans concerned because of serious trouble in Cyrenaica with lubrication of armoured fighting vehicle and ravage by sand.

(j) Efforts being made to obtain lubricants and petrols from Tunisia and Algeria.

(k) Main German force crossed under cover of sallies of Italian fleet which was used as decoy.

(l) Italian troops seen by observed in Bordeaux. Will probably be employed if Spain invaded

(m) In invasion of England, special aircraft carrying light tanks, others towing gliders and others with parachute troops will be employed.

(n) High Military Official declared that invading troops would secure vital foodstuffs in England in 12 hours.

(o) If Gibraltar attacked special gas may be used. It is not deadly but will make life in enclosed spaces unbearable.

(p) Three fast motor roads being constructed from Paris to Switzerland. Germany via Sedan and Belgium. A fourth projected to Spain. Most of this information obtained Malaeckbau, Hitler's banking advisor.

1618/30.

Comment by N.I.D.

Advance copy sent D.N.I.

Comment on some of the items is as follows. Where no comment is made, the likelihood of the information cannot be assessed,

- (e) Two million is a more probable figure.
- (f) No confirmation.
- (h) Correct in substance.
- (i) Possible but not confirmed.
- (j) Confirmed.
- (k) Incorrect.
- (m) Believed correct should invasion be attempted.

1st. Lord.

1st. S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F).

A.C.N.S. (T). (2).

D.N.I. (4).

C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.

D.O.D. (F).

D.O.C.D. (F).

D. of P. (2).

E.P.S.

D.D.T.S.

D.S.D. 2.

T.P.

W.T.

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MONARCH OF
BERMUDA
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN
DUNEDIN
DORSETSHIRE
S.L. 74.

A.T.1355/19 Early arrival in U.K. of MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN is important. Request you will sail them for Gibraltar escorted by DUNEDIN as soon as practicable, DUNEDIN then to return to Freetown or as required by you. Request you will sail DORSETSHIRE to overtake and escort S.L. 74 to U.K.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0104/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

SHROPSHIRE

My 1153/26. Date of readiness for sea of SHROPSHIRE will be 18/5 provided trials are satisfactory.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1136B/30 to Admty).

D.E.M. Ships
at Buenos
Aires.

For D.E.M.S. Officer, Buenos Aires. Your 1805/28. Orders issued accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1750/30 to Consul, Buenos Aires).

Exchange of
Vichy Captives
BANFORA
POITIERS.

My 2157/24. Governor, Sierra Leone has received following cable from American Consul Dakar. (Begins). Would British authorities be willing to exchange all French citizens held British West Africa for 150 British subjects detained French West Africa. I urge strongly that this matter be given prompt and favourable consideration in view approach of wet season. It would assist me in protecting British interests were you to inform me of welfare of passengers and crew of BANFORA and when they are likely to be released. (Ends).

On 8/2 S. of S. for Colonies informed Chairman West African Governors' Conference that question of exchange of French and British internees was being pursued through Madrid. In the circumstances propose to let Dakar authorities know of welfare of crew and passengers of BANFORA. Propose that crew of POITIERS who have been interned since 26/11/40 at Freetown under conditions of some discomfort, which will be accentuated in the wet season starting shortly shall be repatriated as soon as possible or removed to some other area.

(C. in C. S.A. 1931/30 to Admty).

BULOLO.....

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(contd).

BULOLO
S.L. 74

Your 2059/28/3 and my 1901/3/4 BULOLO will be available for refit on completion of duty as escort to S.L.74 about 30/5. Request information if ship can be taken in hand and if so at what port.
(C. in C. S.A. 1947/30 to Admty).

DRAGON
S.L. 73

Your 1912/26. DRAGON proceeds 30 /4 to overtake and join Convoy S.L.73 at 0800/3 remain in vicinity of convoy until 1800/4 then return Freetown to arrive P.M./7. CATHAY now patrolling H 34D.
(C. in C. S.A. 1949/30 to Admty).
Departure 1800/30 DRAGON in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1949/30.
(S. O. (I) Freetown, 2251N/30).

WISHART.

My 1559/19 and your 1606/28.
WISHART's A/S training gear cannot be repaired until ship dry docks and asdic can only operate ahead. Request that she may be relieved by another destroyer as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. S.A. 2007N/30 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Demon"
Kalamata
Evacuation.

Your 2056/29.. Destroyers should be at Kalamata now, attempting to bring off troops.
(C. in C. Med., 0056/30 to Admty).

U.S.10.

Your 1121/25, no objection subject to C. in C. E.I. approval but is it feasible to disembark personnel at Bombay from ships of U.S.10 scheduled to return to Australia.
(D.S.T. 0249/30 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Malta Air
Raid Menace.

Another very heavy raid in progress for six hours by over 60 bombers. Harbour is becoming untenable by ships at night without the gravest risk and it will be necessary to send (?GLOUCESTER) and 5th D.F. to sea nightly in spite of shortage of fuel whether a convoy has been located or not. Consider it quite impossible to have convoys here at the same time as warships.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 0302/30 to C. in C. Med)
Damage See 1122/30 *RAF report. page 937.*

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS:

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Air
Raid menace.
(contd).

Your 0302/30. The risk must be taken. Ships must be dispersed.

(C. in C. Med., 0950/30).

S.S. KYRIAKI
sunk.

Greek S.S. KYRIAKI chartered to Ministry of Shipping sunk by bombs Suda Bay 24/4.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1037/30).

Minesweeper
damaged
Tobruk
Benghazi bombed.

Operational Summary No. 324 up to 1200/30/4. Day 28/4. 18 Ju. 87's escorted by fighters dive bombed Tobruk harbour damaging a minesweeper. A.A. fire destroyed 2 and damaged further 2. Night 28/29 9 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and Ju 52's concentrated on Benina aerodrome causing explosions Benghazi. Results unobserved Benina.

Blenheim
Reccos,
Crete.

CRETE. 28/4 1 fighter Blenheim unsuccessfully reconnoitred coast of Morea from Kalamata to Gythion and Kithera Island to locate R.A.F. personnel and destroyer which had been heavily bombed. 2 Me. 110's attacking ship 45 miles West of Melos made off on approach of Blenheim but later returned. 1 Me. 110 apparently damaged by A.A. fire. Second fighter Blenheim escorting H.M. ships from Melos to Suda Bay was damaged by our Naval A.A. fire and forced landed in sea near Retimo (Crete) crew safe. Enemy made 3 high reconnaissances of Suda Bay during day.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1048/30).

CACHALOT.

F.O. (S)'s 2253/Z/22. Orders for a certain operation.
(C. in C. Med 1106/30 to Capt. S.1).
See Mediterranean Volume.

ENCOUNTER
FERMOY
ABINGDON
damaged in
air raid.

My 0302. ENCOUNTER and FERMOY both badly damaged by bombs in No. 2 and No. 5 docks

respectively.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.ENCOUNTER
FERMOY
ABINGDON
damaged in
air raid. (contd).

respectively. Severe damage to factory, yard craft and stores in dockyard and to Bighi hospital. ABINGDON received some damage by exploding an acoustic mine in deep water and must be taken in hand for repairs. Therefore not possible to search main channel for the present but consider the risk of contact mines being laid is small. (V.A. Malta, 1122/30 to C. in C. Med). See also 1700/30. p. 937

Enemy
Units.

Aircraft reports 0912/B/30 Several small craft and 2 M.A.S. in vicinity of Lampedusa. (Cdr. S.1. 1127/30 to UNDAUNTED).

USK
UNBEATEN
UPHOLDER.

USK and UNBEATEN leave patrol p.m./30, and UPHOLDER p.m./1 to arrive Marsamxett 0600/B/3 (route) (S.O. (S) Malta, 1133/30 to UPHOLDER, UNBEATEN, USK).

VENDETTA
attacks on
U/B 18/3.

At 1705B on 18/3/1941 in 37° 27' N 24° 05' E., VENDETTA carried out series of attacks on Asdic Contact bringing air bubbles and oil to surface Sunderland L.2166 also dropped depth charge and bomb. Echo clear and consistent target appeared to move during attacks and H.E. heard. Assessment C. (C. in C. Med., 1200/30 to Admtg).

Chios
Mitylene.

4 Australian officers and 125 other ranks arrived at Chios. Naval Attaché can probably arrange despatch Crete unless you wish party remain undertake defence of Chios. Greek M.A. attempting to reinforce Mitylene by 40 officers and 1200 other ranks ex party interned Turkey. (M.A. Ankara, 1305/30 to C. in C. M.E.)

ABDIEL
minelaying.

Intend to use ABDIEL to lay a mine barrier between Kerkenah Bank and Lampedusa with the object of forcing Tripoli (Africa) convoys to pass east of Lampedusa and thus within each range of Malta. (C. in C. Med., 1356/30 to Admtg).

Enemy Troop

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (cohtd).

Enemy Troop Convoy.

German Troop Convoy from Naples bound for Tripoli or Benghazi reported may have sailed 30/4.
(Capt. S.L. 1517/30 to S/Ms on patrol.)

German Objectives.

Chiefs of Staff No. 85 to C. in C.'s M.E. and Med. (1st S.L. 1534/30) See Lion Copy.

Turkish Situation.

S.O.(I) Istanbul 1547/30. See Lion Copy.

Operation "Dunlop".

Your 1159/29. Amount of petrol remaining Dunlop Fulmars on arrival was 35 gallons in 2 aircraft and 40 gallons in remaining aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1611/30 to Admty).

BELLONA SAVONA. (German).

Arrived Cartagena 29/4.
(Consul, Cartagena 1645/30).

Malta's heaviest Night Raid.

Report Malta up to 1600/30/4. Times G.M.T. Evening 29/4 8 Ju 88's escorted by 10 Me. 109's high level bombed dockyard A.A. engaged splitting up the bombers scoring hit 1 Ju. 88 later attacked by Hurricanes crashed on land 4 crew baled out prisoners. 1 Me. 109 probably destroyed by Hurricanes. 1 Hurricane damaged landing. Heaviest yet night raid in 2 waves by about 70 Ju.88's and He. 111's commencing 1850 hours lasting until 0115 hours main target dockyard and Takali aerodrome with some bombs at Luqa. 1 Ju 88 confirmed destroyed by Bofors. Day 30/4. 2 high level bombing raids on dockyard by 9 Ju.88's 6 Me. 109's and 10 Macchi 200's. Communications various places affected during night attack hampered control of 14 airborne Hurricanes and no engagements took place. Damage and casualties all raids.

ENCOUNTER ABINGDON FERMOY damaged.

GLOUCESTER near missed also destroyed. ENCOUNTER in dock seriously damaged. FERMOY received direct hit in dock caused ship to settle by bows. ABINGDON damaged by suspected acoustic mines while sweeping. No other warships damaged. Parachute mines laid in harbours and approaches. Dockyard suffered severe damage. Bighi Hospital Agabs hit. St. Angelo hit. Army and R.A.F. damage. (H.Q. Malta 1700/30). See Lion Copy. 937c

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1534/30th April. MOST SECRET OUT.

To: C. in C. Mediterranean 507. Date 30.4.41.

NAVAL CYPHER ONE TIME.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 85 to Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East and Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

C. in C. Middle East's No.0/60304 of the 28th April.

We agree that Crete may well be a blind and that Iraq (via. Syria) and/or Cyprus may be German objectives.

Your para. 1. It appears from Navard's telegram No. 110 of 29th April that there is a good chance that Dentz would resist a German landing, but no definite offer of help should be made in advance of the event for the reasons you give. If Dentz resists, all available help should be given him at once. If Dentz does not resist, you are free to take any military action in Syria that you think practicable.

Your para. 2. De Gaulle is being kept informed. Question of whether Free French should be used in Syria is left to you to decide on military grounds.

Your para. 3. Such forces as you can make available for operations in Syria should be held in readiness in Palestine. Report what you propose.

Your para. 4. Immediate air action should be taken against any German landing.

1534/30.

Secretary to 1st S.L.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Captain
E.P.S.
Head of M.
I.P.
W.D.
N.I.D. 10 (Pay Cdr. Wilson)

937B

SECRET

MESSAGE.

1547/30th April. IN

Date. 1/5/41.

From:- S.O. (1) Istanbul

Recd.0750

Inter-Departmental Cypher (V) 12 by Cable.

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed:- S. O. (1) Mediterranean. Repeated D. N. I.

Part one from usual source

- (a) Von Papen return postponed to the end of week.
- (b) Axis Embassy circles here consider following initial demands probable on his return: cancellation of Anglo Turkish (?permanent) Alliance: some Ministerial changes, (?KT) Fuad now Minister of Communication reputed pro-German replacing Sarajoglu: Tehran total output Turkish chrome and copper.
- (c) Opinion at the same time expressed invasion of England might now be imminent as no publicity being given for some time by Axis.
- (d) Figure of 80,000 German casualties on Greek front confirmed.

Part Two.

- (a) Germans have applied for permission start regular service Black Sea - Istanbul - Piraeus by D.L.L. Ships. Black Sea weekly service to Istanbul has just doubled.
- (b) Public opinion Istanbul much depressed by unmolested occupation of Greek Islands by Germans.

N.I.D. Comment.

1547/30.

Part 1. It is not much good speculating what the Germans will ask of the Turks or what the Turks will do about it. The Turks are depressed about the German occupation of the Aegean Islands, in particular the Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

The Turkish Foreign Office however maintain that Turkey will not give way to German demands.

The most valuable item in the signal is Part 11 (a)

If Germany can use the straits freely to transport, in particular, oil from Roumania and Russia to Greece and perhaps Trieste she may not need to "take on" Turkey.

First Lord.
 First Sea Lord.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(T).(2)
 Parl. Sec.
 C.S.O. to 1st.S.L.
 Naval Secretary.

D. N.I.(4)
 C.I.C.
 D.S.D.9.
 Ops.(4)
 O.D.(5)
 D. of P.(2)
 D.T.D.(4)
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.S.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 M.(3)
 W.D.
 I.P.(3)
 D.E.W.D.(3).

Mediterranean.

937DC

~~SECRET.~~

MESSAGE

1700/³20th April IN

Date 1/5/41

From N.O. Malta.

Recd. 0325.

CYPHER.

RECIRCULATION

Addressed Air Ministry, repeated H.O. R.A.F. Middle East,
C. in C. Mediterranean.

IMMEDIATE.

I.276 30/4. X.1596.

~~Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 30/4.
Times G.M.T. Part 1.~~

Raids. Evening 29/4 8 Ju.88's escorted by 10 Me.109's high level bombed dockyard A.A. engaged splitting up the bombers scoring hit 1 Ju.88 later attacked by Hurricanes crashed on land 4 crew baled out prisoners. 1 Me.109 probably destroyed by Hurricanes. 1 Hurricane damaged landing. Heaviest yet night raid in 2 waves by about 70 Ju.88's and He.111's commencing 1850 hours lasting until 0115 hours main target dockyard and Takali aerodrome with some bombs at Luqa. A A 53 barrages and 13 illuminations by searchlights over Grand Harbour. 1 Ju.88 confirmed destroyed by Bofors.

Day 30/4. 2 high level bombing raids on dockyard by total 9 Ju.88's, 6 Me.109's and 10 Macchi 200's. 1 Ju.88 on recco 15,000 feet all raiders heavily engaged by A.A. Communications various places affected during night attack hampered control of 14 airborne Hurricanes and no engagements took place. Damage and casualties all raids.

Navy H.M.S. GLOUCESTER near missed also destroyers. H.M.S. ENCOUNTER in dock seriously damaged. H.M.S. FERMOY received direct hit in dock caused ship to settle by bows. H.M.S. ABINGDON damaged by suspected acoustic mines while sweeping. No other warships damaged. Parachute mines laid in harbours and approaches. Dockyard suffered severe damage.

Bighi Hospital Agabs hit. ST. ANGELO hit by bombs causing 2 Marines wounded and 1 Master at Arms missing. 2 dockyard personnel wounded.

Army. Chesires Guard room hit some rifles and kit written off. St. Elmo damage 1 Officer, 3 men killed R.A.F. bombs 1 corner Luqa. 13 U.X.B's. Takali and 2 mines. Damage to hangar. Buildings and messes. 3 Hurricanes damaged U/S. 7 days. 2 airmen killed in Valletta. Civilian. Much damage Valletta and Zeebug many houses and shops demolished by mines and bombs. Electric, water and telephone communications affected. 5 killed 15 seriously injured.

937 D.

Part 2.

Reccos. 3 Marylands patrolled Eastern Tunisian coast. 0712 hours 2 M.T.B.S. 1 small M.V. 4 miles south of Lampedusa course 260° 0616 hours MV.5,000 tons 4 miles west (sic) Korkenah Islands stern under water. 0722 hours MV 1,000 tons 35° 39' north 12° 10' course 320° 5 knots.

1700/30.

Advance Copy Ops.

Received from Air Ministry by hand 0820/1 May.

1st Lord.
 1st S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 Quartermaster.
 Vice Controller.
 4th S.L.
 5th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 Parl. Sec.
 Civil Lord.
 Nav. Sec.
 C.S.C. to 1st S.L.
 M. (2)
 Movts.
 I.P. (3)
 Ops. (4)
 O.D. (5)
 O.D.8.
 O.I.C.
 D.S.D.9.
 D.
 D.N.O.
 N.L.
 D.N.I. (4)
 D. of P. (3)
 E.P.S.
 D.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D. (2)
 M.D.G.
 N.
 C.W. (2)
 C.E.I.

C.S.F.
 D.N.C.
 D.T.D.
 Hydrog.
 Press Division.
 Salvage Dept.
 C.C.R.T.
 W.D.
 D.A./S.W.
 T/P for Dep. Contr. (2)
 D. (4)
 D.N.O. (4)
 D.N.C. (2)
 M.F.
 P.
 D.A./S.W. (2)
 C.E. in C.
 S.F.
 Under Sec.
 D.N.A.
 D.E.A.
 Sub War Reg.

Bath by courier

JFW.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (contd).MOHAWK.
C.B.'s

My 0152/27. Not practical to introduce emergency recyphering procedure or to write off all books carried on board as compromised. Position is therefore extremely serious. Situation can only be retrieved by a determined attempt to break up MOHAWK which should be undertaken at earliest possible moment. Request you will ensure that in future ships likely to operate in dangerous waters accessible to the enemy carry only the authorised reduced establishment of books.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1707 /30 to C. in C. Med).

GLOUCESTER
5 destroyers.

Leave Malta by swept channel 2030 today proceeding S.W. at moderate speed returning by swept channel arriving Malta at dawn.
(Cdr. S.I. 1844/30 to TRUANT).

Kirkuk
Oil Plant.

Your 63643 (M.O.5). of 27/4. In view of importance to Navy of the Kirkuk plant as a potential substitute for the Haifa Refinery if latter is damaged C. in C.'s agree that authority for ordering destruction of Kirkuk plant should remain with Middle East who will inform G.O.C. Iraq when destruction is required. G.O.C. Iraq is then empowered to give the executive orders.
(C. in C. M.E., 1855/30 to W.O.)

PANDORA

Ref. 1928/29 from Admty and 1301/25 not to Capt. (S) 1. Consider one submarine would be profitably employed off Genoa. Capt (S) 8 suggests PANDORA should be diverted to this area.
(S.O. Force H., 1929 /30 to C. in C. Med).

German
signals.

Admty 1703 /11/3. Reliable information indicates that German pyrotechnic recognition signals used in your area during May are as follows:-. These signals should not be simulated unless essential to secure safety.
(D.S.D. 2016/30 to C. in C. Med. etc).

S/MS
positions.

My 2039 Part 2. UNBEATEN Marettimo p.m./30 037° 18' 011° 17' (?) 035° 45' or 59° 014° 20' Malta 0700/3 UPHOLDER Kerkenah p.m./1 035° 15' 012° 07' 035° 32' 014° 11' Malta 0700/3 TAKU and UNION as indicated in Summary 16. URGE crosses 009° E night 1st 2nd thence

proceeding...

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/MS
positions.
(contd),

proceeding Malta.
Sanctuary (b).

<u>S/M</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>	<u>Duration.</u>
H.M.S.	East of line	From a.m./l.
TAKU.	340° 160° through Alicedi Island south of 041° 00'.	

(Capt. S.1 2037/30).

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy
BP IA.

KANIMBLA left Bombay escorting B.P. one A.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 0316Z/30, 0351Z/30).

Situation
in
Shatt-el-
Arab.

General, Basrah 0130/30. See Lion Copy.

Force T.
to proceed
off Shatt-
el-Arab.

Force T. proceed at 20 knots to vicinity
of 184° Rooka Float 30 miles. N.O. i/c
Bahrein in Oiler PEARLEAF to same position.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0351Z/30 to S.O.
Force T).

On completion of fuelling Force T is to
proceed Colombo in accordance with my 0527/27
Sail Oiler PEARLEAF for Port Victoria,
Seychelles. (C. in C. E.I. 0447Z/30 to
Force T).

S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0351/30 being passed
to Admiralty. My 0447/30 is in abeyance.
(C. in C. E.I. 0734Z/30 to Force T).

INDRAPOERA.
STRATHMORE.

My 0349/24. In view of Durban's 0905/28,
use of INDRAPOERA for 300 personnel to
Middle East not justified. Suggest they
be accommodated in STRATHMORE.
INDRAPOERA should be instructed to proceed
to Durban for further orders. (D.S.T.
0428/30 to P.S.T.O. India).

Force V.

Ships are to proceed at present speed to
Western side of their respective patrol
areas given below. On arrival ships are
to patrol in their areas at 12 knots,
EAGLE and HAWKINS adjusting speed as
necessary for operating aircraft.

LEANDER, 003° and 007° N., 065° and 070° E.
CORNWALL, Equator and 003° N. 056° and 061° E
EAGLE and HAWKINS, 001° and 005° S. 045° and
050° E. (C. in C. E.I. 0550Z/30 to Force V).

Kardiva
Channel.

My 2000/1/3. Until further notice request
ships may not be routed through Kardiva
Channel. (C. in C. E.I., 0820Z/30 to C.in C.
China, etc).

/Transport.....

MOST SECRET

940A.

M E S S A G E I N 0130/30/April.

From General Basrah.

Date 30.4.41.

Recd. 1630.

CYPHER.

Addressed C. in C. India, Repeated H.M. Ambassador Bagdad.
C. in C. Middle East, The War Office, Air
Officer Commanding British Forces Iraq, C. in C.
East Indies.

IMMEDIATE.

10043 C/42/G cipher 29/4.

1st of two parts.

(1) Convoy leaving for ships arrived Basrah without incident at 18 hours local.

(2) Situation Basrah outwardly quiet; greater part of Iraq troops withdrawn northward. In view however of situation in Bagdad related in Ambassador's telegrams Nos. 409 and 410 to Foreign Office we must be prepared for a concentration of troops from north in a serious attempt to drive us out as more of our troops arrive. One factor which seriously affects my position is that even now I must still leave the initiative with the Iraqis because for political reasons I can take no action inasmuch as provocation bias or offensive shapes until Iraq takes some definite hostile action. Consequently it may not be possible to ensure that future ships coming up the Shatt El Arab will not be opposed. In the worst case the Iraq may hold their hand until the arrival of expedition or a subsequent convoy and so stage an attack from the (3 groups undecipherable) simultaneously with local rioting and attacks on convoy by artillery and air. Therefore having regard to limited naval escort available it is undesirable that more than three repeat three ships should come up the river at a time. When second brigade group has arrived force in Basrah should be reasonably safe except as regards air attack against which it and base installations are almost defenceless.

2nd and last part.

(3) The foregoing only deals with (?entirely) local aspect and I do not doubt our ability to deal with any unassisted Iraq attack, but we have to reckon with German support, and it will not be at the broader aspect of problem, Basrah and Shaibah, with their absolute lack of (?anti-aircraft) defences, (?will be) (?quite) defenceless against German air attack based on aerodromes in Bagdad area (?if) Habbaniy goes. Therefore, although defence of Habbaniya essential only third in order of priority of my tasks, it does figure (four groups

Contd/.....

-2-

undecipherable) out my second task (the) security of Basrah. The security of Habbaniya depends mainly on ensuring that we have not (?got) a united Iraq nation against us.

(4) The (?hope) of unopposed use of communications northward appears to have gone unless friendly administration can be established in Bagdad. In my opinion (?shared by) Ambassador, this can only be, if at all, by a show of force at Habbaniya (?and) owing to difficulties of transporting ground troops, this must be air strength. Can Middle East (?help): we must do all we can to prevent German assistance becoming a reality and I strongly recommend that Rutba mole landing ground H 3 (repeat H 3) should be occupied by (?troops) preferably airborne from Palestine, if they can be spared, to prevent landings of German aircraft. I am flying from Habbaniya early tomorrow and will wire further after consulting with A.O.C. British Forces Iraq and from Merida.

0130/30.

Recd. from War Office. 0230/2.

Note by C.4 Tels.

Message delayed through being received badly mutilated.

Note by C.4 Tels.

A repetition of the corrupt passages has been requested.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1118Z/30/April.

From C. in C. East Indies.

Date 30.4.41.

Recd. 1630.

NAVAL CODE K.2. by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

117. See General Basra message C/42/?G 29th of which Troopers has copy.

1118Z/30.

1st Lord.

D.N.I. (4)

1st S.L.

D. of P. (2)

V.C.N.S.

Duty Capt.

A.C.N.S. (F)

E.P.S.

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

Hd. of M.

D.O.D. (F)

I.P.

D.D.O.D. (F)

W.D.

N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson

War Diary.30.4.1941.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (contd).Transport.
of prisoners
& refugees
from Abyssinia.

Am informed necessary to consider evacuation of refugees from Abyssinia presumably Italian 26200 female 11300 male 7100 children plus Police approx 1500 and unevacuated military 7200. Embarkation ports being considered Berbera and Jibuti to Mombasa Tanga and Dar-es-Salam flow estimated at 2400 weekly. Large numbers of prisoners of war will be (? coming) forward. I have been requested to enquire possibilities of obtaining shipping for these. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa 0838Z/30 to D. of S.T).

NAPIER
NIZAM.

Sailed for Suez, E.T.A. 1000Z/2.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0913Z/20, 0919Z/30 to Admty.
etc).

Iraqi
Attitude.

My 1359/26. Summary 3. Iraqi military forces adopted threatening attitude at Habbaniya. General accordingly proposed to Ambassador that in event of any hostile action we should take military control of Shatt-El-Arab area. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0951Z/30 to C. in C. E.I)

PARVATI
sunk.

H.M.I.S. PARVATI has been sunk by a mine position 013° 11' N. 042° 54' E. No details yet available. (C. in C. E.I. 1420Z/30 to Admty).

GLENROY
repairs.

C. in C. Med's 2303/25 passed to you, now approved by Admiralty for GLENROY to be sent to Bombay for repairs and docking. Concur subject to availability of docking. (C. in C. E.I. 1818Z/30 to R.I.N).

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China
Rubber
Exports.

Your 1429/29. Reply dated 26/4 from Decoux states negotiations regarding rubber exports to U.S. A. were still proceeding, which may confirm last paragraph of Tokyo 669, to F.O. only. After consulting Governor, Straits Settlements, I will send further message to Decoux as directed and will report further as regards possible denunciation of agreement. (C. in C. China 0531Z/30 to Admty). Your 0220/21 and my 1429/29. Following from Foreign Office. Rubber question and detention of M. Egal, de Gaulle representative Shanghai. (Hd. of M., 2501/30 to C. in C. China) See Lion Copy.

SEAMEW
need for
relief.

Acting on my instructions C.O. SEAMEW at Canton has made several enquiries from local Japanese S.N.O. for facilities for SEAMEW to be replaced by another gunboat while she goes to Hong Kong to dock. Last reply was that she could not be relieved until after the war. As ship is very much in need of refit and docking I should be grateful if you could do anything your end to obtain Japanese agreement. (C. in C. China 0909Z/30 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

America & West Indies.

"Q" Report
LYCAON.

Following has been read. QQQQ LYCAON 44,56 N. 30.11 W., followed by suspicious vessel (Valentia Radio 0641/30) Cancel my QQQQ message 0637 G.M.T. (Portishead Radio 0704/30, LYCAON, 0800/30, Valentia Radio, 0810/30).

"Q" Report
TRONGATE.

Following has been read. Intercept 0735 G.M.T. QQQQ de TRONGATE 46.18 N 30.15 W, challenged by suspicious vessel. (Valentia Radio 0730/30). Cancel my QQQQ 0730/30. (Valentia Radio 0742/30).

/Italian.....

China.

942A

MOST SECRET

2301/30th April.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

To: C.in C. China. 854.
Repeat'd. Governor Hong Kong.
Consul General, Shanghai.

Date. 30.4.41.

F. O. CYPHER.

From. Admiralty.

Your 0220/21 and my 1429/29. Following from Foreign Office.

Unfortunately case of M. Egal has coincided with representations regarding rubber. Latter issue is of first importance and question of retaining agreement with Indo-China must depend primarily on outcome of those representations. We are prepared, however, to use such reprisals as may be available (e.g. refusal of visas for Hong Kong, pressure on the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, removal of Comm. Henrys from Hong Kong). If Admiral Decoux does not release Egal or at least promise lenient treatment. Alternatively we might consider granting request in return for passage of two ships from Rangoon as suggested in your 0227/25.

2. In the first place you should address communication to Admiral Decoux on the following lines. H.M.G. attach importance to early release of M. Egal, who represents General de Gaulle at Shanghai. They ask this in view of the loyal manner in which they have carried out Article 6 of your agreement. They voluntarily limited their support of the de Gaulle movement within Indo-China in order not to embarrass the Governor General's administration and have shown the greatest restraint elsewhere, e.g. in Shanghai. For those, however, who are continuing the fight against Nazi tyranny, H.M.G. have declared their full support and intend to give it whenever required. They are averse from taking any action now which might embarrass the Governor General and trust that in the interests of relations between Indo-China and her British neighbours, the Admiral will grant the early release of M. Egal.

3. The Governor General may ask in return for some under taking in regard to the enrolment by the Free French of members of the French Armed Forces. We can consider this when Admiral Decoux replies. For your own guidance, however, not repeat not, to be communicated to Admiral Decoux at this stage we ourselves favour refraining from any further enrolment at Shanghai of French service personnel and propose to recommend General de Gaulle and his adherents to exercise the utmost discretion in this respect.

2301/30.
for Head of M. (86).

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)(2)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
Naval Secretary.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D.(F)
D.of P.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.E.W.D.
D.S.D.9.
D.D.I.C.
D.T.D.(2)

Head of M.(30) M.05876/41 and for M.E.W., C.O. and P.A. Clutterbuck
D.O. and China Distribution.

I.P.
W.D.
Admiral Chalmers
N.I.D.19 (Paymaster Cdr. Wilson).
Duty Captain.

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Italian Tankers.

5 more seized Italian tankers have been put into commission for coastal and Gulf trade and renamed -

TUSCANIA	renamed	MINATITLAN
GENOANO	"	FAJA DE ORO
VIGOR	"	AMATLAN.

(23.603)

S.C. 30.
H.X. 124
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Convoy S.C. 30 Ocean escort SALOPIAN instructed to leave convoy after meeting Iceland local escort unless otherwise ordered and to return to Halifax. THUNDERBOLT leaving half hour after sunset on 10/5 or in 035° 00' W. whichever is earlier and after carrying out sweep astern convoy to return to Halifax. Convoy H.X. 124, ocean escort CIRCASSIA, leaving convoy and proceeding to Reykjavik with Iceland local escort and carrying (Service) personnel. ROYAL SOVEREIGN sails 0900/1 to overtake and provide close cover for these convoys up to 035° W. unless ordered to leave earlier. (F.O.3. B.S. 0931/30 to Admty etc).

"Q" Report.
TRAFALGAR.

Following message read at 1120/30. QQQQ 44.43 N. 29.32 W. TRAFALGAR, suspicious vessel following. (Halifax, 1120/30). Following has been read. QQQQ 44 8 N. 29 32 W. TRAFALGAR Suspicious vessel following. (Naval General Call Sign AL 1220/30) W.D. Note:- Different latitude. TRAFALGAR QQQ 1120/30 44.43 N. 29.32 W. Not U.S. Ship. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1316/30 to Admty).

Information
for U.S.N.

Your 1131/26. Commander R.W. Cary U.S.N. was supplied with a sketch plan showing positions of guard loops and mined areas by S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1131/30 to C. in C. A.W.I). Your 1522/28. Concur. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1257/30 to C. in C. A.W.I). Your 1456/21/3. Approved. (A.C.N.S(F) 2209/30 to C. in C.AW.I).

/S.M.... ..

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

S.M. Area,
Bermuda.

After consultation with local U.S. Naval authorities S/M exercise area has been established South of Bermuda as follows. U.S. target ship when working with S/Ms. will fly large red flag. Request Admty. promulgate by notice to mariners. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1242/30 to A & W.I. Stn. Admty).

H.X. &
S.C.
Convoys.

Suggest all H.X. and S.C. ships now complete with 25 days bunkers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1254/30 to Admty).

Raider
Reports
W. of 26° W.

Merchant ships reports of raiders submarines etc. intercepted or passed to you by coast stations are to be passed at once to Admiralty repeated C. in C. A. & W.I. R.A.3 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa by L/T (in p.l. if intercepted in p.l) if position given is west of 26° W. or if for any other reason there is any doubt of their non-receipt by some other British station. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1344/30 to S.C.N.O. Halifax).

WOLFE.
A.M.C.'s
calling
Iceland.

WOLFE informs me he was ordered to Reykjavik after N.P. 71 on 20/4 although he needed no fuel and there were no passengers to embark for Halifax. Request in such circumstances A.M.C. may proceed Halifax direct from patrol. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1351/30 to F.O.C.N.P)

Enemy Use
of Tunisian
Waters.

Following from War Dept.
From Tunis 26/4.
In spite of vigorous protest of French Naval Authorities enemy Convoys continue to use Tunisian territorial waters and Italian Destroyers to R.V. off Jerba Island. (N.A. Washington 1505/30 to Admty).

/U.S. Cutters.....

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

U.S. Cutters,
FISHGUARD,
BANFF.
HARTLAND.
CULVER.

Your 1846/29. First four cutters were commissioned today. Am confident that New York Naval and Coastguard expectation was that names would be changed, and that astonishment would have been felt if old names had been retained. Ships were therefore commissioned H.M. Ship FISHGUARD, BANFF, HARTLAND, CULVER. It was explained that these names were chosen as being those of prominent British coastguard stations. Names appeared to be well received by Americans for this reason. Recommend similar procedure in naming remaining six cutters, one which may be ready commission on 2/5. (MALAYA 1506/30 to Admty).

LETITIA
repair
in U.S.A.

Admty. UKARM 96, timed 1246/23 and your signal of 25/4. U.S. Navy Dept. state that until they are provided with an itemized list of majority of repairs required decision as to whether LETITIA can be accepted for repair cannot be made. (B.A.R.M. 1541/30 to R.A. 3 B.S).

B.H.X. Convoys.

Desired to reinstitute BHX section of H.X. convoy as soon as possible. Request your early proposals for employment of battleships, submarines and A.M.C's to escort these convoys with forces at present available to you. Most desirable that each section of H.X. convoy should be escorted to R.V. by a warship other than submarine in order to ensure junction; possibly R.C.N. corvettes could assist with this. After junction:- (a) Battleship or submarine escort is desired as often as practicable with existing numbers. (b) When a submarine is escort an A.M.C. is also required. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1600/30 to R.A.3).

/A.M.C.....

War Diary.

30.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

A.M.C.
refits.

Completion date for MALOJA refitting at St. John New Brunswick now expected to be 20/5. Intend if possible for FORTH and THUNDERBOLT then to be given intermediate docking to be followed by refit of LACONIA, ALAUNIA is next A.M.C. due for docking and refit and can be spared concurrent with LACONIA assuming AUSONIA is not delayed. Request whether ALAUNIA can be taken in hand in U.S. or U.K. port. MONTCLARE is also due for docking and refit and could be spared on relief by CHESHIRE or WORCESTER-SHIRE, expected dates of completion of these two ships would be of great assistance in framing programme. (R.A.3 B.S. 1636/30 to Admty).

Admiral
Lais.

Your 1642/28. Admiral Lais should be removed, and detained pending further instructions. He should be informed that he is being held, pending a clarification of his Government's attitude with regard to H.M. Minister to Belgrade. H.M.G. have agreement with Italian Govt. whereby each Govt. undertook not to detain diplomats of other. (Hd. of M. 1655/30 to C. in C. AW.I).

Recognition
Signals.

Ref. 0025/25 from Admty. Following is summary of recognition signals in use in area 7 A at 1400 G.M.T/30. Cancel my 1658/29 to North Atlantic Escort Force only. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1802/30 to N.A. Escort Force).

S.L. Convoy
Information
for U.S.A.

Your 0142/27. Understand from Rear Admiral Cook, U.S. Aircraft Carrier RANGER, that information of SL convoys would be particularly useful for U.S. patrolling forces. Suggest that Admiralty and C. in C. S.A. repeat to me signals concerning main movements of these convoys to enable me to keep U.S. Forces based at Bermuda informed (2) Dispositions of U.S. patrolling Forces would be of assistance to me in arranging disposition of my cruisers in Atlantic. Request I may be kept supplied with this information. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1831/30 to Admty.).

War Diary.

30.4.41.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Search for life boat with 3 men reported by air in 062° 52' N., 024° 05' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1003/30, to NORTHERN WAVE.)

CITY OF NAGPUR.
(torpedoed 29/4.)

My 2316/29. Proceed to Greenock to land survivors thence to base. Report numbers. (C. in C. W.A., 1303/30, to HURRICANE.) E.T.A. Boom 1130/1 with 481 survivors. (Details of casualties.) HURRICANE, 1551/30 to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)

H.X.121.

?

Request you will forward full report on attack on HX 121 as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1412/30 to C. in C. W.A.) S S S S 46 13 N., 3 2 4 0 W., at 1822 G.M.T. MESSJ. (Signal letters not known) Submarine sighted. MESSJ (?) 1705/30. Following has been read SSSS 56. 15 N., 32 40 W., Messam, submarine sighted. (Port Patrick Radio, 1817/30, Valentia Radio, 1828/30.)

NERISSA.

torpedoed by }
U 552,
See BR. 1334, Page 31

British 5583 tons. Following has been read. S.S.S.S. 56. 08 N 10 27 W. NERISSA Torpedoed. (Liverpool, via Port Patrick 2230/30.) Proceed to assistance of NERISSA in 056° 08' N., 010° 07' W., at 2230/30. Whitley A/C is being sent to assist (C. in C. W.A. 2357/30 to LINCOLN, HURRICANE, VETERAN)

S/M's Reported.

2155/29.

By A/C, 57.47 N., 10.25 W., at 2155. Picked up ASV contact 4 miles starboard beam of convoy, this disappeared after 30 seconds, investigated but saw only oil streak. Went back to convoy and sent following message on Aldis "Submarine suspected to starboard beam 4 miles" received reply "Drop flame float over it". A/C complied and returned to convoy to be greeted by A/A fire from about 5 miles from centre of convoy, fired cartridge. 2240 Started patrol. (Pitreavie, 0530/30, to Admty.)

War Diary.30. 4. 1941.
Wednesday.U. BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported. Contd.

0740. By D/F at 0740/30, position of German U-Boat was to the westward of Bergen and probably not W., of 2° 00' E. (D.D.I.C. 0830/30.)
1216. Aircraft sighted S/M on surface in 046° 27' N., 006° 36' W., at 1216 course 070° speed 8 knots. S/M subsequently dived. (F.O.(S). 1312/30, to S/M's on Patrol.)
1524. One S/M submerged bearing 300° distance 15 miles position 59. 12 N., 7.21 W. (Duty X, 1524/30, to 18 R. Group H.Q.) My 1524 Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen in 59.19 N., 7.45W. (Duty X 1541/30, to R.A.F. Aldergrove.) Conning tower (? and) stem. (Duty X, 1655/30, to 18 R.Group H.Q.) Aircraft reports sighting conning tower and stem of S/M in 59° 12' N., 07° 21' W, at 1524/30. Course 300° speed 15 knots. (A.C.O.S., 1718/30, to A.I.G. 36.) Correct my 1718/30 last sentence. Bearing 300° distant 15 miles. (F.O.C.O.S, 1922/30 to Ships in O & S Area.)
- Sighting Reports. Sighting reports of U/Boats in addition to giving the geographical position are whenever possible to give the bearing and distance from the centre of a named convoy or Naval vessel. (15 Group, 1615/30, to 15 Group Units.)
2134. Italian U Boat was bearing 290° from Gibraltar second class at 2134/30. (F.O.C.N.A., 2253/30 to N.A. Stn.)
2209. D/F placed German U-Boat about 046° N., 077° to 008° W., at 2209. (F.O.(S) 2321/30 to S/M's on Patrol Area A.)
- Estimated U/B dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1401/30.)

War Diary.

30.4.41.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

29/4.

Following passed for information. Addressed C. in C. W.A. From GLADIOLUS. Your 2331/29 and my 1245/29. Aircraft Report was part of following message to him. "Keep look out for damaged U, Boat in vicinity" Later amended to read. "Have reason to believe U.Boat destroyed". Small Float broke surface would like to recover it if possible. With this evidence, large air bubbles and complete absence of further contact after thorough search. I left area at 1245. My position at 0100/30. 058° 14 N., 012° 00 W. Do you still wish ships to return to area? (C. in C. W.A., 0112/30 to Admty.)

By LINCOLN.

Firm contact attacked 3 times then lost in 051° 20' N., 021° 47' W. No visual sign of submarine. Fuel necessitates departing this fore noon. * SHERWOOD may have reported attack. QUEEN OF THE CHANNEL said submarine 002° further west yesterday. Weather. (LINCOLN, 0619/30, to C. in C. W.A.)

By LEOPARD.
(non-sub.)

Depth charged contact 090° Bell Rock, 4miles. Recognised non submarine. (LEOPARD 0640/50, to C.in C. Rosyth.)

By A/C.
1230.

My 1216 (not received in Admty.) Have attacked Enemy S/M with bombs Dive and estimate 0 hits, p.c. and s. of enemy S/M 46.29 N., 6.34 W. 070°, 8 knots. Enemy has dived. (A/C Duty L, 1230/30 to R.A.F., St. Eval.)

By BROADWAY
(non-sub.)

Have attacked suspected S/M Position 57.45N., 14.30 W., X 15. (BROADWAY 1641/30 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1641 results confirm shoal of fish. Am proceeding. (BROADWAY, 1737/30.)

By VENDETTA
30/3.

Cin C. Med., 1200/30. See ~~Admty.~~

/By A/C.....

War Diary.30. 4. 41.
Wednesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Attacked. Contd.By A/C.
1915.

One submarine on the surface bearing 300° 10 miles. Position 59.23 N., 8.00 W. (Part II Duty W, 1915/30 to 18 R.Group H.Q.) Enemy submarine previously reported has dived. Have attacked enemy sub bombs level. (Part II Duty W., 1945/30, to 18 R., ~~H.Q.~~ H.Q.)

(E) S/M 59.23 N., 8.00 W., (F) 1915 - 600 FT., (G) 250 2½ UEC Delay - A/S-3, (J) (1) Bombs straddled, estimate one within lethal distance. (2) One bomb on starboard bow, One bomb amidships IV swirl, One bomb on the port quarter. 3 miles - just surfacing Conning Tower and upper structure awash. (2) 300/3 knots. (3) Bombs released as S/M submerged. (4) 1930 - large oil patch observed - no air bubbles 15 minutes after attack. (5) 1915 - to - 2045. (6) Reported to A/C escorting S/S TARANGWR approx. 10 miles 290° (Pitreavie, 2330/30, to Admty.)

Position of Scuttled Shipping in Italian East Africa.

(From Daily Summary, 601, 28.4.1941, after Capture of Massawa).

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Details.</u>
<u>GERMAN SHIPS.</u>		
GERA	5,155	Previously at Assab, sunk by scuttling charges and lying abreast ARABIA at Main Quay Massawa Island.
GREFELD.	8,045	Previously reported unseaworthy owing to damage by our air raids. Sunk by scuttling charges at entrance to Main Harbour, Massawa stern awash, nearly on beam ends. Sank in 5 minutes, probably badly damaged.
FRAUENFELS	7,487	Sunk by scuttling charges in Southern anchorage, Arcico Bay, Massawa, with 6 others in line. Is on an even keel.
LICHTENFELS	7,566	Sunk by scuttling charges in South Arcico Bay.
LIEBENFELS	6,318	Same as FRAUENFELS.
OLIVA	7,885	Sunk by scuttling charges across entrance to Khar Dak Liyat.

This accounts for all German ships which were refuging in Italian East Africa.

ITALIAN SHIPS.

ARABIA	5,943	Previously thought to be at Assab, sunk by opening Kingstons. On even keel alongside Main Quay, Massawa Island, and burnt out.
GIOVE (tanker)	5,211	Sunk by external charges, Main Quay, Massawa Island.
CLELIA CAMPANELLA (tanker)	3,245	Sunk by external charges, listing over Main Quay, Massawa Island.
PIETRA LIGURE	284	Sunk by external charges, Main Quay, Massawa Island.
DAGHILA (small tanker)		Sunk by scuttling charges alongside PIETRA LIGURE.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Details.</u>
<u>ITALIAN SHIPS.</u> (Contd).		
ADUA	3,564	Sunk by scuttling charge abreast CLELIA CAMPANELLA, Main Quay, Massawa Island. On even keel.
ALBERTO TREVES	5,145	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. anchorage, Arcico Bay, Massawa.
VESUVIO	5,430	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. anchorage, Arcico Bay, Massawa.
BRENTA	5,400	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. anchorage, Arcico Bay, Massawa.
COLOMBO	11,760	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. anchorage, Arcico Bay, Massawa.
(These 4 all on even keels, except COLOMBO, on her beam ends).		
ANTONIA C. (tanker) * CAMPANELLE	5,877	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. Arcico Bay, Massawa.
RIVA LIGURE (tanker)	2,136	Sunk by scuttling charges, S. Arcico Bay, Massawa.
MONCALIERI	5,723	Sunk by British bombs across entrance, Khar Dak Liyat.
XXIII MARZO	5,006	Sunk across entrance by scuttling charges, Khar Dak Liyat.
IMPERO	488	Sunk across entrance, Khar Dak Liyat (not previously known to be present.)
GIUSEPPE MAZZINI	7,669)	Sunk, means not stated, Dahlak Island.
CAPITANO BOTTEGO	2,316)	
URANIA	7,099)	
PROMETEO (tanker)	4,958)	
NAZARIO SAURO	8,150)	Sunk, means not stated, Dahlak Island, previously believed to be at Assab.
TRIPOLITANIA	2,722)	
RAMB IV.	3,676	Hospital Ship. Afloat.
FAMAGUSTA		Dredger. Afloat. <u>The only Italian ships previously thought to be either at Assab or Massawa whose fate is still unknown are:-</u>
INDIA.	6,367)	These may be the 3 ships reported all on fire at Assab on 13/4/41.
PIAVE.	7,565)	
SANNIO	9,834)	