

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Watch for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.

A visual reconnaissance of Brest to-day showed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in their previously reported positions there; and, in order to deal with them should they leave harbour, C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. (to which he has today transferred his flag) with such cruisers as he thinks fit will relieve HOOD, NIGERIA, and FIJI in the Biscay area on the 4th April when the latter leave that area to re-fuel in the U.K. NIGERIA will join convoy H.G.57 on the 3rd April as Escort to the U.K.; and REPULSE and FURIOUS will leave Gibraltar on about the 4th April for home. The Biscay S/M Patrol is increasing; but TIGRIS is to leave it on the 5th, H.32 and H.50 are today returning to the U.K. with defects, and concern is felt by F.O.S. at the apparently serious lack of endurance of O.24 and consequent drastic shortening of vitally important patrols.

Owing to the threat of air attack at Plymouth KENYA is to remain in the Clyde for the present.

ECHO and ACTIVE are to come under the orders of F.O.i/c Iceland on arrival, for duties as required by C.S.1, attacking U boats reported near Reykjavik, and acting as extra striking force for convoys in darkness. They will be based on Hvalfjord or Reykjavik.

SUFFOLK is to take over the duties of NORFOLK in support of Denmark Straits Patrol.

S.S. BEAVERDALE was reported torpedoed at 2304 G.M.T. in 60° 50' N. 29° 19' W.

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Shipping and Convoys.

Only convoys of over 11 knots and independently sailed ships are to zig-zag. Evasive steering is no longer to be carried out, and evasive steering diagrams are to be withdrawn from merchant ships and destroyed.

British Air Activity.

Attacks by Bomber Command were made last night on Bremen (22 a/c), Emden (7 a/c) and Rotterdam (3 a/c).

Route patrols today were restricted by bad weather.

A Beaufort of Coastal Command attacked and hit with torpedo a merchant ship of about 2000 tons, a straggler from a convoy, off the Danish coast.

11 Hampdens were despatched today to attack the enemy battle cruisers in Brest, but did not reach the target on account of lack of cloud cover.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on
Convoy
H.X. B.M.14.

Convoy H.X. B.M.14 (7 ships) was attacked three times today in the south of St. George's Channel and off Milford Haven. The Tankers CHESAPEAKE, SAN CONRADO, HIDEFJORD, KAIA KNUDSEN and ADELLEN were damaged. HIDEFJORD and ADELLEN are reported to be burning fiercely (the latter at Milford Haven, former sank later), the SAN CONRADO holed in the engine-room burning fiercely, the CHESAPEAKE with an unexploded bomb possibly on board, and KAIA KNUDSEN was towed into Milford Haven.

On the East Coast QUORN with Convoy F.S.51. was twice attacked during today. QUORN sustained minor damage. S.S. SAMBRE (Belgian) was unsuccessfully attacked whilst at anchor off Humber L.V. twice today. S.S. ST. MAGNUS was attacked and slightly damaged at 0240 today off Tod Head and is believed to have hit her attacker.

Several fishing Trawlers were attacked this evening off Thorshaven in the Faroes; and the A/S Trawler SWORD DANCE was damaged by near misses off the Humber at 1610.

Seven Skuas of 801 Squadron were damaged by air attack on St. Eval R.A.F. Station p.m. today.

Considerable damage to buildings was done in a raid on Portsmouth Dockyard last night, and also at 1225 today by machine-gun bullets at Portland.

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1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated extensively last night off the East Coast and possibly in the Bristol Channel.

Operations consistent with sea mining were carried out in daylight today by enemy aircraft, in the swept Channels off Spurn Head and in the Thames Estuary and off the coast of East Anglia.

Mining of
Humber.

Five Mines were exploded by S.A. Gear this morning off the Humber and five spontaneous explosions were reported during this afternoon; the port was re-opened at 1214.

Hartlepool was opened at 0815.

Two Mines were exploded by S.A. at 0930 this morning in the Thames.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

F.O., Force H desires to give RENOWN and ARK ROYAL 48 hours, or preferably 4 days, in harbour on completion of Operation "Winch" to make good machinery defects.

Italian
M.V's

Consul, Teneriffe, reports that CAPO ALGA and BURANO left there at 2100 today.

1.4.1941.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

ASAKA

The South African Govt. do not wish to raise any question of contraband search of Japanese ASAKA should she visit a Union port but will withhold facilities and supplies. No action is therefore to be taken by naval authorities.

Enemy Shipping.

German NORDERNEY at Para has completed loading and is ready for sea. Italian PAMPANO at Pernambuco has been detained by Brazilian authorities pending payment for bunkers. German BABITONGA has been given permission to sail from Santos for Vladivostok; she has 1000 tons of diesel oil in drums.

Mediterranean.

Cruiser Sqdns.

C.in C. proposes in view of the small number of cruisers in Mediterranean Fleet to abolish the 3rd C.S. and embody all cruisers in 7th C.S. formed in 2 divisions with R.A. Glennie as R.A.2, 7th C.S.

Yugoslav Coast.

Certain dangerous areas off the Yugoslav Coast have been proclaimed. REGENT has been instructed that ships are not to be attacked in Yugoslav territorial waters.

830 Air Sqn.

C.in C. Med. does not concur with Air Ministry that mining is the primary function of 830 Sqn. (12 Swordfish, Malta). Their primary function is torpedo attack on enemy shipping, which, given adequate reconnaissance, is "positive and deadly as compared with the lucky dip character of mining operations".

War Diary.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Ships at
Massawa.

Attempt is being made by the military authorities, to get in touch with the Italian C.in C. (Duke of Aosta), to inform him that if ships in Massawa harbour, of which there are reported to be 25, are scuttled we shall consider ourselves relieved of the responsibility of feeding or evacuating the Italian population of Eritrea and Abyssinia.

Massawa.

R.A.F. reconnaissance of Massawa was to cease from p.m. today owing to the departure of No.14 Sqdn., but on representations by C.in C. E.I., as to the need for its continuance at this critical period and while Operation "Atmosphere" is in progress, Air Ministry are asking A.O.C. Middle East to meet the requirement from some other squadron.

Italian
destroyer
sunk by
F.A.A.

F.A.A. aircraft from EAGLE sank the LEONE, one of the 3 Italian destroyers which left Massawa this morning. The vessel, was reported sunk this afternoon in 16.09 N., 39.55 E.

Force T.

Force T (HERMES and ENTERPRISE) is to carry out a patrol from Seychelles from 3/4 to 10/4.

America and West Indies.Scuttling
of Enemy
Ships.

Over a dozen enemy merchant vessels were scuttled today in American ports on the America and West Indies Station, 4 German at Callao, Peru; 1 German at Paita, Peru; 1 German and 3 Italian at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela; 1 German at Guayaquil, Ecuador; 1 Italian at Tampico, Mexico; and 1 German and 1 Italian at Punta Arenas, Costa Rica.

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SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Included among the 4 at Callao were the HERMONTHIS and MUNCHEN, which left yesterday without papers, and were intercepted today by PRINCE HENRY. They set themselves on fire and were later sunk by gunfire from PRINCE HENRY and the Peruvian warship ALMIRANTE GRAU respectively.

Seizures.

A number of other enemy vessels in North American ports were taken into preventive custody by the United States.

American Aircraft.

N.A. Washington requests details of the part played by the Fleet Air Arm in the action off Crete, as the information may influence U.S. Navy Dept. in connection with possible re-design of Grumman aircraft.

Australia.

Mines were located in the Bass Straits today. It is not known whether they are part of a minefield laid in November last or a fresh lay.

War Diary.

1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
C. in C.H.F.
transferred.

My flag has been transferred to KING
GEORGE V. (C. in C. H.F. 0903/1.).

Firing on
Unseen
Targets.

S.8518/F.O.6. Reference Air Ministry letter
S.7890/F.O.6. dated 19th February, 1941 the
proposed new rule for opening fire by H.M.
Ships on "unseen" targets, contained in
para. 1. of the Minutes attached to the
above letter. Admiralty have submitted
following amended rule for Air Ministry's
consideration.

3. Your comments on (vii) (a) of the draft
rule in para 2. above are invited.
4. Your comments are also sought on a pro-
posal submitted by C. in C. Portsmouth
supported by C. in C. Nore that considera-
tion be given to permit destroyers fitted
with R.D.F. which does not re-act to I.F.F.
to engage "unseen" targets. (Air Ministry
F.O.6. 1050/1 to H.Q. Air Commands.).

KENYA..

In view of the threat of air attack at
Plymouth it has been decided that KENYA is
to remain in the Clyde for the present.
2. KENYA may be at 12 hours' notice for 48
hours to carry out necessary repairs to
boiler work and machinery.
3. During this period arrangements should
be made to de-perm the ship in accordance
with F.O.i/c Greenock's 2120/31.
(1st. S.L. 1347/1.).

Division
between
Plymouth
and W.A.
Commands.

Admiralty Message 909A of 31/4. This modi-
fication is to come into Force at 2359/4.
(D.O.D.H. 1444/1.).

Iceland.
Duties of
ECHO and
ACTIVE.

My 2043/30 para. 3. On arrival ECHO and
ACTIVE will be based on Hvalfjord or
Reykjavik and will come under the orders of
F.O.i/c Iceland for duties in the following
order of priority.

/A. to be at.....

War Diary.

1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. Contd.

Iceland
Duties of
ECHO and
ACTIVE.

- A. To be at the disposal of C S One when required.
- B. Attacking U-Boats reported in the vicinity of Reykjavik.
- C. To act as extra striking force during darkness for Convoys that are routed within a reasonable distance of Iceland.
- C. in C. W.A. is requested to inform F.O. i/c Iceland when this is desirable. (R.A.D. 1936/1.).

Movements.

5th D.F.

Your 1813/31. Intend sailing KELLY, KASHMIR, KELVIN, JACKAL at 2000 today to arrive Nab. at 0630/2 to join escort of RESOLUTION. (C. in C. Plymouth 1157/1.).

UNDAUNTED.

Intend to sail UNDAUNTED from Portsmouth at 1800/30. Route ETA 35°Cape Spartel 10 miles 0600/14. (Capt. S.5. 1203/1.).

SUFFOLK.
NORFOLK.

On completion of duties ordered in my 1926/1, SUFFOLK is to proceed to Reykjavik subsequently acting in support of Denmark Straits Patrol Lines as instructed by C.S.1. C.S.1. in NORFOLK is to meet SUFFOLK at Reykjavik and after transfer of duties is to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1935/1.).

Operations.

Rosemary
and Lousy
Banks
Patrol.

H.M. Trawler WINDERMERE sailed to patrol in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1831/9/3. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0740/1.).

East Coast
Convoy
Protection.

Cancel convoy protection tonight. (C. in C. Nore 0957/1.).

/O.9. O.10. Remain.....

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

0.9.
0.10.

Remain on patrol until reasonable limit of your endurance is reached or until after dark 6/4 whichever is the earlier then return to Plymouth as routed by S.5. (F.O.S. 1156/1 to 0.9., 0.10.).

TIGRIS.

TIGRIS is to be ordered to leave Patrol A.M./5 and is to return to Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 1157/1.).

0.24.

Am concerned by apparent serious lack of endurance of Netherlands Sub. 0.24 on data received from S.O.D.S. and consequent drastic shortening of vital important patrols. Request early remarks by signal after arrival. (F.O.S.1859/1 to Capt.S.8.).

H.50.

Negative position 81. Hove to on the surface for 30 hours due to Gale. P.c. and s. 049° 43' N., 011° 17' W., 010° 2 knots. Tow cables foul of fore plane, if necessary and weather permitting intend to proceed Irish waters to clear them. (H.50. 2000/1 to F.O.S.).

Fore Hydroplane jammed half turned in. Unable to dive. My position 047° 43' N., 008° 40' W. Hove to. Request escort. (H.32. 2152/1 to F.O.S.).

Dover
Patrols.

No patrols tonight unless weather moderates. (V.A. Dover 1535/1.).

SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

Dispositions to intercept. (V.C.N.S.1930/1.)
See Operations Volume.

War Diary.1.4.41.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

Patrols ~~PAIR~~^{"Fair"} and ~~UNST~~^{"Unst"} are being flown today and patrol off South of Iceland by battle A/C as for 31/3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/1.).

Patrol by 18 Group altered to cross-over as follows. Nothing sighted throughout patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth 1141/1.).

Patrol ~~S-T-A-N-D~~^{STANB} is now in operation.. (C. in C. Rosyth 1528/1.).

My 2244/2/2. A/A ships will be stationed in Thames Estuary from p.m./2 until further notice. Orders for engaging aircraft are as in your A 257 of 6/2. (C. in C. Nore 1016/1 to H.Q.F.C.).

Clydebank
Smoke Production
scheme.

Understood Air Ministry state that scheme is unacceptable in all northerly winds because night flying from Abbotsinch and Renfrew will be developed for training. If it is worthwhile to develop this scheme, it appears equally desirable that it should always function on moonlit nights, training giving way to defence. All dark nights would remain available for night flying instruction. If occasional periods during moonlight were required for night flying instruction, mutual local arrangements could, no doubt, be made. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1241/1.).

Escort.

Expect close escort one Albacore aircraft from 1830 till dark. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/1, to RESTIGOUCHE.).

Bombing
Restriction.

Request t.b.r. from daylight tomorrow between 49° N., and 52° N., and between 8° W., and 12° W. Request air protection during daylight hours. (F.O.S. 2337/1.).

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1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CHESAPEAKE
attacked
twice.

(British Tanker, 8955 Tons) Bombed off
Tu\$kar. (CHESAPEAKE 0855/1.).
Received 0900 G.M.T. 20 Miles North
Smalls Bombed CHESAPEAKE. (Burnham Radio,
Recd. 1020/1.).
20 miles North Smalls. Planes still attack-
ing CHESAPEAKE. (Plymouth W/T 0923/1.).
Ten miles S.W. St. Govans CHESAPEAKE
attacked. (Burnham Radio 1600/1.).
Bomb possibly in Summer Tank leak one
wounded. (CHESAPEAKE 1642/1.).

IMPULSIVE
attacked.

Help. My position 52° 5' N., 5° 40' W.
(IMPULSIVE 0957/1.).
2 Enemy Aeroplanes course 250° height
5,000 feet. (IMPULSIVE 1001/1.).
My 0957. Aircraft last seen steering South.
(IMPULSIVE 1041/1.).

SAN CONRADO.
bombed.

(British Tanker, 7982 Tons), 325° The
Smalls 13 miles SAN CONRADO bombed.
Require tug. (CHESAPEAKE 1015/1.).
A/S YORK CITY with convoy H.X. 114 reports
one ship on fire and another hit by bombs
at 1025 when 20 miles 320° from Smalls.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1110/1.).
Proceed to assist ship bombed 320° The
Smalls 20. (C. in C. Plymouth 1121/1 to
IMPULSIVE.).
Rescue tug CAROLINE MOLLER sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1217/1.).
My 1110. It now appears SAN CONRADO
holed in engine room. No other ship hit.
Rescue Tug CAROLINE MOLLER and A/P Trawler
ARMANA have been sent to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1240/1.).
Proceed with all despatch to assist SAN
CONRADO. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1415/1 to
ST.CLAVES.).

/HIDLEFJORD.....

War Diary.

1.4.41.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

HIDLEFJORD
~~HIDLEFJORD~~

My 1240/1. YORK CITY reports at 1315/1 Tanker HIDLEFJORD afloat but burning fiercely 5 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1540/1.).
Sailed ST.OLAVES in accordance with your 1415/1. E.T.A. 1600/2. (N.O.I.C. Campbelltown 1550/1.).

Portsmouth
Air Raid.
Night
31/3.

Following damage was sustained in the Dockyard on the night 31/3. Approx. 80 feet length of Torpedo Store Depot., demolished, etc. (Supt.C.E.Portsmouth 1045/1.).

Convoy
F.3751.
QUORN
attacked.

One aeroplane course and height unknown, now bombing. My position $52^{\circ} 7' N.$, $1^{\circ} 52' E.$, course 034, speed 20 knots. (QUORN 1234/1.).
Help. (QUORN 1238/1.).
2 bombs no hits. (QUORN 1235/1.).
Fighters now being sent to QUORN. (Nore W/T 1256/1.).
My 1234. Enemy aircraft returned to South. (QUORN 1256/1.).
One enemy aircraft course 000° height 1000 feet. My position $52^{\circ} 17' N.$, $1^{\circ} 57' E.$ (QUORN 1318/1.).
Am being shadowed by one aircraft my position $53^{\circ} 13' N.$, $1^{\circ} 13' E.$, course 324, speed 20 knots. (QUORN 1642/1.).
Enemy aircraft bombing. (QUORN 1646/1.).
One enemy aircraft shadowing. My position $53^{\circ} 16' N.$, $1^{\circ} 6' E.$, course 324 speed 10 knots. (QUORN 1656/1.).
My 1656. 3 more bombs no hits. (QUORN 1659/1.).
Fighter assistance despatched to QUORN. (Nore W/T 1708/1.).

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.WHINNYFOLD.
(Trawler)
damaged.
YORIK
(Trawler)
attacked.

At 1920/31/3 in 60° 30' N., 9° 35' W. Trawlers WHINNYFOLD and YORIK were attacked by E/A, probably Heinkel III. WHINNYFOLD suffered two near misses from bombs, many hits from machine gun bullets, and three wounded. YORIK sustained no damage or casualties. Both Trawlers now at Scrabster (A.C.O.S. 1550/1.).

ONTARIO.
(Trawler)
sunk 31/3.

Trawlers TETRARCH and CLACTON arrived Stornoway 1500/1 with entire crew of Grimsby Fishing Trawler ONTARIO. ONTARIO sunk at 0830/31 by enemy aircraft in 60° 15' N., 11° W., whilst proceeding from Grimsby to Iceland. 2 slightly injured. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1559/1.).

Portland
Air-Raid.

Air Raid at 1225 on 1/4/41., resulted in extensive damage by machine gun bullets to roof, walls and windows of property requisitioned as living quarters at P.W.S.S. Lulworth. (N.O.I.C. Base Portland 1610/1, F.O.I.C. Portland 1855/1.).

Convoy F.N.

Fighters needed for convoy ^{"Agent"} AGENT. My position 52° 13' N., 1° 56' E. (SCUTHDOWN 1726/1.).
My 1726. Single Aircraft flew eastward. No bombs dropped. (SOUTHDOWN 1735.).

ADELLEN.

(British, 7984 Tons.) 4 Enemy aircraft attacking ships off Milford Haven at 1800. ADELLEN bombed and on fire. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1815/1.).
One enemy A/C attacked Tanker ADELLEN dropped 4 bombs hit her amidships on port beam 3 (more?) enemy A/C approached one of which was hit by our fire and last seen flying East with smoke trail followed by (Hurricane?) fighter. Have boarded Tanker both bridge and forward tank well alight. Proceeding to rejoin our Convoy. (DERBY COUNTY 1950/1.)

/ADELLEN.....

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activities. Contd.

ADELLEN.
Contd.

Burning fiercely. Anchored one mile South of Haven. Drifter with fire appliance standing by, but cannot approach. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. . 2227/1.).

Faroe
Islands.

Help Thorshaven. (Lyness W/T. 2024/1.). My 2024/1. Heinkel III K attacked various fishing ships near Thorshavn. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2210/1.).

Enemy A/C.
crashed.

1 German aircraft crashed in sea 1 mile South of Smalls. Airman afloat in dinghy. A/P Trawler WELBECK directed to vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2112/1.).

ST. MAGNUS.

(British, 1530 Tons). Arrived Aberdeen today from Leith. Reports that at 0240/1/4 she was attacked by one enemy A/C off Tod Head. One bomb was dropped near port quarter. A/C carried away aerial and kite gear. ST. MAGNUS opened fire and hits were claimed. Portions of A/C fell on ship and another in sea. A/C then made off in easterly direction losing height. (C. in C. Rosyth 2153/1.).

SWORD DANCE.

(A/S Trawler). Damaged by near misses from bombing also by machine gun fire near Outer Dowsing at 1610 today. No casualties. (F.C. Humber 2200/1.).

KAIA
KARL KNUDSEN.

Bombed abaft bridge. Towed into Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2227/1.).

WAR DIARY.

14.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Hartlepool.

Port now open.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0815/1).

Operation
S.N.8.
GALATEA,
ARETHUSA,
SUFFOLK.

My 1242/29 and C.in C. Plymouth's 1552/31
Only two of 17th Division will be
available for this operation. Request
additional two Destroyers may be
detailed as close screen.

(R.A.M.L. 0914/1).
Your 1242/29/3 not to all addressees.
Concur.

(ii) F.O.C.2.C.S. GALATEA with ARETHUSA
will provide close escort and SUFFOLK will
cover operation.

(C.in C. H.F. 1926/1 to R.A.M.L.)
GALATEA and ARETHUSA will be required
to escort 1st M/L Squadron for operation
S.N.8. Time of sailing from Port Z.A.
0630/5.

(C.in C. H.F. 1945/1).

Operation
B.S.53.

Postponed on account of weather.
Cancel my 1152/31. Intend to sail from
Spurn Point at 1830/2nd and take
departure from 10 F. Buoy at 1100/3 to
initial position. Returning to 20 F
Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will
begin 1245/3.

(S.O. M/L Immingham, 0915/1).

Operation
P.W.7.

Your 1002/30/3. Ready. Awaiting
favourable weather.
(BEEHIVE, 1051/1 to C.in C. Nore).

East
India
Dock
Basin.

What is considered to have been a mine
detonated inside East India Dock Basin
at 0005/30/3. No witnesses. No
casualties to shipping, but slight
damage to dock gate.

(F.O.I.C. London, 1105/1 and 1550/1).

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Safety Device
against
Drifting Mines.

(V.C.N.S. 1140/1). See Technical.

Operation
G.W.

Request 3rd M/S Flotilla maybe sailed from Portland so as to be ready to leave Falmouth on 6/4.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1201/1 to R.A.C.F.)

Humber.

Open to navigation.
(F.O.Humber, 1214/1).

Thames
Estuary.

Two S.A.Mines detonated at 0930 and 0931/1 as follows.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 1342/1).

Bristol
Channel.

At 1025/1 one Red Mine detonated by S.A. Trawler 80 degs. distant 1.5 miles from Flatholm Light.
(Capt: M/S Bristol Channel, 1715/1).

Spurn
Point
and
Hull.

The following five mines were exploded today. Details.

Three spontaneous explosions reported at 0241, and two at 0259 thought to be in the vicinity of the Binks.
(F.O.Humber, 1833/1).

Horsea.

Parachute mine type DM Mk.IV rendered safe at Horsea.
(RM DO Yarmouth, 1910/1).

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1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TAIPING,
TARONGA,
SPANIEN,
ORION.

(a) Oslo.
My 1654/15 para.(1) TAIPING reported completing at Akers yards 22/3. Armament reported similar to TARONGA.
(2) Ref: my 1252/18 TARONGA still at Akers yards 22/3.
(Stockholm 1217/1 to D.N.I.)

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

Visual reconnaissance of Brest, 1.4.1941 shows SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still present in positions previously reported.
(D.D.I.C. 1639/1).

Technical.

Safety
Device
against
Drifting
Mines.

To reduce the danger to ships running paravanes from drifting Mark XX mines with lower antenna intact, the following policy has been approved:-
(V.C.N.S. 1140/1).

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Zigzagging
and Evasive
steering.

Only convoys of over 11 knots and independently sailed ships are to zig-zag. Evasive steering is no longer to be carried out and N.C.S.O. should withdraw Evasive steering diagrams from Merchant ships and destroy them. When to westward of 12° W., all convoys in a submarine danger zone should normally make a drastic alteration of course under following conditions:-

Admty. 1907/28/9/40 and 1734/9/10/40 and C.B. 4100 Sect: F. Part III are cancelled.
(D.A/S W. 1338/1 "A" Message, Home Station).

Military
Convoys.

COMORIN
GLENARTNEY.

Admty 2253/29 and 1728/31. A/S escort for COMORIN and GLENARTNEY. ASSINIBOINE from Liverpool. BOREAS from Greenock. S.O. of A/S escort BOREAS.
(C.in C. W.A. 1556/1 to F.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Liverpool).

ULSTER
MONARCH.

Your 1920/28 F.O.I.C. Greenock reports completion p.m./2. Your 1454/27 Greenock is providing accommodation and it is not desired to re-transfer after so short an interval. Suggest that 1920/28 clear up all defects now and return here not earlier than next week.
(V.A.C.T.C. 1721/1 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

M/L.1019.

Motor launch 1019 has not been seen since (corrupt group) Sheringham and attempts to communicate by radio telephony have failed. ML.1019 may have entered Humber and trawler H.M.S. SWORD DANCE is searching astern. (VERDUN 0825/1).

WALLFLOWER
(Corvette).

Your 1850/31. WALLFLOWER developed engine defects. (WESTERN ISLES 1028/1).

DORIS.

(Barge). Capsized while in tow of HENDON and foundered in Pentland Firth 31/3/41. No casualties. (R.A.Scapa, 1107/1).

SELKIRK.

My 1540/31. SELKIRK delayed 24 hours with an electrical defect. (F.O.Humber, 1556/1).

BROVIG.

Escort damaged S/S BROVIG Stornoway to Holyhead for onward escort to Barry, Docks. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/1 to VERONICA). Sailed VERONICA in accordance with C.in C. Western Approaches 1625/1. E.T.A. Stornoway 0800/2. (WESTERN ISLES 2015/1).

Unknown
ship.

S.O.S. Distress Signal. In 51° 18'N., 4° 45'W. (Liverpool, TOR 1817/1).

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MIRROR
Cable
Operation.

Your 1246/30 approved.
(D.S.D. 1208/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SHEFFIELD,
Nemours
Incident
30/3.

Further to SHEFFIELD's 1515/30.
Existence of shore defences at Nemours quite unknown. Three air attacks by Glen Martins in waves of five were made on passage back to Gibraltar, in two cases bombers were escorted by two fighters. High level and glide bombers were employed but Standard of accuracy was not high. SHEFFIELD suffered one near miss but was undamaged. Bombs appeared to be about 250 lbs.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1250/1 to Admty).

Operation "Winch"
WINCH.

Force "H" will shift to Malta Broadcast at 1000 G.M.T./2. RENOWN will maintain W/T guard on Gibraltar Broadcast. Request Malta W/T may keep watch from 1200 G.M.T./2nd to 2000 G.M.T./3 and for further 24 hours if operation is postponed (S.O.Force H, 1503/1 to N.O.I.C. Malta). Departure postponed owing to westerly gale. Anticipate weather will moderate sufficiently by 0200/2. 1/4 remains D.l.
(F.O.H. 1850/1 to Admty).

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

If circumstances admit it is most desirable that RENOWN and ARK ROYAL should have 48 hours or preferably 4 days in harbour on completion of operation "Winch" in order to make good machinery defects.
(F.O.Force H, 1802/1 to Admty).

PANDORA
CAIRNDALE.

Ref: 1900/30 from Admty. Request you will pass following message to BIRMINGHAM. PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any Raider which attacks her. W/T Watch for PANDORA in accordance with 120 A.Z. of 1635/17/2. Request you will keep PANDORA informed of proposed fuelling arrangements of U/Boat. BIRMINGHAM. (See 2/4. p 59)
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Genoa
Intelligence.

Following (B.l.) Genoa 27/3 (refers to CAVOUR, ANDREA DORIA, etc.) (S.O.(I) Gib: 1826/1 to Admty).

FORTUNATA.

Following intercepted from Madrid to Master of Italian S.S. FORTUNATA at Port Lyautey (Begins) Proceed. (Ends). (F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1 to Admty). FORTUNATA expected to sail from Port Lyautey shortly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1833/1 to Trawlers of Western Patrol.)

Germans
in
MAGALLANES.

Have intercepted Spanish MAGALLANES New York to Bilbao (Portugalete) 250 German passengers, mostly military aged. Request instructions, MALVERNIAN has no spare accommodation. (MALVERNIAN 2130Z/1 to Admty),

Italian
CAPO ALGA,
BURANO.

Left here 2100/1. (Consul, Teneriffe, 2145/1 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

D/F Second class bearings of enemy unit at 1914 G.M.T./1 from Scarborough 205° Flowerdown 208° Lands End 196°. (F.O.C.N.A. 2321/1 to N.A. Stn.) (Probably refer to U/Boats See 0245/2).

MOST SECRET.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.PAMPANO
Italian.

At Pernambuco, detained by Brazilian authorities pending payment for bunkers supplied by A.P. Co.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo. 0015Z/1 to Admty.)

NORDERNEY
German.

Para reports that as far as can be ascertained ship has completed loading and is ready for sea.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0028Z/1).

Suspicious
Tanker.

Your 1945/27 (descriptions of German raiders obtained from Norwegians from whalecatchers intercepted by SCARBOROUGH.) U.S. Ship IBERVILLE reports sighting on 6/5 in 033° 30' N. 061° 20' W. large half-loaded tanker painted dark grey straight stem counter stern, no guns, no colours, apparently stopped. On IBERVILLE's approach Tanker slowly crossed her bows and stopped again heading 000° Appeared to be loitering and Master of opinion Tanker was fuelling submarine.
(S.O.(I). Capetown, 1035B/1. to Admty.)

ASTURIAS

Leave K 33 5/4 and proceed to patrol L 32 Cruisers leave Plate 4/4 and proceed up trade routes to arrive K 33(d) 8/4 Oiler BROOMDALE leaves Plate 4/4 for sea R/V "~~PENGUIN~~" "Perceval"
(R.A.S.A.D. 1045Z/1 to ASTURIAS.)

Raider
Intelligence

For information. Whalers SOLGLINT, PELAGOS and OLENEGGER (corrupt group) 11 catchers were captured 14/1 and 16/1 in about 059° S. 002° 30' W by Raider known as 33 or PENGUIN. Appearance similar UGANDA Raider No. 16. HANSA ship about 12,000 tons (details).
(C. in C. S.A. 1053/1. to S.A. Stn.)

ALCANTARA

Your 1445N/29 my 1045Z/1. Cancel my 1043Z/23. Request ALCANTARA be directed to proceed K 33 when available.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1120Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

Supplies Japanese

MOST SECRET.War Diary.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic (contd).Supplies
Japanese
Ships.

My 1221/17 (Osaka S.S. Co., endeavouring to obtain increased supplies fuel at Montevideo) River Plate Coal Coys. have been instructed to limit supplies of coal to Japanese ships to Galley-Coal. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1142/1).

U/B Tactics.

Admty. 0115/28. Experience shows U-Boats generally shadow by day and attack at night. Following methods are recommended to counter this. (D.A/S.W. 1335/1 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

CUMBERLAND
risk from
German
M.Vs.

Lima reports German ships MONSERRATE and LEIPZIG at Callao are on fire and are apparently endeavouring to foul entrance of harbour. Uruguayan Authorities will be asked to take special precautions during visit of CUMBERLAND. (S.O.(I) Montevideo. 1403Z/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Lima reports German Ships HERMONTHIS and MUNCHEN sailed from Callao last night 31/3 without papers. (S.O.(I) Montevideo. 1456Z/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BABITONGA

Am informed by Brazilian C.N.S. that BABITONGA has been given permission to sail from Santos for Vladivostock. She has 1000 tons of diesel oil in drums. Ambassador seeing M.F.A. S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C. in C. S.A. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1538/1).

Recovery
of cable
by
CAMBRIA

Your 1252/27/3. Originally to C. in C. S.A. only. Refers to Admty 1945/26/3. Subject Recovery of cable. Reply has been held up pending further information of the raider which sank BRITANIA in 07 24 N. 24 03 W. on 25/3 no further information received consider CAMBRIA can proceed but have no ship available for escort or cover. (C. in C. S.A. 1551N/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CANTON

Your 1946/31/3 and my 0104/28/3. Anticipated four weeks inclusive of trials to complete fitting catapult in U.K., depending on extent preparatory work has progressed in U.S.A. Not intended at present to increase the gun range of CANTON. (D.O.D.(F) 1638/1 to C in C SA.)

MOST SECRET.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd).BRITANNIA
survivors.

My 1311/30. DUNNOTAR CASTLE to endeavour to intercept Spanish ship CABO HORNOS and remove survivors ex BRITANNIA) If not met continue passage to Freetown with LARGS BAY.

(C. in C. S.A. 1712/1 to DUNNOTAR CASTLE)

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS
BIRMINGHAM
S.L. 70

My 1517/31 and your 1900/30 CHRISTIAN HUYGENS has defect which will prevent her sailing until about 1400/2. Intend BIRMINGHAM shall sail with ship though this will delay Junction with S.L.70 until A.M./5.

(C. in C. S.A. 1825N/1 to Admty.)

Your 1900/30/3. BIRMINGHAM leaving Freetown 2/4 will have enough fuel to remain with convoy for the whole passage if required allowing 14 knots after joining until meeting local escort, then 20 knots to Scapa and 10% remaining if required rapidly. If BIRMINGHAM fuels at "~~Palatal~~" she will have to leave convoy A.M./10 in about 031° N rejoining about 037° 30' N. P.M./12 earliest, if oiler is met punctually and weather suitable for fuelling on meeting. BIRMINGHAM will be instructed to fuel at "~~Palatal~~" unless otherwise ordered.

(C. in C. S.A. 1905N/1 to Admty.)

ASAKA
S. African
Attitude.

My 1142/22/3. South African Gov. do not wish to raise any question of contraband search of ASAKA should she visit a Union, port, but will withhold facilities and supplies to ship and watch movements of her personnel coming ashore. Matter must be left to S.A.G. and no action taken by naval authorities at Union ports beyond reporting ship's arrival to Admiralty. (Head of M., 2205/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.L. 70

U/B in vicinity.
(See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.2340/1).

MOST SECRET.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta
Hurricanes.

Am not now sending Sunderland T. 9048 as cannot arrive Malta until p.m./2. Propose you carry out first alternative with 1 Sunderland and 1 Glenn Martin or second alternative with 2 Glenn Martins.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0741/1 to H.Q. Malta).

A.S. 25

Sailed 0700/1. (list 9 ships). HOLLANDIA for Alexandria, remainder Port Said.
(N.C.S.O. Piraeus 0904/1 to C. in C. Med.)

M.A.S.
Patrol,
Pantellaria.

URSULA reports M.A.S. patrol operating by day and night up to 25 miles between S. and S.W. from Pantellaria.
(Cdr. S.1 1005/1 to UNIQUE.)

Yugoslavia

For D.M.I. Mass Belgrade 31/3 (Authentic Military Source) informed Yugoslavia will first attack Albania driving out Italians and seizing ports. Last night 800 Germans left by steamer (M.A. Washington,) 1032/1 to W.O.)

Oiler for
Red Sea.

C. in C. E.I. 1906Z/30 (Red Sea Disposition to deal with Italian destroyers). Oiler BRITISH COLONEL is to be brought to short notice and sailed as required by C. in C. E.I.
(C. in C. Med. 1059/1. to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

Tripoli and
convoy bombed.
Heinkel off
Alexandria.

Operational Summary No. 295 up to 1200 hrs. 1/4/41. Night 30/31. 3 Wellingtons dropped 4250 lbs bombs on docks railway depot and shipping Tripoli Harbour. Further 2000 lbs bombs dropped on convoy of 10 ships between 8000 and 10000 tons 5 miles off Tripoli. No hits. 31/3. 1 Heinkel engaged unsuccessfully by A.A. guns off Alexandria at midday. 4 Hurricanes on patrol unable to intercept. No bombs dropped.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1109/1).

3rd and 7th C.S.....

War Diary

1.4.1941.

TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean- Contd.3rd and 7th
C.S.

In view of small number of cruisers in Mediterranean Fleet proposed to abolish 3rd Cruiser Squadron and embody all cruisers in 7th Cruiser Squadron formed in two divisions with Rear Adm. Glennie flying his flag as R.A. 2nd Div. 7th C.S. (C. in C., Med. 1223/1 to Admty.)

Alexandria
facilities

Your 2102/1 to C. in C., Med. (definition of functions of Port and Transit Committee) Apparent that Alexandria is working considerably below maximum capacity owing to lack of pontoons. Proposals. (A.D.P. (E) 1230/1 to D. of S.T.)

830 Sqn.
Functions.

Air Ministry X 913 1130/26. Do not concur that mining should be considered primary function of 830 Sqn. Function of this Squadron is primarily torpedo attack on enemy shipping. No objection to use of Squadron for mining provided that their offensive naval role of torpedo attack is not unduly interfered with. (C. in C., Med. 1233/1 to Air Ministry, H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)

Mined Areas
Yugoslavia.

Dangerous areas off Yugoslavian coast have been broadcast in P/L including (A) Planinski Channel. (B) Area inside line from Blityenica Island to W. end of Korcula Island. (C) Within twelve miles of coast between Bar and Dubrovnik. Have these been received?) (D.D.I.C., 1239/1 to C. in C., Med. C.O.I.C. Nile)

Yugoslav
territorial
waters.

My 2232/19. Ships are not to be attacked in Yugoslav territorial waters. (Capt. S.1. 1343/1 to REGENT)

YORK
Salvage.

YORK's 1916/28. Is Fleet construction officer aware of Turkish resources for salvage? Turkish Salvage Co. of Istanbul is efficient, salvage officer being an Englishman. (Controller 1613/1 to C. in C., Med.)

/ULSTER PRINCE..

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE

1903/1 April

IN

From N.A. Belgrade.

Date 4.4.41.

Recd. 0745.

Interdepartmental Cypher 9 by cable.

Addressed D.N.I. Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

I was asked by General Staff to see Admiral Luterotti who gave me general idea of their requirements in event of (? there) being war with Germany and Italy. He emphasized moral at commencement would be even more important than material and that appearance of British submarines and if possible light surface forces on Dalmation coast would have most heartening effect on Croatsians of littoral.

He informed me that he had appointed Rear Admiral Margascovic to work with me latter emphasized necessity of moral support, especially of submarines, and encouraged he considers they would deter any attempted move by Italy against Dalmatia coast. He also hoped we would be able to establish a base at Kotor for operations against Italians in Albania. I understand A/S and E - Boat defences are practically non-existent and there are no anti-aircraft guns available for its defence. He stated that though coastal batteries were considered efficient, it might be necessary to extend coastal defences northward towards Dubrovnik, but they had not necessary material for this. Also for anti-aircraft defences of Kotor, if we should decide to use it, it would be necessary for us to supply not only guns, but also crews.

I was provided by Admiral Luterotti with a general list of their Naval requirements, but it appears to me preferable, if we should be able to establish a base at Kotor, rather to carry their requirements ourselves than supply them with material which I fear would be wasted.

List of requirements will follow in my immediately following telegram. it was pointed out to me that land communications with Kotor are bad, that there are over 12000 men in the vicinity and that no supplies of foodstuffs are available in the district.

1903/1.

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)
- 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.T.D.
- 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.
- E.P.S.
- N.I.D. 10. Pay. Cdr. Wilson.
- D.D.I.C.

SECRET

MESSAGE

1932/1st. April. OUT

Lion

24B

To Commander in Chief,
Mediterranean. 591.

Date 1.4 .41.

NAVAL CYPHER (A 2)

(Malapan)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT Their Lordships offer you and your officers and men their sincere congratulations on the success of your recent operations against the Italian Fleet. The conduct of all forces and especially the determined and successful attacks made by the Fleet Air Arm, the high standard of night fighting by the battlefleet and the work of the destroyer flotillas combined to deliver a crushing blow on the enemy and demonstrated unmistakably the high state of fighting efficiency which the Mediterranean Fleet has attained under your determined and able leadership.

1932/1.

Secretary to 1st. Sea Lord.

1st. Lord.
1st. S.L.
2nd. S.L.
Controller
Vice Controller
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)
Parl. Sec.
Civil Lord.
Controller (M.S.R.)
(London)
Secretary

Naval Sec.
C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
O.D. (5)
M (2)
Air
D.N.A.D.
Ops (4)
D of P. (2)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D. 9.
C.W. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.P.S.

D.H.

Mr. Gleadows.

MOST SECRET.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.A.S.F.22

Sailed 1600/1. (List, 10 ships)
 ULSTER PRINCE prisoners remainder ballast
 for Alexandria.
 (N.C.S.O. Piraeus 1708/1 to C. in C. Med).

Italian
Oil
Depots.

United States N.A. Rome, recently returned
 to Washington informs me from personal
 observation as follows: (re oil storage
 depots at Montepellegrino, near Palermo
 and on the coast at Monopoli.
 (N.A. Washington, 1720/1 to Admty).

CACHALOT

Admty. 2250/25, para B. Unless you have
 any urgent operation for CACHALOT on
 passage or consider that addition of her
 outfit of mines to stocks at Malta is
 important, not intended she should embark
 mines for passage out. Space left available
 will be used for transport of important
 stores.
 (D.O.D. (F) 1724/1 to C. in C. Med.)

Action off
Crete.
28/5

Admty. congratulations.
 (1st S.L. 1932/1) See Lion Copy.

A.N.F.24

Sailed 1700/1 escorts NUBIAN, HEReward,
 PROTECTOR, HYACINTH,
 (N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1740/1 to Admty etc.)
 List, 5 ships (1745/1).

Yugoslav
requirements
in case of war.

N.A. Belgrade 1903/1
 See Lion Copy.

East Indies.

Massawa
Reconnaissance.

Have just been informed R.A.F. reconnaiss-
 ance of Massawa will cease from p.m./1
 owing to departure of No. 14 sqdn. I
 have represented to A.O.C. Sudan, A.O.C.
 M.E. and C. in C. M.E. the imperative need
 of its continuing at this critical period
 and while operation "~~Massawa~~" is in
 progress.
 (C. in C. E.I. 0436/1 to Admty.)

War Diary

1.4.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Massawa
Reconnaissance
-Contd.

Your 0436/1. Admiralty have taken this up with Air Ministry and they are asking A.O.C. M.E. to meet your requirement from some other squadron. (1st S.L. 1832/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

Dutch
territorial
waters.

Reference A.D.A. of 25/2/41. report of recent Singapore conference Appendix C para 10. Can it now be confirmed and promulgated that H.M. ships may take naval action against enemy ships or suspected enemy ships inside Dutch territorial waters and that reciprocal facilities have been granted to Dutch warships. (C. in C., E.I., 0656/1 to Admty.)

W.S. 7.

A.M. 1717/17. Present intentions for escorts W.S. 7 DORSETSHIRE will escort from Cape onward. HAWKINS will escort Durban portion from Cape to Durban and onwards. Your 0023/29. Further signal will be made giving escort for Indian and Malayan portion of convoy. (C. in C., E.I. 0814Z/1 to Admty.)

Massawa
warning re
scuttling.

Passed Admty. for information from Colombo My 0/53007. In transmitting message to Duke Aosta add: (begins) Now that our forces are advancing on Asmara and Massawa we should inform Duke Aosta that if ships in Massawa harbour, of which there are reported to be 25, are scuttled we shall consider ourselves relieved of all responsibility of either feeding Italian population of Eritrea and Abyssinia or removing them from those countries in view of great shortage of shipping in the world and our own requirements. (Ends)
2. Kaid will arrange to convey message to Italian H.Q., Asmara or other suitable local authorities. (Middle East, 0940/1 to Advance Force, Nairobi)

/Force T.....

War Diary

1.4.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Force T.
Patrol orders.

Force T is to leave Seychelles 3/4 and proceed to patrol in area bounded by position (a) 002° 30' S., 048° (b) 004° 30' S., 048° (c) 002° N., (? 063°) (d) equator, 063°. Patrol area is to be left so as to arrive port Victoria, Seychelles 10/4. Before sailing HERMES is to report intended 0800 G.M.T. position on each day of patrol, which should be commenced at Eastern end of area. (C. in C., E.I. 1636Z/1 to Force T.)

DURMITOR

Your 0655/29. Is to be requisitioned under Defence Regulations and sailed for Calcutta. (D.T.D., 1008/1 to N.O.I.C., East Africa)

Italian
Destroyer sunk.
~~PANTERA~~
LEONE

At 0900 G.M.T./1 R.A.F. reconnaissance reported 2 large Italian destroyers had left Massawa. At 0913 G.M.T./1 EAGLE Swordfish reported 1 destroyer in position 16.10 N. 39.49 E. At 1415 G.M.T. aircraft reported destroyer sunk in position 16.09 N 39.55 E. No details yet available but believe success due to F.A.A. Destroyer may be PANTERA (C. in C., E.I., 1722Z/1 to Admty.)

(2, not 2, see p. 66)

It was LEONE. Sep. 65, 48.

America & West Indies

MALAYA

Decisions on Items of Alterations and additions. (D. of D., 0525/1 to N.A. Washington.)

~~GROUGH~~
NEWBURGH
KING EDWARD
"Q" Report

S.O. (1) Kingston Jamaica's 1756/31. Probable both NEWBURGH and KING EDWARD sighted Dutch ship AAGTEKERK. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1013/1)

LETITIA

Your 2059/28. Propose LETITIA be sent immediately. Undesirable to employ Canadian facilities for long periods likely to be required for repairs. Expect ship to dock Halifax for inspection in mid April and to require towing to repair Port. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1158/1 to Admty.)

N.T. in W.D.

/German.....

MOST SECRET.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).German
HERMONTHIS
MUNCHEN
MONSERRATE
LEIPZIG.

Have left Callao according to American press report of 31/3.

(D.D.I.C. 1219/1 to C. in C.'s China A.W.I., S.A., PRINCE HENRY.) See also South Atlantic. 1456/1.

My 1219/1. Reported that HERMONTHIS and MUNCHEN sailed Callao 1930/31. Peruvian warships reported in pursuit. Civil aircraft may join in search. MONSERRATE & LEIPZIG reported on fire in entrance of Callao.

(D.D.I.C. 2117/1 to PRINCE HENRY C.in C. A.W.I., C. in C. China.)

American Press report MUNCHEN & HERMONTHIS sighted 90 miles north Callao. No time or date given.

(D.D.I.C. 2202/1 to PRINCE HENRY, C. in C China., C. in C. A.W.I.) Both were intercepted by PRINCE HENRY, see 2/4.

TERESA ODERO
TROTTIERA
JOLE FASSIO
SESOSTRIS
Scuttled.

Puerto Cabello reports fired by crews and gutted. Crews imprisoned BACICIN PADRE under strong guard.

(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1232/1 to Admty).

EISENACH
FELLA.

My 1010/31 Italian ship sunk in deep water, crew of 49 jailed in San Jose. German ship still burning and sinking in shallow water, crew of 44 also jailed San Jose. Crew includes Master. Salvage contemplated by Costa Rican Government.

(Port Limon C.R. 1340/1, to Admty).

BUXTON

Your 1001/17/3 and A.M. 2254/29. Approved to retain BUXTON at Halifax for the present.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1424/1 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

CANTON

Your 0104/23. CANTON arrived Bermuda A.M. /1 has on board 175 Naval Officers and

ratings for

MOST SECRETWar Diary.1.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. (contd).CANTON (contd).

ratings for passage to U.K. embarked at Freetown. No accommodation available at Halifax and passage by A.M.C's of N. Atlantic Escort Force via. Iceland not recommended as this would keep back equivalent number of R.A.F. ratings. Propose to sail CANTON for U.K. on independent shipping route and then return to U.S. port for refit if required. Suggest consideration to refit in U.K. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1442/1 to Admty).

F.A.A. in
Crete
Action.

Request details of part played by Fleet Air Arm in recent action against Italian Fleet with particular reference to tactics employed and conditions under which torpedo attacks were delivered. Information may influence U.S. Navy Dept. in connection with possible re design of Grumman XTBF 1 to enable it to carry out dive attacks of great value. (N.A. Washington 1519/1 to D.N.A.D.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH
T.C. 10

A.M. 1205/29. Unlikely that QUEEN ELIZABETH will be available to leave Halifax before 10/4. Date of departure of T.C. 10 should therefore be delayed 24 hours. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1553/1 to R.A. 3 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

SOUTHGATE
"R" report
16/3.

Investigate why SOUTHGATE made RRRR on 16/3. Did she sight Battlecruisers or tanker? How did she escape? (D.D.I.C. 1702/1 to N.C.S.O. St. John N.B.)

Refits in
U.S.A.

Policy re reporting movements of British Vessels which may arrive for repairs, Outfit or recondition, in accordance with provisions of the Lend Lease Act. (B.A.R.M. 1900/1 to Admty).

CERIGO
German.

Guayaquil
GUAYAQUIL reports on fire 2030 G.M.T. today. (S.O.(I) Callao. 1940/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

A/A Guns in M/Vs.....

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

A/A Guns
in M/V's
fitting
in Jamaica.

40 m.m. Bofors A/A guns being mounted in British vessels now sailing independently or in O.B. Convoys. Military gun crew embarked with each gun. As only a limited number of guns are available desired to keep them mounted in vessels in N. Atlantic. Under consideration to fit them in vessels proceeding through Panama Canal, vessels being ordered into Jamaica to hoist out gun and disembark crew which would subsequently require embarking and the gun mounted in homeward bound vessels. A small amount of stiffening is required. Priority would be given vessels without H.A. guns. Report whether this can be arranged. (D.T.D. 1952/1 to N.O.I.C. Jamaica).

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Methods to counter shadowing by day and attack by night.
(D. A/S W. 1325/1 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.) See South Atlantic.)

Ships
Attacked.

BEAVERDALE.

(British 9957 tons, independently routed to U.K.) Following from Resolution Island (Begins) 2306 G.M.T. "SSSS 6050N 2919W. BEAVERDALE torpedoed 2304 G.M.T. no bearing QRM and weak signal (Ends). N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2130/1 to Admty). (D.O.R. 2/4).
Received 2310 G.M.T. from BEAVERDALE, torpedoed 60.50N., 29.19 W. (Seaforth Radio, 2310/1).

CLAN
OGILVY
(torpedoed
21/3)
BENCWYVIS.

Taken on board at 21.00 G.M.T. 24 men crew from CLAN OGILVY and BENCWYVIS in 11.00N., and 23.50W. Ships in vicinity keep clear rest crew, remainder men in two boats on the sea.
(CABO VILLANO T.O.R. 2133/1).

Submarines
Reported.

1200.

Submarine sighted on surface by two ships of convoy bearing and distance 315° 10 miles.
(VANQUISHER, 1200/1 to C.in C. W.A.)
Submarine reported approx. position 062° 30'N., 013° 45'W. at 1200/1.
(C.in C. W.A. 1504/1 to Area B).

1524.

Indications that second U/Boat is approaching O.B.303 from Westward from approx. position 62° 10'N., 15° 40'W. at 1524/B.S.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1625/1 to VANQUISHER) etc.

WAR DIARY.

1.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1813.

Suspected S/M reported in position
250° 10 miles from position 305° Dunnet
Head at 1813. 10 miles.

(A.C.O.S. 1904/1 to Scapa Force).
Suspected S/M. reported sighted by
LONDON in position 020° Strathy Point
7 miles 1813/1.

(A.C.O.S. 1947/1 to A.I.G. 36).
My 2059/1. Further bearings of enemy
transmission indicates U/Boat between
Dakar and C.Verde Islands probably in
vicinity of Convoy S.L.70 at 1914/1
G.M.T.

(D.D.I.C. 2340/1 to C.in C. S.A.
F.O.C.N.A. DRAGON).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1351/1).

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Protection
of Shipping
in Irish Sea.

The increase in air threat in the Irish Sea necessitates immediate strengthening of the A.A. escorts for Irish Sea Convoys. C.in C. Western Approaches has ordered that convoys are not to be permitted to proceed past the Smalls until further orders. The proposals by C.in C. W.A. for protection of shipping in the Irish Sea against air attack are given in his message 2116/2 to Adty.

H.G. and O.G.
convoys.

15th C.S. is to be detached temporarily from the Home Fleet to the Western Approaches for A/A protection of H.G. and O.G. convoys and for defence of Loch Ewe and Oban when in harbour.

C.in C. Nore.

Vice-Admiral Sir George D'O Lyon K.C.B. today relieved Admiral the Hon. Sir Reginald R. Plunkett-Erle-Drax K.C.B., D.S.O. as C.in C. Nore.

SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU.

The German battle cruisers were in Brest when P.R.U. was made at 0800 today.

A/A ships
in Thames
Estuary.

A/A ships are to be stationed in the Thames Estuary from p.m. today until further notice.

U boat
campaign
Convoy
H.G.57
attacked.

S.S. ALDERGROVE in Convoy H.G.57 was torpedoed early today in 50° N. 12° 01' W.

War Diary.2.4.1941.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.

Routine patrols today were restricted by bad weather. Bomber Command operations for tonight were cancelled. All night patrols by Coastal Command last night were cancelled on account of bad weather, with the exception of a cross over patrol west of Brest which was flown from 0200 today.

An aircraft of Coastal Command sank a 3000 ton merchant ship off Hook of Holland this forenoon. In the afternoon a ship was bombed and apparently hit twice, off Norderney.

Enemy Air Activity.Air Attacks
on trawlers
off Faroes.

The increasing frequency of aircraft attacks on trawlers and fish carriers around the Faroes is adversely affecting the supply of fish to Britain. N.O.I.C. Faroes asks for an armed decoy trawler to deal with the situation.

M/S trawlers VALESCA and HORTENSIA were damaged by air attack last night off Cromer.

Attacks on
shipping
off East
Coast.

Ships attacked today included S.S. UMBERLEIGH off South Shields; S.S. ANTICOSTI ex F.N.48 off ~~Hull~~ ^{Hull}; VORTIGERN and Convoy F.S.51[^] near the Outer Dowsing; Paddle M/S LORNA DOONE off Southwold, (cannon shell causing minor damage and casualties; ship damaged attacking aircraft by her fire); S.S. FERMAIN in F.S.51 sunk east of Spurn Point; A/P Trawler[^] CRAMOND ISLAND sunk off St. Abbs Head. A/P Trawler FORTUNA went to the assistance of CRAMOND ISLAND and has not been heard of since; two lifebuoys from

/ FORTUNA ...

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Attacks on
Shipping
off East
Coast.
(contd.)

FORTUNA were washed ashore on 3/4, ~~time~~ mine recovery vessel SILVER DAWN was slightly damaged by machine gun fire off Brightlingsea.

M/S Trawlers were unsuccessfully bombed off Portland Bill.

The AME Station at Thrumster was attacked again this morning. No damage was caused.

S.S. CLAPHAM was attacked off the Turkar at 2045 but suffered no damage other than to a lifeboat.

S.S. WILD ROSE was attacked and damaged p.m. today in St. George's Channel.

Mining.

Spontaneous explosions occurred early this morning in the Humber area.

S.S. MELROSE ABBEY was damaged by the explosion of a drifting mine off Aberdeen.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

FIJI.

FIJI, which with NIGERIA was ordered to relieve Force H on the Bay of Biscay patrol, is not to return to U.K., but to proceed to Gibraltar and join Force H temporarily on its return from Operation "Winch". She will be detached from time to time for escort duties.

Operation
"Winch".

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers left Gibraltar early this morning for Operation "Winch".

MAGALLANES

The Spanish MAGALLANES, intercepted yesterday by MALVERNIAN, was released at 1100 today in 42.45 N., 27.14 W. No Germans were removed from her.

OTUS
OLYMPUS

Admty. have ordered S/M's OTUS and OLYMPUS to be kept at short notice for special service.

NIGERIA

Is to R.V. with Convoy H.G. 57 tomorrow and provide ocean escort to U.K.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND.

R.A. S.A.D. in CUMBERLAND arrived at Montevideo this afternoon and leaves again tomorrow on patrol.

Enemy
Shipping.

Further enemy merchant ships in South American ports show signs of leaving. Among them is the German BABITONGA, whose capture R.A.S.A.D. considers most important as she may be a supply ship; and the Italian CONTE GRANDE, (25,667 tons.?)

23861

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S.S. HOMEFIELD
sunk.

S.S. HOMEFIELD and COULOURAS-XENOS south bound empty were sunk and S.S. TETI was damaged, by air attack off Gavdo p.m. today.

Yugoslav
shipping.

The Yugoslav Govt. have instructed their shipping abroad to proceed to Allied or neutral ports in the event of hostilities. At the moment, local authorities will not permit Yugoslav ships to leave the Adriatic though they are being moved to southern Adriatic ports.

Tanker
and U/B
sunk by
RORQUAL

S/M RORQUAL reports having sunk the tanker LAURA CORRADO and a U-boat of the CALVI class. She left her patrol a day early, having expended all her torpedoes, and laid mines off Cape Gallo Light and Asinelli Rock Light.

Two ships
torpedoed
by UTMOST

C.in C. Med. reports that UTMOST at 2200/28 obtained a hit with torpedo on a 12000 ton ship and one on a 6000 ton ship in 35° 40' N. Long. uncertain.

East Indies.

Suspicious
Ship.

CAPE SABLE, patrolling off Perim, reported an unidentified vessel this afternoon.

Force "Creek"

Left Madras for Singapore this evening.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Enemy
Shipping.

More enemy ships have been taken into preventive custody by the Governments concerned. The Chilean Govt. has not placed under surveillance the 6 German ships in Chilean ports, and one of them has actually been given clearance papers.

MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS
RHAKOTIS

Reports were received today that the German MUNCHEN and HERMONTHIS were intercepted yesterday by H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY after leaving Callao. Both set themselves on fire, and there is little hope of salvage. PRINCE HENRY was damaged whilst alongside HERMONTHIS and although seaworthy, will require dockyard repairs when the situation on the west coast of South America is clear.

The German RHAKOTIS sailed from Antofagasta this morning. The OSORNO left Talcahuano, but subsequently returned.

S.S. BEAVERDALE was torpedoed in 60° 50' N. 29° 19' W. at 0016/2. Owing to the presence of U-boat ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to part company with her convoy on passing through Long. 31° W.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Vice-Admiral
Sir George Lyon
as C.in C. Nore.

Vice Admiral Sir George D'O. Lyon, K.C.B. has this day relieved Admiral the Hon: Sir Reginald R. Plunkett-Ernle-Erle-Drax, K.C.B., D.S.O., as Commander-in-Chief, The Nore. (C.in C. Nore, 0959/2).

Faroes.
Proposed
Fish
Trawler
with
concealed
Oerlikon Gun.

Increasing frequency of aircraft attacks on trawlers and fish carriers around Faroos is adversely affecting supply of fish to Britain. Attackers know that there is no fighter aircraft opposition and their tactics suggest that a genuine fish trawler with a well protected wheel house and a concealed Oerlikon gun might if properly handled decoy and destroy one or more enemy aircraft. Urgently request such a vessel may be immediately equipped to operate under my orders. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1010/2).

Irish Sea.
Proposed
additional
A/A Escorts
for Convoys.

Increase in air threat in Irish Sea necessitates immediate strengthening of A.A. escorts for Irish Sea convoys. Request your views whether temporary withdrawal of 29th and 82nd A/S groups from Clyde area can be accepted. It would be proposed to send ALICE to Belfast to relieve TIERCEL, COILA to relieve VIRGINIA at Liverpool, and to retain ALASTOR at Loch Ewe in place of SPHENE. Remaining six ships of 29th and 82nd Groups with TIERCEL, VIRGINIA, and SPHENE would then be employed as additional A.A. escorts in Irish Sea. (C.in C. W.A. 1252/2).

2nd A/A
Division.

Ships of 2nd A/A Division are not to sail with ocean convoys till further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 1737/2).

Escorts for
shipping in
Irish Sea.

Proposals by C.in C. W.A. (C.in C. W.A. 2116/2) See Lion Copy.

SECRET.

MESSAGE

2116/2 April

IN

P
H2A

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 3.4.41.
Recd. 0001.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C. Plymouth.

IMPORTANT

Your 1208/2. Following measures are proposed.

A. All Wairs and Hunts in Western Approaches Command, including VANITY lent Plymouth, plus LEITH until her refit, ^{JACOBS V.A.S.} HEEMSKERK on return from Iceland and CAIRO on completion of retubing, to form Irish Sea Escort Force, operating between Belfast and Milford Haven. These ships will be additional to ROSEMARY and four A/S trawlers already operating from Milford Haven, but three of the four trawlers have no A.A. armament above .303 use of the Wairs in Irish Sea will leave 15th C.S. and first A.A. Division for A.A. Escorts with Ocean Convoys.

B. In addition, withdrawal of 29th and 82nd A/S Groups from Clyde proposed in my 1252/2 will, if approved, enable a further nine ships with light A.A. armament to be employed in the Irish Sea,

C. The M.L's allocated to Western Approaches Command but diverted elsewhere (see A.T. 1416/30/3) would, if provided with A.A. armament still further increase the A.A. resources available for Irish Sea.

D. With regard to convoy programmes in Irish Sea, it is proposed that ships below 1600 tons or of speed 15 knots and above should sail independently and not in groups. Other ships to or from ports south of Liverpool to sail in escorted convoys which would assemble at Milford Haven Holyhead or Belfast.

E. Outward independents to sail at dusk so as to pass through most dangerous area in darkness.

F. Ships for outward convoys to make passage to Milford Haven in darkness. Convoys to sail from Milford Haven at dusk on following day, to await ocean convoy at Belfast if necessary.

G. Inward convoys and independents to pass Smalls three hours after sunset.

H. North and south bound shipping to be routed under fighter umbrella in Cardigan Bay, so far as this is practicable.

I. Possibility of increased air protection is being examined in co-operation with 15th Group R.A.F. here.

(Enc. WA 2116/2 to Adtg)

A.G.N.S. (T)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

Ops (4)

O.D. (5)

D.N.I.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

B.C.B.S.

I.P. (3)

D.A/S.W.

O.I.C.

W.D.

Ad/ Dreyer.

War Diary.

2.4.1941.

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Dover
Immobilisation.

Your 1126/31. Approved with the exception that FALCONET is NOT to be scuttled except as a last resort to avoid capture. Every effort should be made to sail her to a place of safety if Dover is threatened. (A.C.N.S. H. 1432/2).

Movements.

15th C.S.

Is to be detached temporarily to Western Approaches Command for A/A protection of H.G. and O.G. convoys and for the defence of Loch Ewe and Oban when in harbour. (1st. S.L. 0115/2.).

DIDO.

My 1953/1. Delete DIDO. (2) DIDO is to proceed as ordered by C. in C. W.A. Admiralty's 0115/2, has been passed to DIDO. (C. in C. H.F. 0910/2.). Admiralty's 0115/2 and C. in C.H.F. 0910/2. DIDO is to proceed to Loch Ewe forthwith for A/A protection of shipping in harbour and is to leave Loch Ewe as necessary to R/V with O.G.58 in 180° Oversay 4.5 miles at 1930/7.(C. in C.W.A. 2231/2 to DIDO.).

Floating
Dock A.F.D.7.

Intend to sail floating dock A.F.D.7 from Needles 1730 to-day for Portland towed by tugs SUPERMAN, EMPIRE HENCHMAN, and QUEENS CROSS and escorted by STAR OF INDIA, KINGSTON AGATE, and Chasseurs 41 and 11. F.O.I.C. Portland is requested to plot position of tow and show Anvil Light as required. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1123/2.). My 1123/2. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1939/2.).

1. AFD VII should not be sailed from Portland unless forecasted weather conditions show that it is likely that fighter escort will be able to fly.
2. C. in C. Plymouth and Western Approaches are requested to arrange special A/A escort to cover the passage. The dock may if necessary be held at Portland to enable such escort to be provided. (V.C.N.S. 2217/2.).

/REPULSE.....

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

REPULSE
FURIOUS
NARKUNDA

Admty. 1930/1. Request you provide inward A/S escort for REPULSE, FURIOUS and NARKUNDA which latter will probably be in company.
(D.O.D. H. 1356/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
Add ARGUS (D.O.D.H. 1740/3)

H. 32.

You may proceed to Falmouth at your discretion. (F.O.S. 1558/2 to H.32)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Scapa departure QUEEN ELIZABETH, INGLEFIELD, ECLIPSE, ESKIMO. (A.C.O.S. 1701/2)

RESOLUTION

My 1813/31. Sailed escorted by KELLY, KASHMIR, KELVIN, JACKAL, ATHERSTONE, BLENCATHRA, E.T.A. Greenock 1330/4. Code word ~~BOARD~~. TYNDALE sailed as additional escort until dawn 3/4, E.T.A. Plymouth 0715/3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2027/2)

Bay of Biscay
Submarine Patrol.

Operations

H. 32., H. 50.,)
L. 27., O. 9.,)
O. 24., TIGRIS,)
O. 10.)

Movements and Orders. (F.O.S. 0123/2, 0128/2, 1027/2, 1028/2,) (H. 50. 0815/2) (S. 3. 1027/2) S. 5. 1418/2)

Intentions

Submarines will probably be ordered to leave patrol as follows.
L. 27 4/4. Remainder 6/4. Further signal will be made. (F.O.S. 1156/2 to S/M's Area A)

SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU

Correct my 1930/1 address to read as follows. (D.O.D. H. 0803/2)

KING GEORGE V
et:-

Scapa departures 1145 C. in C. H.F., in KING GEORGE V, LONDON, SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MASHONA and MATABELE (A.C.O.S. 1145/2)

/East Coast...

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

East Coast
Patrol.

To night following a.p. positions will not be filled. A. Sheringham buoy.
B. 57 C buoy to 58 buoy. (C. in C., Nore 1111/2)

My 1022/10/3 and 0920/14/3. Cancel special A/P Patrol quoted in my 1022/10/3. (C. in C., Nore, 1219/2)

A/A and A/P patrols are not proceeding till weather moderates. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1727/2)

Iceland-Faeroes
Patrol.

Intend leaving patrol a.m. tomorrow for Scapa Flow. It is necessary for GALATEA and ARETHUSA to refuel before rendezvousing in Minches for S.N. eight. (C.S. 2. 1441/2)

Iceland-Clyde
Ferry Service

Admiralty's 1937/19/3. and 1519/20/3 D.S. One will not now leave Clyde till p.m./4 (D.O.D. H. 1810/2)

Interception
of M/V.

M.V. reported by aircraft at 1200/2 in 60° 22' N., 10° W., Course 030° 8 knots. Black Hull pink funnel with black band, 2 masts number 161 on starboard side. French ensign 2000 tons. Sail Patrol vessel to endeavour to intercept and bring in for examination. (A.C.O.S., 2154/2 to N.O.I.C., Faeroes)
My 2154/2. Interception is to be effected North of Faeroes. (A.C.O.S., 2241/2)

War Diary2.4.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSBritish Air Activity4 Minesweepers,
7 E-Boats and
Gun Emplacements
attacked on 1/4.

Day 1st April. 7 Blenheims failed to locate a convoy of 8 ships reported upon and attacked the previous day off the Frisian Islands.

5 Blenheims swept the Belgian and North East Coast of France and encountered 4 minesweepers of 500/1000 tons. Two of the Blenheims bombed from a low altitude and missed by a few yards. They followed up with machine gunning and tracer was seen to enter the decks.

1 Blenheim attacked concrete gun emplacements 2/3 miles south of Lapano between Dunkirk and Ostend and bursts were seen 20/30 yards in front of the centre emplacement. Other emplacements were machine gunned and the remaining Blenheim of this sortie successfully machine gunned 7 E-Boats about 3 miles south west of Dunkirk. (H.Q.B.C., 0012/2)

Patrols

One Hudson will be carrying out cross over patrol on meridian 8° 15' W., between 47° 30' N., 49° N., from 0200/2 until 0900/2. (D.O.D. H. 0118/2)

My 0304/2. No other patrols being flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1002/2)

My 1002/2. Patrol ~~HORNBY~~ is being flown now. (C. in C., Rosyth 1300/2)Escorts

A/S air escort arranged today by Hudson A/C of 18 Group from 1100 to last light (C. in C., Rosyth, 0238/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

Expect A/S air escort by 18 Group aircraft of one Whitley from first light relieved by one Sunderland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0246/2 to RESTIGOUCHE)

Expect A/S air escort throughout daylight today Wednesday by Battle Aircraft. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0254/2 to WANQUISHER, etc.)

/H. 32.....

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

H.32
and
H.50.

Our aircraft will endeavour to contact H.32 at 0900 and H.50 at 1030. (F.O.S. 0812/2.).

Bombing
Restrictions.

Cancel my 2337/1. (F.O.S. 1017/2 to H.Q.C.C.)

Own A/C.
fired on.

Your 1233/4. We are now informed by Bomber Command that the Blenheim R.2784 was approaching Yarmouth when it was fired on by guns from Lowestoft and, as this conforms with your signal referred to, it would be appreciated if you would state the circumstances which led up to the firing on this aircraft by British defences. (Air Ministry F.O.6. 1240/2.).

Enemy Air Activity.

SAN CONRADO.
(Bombed 1/4.).

My 2227/1. SAN CONRADO reported badly on fire N.W. of Smalls when last seen. Tug and Trawler not in company. A/S Trawler YORK CITY sailed 2340/1, to resume search. All crew of Tanker landed here. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0316/2.).

* HIDLEFSJORD.

My 2227/1 and 0316/2. SAN CONRADO was again bombed whilst in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER at 1920/1 and set on fire. Tow had to be cut. This vessel and *HIDLEFSJORD were reported: by YORK CITY as burning fiercely at 0515/2. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1005/2.).

UMBERLEIGH.

(British, 4950 Tons) Bombed in 54° 59' N., 1° 11' W. (Cullercoats Radio 0734/2.).

ANTICOSTI.

(British, 1925 Tons). Bombed No. 3. buoy, 0930/2. (Humber Radio 0935/2.). Ex F.N. 48. Master reports bombed off H.3. Buoy at 1040 this morning. No damage reported. (F.O. Humber 1548/2.).

/QUORN.....

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

QUORN
(Attacked 1/4)

My 1235/1. 2 delayed action heavy bombs exploded underwater distance 20 yards on port quarter. Following minor damage sustained. No other damage yet apparent. (QUORN 0945/2)

Attack off
Thorshavn
on 1/4.

My 2210/1. Trawler bombed and machine gunned. 4 fishing trawlers machine gunned. Damage negligible. (N.O.I.C., Faroes 0955/2)

Jan Mayen
A/C wreckage.

Metal wreckage of one or two German planes has been found on beach North of North lagoon Jan Mayen Island. (N.O.I.C., Iceland 0957/2)

ADELLEN
(Bombed 1/4)

Fire in ADELLEN has been put out, and vessel is being brought into harbour. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1005/2)

Convoy
F.S. ~~044~~ 451

One aeroplane unknown. My position 53° 35' N., 0° 57' E. (VORTIGERN 1040/2) Fighter assistance requested for Convoy Position 53° 27' N., 0° 57' E. (VORTIGERN 1214/2) My 1214/1 JU 88 2 bombs heard dropped well astern. Damage unknown. (VORTEGERN, 1237/2)

Seven Skua
A/C damaged
on 1/4.

Seven Skuas of 801 Squadron damaged by enemy action p.m. 1st at R.A.F. Station St. Eval. One of these requires salvage and remaining six are extensively damaged by blast and falling debris. 801 Squadron now has two operationally serviceable aircraft at St. Eval and it is expected that a further two will be available p.m. today. (St. Merryn 1225/2) Your 1225/2. Report by signal.
(a) Cause of damage
(b) Whether aircraft were dispersed.
(5th S.L. 2020/2)
Your 2020/2.
(a) One 500 lb H.E.
(b) Yes. (ST. Merryn 2210/2)

/2 A/C.....

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

2 Aircraft
crashed on
S.W. Irish
Coast.

It is reported from a reliable Irish source that 2 German planes crashed on the S.W. Irish Coast yesterday evening. (F.O.I.C., Milford Haven 1253/2)

Thrumster
A.M.E. Station
bombed.

My 1240/30/3. A.M.E.S. at Thrumster was again attacked by single JU 88 at 0750 today. Two U.X.B' dropped but no damage or casualties. (A.C.O.S., 1304/2)

LORNA DOONE

(Paddle Minesweeper) My 1302/2. LORNA DOONE was in action with 3 Junkers at 1032 who attacked with bombs and machine gun fire. Bombs near missed apparently no damage. Cannon shell caused minor damage and 2 wounded. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft 1305/2)

SWORD DANCE
(Bombed 1/4)

My 2200/1. After examination of damage repairs include the following. Provisional date of completion 30/4. (F.O.Humber 1547/2)

SAMBRE

(Belgian, 683 tons) Returned to Humber having lost both anchors and damaged propeller. Master reports being bombed and machine gunned while anchored off Humber Light Vessel at 0800/1 and 1600/1. No damage to ship and no casualties. (F.O.Humber 1548/2)

M/S Trawler
off Portland.

M/S Trawler attacked by 1 Heinkel 111 in position 293° Portland Bill 10 miles at 1220 today. 8 bombs dropped, no damage no casualties. Enemy driven off by Spitfire. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1650/2)

CRAMOND ISLAND

H.M.T. CRAMOND ISLAND sunk by enemy aircraft 120° five miles St. Abbs Head at about 1400. (N.O.I.C., Leith 1716/2)

/FERMAIN.....

War Diary2.4.1941.
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity -Contd.FERMAIN

(British, 759 tons) Bombed and sunk about 3 miles 325° 62 buoy in 12 fathoms. Dangerous to navigation. (F.O.Humber 1747/2)

Unknown
Vessel

Automatic AAAA heard at 1946 strength 2 bearing from GPK 190° approx. (Port Patrick Radio 1947/2) (Lands End 1951/2) (Seaforth 2143/2)

Possible
Air Operations
from Bordeaux.

There are indications that long range German aircraft may be operating from Bordeaux during the night. (D.D.I.C. 2102/2)

RESOLUTION

There are reasons to expect exceptional enemy air activity during your passage. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2123/2 to RESOLUTION)

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.8.
SCOTT.

Your 1431/31. No A/A escort is available. If SCOTT has not enough armament to meet attack of single enemy aircraft, request you will initiate steps to improve her equipment. (C. in C. H.F. 0507/2 to R.A.M.L.)
Departure SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0933/2 to R.A.M.L.)
I am not satisfied that SUFFOLK is adequately worked up. C.O. has been instructed to inform F.O.C. 2nd. C.S. and you of progress in next few days. If considered advisable, NORFOLK should reinforce SUFFOLK as cover for operation S.N.8.
(ii) Decision as to whether SUFFOLK is to relieve NORFOLK in Denmark Strait is to be made by you. (C. in C. H.F. 1020/2. to F.O.C. 1st. C.S.).

Operation
B.S.53.

Sailing postponed 24 hours on account of weather. All times in my 0915/1 to be 24 hours later accordingly. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0947/2.).

Z.M.E. 27.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1530 today for Z.M.E.27 to lay at midnight returning on completion about 0845 tomorrow. (PLOVER 1022/2.).

Thames
Estuary.

One S.A. Mine detonated as follows, at 0335/2. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1153/2.).

Moray
Firth
Sweep.

My 1117/30/3 and 1655/1/4. Operations cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1255/2 to ALBURY.).

Dundee
Area.

L.L. drifter GLOW detonated mines today in exact position of M 3 loop of controlled minefield. Explosion was a double one, and it seems probable two mines detonated. Subsequent test of M 3 circuit and loop shows they are completely out of action. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1729/2.).

/Humber.....

War Diary.

2.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Humber Area.
Explosions.

Spontaneous explosions occurred at 0030 and 0425 today. Position unknown. (F.O. Humber 1759/2.).

Brest
Proposed
Minelaying.

Suggest moored contact mines adapted for laying from aircraft with parachutes should be laid in Goulet at Brest where defensive minefields exist vide C.B. 1804 plan 21. They will be mistaken for ground mines and normal sweeping is improbable in defensively mined area. Reconnaissance may show where normal sweeping begins and ends. A double-edged weapon. The answer, controlled ground mines in swept channel through controlled fields. (C.S.I. 18322/2.).

Winterton.

Parachute Mine D.M. MK IV (Roman figures) at Winterton rendered safe and recovered. (R.M.S.O. Yarmouth 1923/2.).

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU

Visual reconnaissance at 0830/2 found
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still at Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 1010/2)

Baltic.

Ice Report. (Stockholm 1643/2)

Technical

Request for
3 C.H.L.
Equipment
& Personnel
for M/V's

An urgent requirement has arisen for fitting R.D.F. into merchant ships equipped with fighter catapult aircraft. It would be appreciated if three C.H.L. equipments could be released at a very early date for fitting in three merchant ships. technical assistance provided to signal School, Portsmouth, in the work of installing gear, and (a) a certain number of personnel to operate the equipment afloat. If the above can be released request you will say when the equipment will be ready for delivery.
(D.S.D. 1939/2 to Air Ministry)

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Convoys in
Irish Sea.

Convoys are not to be permitted to proceed past the Smalls until further orders.

Requested C. in C., W.A. will forward proposals for (a) Provision of adequate escort. (b) A programme showing times at which it is intended convoys should pass the more dangerous areas.

(V.C.N.S., 1208/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Reply (C. in C., W.A. 2116/2) See Lion Copy only. (Policy)

Military Convoys

GLENARTNEY

Intend sailing GLENARTNEY escorted by ASSINIBOINE 1700/4 R.V. with CORMORIN and BOREAS at 0800/5 in position 270° Oversay 6 miles speed 13½ knots thence in accordance with Admty. 1728/31.
(N.O.I.C., Liverpool 1154/2 to Admty. etc)

War Diary

2.4.1941.
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DENEB

(Dutch, 199 tons) Salvage now safely completed. Drydocked Middlesbrough. (Smith, W. Hartlepool 1015/2)

GOLDEN WEST

(N.C.S. Steam Drifter) In collision with MONA'S ISLE at 1700. No damage to MONA'S ISLE. GOLDEN WEST suffered damage to rails, deck structure, and boom.

SANVIKHORN

(N.C.S.M/F drifter) Broke Mizzen mast under counter of S/S GEDDINGTON COURT at 1230/1. SANVIKHORN is immobilised owing to rope winding round propellor at same time. Vessel will need to be beached. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1100/2)

SHERWOOD

My 1013/2. SHERWOOD returned Plymouth 1535. D.G. Coil burnt out. (C. in C., Plymouth 1857/2)

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DERNA
Italian.

Arrived 1/4, from Genoa.
(Barcelona, 0010/2.)

FIJI
to join
Force H.

My 1930/1. FIJI is not to return to U.K. but is to proceed to Gibraltar and join Force H. temporarily on their return from operation WINCH. "Winch".
FIJI will be detached from time to time for escort duties.
(1st S.L. 0112/2 to C.in C. H.F.)

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

My 1930/1 (disposition of forces to intercept SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU should they leave Brest), is being passed to you for information.
(H.W.R. 0122/2 (At request of O.D.) to F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

O.24.

Adjust speed to pass through position 350° Cape Spartel 10 at 0700 B.S.T./2. Following ships are on patrol ERIN between Tarifa and Tangier, LORD HOTHAM in Gibraltar Bay.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0138/2 to O.24).
Neth. S/M O.24 proceeding Gibraltar (route). Expected in position (Cape?) Spartel 10 at 0700/2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0150/2 Arrival O.24. to ENCHANTRESS).
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1030/2).

Operation "Winch"
WINCH.

Gibraltar Departure RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNER, FORESIGHT, FEARLESS, FORTUNE, FURY for "Winch".
(S.C.(I) Gib., 0246/2).

MAGALLANES
intercepted.

Your 2130Z/1. Take off as many male Germans of military age in accordance with standing instructions that you can fit in. Passport Control Officer New York has approved passage of 239 New York passengers including 181 Germans. Helen Zimmerman believed carrying official documents. Ship is not to be diverted.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0875/2 to MALVERNIAN).

War Diary2.4.1941.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic- Contd.MAGALLANES
intercepted

CAVINA is to close MALVERNIAN in position to be indicated by MALVERNIAN and embark German prisoners ex SS MAGALLANES before proceeding in accordance with F.O.C.N.P's 1430/31/3. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1016/2 to CAVINA, MALVERNIAN) Commendatore Constantino of Italian Ministry of Exchange and Finance, passenger in MAGALLANES has bag of important despatches for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome also secret packet for Lisbon. If still in touch with ship remove both despatches and packet if found. Unless this man claims diplomatic immunity remove him as an enemy agent. (D.E.W.D. 1851/2 to MALVERNIAN)
Your 0815/2 after investigating ship released 1100 G.M.T. 042° 45' N., 027° 14' W
Your 1016/2 cancelled.
Your 1851/2 persons bags and packet still in MAGALLANES. Report on arrival N.P.M. 267. 1200/5. (MALVERNIAN 1930/Z/2 to Admty). Admty. 0815/2. Your 1930/2. Report how many Germans you have taken off MAGALLANES. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2332/2 to MALVERNIAN)
Your 2332/2. Nil. (MALVERNIAN 2330/2 to Admty)

CAPO ALGA
BURANO

Teneriffe reports Italian SS CAPO ALGA and tanker BURANO sailed from there 2100/1. (Description). (F.O.C.N.A. 1010/2 to N.A. Station).

OTUS.
OLYMPUS.
O. 21.

To be kept available for special service at short notice.
(1st S.L. 1054/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1054/2. OTUS at immediate notice from 2000/2 subject to limitations given in my 1704/27. OLYMPUS arrives Gibraltar p.m/2 after 20 days at sea, state unknown. O.21 is now at immediate notice and sails with H.G. 58 p.m/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510Z/2 to Admty.)

/NIGERIA.....

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

NIGERIA.

To R/V with Convoy H.G.57 on 3/4 to provide ocean escort to U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1250/2 to ROCHESTER etc.)

UNDAUNTED.

My 1203/1 UNDAUNTED will proceed on the surface after passing through position D, entering North Atlantic Station at 0600/10 and shifting W/T Watch at that time. Amend E.T.A. at position G keeping within position 350° Cape Spartel 10 miles to read 24 hours earlier. (Capt: S.5. 1414/2 to Admty etc.)

→ CAIRNDALE.

Your 1751/24 and your 0007/29. Request how long it is intended to retain CAIRNDALE at "Pedestal" or whether relief for her is being sent to Gibraltar. Naval bulk Stocks of petrol available at Gibraltar. (details) (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/2 to Admty).

See also p 60

VELOX
WRESTLER.

My 1212/28. VELOX and WRESTLER will be sailed for Freetown about 12/4 provided that DUNCAN and FOXHOUND have arrived back at Gibraltar by that date and that VIDETTE and WISHART can arrive at Gibraltar by 19/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1634/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

→ PANDORA.

Ref: 1900/30 from Admty. Request you will pass following to BIRMINGHAM. PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any raider which attacks her. W/T watch for PANDORA in accordance with 120 A.Z. of 1635/17/2. Request you will keep PANDORA informed of proposed fuelling arrangements of BIRMINGHAM. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/2 to C.in C. S.A.)

See also p 60

MARSDALE.

Your 1730/2. (N.T. in W.R.) Remain on U.3. patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 2148/2 to MARSDALE).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

→ BABITONGA
FRIESLAND.

Pernambuco reports no change in situation of Italian ships.
German BABITONGA at Santos has now received permission to sail.
Italian ships in River Plate show no signs of activity.
German FRIESLAND at Paita (Peru) is reported on fire.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 0146Z/2 to S.O.(I) Freetown).
Consider capture of BABITONGA who may be a supply ship and who now has permission to sail, is most important.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1120Z/2 to ASTURIAS).

LECH.
→ BABITONGA.

LECH probably sailing tonight, expect BABITONGA fugitive likewise from Santos.
LECH short of oil, BABITONGA has 1000 tons in barrels, they have probably arranged a rendezvous. N.S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C.in C. Africa.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1815/2 to Admty).

CONTE
GRANDE
→ BABITONGA.

Santos reports (A.3.) Italian CONTE GRANDE and German BABITONGA may sail shortly. They show no indication other than CONTE GRANDE seen to be provisioning life boats.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2103Z/2 to Admty).

CUMBERLAND.

Wearing flag of R.A.S.A.D. arrived Montevideo 1300Z/2 and expects to leave on patrol 1300Z/3.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1330Z/2 to Admty).

MARATHON
(overdue
19/3).

Master of British ship GLENOGLE passed and inspected on 16/3 two empty life boats recently vacated and abandoned in 020.44'N., 024.51'W. marked MARATHON, Piraeus.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1427B/2 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORMONDE.

My 1245/31. To avoid delay 250 service personnel should be disembarked from ORMONDE and vessel sailed forthwith independently for Freetown and U.K. (D.O.D(F) 1721/2 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Walrus
~~WALRUS~~
for
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1133/15. Walrus now embarked is to be disembarked at Simonstown. No Walrus is available for your onward passage. (D.N.A.D. 1859/2 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

CAIRNDALE.

PANDORA is in close company with CAIRNDALE with object of sinking any raider which attacks her. Request CAIRNDALE be instructed to be at eastern end of patrol line 0800N/11. (C.in C. S.A. 2145N/2 to PANDORA, BIRMINGHAM). *See p 56*

BIRMINGHAM
C.HUYGENS.

My 1905/1 BIRMINGHAM sailed from Freetown with CHRISTIAN HUYGENS 1700/2 to join S.L.70 and escort to position (V) 053° 20'N., 020° 00'W. Request Admty will issue onward routeing instructions. BIRMINGHAM instructed to fuel "Pedestal" 11/4 unless other orders are received. (C.in C. S.A. 2155N/2.)

Raider
which
sank
BRITANNIA.

Your 1606/30 and my 1631/30 Capt: Paton R.N. survivor from BRITANNIA does not consider raider was SANTA CRUZ 1. Reasons. (C.in C. S.A. 2339/2 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Croats
and action
in Adriatic.

Following is correction of my 2209/1. C.in C. Med. repeated D.N.I. from N.A. Athens. Following telegram from ZACREB has been handed to me by S.of S. for Foreign Affairs. "Emphasised to me by persons who count that Croatian spirit and resistance would be much strengthened by British Naval action in Adriatic. Absence of such action or promises thereof had some influence on deciding Croats to vote for pact. Failure to stop coastal traffic with Albania has also affected public opinion on coast very unfavourably". Meeting with Yugo Slav representative shortly. Can I announce at meeting "British Submarines and Fleet Aircraft have been operating lately in Adriatic and sank at least six ships in ten days. Operations are to be intensified. Suggest? Allied would (corrupt group) take Durazzo and provide adequate air strength British Naval Forces would make more use of Adriatic".

(Brit. Resident, Athens, 0843/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Egypt
A.R.P.

Chiefs of Staff for C. in C. Med., and M.E. No.72:- "In view of opinions expressed in Cairo telegrams Nos. 228 and 306 to F.O. do you still consider threat of air bombardment on Egyptian cities is sufficiently serious to justify. (a) Egyptian A.R.P. work being regarded as assential defence work in interests of British Forces, and if so (b) financial assistance from H.M.G. if Egyptian Gov., cannot be induced to pay". (1st S.L. 1055/2 to C.in C. Med.)

EXMOUTH.

X.807 dated 8/3 and X.232 dated 11/3 American Red Cross ship EXMOUTH will not leave Marseilles on return voyage until 12/4 or shortly thereafter. (Air Min. 1100/2 to A.O.C.in C. M.E.)

TETRARCH.
area X.

Ref: memo. of S.O. 9 para.7., and 8 to

/TETRARCH.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TETRARCH
area X.
(Contd.)

TETRARCH only, and my 2015/31 not to TETRARCH. Cancel all reference area M. You are to remain in area X until further directions.
(Capt: S.l. 1145/2 to TETRARCH).

U/B's
as fishing
ships. DERNA ?

Possibility enemy submarines are disguising themselves as fishing ships. DERNA reports shot fired well astern suspect fishing ship caused sail to be furled and ship then disappeared.
(Capt: S.l. 1151/2 to TETRARCH).

Torpedoing
of YORK.

My 0901/1. Add to para.(?two) "Noise of engines (?heard) about half a minute before the explosion. Generally mistaken for aircraft."
(YORK, 1201/2).

Title of
Battle on
28/3.

Recent engagement with Italian forces is to be referred to as "Battle of the Ionian Sea".
(C.in C. Med., 1213/2 to Med. Station).
(Cancelled see 1439/6 page 200.)

UPHOLDER.

Leaving Malta p.m./3 to operate in area J 035° 10' 011° 10' - 000° 40' - 40' with alternative area O 035° 00' (?) 012° 10' - 000° - 40' - 40'.
(Cdr. S.l. 1221/2 to Capt: S.l.)

LAURA CORRADO
and U/Boat
sunk by RORQUAL
Two M/V's
torpedoed by
UTMOST.

Your 0159/2. Following is repetition RORQUAL 2330/31 addressed Capt: (S) 1. (begins). Your 2329/29 have left patrol one day early all torpedoes expended. Have sunk tanker LAURA CORRADO and one (? CALVI) class U/Boat. Mines have been laid as follows:
E.T.A. Malta, 0700 B/4.
(Capt: S.l. 1246/2 to Admty).
RORQUAL's 2330/31. It is requested no mention be made of RORQUAL in connection with these sinkings in case existence of minefield may be suspected.
(C.in C. Med., 1338/2 to Admty. etc.)

cont.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Following submarine actions reported:-
(a) RORQUAL sunk Tanker LAURA CORRADO and one CALVI class U/Boat, no details yet known.

(b) UTMOST attacked southbound convoy of six laden escorted vessels in 35° 40N, longitude uncertain at 2200/28 firing four torpedoes two hits one on a 1200 ton ship and one on a 6000 ton ship.

2. Preferable no announcement be made as regards (b) for one week nor should name of submarine be mentioned. As regards (a) see my 1338/2. (C.in C. Med., 2008/2).

RORQUAL
REGENT
UPHOLDER.

RORQUAL proceed through 036° 35' 012° 00' and 180° Filfola Is. five miles to arrive 0700 B/4. REGENT through 015° 25' 014° 14' and 035° 31' 014° 14' to arrive 0700B/5. UPHOLDER leaves Malta about 2000B/3 through 035° 37' 014° 06' and 035° 20' 012° 40' A/S trawler will be on patrol until 0800/5. (Cdr. S.l. 1303/2 to RORQUAL, REGENT).

Yugoslav
shipping.

Yugoslav Govt. have given instructions to their shipping abroad that in event of hostilities ships are to proceed immediately to Allied or Neutral ports. (2) At the moment local authorities will not permit Yugo Slav ships leave Adriatic. However all ships are being moved to southern Adriatic ports and in event of necessity I see no reason why they should not go out, especially if their departure could be arranged to coincide with a demonstration by British Forces. Informed by General Staff traffic through Bar to Albania has been (? suspended). (N.A. Belgrade, 1305/2 to Admty).

Prisoners
held by
Greeks.

Re disposal (W.O. 1320/2 to C.in C. M.E.)

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy
Hospital
Ship.

Op. Summ. 296 up to 1200 hrs. 2/4/41 in 3 parts. 1/4 Sunderland recco. reported Italian Hospital Ship posn. 35° 48' N., 21° 12' E. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1433/2)

Enemy Units.

Susak reports following left Fiume p.m. /31. (1) Floating dock in tow (of) 3 torpedo boats (2) 2 submarines one of which towed by tug (3) One destroyer as escort to submarine. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1527/2 to Admty etc.)

Battle of
Cape
Matapan.

Amendment to C.in C. Med., 1700/30. (C.in C. Med., 1604/2) See 30/3.

Capacity of
Tripoli and
Benghazi .

I/53346 cipher 1/4. 03974. My I/49309 of 15/3. From more accurate data now available find our estimates capacity Benghazi Harbour before our occupation were 65 per cent in excess of actual tonnage unloaded at that port. We still consider average capacity Tripoli Port can be safely assessed at 2,500 tons a day. (C.in C. M.E. 1700/2), (to W.C.)

Malta
Air
Report.

Combined Service report Malta up to 1600 hours 2/4. Afternoon fighter sweep round Malta by 16 M.E.109'S and C.R. 42's at 18000 feet 5 miles out. Did not cross coast. 14 Hurricanes up but no engagements. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1950/2).

Italian
MARIANNINA.

Consul Barcelona reports left 2/4 for Genoa. (F.O.C.N.A. 2306/2 to S.O.Force H).

Attack on
YORK at
Suda Bay.

My 1340/29. It was first assumed attack was made by human torpedoes. Request report called for may be modified to meet different circumstances shewn by S.B.N.O. Suda Bay's 1855/27, and that it may include state of weather at the time. Request also your remarks on immediate measures and long term policy to meet this threat. (V. C.N.S. 2005/2 to C.in C. Med.)

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian
ships
at Diego
Suarez.

Crews reported assaulted by Greek crews and by crew of French NIVOSE. Italians now confined to their ships. (D.S. 575).

W.S.6.
GLASGOW
DORSETSHIRE
CORNWALL.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0843/28. (i) LLANDAFF CASTLE and CITY OF ATHENS are to be detached from W.S.6. at dark 8th ships to proceed to Mombasa. CITY OF ATHENS will subsequently proceed from Mombasa to Aden unescorted.

N.O.I.C. Durban 1011/31. SCYTHIA and BERGENSFJORD are to be detached from convoy in the vicinity of Cape Guardafui to proceed to Aden to replenish. These 2 ships will subsequently rejoin convoy as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. TALAMBA escorted by GLASGOW from Seychelles is to R/V with W.S.6. on 10/4 TALAMBA will continue with convoy to Suez. GLASGOW is to escort convoy to Guardafui Strait and then proceed to Mombasa at 18 knots.

(iv) GLASGOW joining escort. DORSETSHIRE is to be detached to Mombasa to complete with fuel and is then to proceed to Simonstown so as to arrive 18/4 in readiness to escort W.S.7.

(v) Present intention is for CORNWALL to escort W.S.6. to Suez.

(0556Z/2).

See also next page

Italian
Destroyer
Sunk.
(LEONE).

My 1722/1 para.4.

(1) Cause of sinking unknown. Destroyer appeared to have been recently abandoned and may have scuttled.

(2) Probably same destroyer as that reported under weigh by Swordfish at 0913/1.

(C.in C. E.I. 0730/2.) (See also 1736/2). W.D. Note:- This destroyer was LEONE, see 2340/4.

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.6.
DORSETSHIRE.

Your 1230/30. Proposed action is to detach DORSETSHIRE from W.S.6. Escort at dusk/4 in about 021° S. If this is decided upon, Force T would give W.S.6. cover to the eastward on 8/4 and 9/4. (C.in C. E.I. 0746Z/2 to Admty).

GLASGOW
W.S.6.

To leave Mombasa 4/4 for Port Victoria Seychelles to arrive A.M./7. GLASGOW will be required to leave Seychelles p.m./7 escorting TALAMBA to R/V with W.S.6. (C.in C. E.I. 0750Z/2 to GLASGOW).

Message to
Duke D'Aosta.

O/53348 April 1st begins. My O/53273 (0940/1) (Message to Duke D'Aosta warning against scuttling of shipping in Massawa). Shortage of shipping should not repeat not be mentioned to Aosta. (M.E.T.H.I. 1308/2 to Advance Force Nairobi).

Suspicious
Ship.

Following has been read. One unidentified vessel bearing 040° distance 2 miles course 130° position 267 P.R.M.6. (CAPE SABLE, 1635Z/2). N.B. CAPE SABLE patrolling off Perim.

Italian
destroyers.

My 1722/1. Para.one. photographs show that three not two Italian destroyers had left. Two of these have not been seen since. One has probably sunk, see my 0730/2. (2) At 1230Z/2 the remaining five Italian destroyers were under way 8 miles east of Jasyawa in groups of two and three. ((C.in C. E.I. 1736Z/2 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Minefields.

Full details of British Mine Fields are deposited with British Consul, General, Batavia, and full details of Dutch Mine fields with Dutch Consul General, Singapore. Suggest you arrange for similar interchange of information which would include Searched Channel. (C.in C. China, 0332Z/2 to A.C.N.B.)

Indo China Exports.

Saigon telegram 61 to F.O. Supplying of Gunny bags for export of rice to unoccupied France is directly contrary to article 11 of agreement and Indo China has already asked for relaxation of this effect. (My 0957/18 to Admty and Hong Kong only refers). Suggest if any relaxation is now contemplated it should depend on drastic reduction in allocation of rubber exports to unoccupied France (See para. 4 my 1047/24. (C.in C. China, 0459Z/2 to Admty).

M.T.B. 26 damaged.

M.T.B. 26 damaged by collision with THANET during night exercises 1/4. Injury to Lieut. Comm. Boldero reported by P.M.O. Hong Kong 1700/1 occurred in this collision. (Cdre. Hong Kong 0503Z/2 to Admty).

Indo-China Trade.

Your 0229/29. 3 Norwegian ships named are engaged in Indian trade where they have released tonnage suitable for worldwide trading. Not possible to state when they can again be made available for Indo-China Trade. (D.T.D. 1212/2 to C.in C. China).

CONTE VERDE.
(Italian).

Reported by Press to have left Shanghai on 1/4 escorted by Japanese warships. (D.S. 575 3/4).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

In view of presence of U/Boat in approx. 61° N., 30° W. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to part company with Convoy on passing through Long. 31° W. (D.O.D.(H) 0146/2 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Enemy ships seized.

Further reports of ships being seized have been received. (D.S.575 2/4). At Port Everglades, Florida. ARAUCA, 4400. PAULINE FRIEDERICH (T) 4733 - Machinery badly damaged. (German). At Tampico, Mexico. ORINOCO 9660. (German Italian). AMERICANO (T) 7008, ATLAS (T) 2005, FEDE (T) 7884, GENOANO (T) 6067 LUCIFERO (T) 4000, MARINA O 5480, STELVIO (T) 6963, TUSCANIA (T) 6904, VIGOR (T) 6511. At Vera Cruz, Mexico. (German) HAMELN, 4174. (Italian) GIORGIO FASSIO (T) 6735. At Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. (Italian) BACICIN PADRE (T) 5591.

RECCA ships at Tampico and Vera Couz.

Italian ship RECCA at Havana and enemy ships Tampico and Vera Couz taken in preventive custody by Governments concerned. (S.O.(I) Kingston 0834/2 to C.in C. A.E.I) See also 1501/2.

German OSORNO.

Sailed from Talcahuano 0520/Z/2. (C.in C.AWI. 0943/2 to PRINCE HENRY).

ALABAMA DENTICE DURAZZO.

Italian ships ALABAMA, DENTICE, German ship DURAZZO in custody. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0958/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MUNCHEN HERMONTHIS intercepted by PRINCE HENRY.

(on 1/4)

German ships MUNCHEN and HERMONTHIS left Callao at 0005 G.M.T. and were intercepted by PRINCE HENRY at 1200 G.M.T. and 1800 G.M.T. respectively. MUNCHEN in 11° 18'S., 79° 09' W. HERMONTHIS in 12° 13'S., 80° 10' W. Both ships on fire. Reports indicate little hope of saving either. Crew of HERMONTHIS are on board PRINCE HENRY. Crew of MUNCHEN last seen in lifeboats making for coast, BISHOPDALE sent to intercept. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/2 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Admty. 1219/1. Both ships intercepted and on fire.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/2 to C.in C. China).

U/S
Destroyers.

Following information urgently required.
(D.T.S.D. 1113/2 to N.A.Washington).

CAMBRIA,
Cable
ship.

My 112/2. Cable ship CAMBRIA is to be supplied on arrival with S.P. 02272 (12) and (13) and is to be sailed for area between positions 007° 00'N., 028° 00'W. and 002° 00'N., 029° 50'W. anchor work on cables as desired by CAMBRIA. After consulting with Master report position in which work will commence and of arrival there.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1122/2 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

BRITISH
STRENGTH
SIMNIA
POLYKARP.

Ministry of shipping 1608/7. British ships BRITISH STRENGTH, SIMNIA, Norwegian POLYKARP not arrived.
(S.O.(I)Jamaica 1148/2 to Admty).

DIOMEDE.

My 1252/1. Your departure is to be postponed until completion of practices A.M./4. Return to Bermuda A.M./12.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1152/2 to DIOMEDE.)

SILVERFIR
MANGHAI.

Your 1222/7/3 and 1014/10/3 SILVERFIR and Dutch MANGHAI have not arrived this side.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1212/2 to Min. of Shipping.)

RHAKOTIS
(German).

Sailed from Antofagasta Chile a.m./2.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1243/2 to Admty etc.)

ATLAS.

My 0834/2 ATLAS now reported Sea Cocks opened sunk in shallow water.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1501/2).
(ATLAS was at Tampico D.S.575).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION.

My 1610/24. Your final destination is Philadelphia.
(D.O.D.(H) 1537/2 to RESOLUTION).

SOUTHGATE
"R" report
16/3.

Your 1702/1/4. Master states cruiser type of vessel closed to distance of two miles and signalled him to shew signal letters. Shortly afterwards war vessel signalled "British warship proceed" but made no attempt to challenge in accordance with Admty 2005/25/12. Shortly afterwards and while war vessel was still in sight an eastward convoy escorted by a capital ship passed, so Master assumed war vessel was friendly and accordingly broadcast the all clear in code.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 1705/2 to Admty).
Your 1702/1 SOUTHGATE sighted and reported H.M.S. LACONIA.
(F.O.C.3. B.S. 1805/2 to Admty).

LECH
BABITONGA.
(German)

LECH probably sailing tonight expect BABITONGA to do likewise from Santos. LECH short of oil BABITONGA has 1000 tons in barrels, they have peobably arranged a R/V S.O.(I) Freetown pass to C.in C. S.A.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1815/2).

Enemy ships
in Chilean
Ports.

Your 1353/2. There are 6 German ships in Chilean Ports. No Italians. Chilean Govt. has not followed U.S. lead in placing them under surveillance and one has actually been given clearance papers but has not yet sailed. German Ambassador has given assurance vessels will not be fired in Chilean Ports. Ambassador has pointed out to Chilean Min. F.A. value of this assurance in view of happenings in Costa Rica where similar assurance was given. Endeavouring by all means at our disposal to delay sailing of German ships. C.in C. A.W.I. informed of situation.
(N.A. Santiago de Chile 1815/2 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

F.A.A. in
Crete
Action.

Your 1519/1. As far as in known in Admty. normal type torpedo attack tactics were employed. (D.N.A.D. 1858/2 to N.A.Washington).

KOSS
vessels
sailed.

Your 1405/24. KOSS 5, 4, 16 and 17 sailed from St. Johns 2215 G.M.T. today Weather permitting Greenock a.m./12 E.T.A. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 1912/2 to C.O.A.S. Halifax).

CANTON.

Regret not possible to divert CANTON's refit from U.S.A. to U.K. Officers and ratings on passage will have to be landed Halifax and passengers arranged to U.K. at first opportunity. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1930/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Troop Transport.

Requirements for Middle East are as follows. Mid May 11,900 Mid June, 14,000 latter includes 5,600 from New Zealand.
(Navy Off. Melbourne, 1125Z/2 to D. of S.T.)

ALEXANDRE ANDRE.

Your 0426/31. and your 0655/31.
(Reply re crew trouble).
(D.S.T. 2358/2 to D.N.O. Queensland).

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships
Attacked.

ALMKERK
(torpedoed
16/3).

Dutch ALMKERK, 6810 tons, now known to have been torpedoed and sunk on 16/3. Was bound independently from Fremantle for Avonmouth with wheat. 31 of crew landed at Liverpool, 32 of passengers and crew landed at Freetown, and 3 passengers at Konakry, French Guinea. (D.S. 575/3/4).

ALDERGROVE.

Following has been read. SSSS 050 N., 12.01 W. X331 (Parts of signal missed). ELBA torpedoed. (Freetown 0055Z/2). British ALDERGROVE, 1974 tons, from Huelva for Ardrossan with iron ore in H.G.57 reported to have been torpedoed at 0155/2. Position doubtful but may have been 50° N., 12.01 W. (D.S.575, 3/4).

CLAN OGILVY
BENWYVIS
(torpedoed
21/3).

24 Survivors picked up by Spanish CABO VILLANO in position 011° N., 023° 50' W. at 2131/1. Two more boats with 60 survivors in the vicinity not found. All ships requested to keep a good look out. (C.in C. S.A. 1108/2 to G.B.M.S. 6A,9 S.O.(I) Freetown, 1137N/2, N.A.Madrid 1745/2).

BEAVERDALE.

British 9957 tons. S.S. BEAVERDALE torpedoed in position 60° 50 N., 29° 19 W at 0016/2. Request you send trawler if available to search for survivors also tug THAMES if she can be released. (A.C.O.S. 1156/2 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.) Your 1156/2 WHITETHORN proceeding forthwith. Tug THAMES as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1337/2 to A.C.O.S.) Your 1156/2. WHITETHORN has been recalled owing to engine defect, am sending ELM. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1918/2 to A.C.O.S.)

WAR DIARY.

2.4.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

REYKJABORG.
(torpedoed
about 11/3).

Your 1244/19. Request survivors of REYKJABORG may be questioned regarding possibility of enemy having obtained identification certificate.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1925/2 to Admty).

BRITISH
RELIANCE.

British 7000 tons, in convoy S.C.26. Following received from Resolution Island. "2339 G.M.T. SSSS 58.21N(?) 8.09W. BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed" bearing 86 approx. Uncalibrated (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2215/2 to Admty). 58 21 N., 28 09W. BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed.
(C.in C. W.A. 2357/2 to Admty).

ALDERPOOL.

British 4313 tons. Following received from Resolution Island. (Begins) 0048 G. M.T. "SSSS 58.21 N., 27.59 W. ALDERPOOL torpedoed 0045 G.M.T." Bearing 86 approx. Uncalibrated (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2219/2 to Admty).

Submarines
Reported.

My 2321/1. Further information indicates that bearings refer to U/Boats between Dakar and Cape Verde Island.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0245/2 to N.A.Station).

2012.

D/F intercept at 2012/2 indicates that convoy S.C.26 has been reported by a German U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 2055/2 to WORCESTERSHIRE).
D/F intercept at 2012/2 indicates that you may possibly have been reported by a German U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 2131/2 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1352/2 F.O.S. 1454/2 to S/Ms).

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-boat
attack on
S.C.26.
WORCESTERSHIRE
and 9 ships
torpedoed.

Convoy S.C.26 was attacked shortly after midnight about 680 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland and was scattered. The following ships were torpedoed:- Tanker BRITISH RELIANCE, S.S. ALDERPOOL, S.S. THIRLBY. A.M.C. WORCESTERSHIRE, escorting the convoy was torpedoed at 0444. S.S. HELLE and WELCOMBE were torpedoed this evening in approx. 59° N. 24° 30' W. and subsequently sank. Survivors have also been picked up from tanker BRITISH VISCOUNT, S.S. LEONIDAS Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL and INDIER.

Convoy O.B. 304 has been diverted and ordered to disperse in 25° W.

For total casualties in S.C. 26, see D.T.D., 1800/15/4, p. 480

Blyth was closed at 0650 on account of the weather.

Battle
cruisers and
E.boats at
Brest.

Visual R/C, today showed the enemy battle cruisers and 6 E.boats at Brest. All escorts and patrols were ordered by C.in C. Plymouth to be warned to expect E.Boat attacks on shipping when the weather is suitable.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

One Hampden of Bomber Command attacked one of the battle cruisers in Brest today. The air R/C and patrols which are carried out to confirm the presence of the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in Brest or to detect their departure are described in C.in C. Plymouth, 1825/3.

Enemy Air Activity.

There were constant attacks on shipping throughout today.

Plane
shot down
by LOCUST.

S.S. FILLEIGH was machine gunned off Rattray Head at 0756. RESOLUTION and escort were attacked at 1708 in 50° 52' N. 4° 54' W. LOCUST and Convoy F.S. 51 were attacked at 0847 in the Thames Approaches and report no damage to ships, two planes hit, one seen to crash later.

S.S. GEDDINGTON
COURT damaged.

S.S. GEDDINGTON COURT in Convoy E.N.94 was attacked off Methil and returned to Methil with U.X.B. on board and a hold full of water.

S.S. ROYAL
EMBLEM
HARMATRIS
slightly
damaged.

S.S. ROYAL EMBLEM in Convoy W.N.7 was machine-gunned off Aberdeen at 0800 and had her steering gear damaged. The Convoy was attacked again off Buchan Ness during the afternoon and HARMATRIS was slightly damaged but proceeded with the convoy.

S.S. ASSUAN
damaged.

S.S. ASSUAN was bombed and damaged off Scurdy Ness and went ashore.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
Z.M.E. 27.

PLOVER laid mines last night in St. Georges Channel.

Mining
off Humber.

Harbour defence patrol vessel BAHRAM was mined and destroyed this morning in North Channel, Spurn. Six enemy aircraft were reported off Flamborough Head at 1555 today, thought to be minelaying. Several mines were exploded today.

FIR
damaged.

M/S Trawler FIR was mined and damaged off ^{1/2}Pobenan this afternoon.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Winch"

12 Hurricanes flown off from ARK ROYAL arrived at Malta today. One of them crashed on landing and was considerably damaged.

Enemy Air
Attacks.
ABINGDON
damaged.

ABINGDON received slight superficial damage when bombed whilst minesweeping off Falfila (Malta) this morning.

S.S. NORTHERN
PRINCE sunk.

S.S. NORTHERN PRINCE with British ~~and~~ military stores and important materials for Greek power factories was sunk by air attack p.m. today in Anti-Kithera Channel.

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

7th S/M.
Flotilla.
Whether to
carry out a
second
Biscay
Patrol.

If submarines of 7th Flotilla are required to proceed on a second patrol in Biscay Area the following approximate programme could be carried out.

Request I may be informed as soon as possible if 7th Flotilla submarines will be required for a second patrol. (F.O.S. 1131/3.).

My 1131/3. Another factor affecting the decision as to whether 7th Flotilla should be ordered to carry out a second patrol is shortage of officers. While on patrol it is necessary to provide H and L class submarines with one additional officer each over and above the complement required while employed on training duties. The result of this is to produce complete stagnation in filling appointments to new construction and submarines completing refits. Should this stagnation be prolonged the situation will become serious. (F.O.S. 1914/3.).

Escorts for
shipping in
Irish Sea.

Measures approved and to be implemented (V.C.N.S.) 1922/3 to C. in C. W.A.).
See Lion Copy.

Irish Sea
Strengthening
of Convoy
Escorts.

Your 1252/2. 82nd and 29th Groups consisting of 8 vessels maintain patrols as follows. In view however, of urgent requirement mentioned in your signal, it should be possible to spare temporarily 82nd. A/S Group Ex AARLA undergoing repairs and 2 A/S trawlers of 29th Group. This will leave 2 A/S trawlers to maintain Boom Patrol and Patrol on Loops can be provided temporarily by Campbeltown while A/S training is suspended as at present. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/4 to C. in C. W.A.).

MARGARET
JOHNSON.

(Swedish, 5143 Tons). Leaves Faroes for Gothenburg routed as follows.
2. Ship should not be molested.
(D.O.D.H. 1921/3.).

Escort Groups
for Convoys
between
Iceland and
about 35° W.

Will be required for all H.X. and S.C. Convoys and some O.B. Convoys. Proposals to provide. (C. in C. W.A. 2336/3.). See Lion Copy.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

3. 4. 41.

Thursday

~~MOST SECRET~~~~MESSAGE~~

2336/3 April

~~IN~~

From C. in C. Western Approaches

DATE 4/4/41

REC'D 0006

P/L by T/P

~~Addressed individually~~P
48A

~~Assuming~~ all H X and S C Convoys and the appropriate O B Convoys are routed North. Four Groups of Escort Vessels will be required to provide Escort between Iceland and about 35 Degrees West. This can be achieved by either:

- (a) Forming four new Escort Groups to be based in Iceland, ships being taken from existing Groups, which would be correspondingly weakened.
- (b) Allocating four of the existing Groups to the northern route permanently, each of these Groups operating in two divisions, one between the United Kingdom and Iceland, and the other between Iceland and about 35 Degrees West. This would entail a substantial reduction in the present strength of Escorts on the Northern Route, but would enable Escorts on the Southern Routes to be maintained at full strength.
- (c) Basing a Force of Trawlers and Corvettes in Iceland, which would provide escort between Iceland and about 35 Degrees West. By withdrawing two Corvettes from each of the Escort Groups operating between the United Kingdom and Iceland, and withdrawing the Londonderry and Greenock Trawlers and the 10th A/S Group (Trawlers), four Groups of 2 Corvettes and 6 Trawlers each could be provided in Iceland, without reducing the Destroyers or Corvettes available for the Southern Routes or seriously reducing the Escorts between the United Kingdom and Iceland.

Courses A or B can be implemented with O B. 310 on 13th April, and Course C almost immediately.

- (2) Since the adoption of the Iceland Route will probably result in an increased concentration of U-Boats in this area I feel that course (B) might be unwise until the nights are substantially shorter in Northern Latitudes, although it might well be accepted later on.
- (3) Course (A), which is the only alternative to (B) which will provide Destroyer Escort further West, will reduce the Escorts both on the Northern and Southern Routes, and will probably rule out Striking Force Operations by my Forces.
- (4) If it is considered essential to provide Destroyer Escort as opposed to the type of Escort visualised in course (C) before the long period of daylight begins in May, I recommend that course (B) be put into operation as soon as possible. Alternatively course (C) might be adopted as a preliminary measure until the end of April.
- (5) As a further measure, it is for consideration whether the Trawlers at present operating on the T.R. Patrol lines South East of Iceland might not join the Escort Groups working from Iceland.

(6) May 1.....

-2-

6. May I urge that the importance of a second aerodrome in Iceland can not be overstressed.

2336/3.

Advance Copy sent Ops. & O.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)
 C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
 D. of P. (2)
 D.O.D. (H) for action.
 D.D.O.D. (H)
 D.O.D. (F)
 D.D.O.D. (F)
 D.N.I. (4)
 D.T.D.
 D.S.D.
 D.N.A.S.
 D. of L.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.M.S.
 I.P.
 W.D.
 Duty Capt.
 Hd. of M.
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 N.I.D. 10 (Paym. Cdr. Wilson).

EJ

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Invasion
Defence
Scheme
PURGE. "Purge".

It is proposed to draw up combined anti-invasion instructions under title of Naval Home Commands, anti-invasion defence scheme. (short title ~~PURGE~~). Particulars. Request your remarks. (C. in C. Nore 1052/3.) Replies (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/3, V.A. Dover 1841/3.).

Heads of
Ayr. C.H.L.
Station.

Reference T.L.C. trial with C.H.L. station. V.A.C.T.C. is requested to signal date by which station should be installed at Heads of Ayr. (D. of L.D. 1608/3.).

Movements.

Floating
Dock.
A.F.D.7.

A.M. 2217/2. Request you will give orders when A.F.D.VII is to leave Portland. F.O.I.C. Portland can provide two A/S Trawlers as escort if these can be relieved in the vicinity of the Start. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0017/3.). Your 1123/2. A.F.D.7 arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0713/3.).

ICARUS.

Propose ICARUS sails for Humber 9/4 for boiler cleaning and completion of fitting of permanent internal D.G. equipment. (D.20. 0930/3.).

RESOLUTION.

Request you will detach two of 5th D.F. at Dark to-day, to return to Plymouth by 0715/4 covering Westbound Shipping from Falmouth en route. (C. in C. Plymouth 1125/3 to RESOLUTION.).
Admiralty 1321/19. 1937/19. 1610/24.
My 1825/2.
(1). A/S Escort, LEGION, PIORUN, GARLAND, LEOPARD, S.O. LEGION.
(2). Further orders for Destroyers will be given subsequently.
(3). Request you will sail ships accordingly (C. in C. W.A. 1158/3, to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

RESOLUTION.
Contd.

A.M. 1321/19/3 and 1937/19/3.
In order that the maximum protection may be given to RESOLUTION while passing through the area to the South and South-West of Iceland, which is now seriously threatened by submarine attack, it is desired to retain the four destroyers detailed by C. in C. W.A. to the limit of their endurance.
2. Request therefore that F.O.I.C. Iceland will arrange to sail ACTIVE and ECHO to R.V. with RESOLUTION as ordered by C. in C. W.A. and escort D.S.1. into Reykjavik.
3. D.S.1. should then remain at Reykjavik until such time as RESOLUTION's screen has fuelled at Reykjavik. (D.O.D.(H) 1522/3.).
C. in C. Portsmouth's 2027/2. E.T.A.1745/4. Best speed of advance 14 knots. Eight hours in harbour will be required to clean condenser. (RESOLUTION 1756/3.).

ARGUS.

Admiralty's 1356/2. Add ARGUS.
(D.O.D.(H) 1740/3.).

Operations.

Azores-
Madeira
Patrol.

My 1212/26. It is desired to shift patrol areas approximately every 7 days commencing on 4th/4. The next area for patrol is to be between Azores and Madeira.
2. F.O.C.N.P. and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to promulgate the necessary orders.
(V.C.N.S. 0036/3.).
My 0036/3. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to detail 2 O.B.Vs. to patrol in the area between the Azores and Madeira, the 3rd is at F.O.C.N.A.'s disposal for patrol further south. (V.C.N.S. 2244/3.).
My 0036 and 2244/3. German and Italian shipping from South American ports attempting to reach French West coast ports may pass through the area of the Azores on or after 12/4.
2. It is desired to establish a patrol in the area by 12/4.
3. O.B.Vs. can only be available if 2 of the 3 now proceeding south from the northern zone are fuelled and watered at Gibraltar instead of returning to U.K.
4. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to detail the O.B.V. to return to U.K. on completion of patrol.

/5. Unless....

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Azores-
Madeira
Patrol.

5. Unless he has serious objections to para. 3 above F.O.C.N.A. is requested to order the 2 remaining O.B.Vs. to leave patrol in time to fuel and effect any necessary repairs at Gibraltar and to sail them on completion to establish patrol in the Azores area. (V.C.N.S. 2247/3.).

Interception
of M/V.

Your 2154/2. LEICESTER CITY is in a position to intercept providing ship continues course and speed reported from aircraft. LEICESTER CITY has sighted nothing yet. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0917/3.).

East
Coast
Patrol.

No A.P. vessel at Sheringham buoy tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1115/3.).

Jan Mayen.

Your 0957/2. Request you will inform me what arrangements if any have been made for protecting Meteorological expedition in Jan Mayen Island and whether you consider the situation satisfactory. (A.C.O.S. 1235/3 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.). H.J.BULL (Whalecatcher) sailed for Jan Mayen. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2310/2.).

Bay of Biscay
S/M Patrol.

A. Submarines should be ordered to leave Patrol in accordance with My 1156/2.
B. Pending Admiralty decision as to whether submarines of the 7th Flotilla are required for a further Patrol, preparations are to be made to carry out one of the following alternatives. (F.O.S. 1254/3.).

War Diary.3.4.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Patrols.

My 1737/29. (B) Cross over patrol not being carried out tonight due to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 0041/3.). Request ~~some~~ ^{some} for same times 4/4. (C. in C. Plymouth 0235/3 to H.Q.F.C.). Patrol ~~still~~ ^{still} now in operations. (C. in C. Rosyth 1110/3.). Cancel my 1737/29/3. Following R/C. and patrols are flown confirming presence of enemy B/Cruisers in Brest or to detect their departure. (A) Daily P.R.U. of Brest result of which is promulgated by Adty. (B) Cross over patrols by A.S.V. fitted aircraft between 048° 32' N., 005° 53' W., and 047° 23' N., 004° 50' W., from 2 hours after dusk till dawn Aircraft W/T frequencies as before. (11) In addition frequent R/C of West Coast of France is carried out. (111). One Sunderland and two Wellingtons are held in readiness for distant R/C. (IV) You will be informed if patrol in paragraph one B is not practicable on any day or if there is any change in dispositions. (C. in C. Plymouth 1825/3, to C. in C.H.F, F.O.C. 1 B.C.S, S.O. Force H.). My 1825/3 para. one (b) Cross over patrol not being carried out tonight due to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 2129/3.).

Enemy Air Activity.

FERMAIN.
(Bombed and
sunk 2/4.).

My 1747/2. Vessel was bombed at 1320. Convoy ship picking up crew in 53° 35' 30"N. 00° 52' 30" E. (F.O. Humber 0107/3.). 12 Survivors uninjured 2 stretcher cases from FERMAIN sunk in F.S. 51 landed Southend, All crew saved. (N.C.S.O. Southend 1524/3.).

Convoy
F.S.Odd.

Help Convoy ~~BCCH~~ ^{Becky} position 52° 2' N., 1° 46' E. 214° 8 miles. (QUORN 0610/3.). Help Convoy ~~BCCH~~ ^{Becky} position 51° N., 1° 45' E. 214° 8 miles. (QUORN 0618/3.).

/FILLEIGH.....

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

FILLEIGH.

(British, 4856 Tons.) Machine gunned off Rattray Head. (FILLEIGH. T.O.R. 0756/3.).

RESOLUTION.

Air attack imminent on Falmouth, RESOLUTION, and escort. (Plymouth W/T 0852/3, and 1015/3.). "Boat" Help Convoy ~~Boat~~. My position 50° 52' N., 4° 54' W. (RESOLUTION 1708/3.).

CLAPHAM.

(British, 763 Tons) Master reports attacked by two enemy aircraft at 2045/2 position Tuskar 145°. Damage to port lifeboat 0930/3 ends. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1015/3.).

LOCUST.
attacked.

(Gunboat). With F.S.451 in Barrow deep reports as follows at 0847 today "Have been attacked by dive bombers no damage or casualties. Two planes hit last seen losing height rapidly and smoke from one engine." Later at 0900 "Merchant ship reports one plane seen to crash in the sea to eastward - appears to be Messerschmitt 110." (C. in C. Nore 1017/3.).

Skua A/C.
damaged.

Your 1225/2/. It is not understood how six could be severely damaged by blast and falling debris if they were dispersed. (5th S.L. 1204/3. to St. Merryn.). Your 1204/3. Aircraft were all at St. Eval when attack took place and were dispersed with minimum distance of 30 yards between adjacent aircraft. It is now confirmed that two 500 lb. H.E. bombs fell among them and maximum damage occurred to aircraft furthest from the bombs. (St. Merryn 1459/3.). My 1225/2 five of these Skuas have now been twice damaged by nearby explosions of heavy bombs. Particulars. (St. Merryn 1704/3. to RANAS.).

/VALESCA.....

War Diary.3.4.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.VALESCA
HORTENSIA.

(M/S Trawlers) Damaged by Air Attack night of 1/4. Estimated minimum time for repairs is 14 days and 7 days respectively. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1240/3.). Add to my 1240/3 attacked off Cromer. One rating wounded in VALESCA no casualties in HORTENSIA. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1730/3.).

Alleged
firing
own

Your F.06 X. 434 28/3. Following has been received F.O.I/C. Yarmouth. Begins. No vessels in or off Yarmouth fired on Blenheim on the after-noon of 24/3. The report apparently came from a policeman who saw neither flash or smoke of discharge or shell burst. He also states machine after circling the town again proceeded seaward flying level on a steady course and no faltering or engine. Ends. (1930/30). (D. of L.D. 1456/3 to Air Ministry.).

Convoy
W.N. Odd.

Help convoy ^{"muster"} ~~MUSTER~~ position ? latitude, 1° 45' W. (GLEANER 1505/3.). Fighters are being sent to the assistance of Convoy ~~MUSTER~~. (Rosyth W/T 1512/3.).
See also

GEDDINGTON
COURT.

(British, 6903 Tons). Received from GEDDINGTON COURT. My 1412/3. Number 4 hold full of water. Returning to Methil. (Cullercoats 1509/3.). GEDDINGTON COURT attacked by Aircraft in 56° 25' N., 2° 13' W. (Lyness 1512/3.).

LORNA DOONE.

In action with three A/C at 1032/2 off Southwold. R.N.O. Southwold witnessed action and reports accurate and rapid fire of ship caused two pieces of one A/C to break off. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1549/3.).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.3.4.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity Contd.Convoy "Muster"
MUSTER.

S.O.S. ^{"Mayday"} MAYDAY (R/Taircraft distress call)
MUSTER 130 Buchaness 5 miles - 190 -
6-1510/3 de GKR. (Lyness 1550/3.).
Rescue Tug ATTENTIF sailed to vessel in
distress off Buchan Ness 130 deg. 5 miles
at 1610/3 with orders to tow to Peterhead
or Aberdeen or beach. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead
1610/3.).

JEANNIE LEASK.
Bombed
22/3.

Is repairable. Request Salvage assistance to
make vessel seaworthy for transfer to
Rowhedge. for damage repairs. (F.O.I.C.
Harwich 1555/3.).

SILVER DAWN.

(Mine Recovery Vessel). Sustained slight
damage to Hull aft. below water line, as
result of near miss by enemy fire P.M. 2/4/41
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1700/3.).

CHESAPEAKE.
(Bombed 1/4.)

At present anchored in Walton Bay with
unexploded bomb in No. 9 hold. Ship was
attacked twice on 1/1 first in 325° Small's
15 miles at 0850 and secondly in 180°
St. Govans 10 miles at 1610 when vessel was
hit. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1815/3.).

WILD ROSE.

(British, 873 Tons). Attacked by enemy
aircraft in St. George's Channel last night.
Taken in tow by steamer KERLOGUE and beached
near harbour at Rosslare. No casualties.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1821/3.).

ADELLEN.
KAIA
KNUDSEN.
SAN CONRADO
HILDEFJORD
(Bombed 1/4.).

Following is the state of four tankers that
were bombed yesterday.

1. ADELLEN in Harbour Hole about 15 feet
long Portside from upper deck to Waterline.
Midship Castle burnt away. Lost about 1000
tons of oil fuel. Could probably be towed
to Bristol Channel Port in calm weather,
Port Anchor and cable lost.
2. KAIA KNUDSEN in Harbour unable to steam,
bridge telegraph etc., shot away. Damage in
engine room. Could be towed to Bristol
Channel Port in calm weather.
3. and 4. SAN CONRADO and HILDEFJORD^{at 1400}
today by rescue Tug ST.OLAVES in position
170 degs., Tuscar Rock 12 miles. Remains of
both ships blazing furiously, stern only
visible. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1902/3.).

War Diary.3.4.41.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.→ MELROSE ABBEY.
(Grounded
28/3.).Hit by floating mine evening 2/4.
(Adty. Salvage Officer, Aberdeen 0723/3.).BAHRAM.(Harbour Defence Patrol Craft). Lost by
underwater explosion in North Channel Spurn
at 0740 this morning. One Survivor.
(F.O. Humber 0830/3.).Blyth.Port re-opened to outgoing traffic.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0855/3.).→ S.N.8.Your 0914/1/4. COSSACK and ANTHONY will be
sailed to arrived Port ZA. P.M/4. Friday/4.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0927/3. to RAM.).Z.M.E.27.Operation Z.M.E.27 completed.
(PLOVER 1027/3.).B.S.53.Operation B.S.53 postponed a further 24 hours
owing to weather. All times in my 0915/1
to be 48 hours later accordingly.
(S.O. M/L. Immingham 1120/3.).→ S.N.8.Intend to carry out S.N.8. as follows.
Particulars. (R.A.M.L. 1341/3.).
See Operations Volume.Flamborough
Head.Coastal Command reports 6 enemy aircraft off
Flamborough Head at 1555 thought to be
minelaying. (D.D.I.C. 1630/3.).→ MELROSE
ABBEY
(mined 2/4.)Drifting mine exploded alongside MELROSE
ABBEY 1800/2/4 Salvage Officer reports large
hole amidships port side. Repairable.
No casualties. Crew evacuated. Arrangements
made for A/A guard. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen
1706/3.).

/Milford Haven.....

War Diary.

3.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Milford Haven.

4 Mines detonated by M/S Trawler today as follows. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1731/3.).

Spurn Point.

Mines exploded today as follows. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 2134/2. 2242/2. and two at 0044 today, positions unknown. (F.O.Humber 1825/3.).

FIR

(M/S. Trawler) R.N.O. Fowey reports 1620/3 two mines exploded in position 210° approx., half mile from Polruan C.G. Watch House. Ship making water rapidly. Am beaching her in Pontpill. No deaths, six injured. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1944/3.).
H.M.T. FIR at 1605/3. Exploded mine in position 210° approximately 1/2 mile from Polruan C.G. Watch house. No deaths, 6 injured. Ship beached Pont Pill Fowey. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1954/3.).

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU.

Visual R/C of Brest 3/4, shows
SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still
present.
(D.D.I.C. 1212/3).

E/Boats.

Air R/C shows 6 E/Boats at Brest.
E/Boat attack on shipping may be expected
when weather is suitable. All escorts
and patrols are to be warned accordingly.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1345/3).

Miscellaneous.

Loch Ewe.
Proposed
survey.

Submit that a surveying ship should
visit Loch Ewe to carry out a detailed
survey of places suitable for beaching
damaged vessels. The place selected
for beaching STAFFORDSHIRE unfortunately
had a rock outcrop which has severely
damaged the ship.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1151/3).

Blyth.

Port closed owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0650/3).

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

The Smalls.

A.M. 1208/2. Coastal shipping which normally sails (a) in groups between Bristol Channel Ports and English Channel (B) independently between Bristol Channel Ports and ports North of Milford Haven (C) between one Bristol Channel port and another, may be sailed subject to provisos that part of the voyage between St. Govans and 20 miles N., of the Smalls is made in dark hours and that Northbound shipping passes E. of the Smalls whenever practicable. (D.T.D. 1636/3 to C.in C. Plymouth etc.) Amended 1823/4).

Plymouth
Falmouth
Bristol
Channel.

Schedule of Sailings to be brought into force. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2001/3, to all F.O.I.C's etc.) Text in Lion Copy only.

SECRET

1922/3 April.

OUT 89A

M E S S A G E

TO. C. in C. Western Approaches. 797 Date. 3.4.41.
Repeated. C. in C. Plymouth 607.

P/L BY T/P.

From. Admiralty.
IMMEDIATE.

Your 2116/2. Following measures are approved and should be implemented as soon as possible.

(a) and (b) as in your 2116/2.

(c) Further signal will be made.

(d) The convoys are to be run to schedule in Irish Sea. Small coasters and ships of speed 15 knots and above are to sail independently and not in groups. Ships other than those in the B.M. portions of homeward bound convoys bound for ports South of Liverpool are to be sailed in escorted Convoy assembling at Milford Haven Holyhead or Belfast as the case may be.

(e) Outward Ocean Going Independents are to be sailed so as to pass the area St. Govan's Head - 20 miles North of Smalls during darkness. Note danger area may not remain constant and will have to be reviewed from time to time.

(f) Ships for outward bound Convoys are to be sailed so as to arrive Milford Haven at dawn. Convoys to sail from Milford Haven at dusk to await ocean Convoy at Belfast if necessary.

(g) Inward bound Convoys and Independents are to adjust speed so as to arrive at or off Milford Haven at dawn. If on crossing the parallel to 54° North it appears likely that this cannot be done they should proceed to Holyhead.

(h) North and South bound shipping is to be routed under the Fighter Umbrella at Cardigan Bay. North bound Shipping to be routed East of the Smalls whenever practicable and buoys will be laid as soon as possible to enable this route to be made permanent. Amended routes are being promulgated.

(i) Arrangements are to be made for the escort to signal 4 hours before sunrise the estimated position of the convoy at a specified hour near sunrise.

1922/3.
for D.T.D. (172).
Approved by V.C.N.S.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (T).
C.S.C. to 1st S.L.
O.P.S. (4).
O.D. (5).
D.N.I. (4).
D.T.D. (4).
E.T.D. (M).
D.S.D. 9.

I.F. (3).
D.A/S.W.
O.I.C. (2).
W.D.
Admiral Dreyer.

JM

HOME COMMANDS.

3. 4. 41

Shipping Convoys.

SECRET

MESSAGE 2001/3 April.

IN

From. C. in C. Plymouth.

Date. 4.4.41.

Recd. 1445.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed All F.O.'s I.C. N.O.'s I.C. N.C.S.O.'s Plymouth Command Captain D. Plymouth. Cdr. J/P. Repeated. C. in C. Western Approaches.

1. Following Schedule of Sailings will be brought into force at an early date:-
 - (A) Plymouth and Falmouth
 - (B) Falmouth and Milford Haven
 - (C) Falmouth and Bristol Channel in substitution for the schedules of these sailings now in force between these ports as in my 654/M 478 of 19th March
2. Groups of M/V's escorted by one destroyer and two A/S Trawlers are to leave Plymouth for Falmouth and on to Milford Haven and Bristol Channel every three days and vice versa.
3. These Groups are to sail from Plymouth by day QZS 192 and QZS 180 to join westbound ships from Falmouth which are to pass the end of QZS 180 at half an hour after sunset, then proceed by QZY 161 to Helwick Light Vessel when the group is to split for the Bristol Channel and Milford Haven. The Destroyer is to escort any M/V's to Milford Haven and the two A/S Trawlers are to escort the Bristol Channel ships as far as Scarweather and then proceed to Swansea.
4. Southbound escorted groups are to sail from Bristol Channel so as to M/V with the 2 A/S Trawlers at Scarweather, the group then proceeding to join with those from Milford Haven, escorted by a Destroyer, at the Helwick Light Vessel. Sailing to be arranged so as to arrive at end of QZS 180 at sunrise thence to Falmouth and by QZS 192 to Plymouth.
5. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to arrange for M/V's to be grouped and escorted to Scarweather as in paragraph 4. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail the Destroyer and any M/V's so as to join at Helwick Light Vessel as in Para 4.
6. Further signal will be made bringing this into force and allocating Code Words

2001/3.

Advance copy sent Ops and O.D. Trade O.I.C.

V.C.H.S.

A.C.H.S. (1)

A.C.H.S. (1)

C.S.O. to 1st S.L.

Ops.

O.D.

D.T.D. (1)

D.T.D. (M)

(2)

J.C.I. (4)

D.S.D. 9.

C.I.C. (2)

D.S.W.

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Basement

D.D.F.M.

D.D.C.D. (M)

A.H.Q.B.F.

D. of S.T.

W.D.

I.P. (3)

D.P.B. (4)

9 Lin

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

TARANSAY.
BIARRITZ.

S.S. BIARRITZ belonging to Southern Raily: Port of Registry London, on Government work between Larne and Stranraer, collided with H.M.Y. TARANSAY at 0015/3 off Larne. Consider BIARRITZ to blame. TARANSAY was at anchor. Damage to TARANSAY above water and not heavy. Ship fit for sea. (N.O.I.C. Larne, 1100/3).

WINDERMERE.

Ordered to return to Stornoway owing to defects and leakage. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1207/3).

VESPER.

Steering gear broken down, wheel jammed hard a starboard. Unable to steer by main engine. Am anchoring by B.8 buoy. Request tug. (VESPER, 1520/3). Tug KENYA is proceeding now to tow you to Harwich. (C.in C. Nore, 1643/3 to VESPER).

Arrived.

VESPER towed by tug LADY BRASSEY at 2025. (F.C.I.C. Harwich, 2027/3).

JOHN ALFRED.

(A/P Drifter). Broken down, unable to go on patrol owing engine trouble. Anchored 4 miles N.20 W. B.8. (S.C.A.P. Brightlingsea, 1834/3).

EMILE
FRANCQUI.

(Belgian 5936 tons). Struck on Bell Rock. (Cullercoats Radio 2140/3). S.O.S. Ship disengaged from rock making water in holds steamer ship ashore near Bell Rock. (EMILE FRANCQUI 2352/3).

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAPO ALGA
BURANO.

Cancel my 2148/2. (reported sailing of Italian CAPC ALGA and Tanker BURANO). My 1010/2. Consul Teneriffe reports remaining Italians are at Teneriffe proposing to leave at two or three days intervals. (A.1.) Assume V.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0112/3 to MARSDALE). My 2145/1. Italian vessels mentioned reported by Spanish Vessel DOMINE to have been seen heading south at dawn/2. (B.1.) (Consul, Teneriffe, 1130/3 to Admty). (F.O.C.N.A. 2326/3 to N.A.Station).

BRITANNIA
(Sunk by
raider 25/3.)

British ship BRITANNIA which left Liverpool 11/3 was attacked and sunk by an enemy merchant raider at 0730/25 exact position unknown. Raider not identified but had letters BRAC on bows and Japanese characters on stern. It had also single funnel probably telescopic. 77 survivors were picked up by Spanish vessel CABO-DE-HORNOS at 2130/29 in position 7° 50'N., 25° 56'W. Ten survivors wounded landed here for treatment. I am awaiting Spanish Authorities decision regarding disposal of remainder as they have raised question of internment. Immediate following telegram giving names of survivors, who include Navy Army Air Force personnel and civilians. No particulars of missing persons can be secured. (Consul, Teneriffe, 0445/3 to Admty). List of survivors. (1130/3). Persons landed for treatment. (1130/3). Spanish CABO DE HORNOS leaves Teneriffe 1200/3 for Cadiz, has on board 77 survivors from British ships including 39 service personnel and 10 wounded. M. for F.A. anticipates no trouble over their release in view of precedents including H.M.T. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE but requests fullest information as to whether service personnel were on duty on passengers in transport. (N.A.Madrid, 1347/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

see also next page

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BRITANNIA
Cont:

All Naval military and air force personnel comprising total of 49 have been provisionally interned.

Mercantile Marine Officers and crew together with passengers making total number of 28 have been allowed to continue voyage in CABO DE HORNOS which is leaving for CADIZ 1500 today. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1730/3).

FRISCO
FRANCO MARTELLI
DRESDEN.

Following Italian ships will possibly enter North Atlantic Station April 3 or 4th. FRISCO from Ceara 28/3. Tanker FRANCO MARTELLI from Pernambuco 28/3 ostensibly Oslo. German DRESDEN, left Santos 28/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 0940/3 to N.A. Station).

ANTARKTIS
German.

Returned to Vigo this morning. (Consul, Vigo, 0945/3 to Admty). ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 0230/3. (Guyatt Coruna, 1100/3 to Admty). (F.O.C.N.A. 1816/3 to N.A. Station). My 0945. Understand time when tanker left Ferrol was 0200/1. (Consul Vigo, 1224/3 to Admty).

OTUS
OLYMPUS.

A.T.1054/2.
OTUS and OLYMPUS prepare for sea. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1003/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1003/3. Both submarines ready. (F.O.C.N.A. 1050/3).

BRITANNIA.
Survivors.

My No.26. (0445/3) All N.M. and A.F. personnel, 49 have been provisionally interned. Grateful if steps possible to permit of their departure. Mercantile Marine Officers and crew, with passengers, total 28, allowed to continue voyage in Spanish CABO DE HORNOS leaving for Cadiz 1500/3. Exceptional generous treatment given by Master and crew of rescuing vessel. Suggest some mark of appreciation be shown them. (Teneriffe, 1730/3 to Ambassador, Madrid)

See previous page

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARGUS
and
NARKUNDA.

Request you sail to U.K. as soon as "escort available after operation T-1000" has been completed. Final destinations are as follows:-
(a) FURIOUS, Belfast. (b) REPULSE, ARGUS and NARKUNDA, Clyde.
(V.C.N.S. 1745/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A.M.C.
refits
U.S.A.

Your 2059/28/3. * Dates for BULOLO, ASTURIAS.
* (Refit in U.S. for 3 A.M.C's).
(C.in C. S.A. 1901/3 to Admty).

A/C Crew
rescued
by Spanish
ship.

N.A. Madrid 1001/29.
(re arrival of crew of captured plane).
Have arrived Gibraltar safely.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1944/3 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

LECH
BABITONGA
(German).

Following from N.A. Rio de Janeiro LECH probably sailing tonight, 2/4. Expect BABITONGA to do likewise from Santos. LECH short of oil but BABITONGA has oil in Barrels. They have probably arranged R/V.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0014Z/3 to S.A.D.)

See also p. 95

XXIV MAGGIO
OSORNO.

Pernambuco reports Italian ship MAGGIO has received 1850 tons of coal. German ship OSORNO is reported to have sailed from Talcahuano.
(S.O.(I) * 0201Z/3 to S.O.(I) Freetown).
* Montevideo.

HIMALAYA.

HIMALAYA arrived this morning from Kismayu in ballast 43 days on passage Gilchrist.
(E.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 6916/3, to Admty). (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1836Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Your 1859N/31 and my 2031Z/30. Have obtained all available oil fuel. SOUTHERN EMPRESS will have 1340 tons, SVEND FOYN 1960 tons. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1135Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Falklands C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Raider Identity.

Request reply to my 1606/30. If attacker of BRITANNIA did not resemble SANTA CRUZ, it appears possible two armed merchant raider are operating in North Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 1226/3 to C.in C. S.A.)

Convoy W.S.6.

Position 31/3 W.S.6. convoy sailed 1100. While in Port disembarked troops from NORTHUMBERLAND, ALMANZORA, RUAHINE, MATAROA, RANGITATA and re-embarked in W.S. ships. Also embarked. (details). List of ships, fuel lifted, and fuel on Board on sailing. (N.L.O. Durban, 1255/3 to Admty for D.S.T)

NELSON W.S.7.

D. of S.T. 1652/2 not to NELSON. NELSON may be used to assist in transport of personnel to Capetown. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1418/3 to C.in C. S.A.) My 1230/30 March and your 0746/3. NELSON will continue to the Cape with convoy W.S.7. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2246/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

AMABILITAS.

Reported by N.C.S.O. Bahia Blanca Italian AMABILITAS has received permission to sail. (N.A.Buenos Aires, 1700/3 to D.N.I.) (Montevideo 2104Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.) My 1700/3. Reported that AMABILITAS cannot sail before 1000/7 (?) as neither pilots nor tugs have been ordered. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1912/3 to R.A.S.A.D.) (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2331Z/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

LECH
BABITONGA.

My 1815/2. No change. LECH and
BABITONGA ready to proceed.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1811/3 to Admty).
See p 93

DUNCAN
FOXHOUND.

F.O.C. N.A.'s 1634/2 and A.T. 1353/26.
DUNCAN and FOXHOUND are to remain in
South Atlantic Command until the
arrival of BOREAS and BRILLIANT.
Exchange of VELOX and WRESTLER for
WISHART and VIDETTE must be so arranged
that C.in C. S.A. always has total of
four destroyers at his disposal.
(V.C.N.S. 1835/3 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C.
S.A.)

CALENDULA.
KELT.
PICT.

Instruct CALENDULA, KELT, and PICT to
proceed to (?Bathurst) on leaving convoy
to embark as many MEMNON survivors and
Greek and Norwegian seamen awaiting
passage as can conveniently be accommo-
dated and transport to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1933N/3 to BULOLO).

ILLUSTRIOUS
Walrus.

Cancel my 1859/2. Walrus and crew now
in ILLUSTRIOUS are to be retained on
board until further orders.
Replacement Walrus for DORSETSHIRE
should be drawn from station reserves.
Crew is now on passage to Cape.
(D.N.A.D. 2004/3 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

Mediterranean.

MARIANNINA.
Italian.

Departure 2/4, for Genoa.
(Barcelona, 0020/3).

Operation 'Winch'
WINCH.

Have Hurricanes arrived?
(1st S.L. 0952/3 to V.A. Malta).
No reply in W.D., but see H.Q. Med.,
1655/3.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

JANUS.
JAGUAR.

Am sending JANUS and JAGUAR with all despatch to Port Said. Request you arrange immediate transit of Canal to enable these two to reach Suez as early as possible/4. Enemy destroyers last sighted off Massawa steaming North at 1500/2.

(C.in C. Med., 1021/3 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal). See also East Indies, 1122/3.

My 1021/3. JANUS and JAGUAR should remain at Port Said pending further instructions.

(C.in C. Med., 1157/3). *See also p. 100*

Suez Canal.

S.B.N.O. Suez's 1019/27. (Widening of Channel for EAGLE to pass).

Work put back three days by a lighter in tow fouling dredger and sinking where latter was at work.

Date for clear passage now assumed to be 12/4 but if no more delay it is hoped to save one day on that.

(C.in C. Med., 1109/3 to Admty).

Fiume.

Proposal in regard to. (C.in C. Med., 1153/3 to N.A. Belgrade). See Med., Volume.

Tripoli
Bombed.

Operational Summary No.297 up to 1200 3/4/41. Night 1/2. 3 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli Harbour hitting Spanish Mole with possible hit on ship in Naval Basin.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1154/3).

DELOS
(German).

Constantza 3/4. (Departed).

(N.C.S.O. Galata, 1241/3).

Mines.

Request very early information of ship in which 120 L Mark IV mines for Malta are being sent. They are urgently required. Request also name of ship in which scaffolding mentioned in your 1036/11/2 (Scaffolding for Malta Tablecloth defence) has been shipped. (C.in C. Med., 1551/3 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TETRARCH.

Extend Patrol area so that Eastern limit is long. 019° 40'. Your Object is to harry supply ships. El Brega will probably be used as advance supply base in addition to Burat and Sirte. Ref: memo. S.O.9. para.5 and 6 and my 1145/2. Concentrate on coast between Burat and El Brega. (Capt: S.l. 1653/3 to TETRARCH).

Operation "Winch"
WINCH.

Recco. Eastern Delivery flight 12 Hurricanes successfully completed. First formation 6 Hurricanes with Skua was not seen at R/V. Both Sunderland and Glenn Martin were at R/V at appointed time. Second formation connected with Sunderland and came in with this aircraft. Glenn Martin stayed at R/V but later realized must have missed this formation and returned to base. One Hurricane crashed on landing, repairable. Enemy activity. 0700 2 '79's. escorted by 6 CR 42's machine gunned high speed launch positioned 40 miles W. of Malta in case of forced landings by Hurricanes coming in. No damage or casualties. 1130, 4 JU. 88's escorted by formation M.E.109's circled Island and bombed 2 mine sweeping trawlers off Filfla. 7 near misses on ABINGDON. Slight superficial damage only. (H.Q. Med., 1655/3).

Air Raids
ABINGDON
bombed.

SAVONA
LISBOA
(German).

2/4 SAVONA arrived, LISBOA left for Marseilles. (Valencia, 1717/3).

WAR DIARY.

3.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CORFU.

Your 1418/2/4. (docking of CORFU for repairs). Route from Durban to Mombasa should stand as in my 1000/19/3. Onward route will be reconsidered when date of departure from Mombasa is known. (C.in C. E.I. 0624Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Italian Destroyers from Massawa.

My 0730/2. Photographs show sunken destroyer (LEONE) on her side in shallow water, position given in my 1722/1 therefore only approx. Crew of destroyer had disappeared and empty ships boats were seen close by. (2) At 1155Z/1. Relief Swordfish sighted a second destroyer position 16° 14' 39° 49' proceeding towards Massawa at high speed. May have been carrying survivors, of first destroyer who must have run aground or scuttled herself in her alarm at being sighted. Enemy report of second destroyer failed to get through. (C.in C. E.I. 0632Z/3 to Admty).

Enemy Ships Bombed
1 M/V
hit.

7769
Vrama
7,099

Reconnaissance Swordfish sent to locate a reported S/M in Nakhra Island anchorage off Massawa failed to locate target and attacked an armed trawler and depot ship instead at 1000Z/2. No hits one near miss.

Relief Swordfish obtained four hits on 8000 tons M/V, with lighter alongside at 1215Z/2. Last seen heeling over with smoke coming from large hole in stern. Regret my order not to sink merchant ships cannot have reached all F.A.A. pilots, who were sent to operate from advanced bases immediately on their arrival at Port Sudan.

(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/3 to Admty).

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)2 Enemy
Destroyers
sunk.

My 1736/2. Four Italian Destroyers reported by F.A.A. reconnaissance 19 miles E. of Port Sudan at 0347Z/3, course N. Fleet Air Arm attacking.

One reported sunk by bombs at 0615Z.

(C.in C. E.I., 0732Z/3, to Admty.)

(This was ~~N.A.~~ SAURO, see 0816/4).

My 0732/3. Confirm one sunk. Swordfish at 0800Z reported 2 hits on a second enemy destroyer which is now in a sinking condition position 38° Port Sudan 100.

(W.D. Note. This was DANIELE MANIN, see 1308/4). Remaining 2 Destroyers (PANTERA, TIGRE) were in 43° Port Sudan 120 at

0820Z, heading for Jedda.

(C.in C. E.I., 1010Z/3, to Admty.).

My 1010/3.

The damaged destroyer was reported on fire and abandoned at 1450Z.

2 more
destroyers
located.

KINGSTON located the other two destroyers at 1400Z about 12 miles S. of Jedda, close in shore.

CAPETOWN should be in vicinity also.

VELHO has been sent to rescue Italian survivors.

(C.in C. E.I., 1450Z/3, to Admty.).

DANIELE
D. MANIN sunk
2 more
destroyers
aground.

My 1450/3. The damaged destroyer has sunk.

Both destroyers (located by KINGSTON) anchored in position 021° 11' W. 039° 08' E. and abandoned may be aground.

KINGSTON has been ordered to capture and tow them away if practicable.

(W.D. Note. - These were PANTERA and TIGRE, see 1308/4).

R.A.F. have given valuable assistance in shadowing and reporting.

There are still 3 enemy destroyers out of the pre-war total of 9 not definitely accounted for.

(C.in C. E.I., 1822Z/3, to Admty.).

French
Repatriees.

Your 2143/31 INHARRIME sailed 0500/3 for Reunion and Tamatave in that order with French troops ex VILLE DE MAJUNGA (Consul, Beira, 0835/3, to Admty.).

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

RAMB IV.

Italians announce that RAMB IV, 3676 tons, now at Massawa, has been commissioned as a hospital ship. (D.S. 575, 3/4).

RAIMONDO
MONTECCUCCOLI
reported sunk.

Information received that 6-in. cruiser RAIMONDO MONTECCUCCOLI was sunk early in March.

Use of
Arabian
Ports.

If any Italian warships arrive at Jeddah or other Saudi Arabian port request authorities be approached to ensure strictest application of international law. Please keep me informed. (C.in C. E.I., 1020Z/3, to Brit. Minister, Jeddah).

JANUS
JAGUAR

Your 1021/3. Thank you, but owing to good work of EAGLE's A/C your need for these 2 additional destroyers is probably greater than mine. I am however keeping GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN for the present. (C.in C. E.I., 1122Z/3, to C.in C. Med.).

EMERALD

To leave Colombo at 1100Z/4 and proceed to Karachi arriving A.M./8. (C.in C. E.I., 1156Z/3, to EMERALD).

3 Italian
Destroyers,
Massawa.

Operational Summary No.297 up to 1200/3. 2/4. Blenheim reconnaissances reported 3 destroyers left Massawa 1/4, 1 of which ran aground in North Channel. Further 5 left 2/4. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1156/3).

China.

PIERRE L.D.
COMMANDANT DORISE

French ships PIERRE L.D. and COMMANDANT DORISE passed Sunda Strait 2/4 escorted to Saigon from Madagascar. Latter armed and had many deck passengers. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0443Z/3, to Admty.).

War Diary.3.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies."S" Report.
? THIRLEY.

Following received from Resolution Island
0420 G.M.T. "SSSS from MOTATAN Br. (S) X
5811N/2812W". Unable get bearings or all
details of Message. (Ends.).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0209/3, to Admty.).
Your 0209/3. * Ship probably GNRV (?THIRLEY)
N.S.H.Q. 1629/3, to Admty.).

U.S.Coastguard
Cutters.

Your 1752/29. President has directed that
ten 250 foot 16½ knot cutters are to be
transferred to us forthwith. Transfer
will take place New York Navy Yard.
All cutters will be fully equipped for ser-
vice. Seven should be available at New
York within week. Two more not later than
20/4, remainder on or 1/5.
(Equipment) Propose officers and ratings
for cutters in (? QUEEN ELIZABETH) remain
at Halifax until arrangements for transfer
completed. (N.A. Washington, 1010/3, to
Admty.).

RIO DORADO
SOLITAIRE.

Your 1746/ 9/3. Your 1148/ 4/3 RIO-
DORADO and Norwegian SOLITAIRE have not
arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
1012/3.).

"Q" Report
EMPIRE LEOPARD.

Following has been read.
Disguised Raider.
46. 4 N., 27 22 W. suspicious, EMPIRE
LEOPARD. (Valentia Radio, 1014/3.).

Policy
During
Atlantic
Battle.

Your 1442/1 and Admty., 1930/2.
Essential features of Battle of the
Atlantic area. (a) Never to bring a ship
through U-Boat zone if it can be avoided.
(b) To refit as many ships on Western side
of the Atlantic as possible so that resources
on this side can be concentrated on the
repair of merchant ships.
(1st. S.L. Personal 1032/3, to C. in C.
A.W.I.).

/Cover.....

War Diary.

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Cover for Independent Shipping.

Your 2323/15/3. Request whenever possible H.M. Ships outward bound to Halifax may be routed to provide maximum cover to independent shipping, passing between position Z.040° 40' N., 050° 00' W., and A, 036° 00' N., 045° 30' W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1121/3, to Admty.).
My 1252/6/1. Consider it particularly important for capital ships returning from convoy duties to afford maximum cover to independent shipping. As capital ships now leave convoy in 035° W., it should be possible for them to pass between positions Z and A as in my 1121/3. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1122/3, to B.S.3.).

Tankers, Martinique.

Master of U.S. Ship ALCOA PILOT informed R.O. Barbados that several Tankers at Martinique painting French Flags on side. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1201/3, to Admty.).

WAR BRAHMIN.

Considerably damaged port side amidships above water line after collision with CANTON whilst attempting to shore off from CANTON in Grassy Bay during a gale at night. Estimate time for repair 5 weeks. (Cdre, i/c Bermuda, 1140/3, to Admty.).

"Q" Report. ZOUAVE.

1310 GMT QQQQ 5030 N., 4132 W., ZOUAVE followed by suspicious vessel. (C.O.A.C.Halifax, 1236/3.).

RHAKOTIS.

Cancel my 1243/2 (Reported sailing). RHAKOTIS is still at Autofagasta. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1502/3 to Admty., etc.).

"Q" Report SAN AMADO.

Following received from Resolution Island. 1626 G.M.T. QQQQ 046° 03' N., 029° 43' W., SAN AMADO, suspicious vessel. No bearing. (Ends.) (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1616/3.) (Valentia Radio, 1620/3.). SAN AMADO QQQQ 46.04 N., 29.32 W., course 110°, ship following, fast two high masts, one black funnel. (Valentia Radio, 1657/3, Lands End Radio, 1657/3.).

/QQQQ. This.....

War Diary.3.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies Contd.Q. report
SAN AMADO.

QQQQ. This ship still following, very suspicious. (SAN AMADO via Portishead Radio, no T.O.O./3.). Pursuing vessel morsed us cancel Q message but our challenge not answered therefore Q not cancelled, vessel now apparently stopped heading Athwart. (SAN AMADO, 1835/3.). Following has been read. QQQQ Distress traffic ended from SAN AMADO. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, 1848/3.).

CANTON.

My 1930/2. (Transport to U.K. of personnel on passage in CANTON in view of her refit in U.S.A.). Personnel should be embarked in T.C.10. and escort overcrowding being accepted. (V.C.N.S., 1627/3 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

"Q"Report.

Following has been read. [REDACTED] Unknown vessel, lat. unknown, long. [REDACTED] - 43' W., suspicious, 1626/3. (Valentia Radio, 1629/3.).

PRINCE HENRY
damaged.

My 1001/2. PRINCE HENRY while alongside HERMONTHIS sustained damage to her side which although not affecting seaworthiness will require dockyard repairs. When situation on West Coast of South America is clear, intend PRINCE HENRY to proceed to Esquimalt or Halifax for this purpose, as Bermuda is already over burdened with repair work. Which of these ports would you prefer her to go to? Prisoners from HERMONTHIS and possibly MUNCHEN will be on board. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1631/3. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.).

/HERMONTHIS.....

War Diary.3.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies Contd.HERMONTHIS &
MUNCHEN sunk
RHAKOTIS.

My 1001/2. Both ships have been sunk, HERMONTHIS by gun fire from PRINCE HENRY, MUNCHEN by Peruvian Warship ALMIRANTE GRAU. Crew of MUNCHEN not yet located. PRINCE HENRY proceeding to establish patrol off Antofagasta where RHAKOTIS is still in harbour. Callao pass to PRINCE HENRY. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1632/3, to Admty.) Crew of MUNCHEN reported by Press officially from Lima to Lewes arrived in a sailing boat at Casma, Peru. (D.S. 577.).

S.L.68.
attacks on
21/3, etc.

Your 1507/21. (S.L.68 to proceed Halifax Bermuda and Trinidad independently.) Report received from S.S. NEWCOLUMBIA, DORDRECHT and ST. MERRIL who arrived Bermuda from S.L.68 indicate following. Attacks made on successive nights, all except one believed on Port side. Speed of convoy only 6 knots and large number of emergency uses employed reduced its speed to dead slow. Submarines sighted once on Starboard side of convoy crash-dived so close that noise of tanks venting audible to ships in convoy. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1731/3, to Admty.).

Capital Ship
and A.M.C. in
Convoy.

Your 1038/29 and other relevant messages. Policy to be followed when both a capital ship and an A.M.C. escort a convoy has been under consideration. Intend A.M.C. (?should be) in lane in middle of convoy astern of capital ship by day, moving up to assist station keeping in convoy by night when capital ship leaves. Question of command is sometimes difficult due to peculiar relative seniority of Captain of A.M.C. and Capital ship. Consider latter must always take command in these circumstances in view of superior communication and other facilities and greater experience of Captain of Capital ship. (R.A.3, 1817/3, to Admty.).

OLTUL
SIRETUL
PRAHAVA.

My 1629/5/9/40. Instructions to capture Roumanian ships OLTUL, SIRETUL, and PRAHAVA* are cancelled. (Head of M.1856/3, to C. in C. A.W.I., S.A., F.O.C.N.A. etc.).

PRAHOVA*

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1250/3 April.

104A
87

OUT

To. The Naval Attache, Santiago.

Date. 2.4.41.

I.D.C. V.11.

From Admiralty.

NITE.

Your 1715/26/9. Antony Gibbs' representative, Mr. Blair, has reported that Chilean Government might be willing to sell ALMIRANTE LATORRE to us if we would pay them £500,000 sterling and obtain for them from United States of America two 8" gun cruisers. Transaction would have to be carried out through intermediary of U.S. Government to cloak violation of neutrality of Chilean Government.

We would much prefer to have 8" gun cruisers ourselves instead of ALMIRANTE LATORRE so there can be no question of our approaching U.S. Government with proposal that they should sell us two 8" gun cruisers to hand over to Chile.

Question is therefore whether Chilean Government are prepared to sell ALMIRANTE LATORRE outright for cash and if so whether they would be prepared to sell her for sterling.

We should be glad if Mr. Blair would inform Chilean contact that, whilst we are not prepared to promote a deal which would involve handing over two 8" gun cruisers we are prepared to consider purchase of battleship for sterling.

Antony Gibbs and Sons have been informed of line we are taking.

1250/3

for Head of M. (Ex. 808)

Approved by First Lord.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
Controller.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
SEC.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (F)
D.P.S.
D. of P.
M.
D.O.D. (H)
D.O.D. (F)
D.N.I.
W.D.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

BRITISH
RELIANCE
(W.S.C. 26).

(British, 7000 tons) Proceed with HURRICANE and HESPERUS to assistance BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed in position 058° 21' N. 028° 09' W. at 0051/3. You should arrange for two destroyers to escort S.C.26 from dusk tonight 3rd, submarine PORPOISE may be with S.C.26 until convoy reaches 025° W. (C.in C. W.A., 0116/3, to HAVELOCK). BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed in position 58° 21' N. 28° 09' W. at 0035/3 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 0134/3 to W. App., A. and W.I.).

ALDERPOOL
(in S.C.26)

British, 4313 tons. Following has been read. SSSS. 58.21 N., 27.59 W., ALDERPOOL torpedoed. 0045/3 G.M.T. (Liverpool W/T, T.O.R. 0149/3). My 0116/3. ALDERPOOL torpedoed in position 058° 21' N. 027° 59' W. at 0145/3. (C.in C. W.A., 0157/3, to HAVELOCK).

WORCESTERSHIRE
A.M.C.
(escorting
S.C.26)

Following from Resolution Island: 0356 G.M.T. from M.A.S. " SSSS 58.15 N., 27.35 W., WORCESTERSHIRE torpedoed from MAGICIAN. " (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0219/3, to Admty.). Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side 058° 16' N. 027° 30' W. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0344/3, to Scapa W/T). Have been torpedoed right forward starboard side my position 058° 16' 027° 22'. Convoy was scattered by Commodore at 0321 GMT with my concurrence. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0513Z/3, to Scapa W/T). My p.c. and s. at 0830 B.S.T. 58° 28' N. 27° 17' W., 070° 9 knots. (WORCESTERSHIRE, 0731Z/3, to Admty.). (C.in C. W.A., 0946/3 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS, VETERAN).

EELBECK
(incorrect
report)

(British 6318 tons) Following has been read:- SSSS 58.15 N., 27.35 W., EELBECK torpedoed. (Lyness W/T, 0309/3) EELBECK not torpedoed, see HAVELOCK 2158/3.

/ My 0116/3.

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

My 0116/3, add EELBECK torpedoed in 058° 15' N. 027° 35' W. at 0309 and WORCESTERSHIRE in 058° 06' N. 027° 30' W. at 0344.

(C.in C. W.A., 0547/3, to HAVELOCK).

S.C.26.

S.C. 26 scattered at 0300 G.M.T.

A Sunderland aircraft from Iceland may be able to assist you.

Submarine PORPOISE has parted company and returned to Halifax. WORCESTERSHIRE torpedoed steering 020° 5 knots her position at 0513Z 058° 16' N., 027° 22' W.

(C.in C. W.A., 0731/3, to HAVELOCK):

If Sunderland aircraft arrives for O.B.303 order her to proceed 058° 20' N. 027° 50' W. to assist damaged ships.

(C.in C. W.A., 0752/3, to HEARTSEASE, PIMPERNEL, FREESIA, CAMPANULA).

Detach one destroyer to escort WORCESTER-SHIRE. (C.in C. W.A., 0905/3, to

Detach 2 destroyers from escort to cover as best they can ships scattered from S.C.26.

(C.in C. W.A., 0910/3, to VETERAN).

Your 0905. HURRICANE detailed. If Stragglers are sighted they will be routed through 059° 00' N. 021° 00' W. (Weather) (HAVELOCK, 1010/3, to VETERAN).

THIRLBY
torpedoed.

See A. and W.I.

O.B.304
diverted.

OB.304 alter course forthwith to pass through (? 056°) 40' N. 025° 00' W. Convoy disperse in 025° 00' W. No ship is to go north of 057° 20' N. until west of 030° 00' W. SCARBOROUGH and one corvette remain with convoy until dispersal, then sweep along track S.C.26.

(C.in C. W.A., 1047/3, to SCARBOROUGH for Cmdre. VERITY, VIVIEN, CHELSEA.).

WORCESTERSHIRE
(continued)

My p. c. and s. at 1000 B.S.T. 58° 35' N. 26° 37' W., 105° 8 knots.

(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1101/3, to HAVELOCK HURRICANE HESPERUS).

/ Request most likely arc

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)WORCESTERSHIRE
(continued).

Request most likely arc of dispersal for S.C.26. Expect to arrive 1600 at 058° 12' N. 024° 46' W.
(VETERAN, 1030/3, to WORCESTERSHIRE).
If Commodore gave convoy a R/V on scattering pass it to VETERAN.
(C.in C. W.A., 1117/3, to WORCESTERSHIRE).
My 0116/3 and My 0250/3. As S.C.26 has scattered use your discretion when to join convoy observing that it is important that survivors are rescued and any ships afloat and salvable reported.
Tug THAMES has sailed from Reykjavik.
(C.in C. W.A., 1305/3, to HAVELOCK).

BRITISH
VISCOUNT,
LEONIDAS Z.
CAMBANIS,
WESTPOOL
INDIER
(S.C.26)

Some survivors of BRITISH VISCOUNT, LEONIDAS Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL, and INDIER picked up by HESPERUS and HAVELOCK.
Search continuing, it is estimated 7 ships may have been torpedoed.
BRITISH VISCOUNT abandoned and on fire in position 58° 12' N., 27° 40' W. may be salvable and further signal will be made.
(HAVELOCK, 1608/3, to C.in C.W.A.).
All 4 ships in S.C.26.
My 1608. No further survivors, but empty boat of BRITISH RELIANCE and WESTPOOL found.
No trace ALDERPOOL. (? EELBECK) was not torpedoed. BRITISH VISCOUNT still on fire and not considered worth salvaging.
Her position now 058° 18' N. 027° 50' W.
HAVELOCK and HESPERUS joining S.C.26.
(HAVELOCK, 2158/3 to C.in C. W.A.).

CLAN OGILVY
(torpedoed
21/3).

Report from other ships in S.L.68
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1731/3) See America and West Indies.

CLAN OGILVY
BENWYVIS
(torpedoed
21/3)

My 1745/2. CABO VILLANO picked up 24 survivors 11° N. 23° 50' W. Proceeding Buenos Aires. Time of signal 02⁰⁰/2.
(N.A. Madrid, 1923/3, to Admty.).

HELLE!

(Norwegian, 2467 tons). Following from Resolution Island: "2250 G.M.T. SSSS. 59.00 N. 24.30 W. HELLE torpedoed, sinking slowly now leaving GB" Signal weak unsteady and 2223/3 fading, bearing impossible (ends). (Naval, Ottawa, 2124/3, to Admty.).
Following has been read:
HELLE torpedoed, sinking slowly.
(Wick Radio, 2230/3).

War Diary.

3.4.1941.

Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Following has been read.
SSSS Corrected position de GDIK 58.21 N.,
28.09 W. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0043/3).
Admty. Message A.F. position 58° 21' N.
28° 09' W. at 2335/2 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0133/3).

0108.

Following bearings probably of U-Boat,
obtained at 0108/3 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0313/3 to C.ir C. S.A.,
F.O.C.N.A.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0441/3 to
N.A. Stn.).

ATHENIC

(British, 5351 tons). Following received
from Resolution Island 0658 G.M.T. from
M.A.S. "SSSS 58.49 N., 27.13 W., ATHENIC,
periscope sighted at 0625" (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0519/3 to Admty.).
(Port Patrick Radio, 0713/3) (Liverpool
W/T, no T.O.O./3).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1345/3).

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy battle
cruisers.

The SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were seen at Brest today; no damage was visible on them as the result of air attacks. F.O.S. considers the chances of interception by S/M's on patrol would be greatly increased by A.S.V. aircraft patrol daily between 2100 and 0100 off Brest.

Strengthening
of A/S
escorts in
N.W. Approaches.

U-boats are now showing reluctance to attack convoys with A.S. escorts and one operating to the west of waters in which A/S escort has hitherto been provided. To deal with this, certain A/S groups of the Western Approaches Command are to operate from Iceland. C.in C. H.F. has been asked to arrange whenever possible for 4 Home Fleet destroyers to operate from Iceland as A/S striking forces in support of these escorts.

The 1st and 6th Minesweeping Flotillas are to be lent to C.in C. W.A. and will be employed temporarily on escort duties, operating from Port ZA. In view of the reduction of minesweepers at Scapa two groups of M/S trawlers will be transferred from Rosyth to Orkneys and Shetlands Command.

U-Boat
Attack on
S.C.26
continued,
11 Ships
torpedoed.

The attack on Convoy S.C.26 by U boats continued today; it is thought that 2 U-boats were working together, S.S. HARBLEDOWN was sunk at 0255 in approx. 58° 15' N. 23° 20' W. S.S. ATHENIC was torpedoed at 1755 in 58° 32' N., 20° 13' W.

The total number of ships torpedoed in the Convoy, in addition to WORCESTERSHIRE appears to be 11. *For list, see DTD, 1100/15/4, p. 480*

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4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. (Contd.)

Ujra attack
on S.C.26 cont.

Survivors have also been picked up from
LIGURIA (Convoy O.B.302).

S.S. BRASIL (Norwegian) ex O.B. 304 reported
being attacked by a S/M at B.55 in 56° 16' N.
27° 50' W.

E.boats

7 E.boats were reported by aircraft in
48° 35' N. 5° 35' W. at 1527, steering
west. (Cf. 3/4).

Weather.

Blyth was reopened at 0757.

Plymouth
and W.A.
Commands.

The adjustment of the boundary between
Plymouth and Western Approaches Commands
(see 31/3) came into force at 2359 today.

British Air Activity.

Operations
against
SCHARNHORST,
and
GNEISENAU.

61 aircraft of Bomber Command last night
attacked the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU in
Brest. Six aircraft crashed on return and
2 failed to return.

The cross over patrol off Brest was not
carried out last night on account of the
weather. Night patrols on the Dutch and
Belgian coasts and in the Channel were also
cancelled.

4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. SALVUS
sunk.

On the eastcoast, S.S. SALVUS in Convoy F.N.49 was bombed and sunk at 2100 in 52° 5' N. 1027' E; and GUILLEMOT and Convoy F.S.453 were unsuccessfully bombed at 0746 25 miles E. of Spurn Pt. and believed their attacker was hit.

S.S. CAPE VERDE in Convoy H.X.115 B.M. was slightly damaged at 2122 in 52° 6' N. 5° 42' W.

Trawler DELHI was machine gunned this afternoon and trawler WHITEBY was machine gunned and bombed and was damaged and disabled this evening in the Milford Haven area.

Attack in
Irish
territorial
waters.

Coasting vessel S.S. KINGSTOWN reports being machine gunned by 2 aircraft with German markings from 1900 to 2015 today in territorial waters inside Barrel L.V. She had 16 casualties.

Mining.

Operation
B.S.53.

TEVIOTCANK escorted by LA MELPOMENE and SHELDRAKE left the Humber at 1550 today, to lay mines in the East coast barrier.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines last night off La Pallice and Brest.

4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

Enemy a/c were heard mining off Foreness (Thames Estuary) today. Mines were laid by enemy a/c last night in the Thames Estuary, and off the E. and N.E. and S.W. coasts.

Further mines were detonated off the Humber today, and off Pile Light (Belfast area).

Falmouth was closed at 0004 and opened with restrictions at 1254.
Milford Haven was closed at 2333.

North Atlantic.

S.O. Force H returned to Gibraltar this morning in RENOWN with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers from Operation "Winch".

South Atlantic.

S.S. MARLENE was sunk by submarine in 8° 15' N. 14° 17' W. at 2020 N. today.

* Amended from B.R. 1337 position —
8° 15' N. 14° 19' W.

War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

The engagement with the Italian Fleet on 28/3 - 29/3 is to be known as the Battle of Cape Matapan.

Last night, 4 Wellingtons bombed Tripoli and claim to have hit the W/T Station.

Air attacks on Convoys.*
EMBIRICOS NICOLAOS

C.in C. Med. reports that convoys for Operation "Lustre" as well as the Aegean convoys have been running according to plan, though the scale and efficiency of air attacks are increasing. Since 22/3 there have been the following losses due to air action: SOLHEIM, NICOLAOS (EMBIRICOS), HOMEFIELD, COULOURAS - XENOS all empty southbound, and NORTHERN PRINCE northbound, all sunk. TETI and MARIE MAERSK damaged. The question is discussed in C.in C. Med. 1320/4.

See BR. 1327 158

East Indies.5 Italian destroyers at Massawa sunk.

5 of the Italian destroyers and torpedo boats which escaped from Massawa have now been sunk.

ONE was sunk by aircraft from EAGLE on 4 in about 16° 9' N. 39° 55' E.

NAZARIO SAURO was sunk by F.A.A. at 0615Z/3. DANIELE MANIN was bombed by F.A.A. at 0800Z/3, set on fire, and abandoned at 1450Z, sinking later, FLAMINGO rescued 60 survivors. A second destroyer was afterwards bombed and sunk by Blenheims.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.

Friday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies. (Contd.)

KINGSTON located two more, PANTERA and TIGRE, at 1400Z/3, about 12 miles south of Jedda. They were found abandoned; towing was not practicable and they sank later.

Prisoners state that GIOVANNI. G. ACERBI having been previously damaged by air attack on date unspecified has had her guns removed and was used to provide spare parts for other destroyers. This is presumably the destroyer seen in Massawa p.m. today, (only one was seen).

The Italian destroyers in commission (out of 9 originally in the Red Sea) which are not yet definitely sunk and whose position is at present unknown are CESARE BATTISTI (reported to have sailed from Massawa 2/4 in company with destroyers PANTERA, TIGRE, DANIELI, MANIN and SAURO) and VINCENZO G. ORSINI (stated to have been in Massawa harbour 2/4 ready for sea).

The Government of Iraq was overthrown today by a coup d'etat supported by a military clique under Rashid Ali. (p. 147)

China.BUFFALO sunk.

Mooring Vessel BUFFALO was sunk on a British minefield off Singapore late tonight whilst salvaging a crashed aircraft.

America and West Indies.

Consul, Coquimbo, reported at noon today that German QUITO and BOGOTA will almost certainly sail tonight or tomorrow. PRINCE HENRY was ordered at 1601 to proceed there at best possible speed and establish patrol. Oiler BISHOPDALE will R.V. with her on 8/4.

PRINCE DAVID is to patrol off Para River to intercept NORDERNEY and MONBALDO if they sail.

WAR DIARY.

4.4.1941.
FRIDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western
Approaches.
Strengthening
of A/S
Convoy
Escorts.

Eleven ships of HALCYON class to be lent to C.in C. W.A. and 4 H.F. Destroyers to operate from Iceland. (1st S.L. 1722/4).
See Lion Copy.

On account of recent U/Boat attacks on convoys to the West of the area in which A/S escort has hitherto been provided, it is intended to operate certain A/S escort groups of the Western Approaches Command from Iceland. Request you will arrange whenever possible for four H.F. Destroyers to operate from Iceland as A/S striking forces in support of these escorts when not required by you for other purposes. (1st S.L. 1746/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Irish
Sea escort
Force.

Irish Sea Escort Force will be constituted as follows.
(C.in C. W.A. 1846/4).

VANITY.

My 2116/2 and A.M. 1922/3. Request I may be informed when VANITY can return to W.A. Command.
(C.in C. W.A. 1858/4).

1st and
6th
Minesweeping
Flotillas
for
Escort
Duty.

It has been decided that 1st and 6th Minesweeping Flotillas as reconstituted in Admiralty message 213 A.Z. are to be employed temporarily on escort duties operating from Port A as an advanced base under C.in C. W.A.

In view of the reduction of minesweepers at Scapa two groups of M/S trawlers will be transferred from Rosyth Command to Orkneys and Shetlands Command.

Reconstituted 4th M.S.F. will be assembled at Harwich.
(V.C.N.S. 2218/4).

HOME COMMANDS
Policy

4. 4. 41.
Friday

115A

MESSAGE

1722/4th April.

MOST SECRET.

OWT.

To C. in C. Western Approaches 835,

Date 4.4.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (D)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

1. Events show a reluctance on the part of U-boats at the moment to attack Convoys with A/S escort and that they are tending to operate in waters to the West of those in which A/S escort has hitherto been provided.

2. To meet this development proposal in para. one B of your 2336/3 is approved subject to modification in para. 4 below. [78a]

3. To compensate for the resultant weakening of the escort groups concerned, eleven ships of HALCYON Class will be lent to C. in C. Western Approaches. These ships will operate in the first instance from Scapa, joining and leaving Convoys in the vicinity of Cape Wrath, and are to be employed on the Iceland-Scotland portion of the Convoy route.

4. This will enable destroyer strength of the divisions of the escort groups employed on that portion of the Convoy route to the West of Iceland to be increased at the expense of the Easterly portion.

5. C. in C. H.F. is being requested to operate four H.F. destroyers from Iceland to work in sub-divisions as A/S striking forces with the Convoys whenever possible.

6. Question of second Aerodrome in Iceland is being vigorously pursued.

7. It has now been learnt that 10 repetition 10 Coastguard Cutters of the 10 1/2 knot 1500 ton class are to be transferred from the U.S. Navy to the Royal Navy. It is not yet known how soon these will be ready to operate. It is intended that these ships should be allocated to Western Approaches.

(1st S.L. 1722/4)

D.T.D. (172)

Appd. by 1st S.L.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.R.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.E.O.D. (F)
D.C.D. (H)
D.I.O.D. (H)
D.W.I. (4)
D.S.D.

D.N.A.I.
D. of L.D.
D.M.S.
D. A/S W.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Hd. of H.
D.T.S.D.
D.P.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.
N.I.D. 10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

GALATEA
ARETHUSA.

Scapa arrival F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA. (F.O.C.O.S. 0044/4.).

CACHALOT.

On return from patrol CACHALOT is to be placed at extended notice and is to be prepared to sail for the Mediterranean on April 25th. (F.O.S. 1129/4 and 2038/4.).

See also last page

UNBEATEN.

Sail UNBEATEN for Mediterranean on 12/4. (F.O.S. 1131/4 to S.5.).

COMORIN
ASSINIBOINE.

Intend sailing COMORIN and BOREAS at 2300/4 to R/V with ASSINIBOINE and S.S. GLENARTNEY in 270°. Oversay 6 miles at 0800/5 thence in accordance with Adty., 1728/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1242/4.).

RESOLUTION.

What is your endurance at 10 knots and 12 knots? (A.C.N.S.H. 1306/4.). Admiralty 1306. 3800 and 3300. (RESOLUTION 1500/4.).

STURGEON.

Your 1320/3. STURGEON has failed to join. (WOLFHOUND 1810/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.).

JACKAL
KELVIN.

Request you will sail JACKAL and KELVIN for Plymouth A.M. tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth 1907/4.).

O.10.

SPIREA will R/V with you at 0600 in position 180° Eddystone 10 miles. Following movements may affect you. You are to proceed on main motors when inside 30 fathom line. (S.O. S/M's Devonport 2114/4 to O.10.).

FIJI.

Your 2147/4. FIJI course on departure approx. 090°, speed 10 knots. (LOCH OSKAIG 2235/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

*See also p. 133
Shank to un 94 N. H. 133*

/A.F.D.7.....

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

A.F.D.7.

It seems highly improbable that you will be able to obtain the scale of escort you require. Dock should there^{fore} be sailed with three destroyers and one of the HUNTS now with RESOLUTION. Delay in sailing should, in view of possible air attack and shortage of tugs, be reduced to a minimum. (A.C.N.S.H. 2338/4.).

→ 7th S/M.
Flotilla.

F.O.S. 2037/4. Request you will sail submarines of seventh submarine Flotilla to Rothesay as they become available. (Capt. S.7. 2359/4.).

Operations.

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol.

TORBAY, OBERON,
CACHALOT, TUNA,
TAKU,
STURGEON, UNION.
O.10.. L.27.
H.32, H.33.

(Movements and Orders.

{
{
{ (O.10. 0001/4.).
{ (F.O.S. 1507/4, 1624/4, 2031/4, 2032/4,
{ 2039/4.).

O.10 has left patrol and L.27 leaves to-night. Remainder with exception of 3 T Class and CACHALOT leave the patrol area after dark 6/4. These four submarines will thereupon be moved to positions 72 77 78 80 and will leave for base after dark 9/4. (F.O.S. 2031/4.).

→ 7th S/M.
Flotilla.
UNION
STURGEON.

Your 1131/3. Submarines of 7th Flotilla are to be sailed to resume A/S training as soon as possible after completion of present patrol.

/2. Other.....

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

7th S/M.
Flotilla.
UNION
STURGEON.
Contd.

2. Other submarines at present on Biscay patrol are to be maintained on patrol for maximum period you consider possible.
3. UNION and STURGEON should be sailed for Biscay patrol.
4. Future dispositions must depend on location of enemy battlecruisers. (1st. S.L. 1707/4.).

Suggested
A.S.V.
Air Patrol.

Admiralty 1707. It is intended to dispose the 4 Submarines remaining on patrol after 6/4 in positions 72,77,78, and 80. I consider their chances would be greatly increased if an A.S.V. aircraft patrol could be maintained between 2100 and 0100 nightly off Brest. Sufficient warning might thus be obtained for them to proceed on the surface to intercept. (F.O.S. 2036/4.).

Dispositions
of S/M's.

- (a) My 1254/3. Carry out alternative two with following modification. TORBAY, TUNA, CACHALOT and TAKU are to remain on patrol until 9/4. Positions they are to occupy after 6/4 will be signalled later.
- (b) H.32, H.33 and 010 are to be sailed for Clyde Area when ready.
- (c) S.5 is to retain operational control of 7th Flotilla Submarines until they sail from Channel Ports for destinations to be indicated by S.7.
- (d) S.5 may employ BREDA, WHITE BEAR, LA MOQUEUSE and ALECTO for escorting 7th Flotilla Submarines. ALECTO being used for any submarine delayed. (F.O.S.2037/4.).

ECHO.
ACTIVE.

My 1936/1. C. in C.H.F. hoped that ECHO and ACTIVE would generally be available to screen H.F. cruisers in and out of Hvalfjord. (R.A.D. 1001/4. to C.S.I.). Request you will operate destroyers of third flotilla in accordance with Adty's., 1746/4 + and my 1936/1. (R.A.D. H.F. 2345/4, to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

/REGISTAN.....

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

REGISTAN.
CAMITO.
MALVERNIAN.

At 2000/4 ships are to change area as follows. (F.O.C.N.P. 0800/4.).

SUFFOLK.

C. in C. H.F. 1020/2 and C.S.1. 1852/2. I have seen Captain of SUFFOLK and am satisfied ship is not sufficiently worked up to take over Denmark Strait patrol. (C.S.2. 1135/4 to C. in C. H.F.).

East Coast Patrol.

Weather permitting one unit of M.L's is to carry out a patrol tonight 5 miles either side of 55 buoy in a direction 020° - 200°. Patrol to commence at dusk returning to harbour at daylight. (C. in C. Nore 1156/4.)

Jan Mayen.

Your 1235/3. An armed party of one officer and 12 men in addition to Meteorologist has been landed, and is now established, in ~~Jan~~ MAYEN. They are equipped with one six pounder and a two pounder besides small arms and I consider situation satisfactory. This information is regarded as secret in Iceland. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1357/4 to A.C.O.S.).

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA after refuelling is to take N.P. 43. Direction of Patrol is to north eastwards in daylight. Limits of field of ice are to be investigated and possibility of ships passing through edge of ice northward of minefield and to north westward of patrol lines.
2. If N.P. 43 is untenable owing to ice ASCANIA is to take N.P. 42 reporting action taken and ice limits. (V.A.N.P. 1410/4.).

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARGUS
NARKUNDA.

Admty. 1356/2, and my 1745/3. Only 4 destroyers available from my Command without seriously weakening Mercantile convoys. Request at least two other destroyers be supplied from other Commands. (C. in C. W.A. 1822/4.).

/Your 1822/4.....

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

REPULSE
FURIOUS
ARGUS
NARKUNDA.

Your 1822/4. It is regretted that there is no other source from which Destroyers can be provided. Even if this means weakening of escort for Mercantile Convoys, adequate escort for this force must be provided. (A.C.N.S.H. 2217/4.).

DIDO.

My 2231/2. DIDO is to provide A/S escort for Oban section of O.G.58 as far as Over-say rendezvous as ordered by N.O.I.C. Greenock, and is then to proceed to Belfast to provide A/A escort for Bristol Channel Section ~~now~~ of H.X. 116 as ordered by N.O.I.C. Belfast. DIDO will subsequently operate with Irish Sea escort force until next O.G. Convoy sails or at least until arrival of Neth: Coast Defence ship JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK. (C. in C. W.A. 2141/4.).

Request for
further
Destroyers
for
Convoy
Escorts.

Very heavy simultaneous commitments for destroyers are anticipated for meeting H.X.119 comprising over 70 ships, and T.C.10 and escorting W.S.8. Request maximum number of destroyers may be supplied from other command. These commitments must to some extent affect start of Iceland scheme. (C. in C. W.A. 2146/4 and 2239/4.).

British Air Activity.

Brest.
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.
attacked.
Rotterdam.
Ostend.

Day 3/4. 11 Blenheims carried out sweep of the Northern coast of France, but saw no targets to attack. One Hampden made a dive bombing attack from 6,000 ft. on the GNEISENAU at Brest and successfully evaded fairly accurate flak fire. Results of attack unobserved. (H.Q.B.C.0010/4.).
Night 3/4 April. Brest - SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. A force of sixty two aircraft consisting of forty Wellingtons of 3 group, 19 Whitleys of 4 Group and 3 Blenheims of 2 Group attacked the Battle Cruisers at Brest, but weather was most unfavourable and haze and cloud prevented definite location of the ships.

/Bombs.....

War Diary.

4.4.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Brest.
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU
attacked.
Rotterdam
Ostend.
(Contd.)

Bombs were observed to burst over the target area and a line of fire and a white flash were seen in the dock area. Two Whitleys saw their bombs fall across the dry dock.

Oil Storage at Rotterdam.

This was attacked by two Wellingtons of 3 Group, and, although bombs were seen to burst in target area, no results were observed.

Docks at Ostend.

One Blenheim of 2 Group attacked and dropped bombs between the main wet dock and now tidal harbours, but owing, to searchlight glare, the results were not seen. (H.Q.B.C. 1845/4.).

French
Coast
R/C.requested.

Information is desired whether enemy shipping is proceeding up Channel by night. It is thought that movements eastward of Cape Gris Nez are by day only, but that vessels may make this point from the westward shortly before or at daylight. If this is the case there would be opportunities for M.T.B. attack. It is accordingly requested that an aircraft R/C may be carried out on light nights within the triangular area formed by lines joining the following points:-

- (A) Cape Gris Nez.
- (B) 50° N., 0° E.
- (C) 50° N.1° E.

(V.A. Dover 1928/4, to 16 Group.).

Thames
Estuary
Dusk
Patrols.

A 267 4/4. Your 1016/1/4 and my A.242 1/4. 11 Group require to operate dusk patrols over Thames Estuary. May it be confirmed that they can do so above 5,000 feet without interference by A.A. fire from special ships. Please repeat reply to all addressees in this signal.(H.Q.F.C. 2020/4 to C. in C. Nore.).

MOST SECRET.4.4.1941.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.GUILLEMOT.

One enemy aircraft dropped 10 small bombs, no hits, no casualties. My position 59A Buoy.
(GUILLEMOT 0746/4).
My 0746. Machine believed to be hit.
(GUILLEMOT 0824/4).

Convoy W.N.7
ROYAL EMBLEM.


(British 4900 tons). Reported bombed off Aberdeen 0800/3. Bridge and steering gear damaged, but proceeding Methil.
(N.O.I.C. Methil. 0934/4). My 0934/4/4.
ROYAL EMBLEM arrived Methil.
Attack was by machine gun only. No casualties. Steering gear damaged. Repairs necessary before putting to sea.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 154/4.)

FORTUNA.

(A/P Trawler). No trace. On patrol Berwick to Farne Islands. Last heard of when she reported at 1805/2 having received distress call from trawler GRAMOND ISLAND bombed off St. Abbs Head that she was proceeding to assist. At 1110/3 C.G. Berwick reported two lifebuoys marked FORTUNA washed ashore and attempts were made to communicate by W/T from Tyne Granton and May Island. Search by trawlers on adjoining patrols P.M./3 was negative, also air search this morning. Stores and gear washed ashore at Berwick this morning.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1227/4).

GEDDINGTON COURT
(Bombed 3/4).

Returned from E.N. 94 p.m./3 after enemy attack. Ship has 2 UX.B's and bomb disposal party is now on board.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1236/4).


Convoy E.N. 94.
HARMATRIS
(Bombed 7/3/4)

(British, 5395 tons). Your 2215/3.
HARMATRIS arrived Methil. Dynamo and D/G out of action. Hatch covers blown off. Lifeboats damaged. Loaded wheat. Suggest unload Leith. One killed one seriously wounded.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1714/4).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy "Young"
YOUNGRequest fighter protection for ^{"Young"} ~~YOUNG~~
(AVON VALE 2035/4).Convoy
H.X. 115.
CAPE VERDE
Bombed.(British, 6914 tons). Damaged and
making water. Can maintain speed of
convoy. Position 052° 06' N 005° 42' W.
(WOOLSTON 2122/4).SALVUS
(British, 4815 tons)2 Tugs being sent now. If ship is sea-
worthy and tow satisfactory proceed to
Humber.(C. in C. Nore 2247/4 to PUFFIN).
My 2140/4. Ship has broken in halves
and sunk.

(PUFFIN 2250/4).

Wreck of steamship SALVUS in 053°
05' N. 1° 27' E. Have 40 survivors
on board 30 European 10 Lascars. 2
Europeans 2 Lascars missing. Am
proceeding Humber, expect to arrive
daylight.

(PUFFIN 2310/4).

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Falmouth.

Port of Falmouth closed owing to minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0004/4).

Operation
S.N.8.

Departure Port Z.A. R.A.(M) in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, D 4 in COSSACK. ANTHONY, LANCASTER, ST. MARY'S. (TRELAWNEY 0630/4).

Operation
Orders
amended.

(1st S.L. 1647/4) (R.A.M.L. 1921/4, 1923/4) See Operations Volume.
1. A/S Air Escort by 18 group will be provided as follows.
2. Close escort will be provided as follows.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1720/4 to R.A.M.L.).
C.in C. H.F. 1945/1 and Adty. 1214/3.
As AURORA is not required for docking until 12/4 intend her to take place of ARETHUSA for operation S.N.8 for which I intend sailing 0720 to R/V with R.A. (M) at 1230/5 in 058° 26' N. 005° 44' W.
(F.O.C. 2nd C.S. 2123/4).

Foreness
Enemy A/C
minelaying.

Foreness C.H.L.Station reports having followed enemy aircraft which left an echo at certain points. These echoes were considered to be of parachute mines which were followed down in flight till the echo suddenly faded presumably on hitting water. Two cases reported were:- (details)
(C.in C. Nore 0920/4).

River Thames.
Reward for
Mine Reports.

In view of paramount importance under present conditions of obtaining accurate reports of mines dropped in the river which constitute so great a danger to shipping and to back up my recent appeal to all river interests for active co-operation in watching for mines, I have included the offer of £5 reward for each proved mine accurately reported.
It is considered important that reward in such cases be paid immediately.
Request I be authorised to act accordingly.
(F.O.I.C. London 1105/4).

/ Belfast.

4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Belfast.

L L Mark 5 detonated magnetic mine at 0953 in position 042 degrees Pile Light 2.8 miles. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1112/4).

Falmouth.

Cancel my 0004/4. Port of Falmouth now open for ships up to 18 feet draught. My 1920/20. Two ships up to 26 feet draught can now be accepted. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1245/4).

Operation
ZME 28.

Particulars.

5. Operation to be carried out on night of 5/4 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1404/4).

East Coast.
2AM/S Floats
sunk.

Following received begins:

D.21 from CATTISTOCK.
Sank 2 anti-minesweeping floats on 3/4 in positions "A" 53° 20' N. 1° 03' E. and "B" 52° 38' N. 01° 59' E. "A" exploded at set depth. "B" did not. 0851 Ends. (D. 21. 1429/4).

Operation
B.S.53.

Humber 4/4, departures TEVIOTBANK, SHELDRAKE, and LA MELPOMENE in company at 1550. (F.O. Humber 1557/4).

Spurn Point.

The following five mines were exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1807/4).

FIR.
(Mined 3/4)

M/S FIR damaged by 2 mines in position 210° approx. 1/2 mile from Polruan C.G. Watch House. Ship beached in Pont Pill. Casualties 6 injured. (C.in C. Plymouth 2207/4).
FIR refloated and secured.
Hoped to commence repairs tomorrow. (R.N.O. Fowey 2255/4)

Operation
S.N.9.

Propose to carry out as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2211/4) See Operations Volume.

Blyth.

Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2232/4).

Gap B.
Cropesa Search.

4.4.1941. 126
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Gap B.
Oropesa
search.

Following received from F.O.I.C. Tyne
Begins:- Oropesa search gap B 17 miles
out and back 25% one and a quarter miles
each side of centre line. Two floating
British mark XIV mines sunk by rifle fire.
T.O.O. 2004/4/4 Ends.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2254/4).

Milford
Haven.

Port is closed owing to minelaying by
enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2333/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Surface
Vessel.

My 2326/3. A further bearing from
Georgetown indicates that the position
of unknown enemy unit, probably surface
vessel, may be 57° N. 24° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1218/4).

SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

Visual reconnaissance 4.4.41. SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU still at Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 1403/4).


Seven
E-Boats
off Ushant.

Aircraft report 7 E Boats in 48° 35' N.
05° 35' W. at 1527, steering 270°.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1731/4).

Miscellaneous.

Blyth.

Port Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0757/4).



War Diary4. 4. 1941.
FridayHOME COMMANDSShipping and ConvoysConvoys in
Irish Sea.

Following temporary instructions for Convoys passing through Irish Sea are to put into force forthwith.
(vii) Ships below 1600 tons or are of speed 15 knots and above are to sail independently (C. in C., W.A., 0246/4 to N.O.I.C's etc.)
My 0246/4. Cancel part 3 para 4.
This route cannot be used until channel is buoyed. Ships on passage through Irish Sea are to use existing route. (C. in C. W.A. 1058/4)

Plymouth
Falmouth
Bristol Channel

My 2001/3. Schedule is to be brought into force as follows.
Groups sailing from Milford Haven and Bristol Channel to R/V at 1100/6 at Helwick Light Vessel, thereafter every three days.
Code Words (see list in Summaries Folder)
My 1923/28 to be adjusted accordingly.
(C. in C., Plymouth, 1337/4)

Provision of
Air Escort
for ships in
Irish Sea.

Your 0246/4. It is noted that it is intended to sail vessels under 1600 tons proceeding from Bristol Channel Ports northwards, independently.
In order to avoid casualties which were occurring and at urgent request of A.O.C. 19 Group, these vessels had been grouped in order to facilitate the provision of air escort even if surface escort was not available. Until these were grouped there was a steady stream of small vessels proceeding through the Irish Sea by day for which it was quite impossible to provide air escort. (C. in C., Plymouth, 1345/4, to C. in C., W.A.)

Code Words.

My 2001/3 and 1337/4. Permanent code words allotted to escorted groups of M.V's (C. in C., Plymouth, 1527/4 to F.O's i/c)
See Summaries Folder.

Swedish
Shipping.

Learn from Swedish Admiralty that owing to extended German War Zone certain adjustments have been made to Gothenburg Overseas Shipping. Vessels ECUADOR, REXHOLM, and KLIPPAREN directed to Azores to await further orders. MARG JOHNSON and DANAHOLM have passed Faroe Is. and due Gothenburg 5th or 6th. Oiler CASTOR is also continuing on voyage. No ships will leave Gothenburg for the present. Swedish negotiators now in Berlin expected back shortly. (N.A. Stockholm, 1642/4 to Admty)

* Not identified

/Irish Sea....

4.4.1941. ¹²⁸
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Irish
Sea.

My 1922/3 para. D. Cancel first two sentences and substitute The Convoys are to be run to schedule in the Irish Sea. Ships of speed of 15 knots and above are to sail independently. Small Coasters may be sailed independently when group sailing cannot be arranged.

Amend 3rd sentence to read "Ships other than the above and those in the B.M. portion etc." (A.C.N.S.(T) 1821/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

Admty. A.Z. 700 para B. and A.Z.705 regarding routeing in Irish Sea, the dividing line south of position (G) for north and south bound traffic is to be amended as follows:

Further signal will be made regarding navigational lights in the area concerned, and the date on which this route is to be brought into force.

(D.T.D. 1958/4 to A.I.G. 26).

1. My 1846/4 (?0246/4) Intentions re escorts for Convoys proceeding through the Irish Sea.

Irish Sea Convoy sailings are to commence forthwith dependent on the state of Escorts available.

(C.in C. W.A., 2224/4, to F.O.I.C's Belfast and Milford H.).

Ships in
E.C. for
Overseas.

Ships sailed in E.C. Convoys for overseas destinations are to be given routes normally to both Loch Ewe and Oban so that they may be diverted if necessary from Loch Ewe to Oban whilst on passage.

Ships eligible only for slow O.B. or O.G. convoys must always be routed to Oban. (C.in C. W.A., 1835/4 to N.C.S.O's).

Military Convoys.

T.C. Convoys,
Commodore.

Request you will in future embark Commodore and staff in T.C. Convoys under similar conditions existing for Mercantile Convoys. It is desired to leave the warship escort free from Commodore's responsibilities. (D.T.D. 1723/4 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EMILE FRANQUI

Tug CHAMPION sailed Leith 0007/4 to assist. (C.in C. Rosyth 0010/4).
Tug CHAMPION is to be sailed forthwith to assist S.S. EMILE FRANQUI to Leith.
EMILE FRANQUI is anchored near No. 1 buoy off Mouth of Tay and is making water but can steam. (C.in C. Rosyth 1035/4).
My 1244/4 EMILE FRANQUI reported at 1505 to have weighed and proceeded in S.E. direction from Dundee with Trawler in company. (C.in C. Rosyth 1522/4 to GLEANER).
EMILE FRANQUI reported sinking proceed with utmost despatch. (C.in C. Rosyth 1620/4 to GLEANER).

ASCANIA

E.T.A. 0700 G.M.T./5. Urgent defect on main feed pump. Assistance required to repair. (ASCANIA 1055/4 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).
Your 1055/4. Proceed to anchor as convenient west of Engey. Fuel Hvalfjord after your defect is remedied. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2215/4 to ASCANIA).

CAIRNIE

Aground 320° North Pier 6½ cables. Crew landed here in life boat - No casualties - steering gear damaged in heavy sea. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1212/4).

Refit of
FURIOUS

Adty's 1941/23.
Add the following items to paragraph one of my 2211/23. (FURIOUS 1525/4).

GARDENIA
COLUMBINE

E.T.A. Aultbea 1900 today.
GARDENIA requires asdic repairs, COLUMBINE electrical repairs. (GARDENIA 1550/4).

LUDLOW

LUDLOW's 0945. Temporary repairs only can be effected at Scapa which it is estimated will take about 2 days. It will then be necessary for ship to proceed to a repair port. She will therefore not be available to join convoy W.N.9. (A.C.O.S. 1730/4).

(RYKABORG)

REYKJABORG.

F.O.I.C. Iceland's 1925/2/4. Two Survivors are in Mauchline Convalescent Home. Names. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/4).

4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

LORD HOWARD

Successfully refloated this P.M. high water and is now berthed Dover alongside North Wall.
(Salvage Officer, S.E. Coast 1800/4).

ASSUAN

Refloated 1900. Vessel now berthed Montrose. Repairs can be carried out afloat without discharging cargo.
(Adty. Salvage Officer 2030/4).

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1814/4, April.

OUT.

130A

To C. in C. Home Fleet. 869.
 F.O.C. North Atlantic 557.
 C. in C. South Atlantic 287.
 N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 505.
 R.A.S.A.D. 979.
 C. in C. America & West Indies 67.
 Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.
 C. in C. China 665.
 N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 604.
 C. in C. East Indies, 627.
 New Zealand Naval Board 79.
 N.A. Washington.

Date. 4.4.41.

Interdepartmental Cypher Special.

From Admiralty,

NITE.

North Atlantic. Battlecruisers appear to have attacked 22 ships during a month's cruise. They were still in Brest on April 4th.

On March 26th MOORBY sighted a volume of smoke as though from a ship on fire and a vessel heading away at high speed on horizon about 300' E. by S. from Newfoundland. On April 3rd ZOUAVE made QQQQ 300 miles N. by E of this position. She may have sighted one of H.M. Ships it is possible a raider is operating E. of Newfoundland.

D/F of another unit in vicinity of 57 degs. N. 24 degs West on April 3rd.

South Atlantic and Pacific - No information.

Indian Ocean. Mines located in Bass Straits on April 1st. May be part of minefield laid in November or a fresh lay either by No. 16 or Pacific Raiders or possibly a fresh lay either by No. 16 or Pacific Raiders or possibly a fresh arrival from Germany which could have been responsible for mines discovered off Capetown on February 21st.

D/F indications of a unit to the East of Mauritius on April 3rd.

1814/4.
for D.D.I.C.
(Green Line 8.).

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

D.M.S.
D.M.S. (Basement).

4.8.1941.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.CAPO ALGA
BURANO

Italian ships CAPO ALGA and BURANO which left Teneriffe 2100/1 are reported to have been steering south at dawn/2 and may be making for Dakar. - (B.I.).
(D.D.I.C. 0010/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A.).

→ ARK ROYAL
RENOWN
SHEFFIELD

H.O. four (a) 1030 (b) ARK ROYAL 0000, RENOWN 0045, SHEFFIELD 0130
(c) RENOWN.
(S.O. Force H., 0724/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Operation
"Winch".

^{"Winch"}
"WINCH" completed. Weather conditions D 2 and part D 3 favouring concealment. Aircraft flown off in 037° 42' N. 006° 52' E.

Two Cants sighted and attempted to shadow Force H. in 037° 49' N. 005° 26' E. One shot down and one damaged by fighters. One probable Heinkel sighted force in position 037° 40' N. 004° 24' E. but escaped in cloud before interception. All shadowers kept very low and R. D/F of little use. No bombing attack possible due to presence of warm front or cold feet. (S.O. Force H, 0736/4, to Admty.).

ANTARKTIS
NORD ATLANTIC
BRAKE

My 1224/3 date when tanker (ANTARKTIS) left Ferrol should be 3/4.
Tanker NORD ATLANTIC expected to leave Ferrol for docking. It is also said that BRAKE will shortly return to Vigo. (C.O.)
(Consul, Vigo, 1100/4 to Admty.).

→ Force H.

Arrivals S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, FEARLESS, FORTUNE, FURY.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1130/4, to Admty. etc.).

REGISTAN
MALVERNIAN
CAMITO

Intend REGISTAN return U.K. with S.L. 69 on completion of present patrol.
MALVERNIAN and CAMITO to coal and water at Gibraltar as ordered by you vide Admty. 2247/3. (F.O.C.N.P. 1230/4, to F.O.C.N.A.).

Spanish MONTE ESPADAN
(detained)

War Diary.

4.4.1941.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Spanish
MONTE ESPADAN
(detained)

Broke undertaking on her return from Genoa. Vessel received orders from owners to proceed to Barcelona and Aguilas where 1260 tons of general cargo, chiefly Esparto grass, was loaded for Huelva. In view of broken undertaking, vessel detained pending instructions.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1230/4, to Admty.).

OTUS
OLYMPUS

Possible that OTUS and OLYMPUS may be ordered to proceed to Malta on completion of their present duty.

Request you issue necessary route instructions. (1st S.L., 1413/4 to V.A. Malta).

Your 1413/4. I do not consider OTUS is in fit state to operate from Malta as her defects render one shaft useless while diving, my 1704/27/3 refers.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1710/4 to Admty.).

Cancel reference to OTUS (1st S.L. 0008/5). Adty. 1413/4.

(a) Patrol positions of OLYMPUS and OTUS are 037° 00' N. 000° 40' W. and 036° 08' N. 000° 40' W. respectively. Re W/T watch.

(c) Request you will signal to them (i)

Q B message affecting their route (ii)

Instructions as to W/T watch (d) Codes held.

(e) V.A. Malta pass to S.O. S/Ms Malta Force.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1720/4 to V.A. Malta).

Raider which
sank
BRITANNIA

Description by Commander Spurgeon, R.A.N. and description of sinking.

(B.C. Teneriffe 1731/4)..

Operation
"Winch".

Cancel my 1503/1. (W/T watches and routines). (S.O. Force H, 1810/4).

Biscay
Patrols.

Your 1825/3. (Requesting information re changes in Patrols or in disposition of B/Cruisers at Brest).

Para 4. Consider priority of signal should be Immediate and that R.A.F. should adopt procedure referred to in para. 2 of my 1923/24/3 (signalling procedure to be adopted in making daily air reconnaissances of enemy B/Cruisers)

(F.O. Force H, 1849/4, to C.in C. Plymouth).

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BIJOU-BIHEN

French Auxiliary Fishing Ketch BIJOU-BIHEN from Gibraltar to vicinity Cape Blanco (020° N.) and returning to Brest by end of May should not be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1851/4, to N.A. Stn.).

Force H left.

Departure S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FURIOUS, FORESIGHT, FEARLESS, FAULKNER, FORTUNE Westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1940/4, to Admty., C.in C. Med.).

Italian
SANGRO
SECCO
TODARO

Tenerife reports strong indications may sail P.M./4 or 5/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 2108/4 to N.A. Stn.).

*RECCO see 19.4.41 611

LOCH OSKAIG
FIJI

Presume LOCH OSKAIG's 2040 (see Home Commands) (sighting of unknown cruiser) refers to FIJI. If ordered to join Force H request you will sail her in direction 265° from Spartel which is my intended M.L.A. failing further developments. (S.O. Force H, 2154/4 to F.O.C.N.A.). LOCH OSKAIG's 2015 to Whitehall W/T. FIJI in position 036° 30' N. 009° 05' W. at 2015/4 E.T.A. Gibraltar 0840/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 2224/4 to S.O. Force H., etc.).

See p 116

South Atlantic.

W.S.7.
NAPIER
NIZAM.

My 0111/26/3 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 2002/1. W.S.7 should not be delayed, onward passage being arranged in NAPIER and NIZAM if necessary. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0048/4 to C.in C. S.A.). Your 1215/2. Code Numbers for Ships in W.S.7. are as follows:- (D.S.T. 0825/4 to C.in C. S.A.). Arrival 1200/4 NELSON, WISHART, VIDETTE, DUNCAN, FOXHOUND, escorting W.S.7. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1511N/4, to Admty.).

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

TEGIO (?)

Pernambuco reports TEGIO (?) is now receiving water and provisions. She is reported to be under surveillance by Port Authorities. Italians reported to have ordered Spanish Flags to be made ashore. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0229Z/4, to S.O.I., Freetown).

Italian CAPO
AIGA and
BURANO

Left Teneriffe 1/4 seen heading South at dawn/2. (C.in C. S.A., 0601/4, to BIRMINGHAM, BULOLO). See also p 135.

ORMONDE,
service
personnel.

Admty. 1721/2. Arrangements made to disembark 250 service personnel. ORMONDE will depart Capetown at 1400/4 for Freetown. E.T.A. 1000/14. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0853Z/4 to C.in C.S.A.)

UMONA
Lome

Overdue shipping - UMONA due Freetown 31/3, repeated from Lome Walvis Bay (?20/3) not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1009N/4 1127/5 to S.O.I. Capetown).

MARATHON

Greek, 7926 tons, overdue at Freetown since 13/3, now presumed lost. 2 empty lifeboats found about 250 miles N. of Cape Verde Is. on 16/3. (D.S. 577).

BRIDGEWATER

Delayed, cannot arrive St. Helena until 10/4. Further signal will be made if thought can join you in time to be any use. Do not break W/T silence to give any instructions. (C.in C. S.A., 1515N/4, to Force U).

NORDERNEY
XXIV MAGGIO
AIDA LAURO

NORDERNEY (German) loaded rubber 1500 castor seed 1041 castor oil 97 hides 630 all in tons. (A.1). MAGGIO (Italian) at Pernambuco coaled 1250 tons from AIDA LAURO (Italian) former now alongside Quay receiving water and provisions. (S.O.I. Freetown 1543N/4 to Admty.).

CABO VILLANO
(Survivors of
CLAN OGILVY
and BENWYVIS)

War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CABO VILLANO
(Survivors
of CLAN
OGILVY and
BENWYVIS)

Due at Santos about 11/4 Naval Attache Madrid's 1923/3 accordingly being repeated Rio de Janeiro for action. (N.A. Buenos Aires 1610/4 to Admty. etc.). Master of Spanish CABO DE HORROS has informed me that he received a radio message from Master of Spanish CABO VILLANO southward bound stating letter had rescued 24 British subjects at 0400/2 in 11° N. 23° 50' W. and that he searched until evening 2nd for a boat said to contain an additional 60 persons without success. Message states British Ships CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS had been sunk in that vicinity. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1815/4, to Admty.).

AMABILITAS

My 1902/3. Cannot sail tonight 4/4. My 2026/2. There are also four Danish and four French ships in Argentine ports. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1832/4 to D.N.I., R.A.S.A.D. etc.). *See also next page*

MAURITIUS
EDINBURGH
S.L. convoys.

Your 0152/26/3. MAURITIUS leaves SL 69 5/4 on relief by EDINBURGH and will arrive Freetown 8/4 one day after SL 71 sails. MAURITIUS should be able to sail P.M./8 or 9 and will overtake SL 71 A.M./9 or 10 about 260-400 miles from Freetown. (C.in C. S.A., 1901N/4, to Admty.).

DUNCAN
FOXHOUND
VIDETTE
WISHART

Your 1634/2 (VELOX & WRESTLER to sail for Freetown if ships mentioned are back at Gibraltar) DUNCAN, FOXHOUND, VIDETTE, and WISHART, are required for escort to W.S.7 and NELSON on leaving Freetown and cannot be sailed for Gibraltar before about 11/4 to arrive about 18/4. (C.in C. S.A., 1903N/4 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Italian Ships,
Teneriffe.

Consulate Teneriffe reports Italian ships at Teneriffe propose to leave at 2 or 3 day intervals. 2 of these ships CAPO ALGA and BURANO sailed 1/4 and there are 8 remaining to sail. Suspect they may make for Dakar. (C.in C. S.A., 2025N/4, to S.A. Stn.).

/ AMABILITAS

.....

4.4.1941.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

AMABILITAS

Bahia Blanca reports has banked fires. She can only sail at daylight high water which is about midday during next three days. No further stores are being loaded and the port charges have been paid in full. No signs of preparation to move can be observed on the other two vessels in the port.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, T.H.I. 2211/4, to R.A.S.A.D.). *See previous page*

Enemy Shipping.

Pernambuco reports general preparations continue but no indications of immediate departure by Italian ships. No reports received of activity of enemy ships from other ports on this coast. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2348Z/4).

Mediterranean.

Beaufort A/C's for Malta.

In view of necessity for increasing scale of attack on Sicily-Libya supply route, proposed that 6 Beaufort Aircraft of Coastal Command trained for torpedo dropping should be sent to Malta as soon as practicable.
(1st S.L., 0218/4 to Air Ministry).
Arrangements to be made to despatch 6 Beauforts to Malta forthwith. There are 17 key personnel already at Malta. Remaining personnel and all stores should arrive Middle East towards end of May. (Air Ministry, 1745/4 to Coastal Command).

Battle of Cape Matapan.

Your 1213/2. After consultation with the Prime Minister it is preferred to refer to the action as the Battle of Cape Matapan. (D.P.D. Approved by 1st Lord..0239/4 to C.in C. Med.).

/ U/B Contact.

War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)U/B
Contact.

NUBIAN and HYACINTH attacking contact in position 140 Phleva 8. (CALCUTTA, 0711/4, to N.A. Athens).

U/B in
Roumania.

Greek situation report 30/3. 3. Roumania. Submarine under construction Galatz arsenal will be completed during April and probably put at German disposal. (B.M.M. Athens, 1040/4, to C.in C. M.E.).

Greek
naval
requirements.

U.S. Govt. have asked Greeks to submit list of requirements which might be made available to them through Lease and Lend arrangements. Naval List has been submitted as follows: (N.A. Athens, 1103/4).

UNDAUNTED

Intend to transfer UNDAUNTED to administrative control of Capt.(S) 1 on 13/4. (Capt. S.9 1113/4 to Capt. S.1).

Tripoli
bombed
S/M's
reported.

Operational Summary No. 298 up to 1200, 4/4/41. During night 2/3 2 Wellingtons dropped 3,500 lbs. bombs on Tripoli harbour hitting Spanish fort and Mole. Day 3/4. F.A.A. recco Derna to Jedabya reported 3 submarines on surface position 33° 19' N. 21° 48' E. course N.E. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1146/4).

A.N.F. 24.

Convoy A.N.F. 24 except NORTHERN PRINCE arrived Piraeus 0900/4. (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1200/4).

HOMFIELD,
NORTHERN
PRINCE.
COULOURAS-
XENOS
sunk
TETI damaged.HOMFIELD in ballast sunk as result of air attack off Gavdo P.M./2, NORTHERN PRINCE with British and Greek military stores sunk as a result of air attack P.M./3 in Anti Kithera Channel. COULOURAS-XENOS sunk and TETI damaged by air attack off Gavdo P.M./2. No casualties reported in HOMFIELD and NORTHERN PRINCE. (C.in C. Med. 1204/4). My 1204/4. Name of first Greek ship should read ~~MOULOURAS XENOS~~ COULOURAS-XENOS. (C.in C. Med. 1814/4)./UNIQUE
UPRIGHT

....

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

UNIQUE
UPRIGHT

Leave patrol to arrive Malta as follows.
(Cdr. S.L, 1216/4).

LATONA

Your 1945/19. Approx. date for acceptance. In emergency working up practices could be curtailed but it is desired to avoid this if possible. Request whether you would prefer two destroyers of 20th Flotilla now as an alternative to LATONA on completion. (1st S.L., 1216/4 to C.in C. Med.).

Battleships.

Your 1853/19. Had been intended to reinforce you with QUEEN ELIZABETH, just completed. Situation in Battle of the Atlantic together with necessity to repair MALAYA torpedoed in the Atlantic, makes it most difficult to spare a capital ship for Indian Ocean or Eastern Mediterranean at present. You may consider damage you inflicted on 28th - 30/3 may have altered situation sufficiently to remove necessity for reinforcement at present time. (1st S.L. 1316/4 to C.in C. Med.).

Convoys and
Enemy Air
Action.

C.in C. Med. 1320/4 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air
Operations.

Daily Summary operation. No flying.
(95 Sqn. 1640/4).

Yugoslav
naval
operation.

Belgrade 1942/4 See Mediterranean Volume.

War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.French
Repatriees.

Your 1102/29 and 0644/30. H.M.G. are committed to repatriate these troops, and Portuguese have gone to considerable trouble in making arrangements. No alternative accommodation has yet been found.

Not considered that military value of these demobilised troops outweighs the considerations mentioned in para 1. Instructions are being sent to H.M. Consul, Beira, to repatriate them in accordance with present arrangements.
(Head of M. 0050/4, to C.in C. E.I.).

Sinking of
DANIELE MANIN.

My 1822/3. There were no naval casualties. All F.A.A. Aircraft returned safely. R.A.F. Crew believed safe but two Wellesleys are reported to have force landed in Hadjaz and been destroyed.
(C.in C. E.I., 0148Z/4, to Admt.).
/ (Enemy destroyer sunk).

S.U.2.
ILLUSTRIOUS
HAWKINS

ILLUSTRIOUS and HAWKINS escorting Convoy S.U.2 arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0514Z/4).

FELIX ROUSSEL
LEANDER

Cancel my 1158/3. Departure of FELIX ROUSSEL from Singapore has been delayed.
LEANDER is now to leave Colombo 1200Z/7 and proceed to Madras arriving p.m./9.
(C.in C. E.I., 0552Z/4, to LEANDER).

HIMALAYA
(Italian)

Reference Reuter report of 3/4 referring to arrival of HIMALAYA at Rio De Janeiro. This vessel took refuge at Massawa or Assab when Italy entered War. No previous information regarding departure from Red Sea has been received, request confirmation.
(C.in C. E.I., 0738Z/4).

Crews for
Captured
Enemy M.V's.

In anticipation of capture of some enemy ships intact at Massawa and Assab, request you will consider question of provision of crews from India. Can you give any indication of how many crews you can provide? Presume you have no officers available.
(C.in C. E.I., 0742Z/4, to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled 3/4) ...

War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)

PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled 3/4)
^{NAZARIO}
N. SAURO
(sunk by F.A.A.
3/4.)

My 1822/3 para. 2. Towing was not practicable as both destroyers later sank. One has mast and funnel showing above water. The other is capsized with fore foot just showing above water. The first is in 021° 12' 039° 07', second is two cables S.S.W. from first; both destroyers LEONE class. My 1450/3, para. 3. VELHOA arrived ^{NAZARIO} Port Sudan 0500Z with survivors from SAURO which was first destroyer sunk on 3/4. (C.in C. E.I., 0816Z/4, to Admty.).

Your 1822/3. Can it be discovered by air reconnaissance whether the three remaining destroyers are still at Massawa and if so whether they are in a damaged condition. (1st S.L. 1013/4 to C.in C. E.I.). Your 1020Z/3.

Am reliably informed Italian destroyers PANTERA and TIGRE are on reef approx. 20 miles S. of Jedda.

Survivors from these ships and from MASADO (Sic) and MANON are arriving Jedda in considerable numbers.

Italian three engined civil aircraft has just landed at Jedda with thirteen passengers seven in uniform.

(Reporting Officer, Jedda, 1144/4, to C.in C. E.I.).

Operational Summary No. 298 up to 1200 hrs. 4/4 1941. 3/4. During morning F.A.A.

Swordfish intercepted 4 Italian destroyers off Port Sudan sinking 2 of them. (SAURO + MANIN) Remainder retreated out of Swordfish range possibly making for Jedda.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1147/4).

My 0816/4 (i) 2nd destroyer sunk 3/4 was the DANIELE MANIN, about 60 survivors have been picked up by FLAMINGO. (ii) S.N.O. Red Sea 0826/4 is passed to you (iii)

Destroyers reported in my 0816/4 para. 2 were PANTERA and TIGRE (iv) Reporting officer Jedda 1144/4 is passed to Admiralty. (C.in C. E.I., 1308Z/4, to Admty.).

Your 1013/4 (1) Air photographs taken p.m./3 reveal two small destroyers (presumably GIOVANNI G. ACERBI and VINCENZO G. ORSINI) in Massowa harbour. Condition unknown. Air reconnaissance of outlying islands carried out 4/4 for the third destroyer. Result not yet reported.

Am hopeful of getting information from prisoners. (C.in C. E.I., 1420Z/4, to Admty.)

/ My 1308 and 1420/4...

* Probably
MASSAWA.

4.4.1941. ¹⁴¹
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

PANTERA
TIGRE
(scuttled
^{3/4}
~~NA~~ SAURO
(sunk by
F.A.A. 3/4).

My 1308 and 1420/4. Following from prisoners:
(a) The Destroyer reported in my 0730/2 was LEONE. (b) The CESARE BATTISTI sailed from Massawa 2/4 but disappeared during the night of 2nd /3rd. My 0636/3 may refer. (c) The GIOVANNI G. ACERBI, having been previously damaged by air attack on some unspecified date, has had her guns removed and is being used to provide spare parts for other Destroyers. (d) The VINCENZO G. ORSINI was in Massowa Harbour 2/4 ready for sea. (e) No information concerning S/M's could be obtained.

ii. Following from photographs of Massowa P.M./4.

(a) Only one destroyer seen (presumably GIOVANNI G. ACERBI). (b) 8 out of a total of 28 Merchant Ships are moored head and stern very close forming a boom of ships. Possibility appears scuttling in this formation to preclude use of Harkik Bay anchorage.

iii. The destroyers in commission which are not yet definitely sunk and whose position is at present unknown are therefore the CESARE BATTISTI and VINCENZO G. ORSINI. (C.in C. E.I., 2340Z/4, to Admty.).

Enemy M.V's
at Massawa.
CREFELD

Reported no German ships have docked at Massawa. CREFELD, 8045 tons, reported unseaworthy owing to damage by bombs. Other German ships at Massawa unlikely to sail owing to lack of crews. Reported half the crews of Italian ships at Massawa have been recruited for the Army. (D.S. 577).

DURMITOR

Your 1002/1/3 considerable disbursements will have to be made in order to bring ship into seaworthy condition. Hatch cover four derricks and boats were burnt by German. (N.O.i/c East Africa 0904Z/4).

RAMB I.

There are 102 prisoners from RAMB I now in Ceylon. One rating was killed in RAMB I during action and one succumbed to his wounds in LEANDER. (C.in C. E.I. 1026/4.).

Regent of Iraq,
request for
warship.

142

4.4.1941.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Regent of
Iraq,
request
for
warship.

Due to Coup De'Etat in Baghdad, Regent and various members of government have arrived Basra. Regent wishes presence of sloop and has requested FALMOUTH to proceed to Basra. Although do not consider cause for immediate alarm exists consider this precaution necessary. Propose keeping COCKCHAFER at Basra also until situation is clarified. (N.O.I.C. Basra, 1230Z/4).

Situation.

Naval commitments and proposed strength of Red Sea Force in view of early capture of Massawa being likely etc. (C.in C. E.I. 1438/4) See Lion copy. Under instructions from Regent and three Ministers embarked in COCKCHAFER for safety. Propose to transfer them to FALMOUTH on arrival. Request approval. (N.O.i/c Basra 1455Z/4). For greater safety COCKCHAFER is to proceed and embark Regent and his companion in FALMOUTH at outer bar and COCKCHAFER is then to return to Basrah. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1855Z/4, to N.O.I.C. Basrah).

Naval W/T
Station at
Harrar.

At the request of Italian General Commanding the City passed via Aden W/T Station and with concurrence of G.O.C. East Africa Naval W/T Station at Harrar (P 7) has established (corrupt group) Addis Ababa (I U B) on 4850 Kc/s. (N.L.O. Nairobi, 2017/4, to S.N.O. Red Sea).

China.Naval action
in Dutch
Waters.

C. in C. E.I. 0656/1 is confirmed and has already been promulgated on China Station a public announcement is of course not desirable. (C.in C. China 0342Z/4).

IN

From. C. in C. East Indies.

Date. 6.4.41.

Time. 0047.

HLVL CYPRER (D) BY W/T

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated. S.M.O. Red Sea Force.,
S. M.O. Suez Canal Area., C. in C. Mediterranean.

01. (i) The naval and air threat to shipping in Red Sea having been almost eliminated and early capture of Massowa being likely, the strength of the Red Sea Force has been under consideration and I offer following remarks and proposals.

(ii) The naval commitments remaining are:- (a) interception of enemy shipping escaping from Massowa and Assab (b) maintenance of Perim Patrol to prevent unauthorized ships passing (c) co-operation with army in cleaning up enemy littorals (d) clearance of minefields at Massowa and Assab. (e) operations in connection with French Somaliland (f) local seaward defence of Aden and Contraband Control Services. (g) periodical sweeping of mineable waters.

(iii) (a) and (b) above definitely requires destroyer assistance in view of slow speed of other ships available. The remaining commitment can generally speaking be undertaken by sloops and auxiliary vessels.

(iv) Reduction in Red Sea Force will need to be made in steps determined by:- (a) location or negative intelligence of remaining 3 Italian Destroyers. It is then intended to withdraw 2 "C" Class Cruisers for convoy ocean escorts and protection of shipping. 1 (One) "K" Class Destroyer can be released for service elsewhere (b) completion of mine clearance at Massowa. Date indeterminate. Release H.M.A.S. YARRA, H.M.A.S. PARVAMATTA and H.M.S. SHOREHAM. (c) enemy littorals (? decrease). Date indeterminate. Release two armed freighters.

(v) The Red Sea Force would thus finally consist of two destroyers, three R.I.N. sloops, two armed boarding steamers and three R.I.N. local defence vessels. The destroyers could be an older type than "K" class.

(vi) The above assumes that B N and B S Convoys will cease, but northbound ships would be sailed in groups from Aden often and remain so formed until after passing Perim. This will be necessary in order to simplify the work of patrol. It is also assumed (all) convoys will disperse north of Perim.

(vii) It is suggested consideration be given now to the provision of air protection to shipping in Gulf of Suez in anticipation of this area possibly becoming exposed to enemy air attack.

1458/4

Advance copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.D.O.

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

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE
From C. in C. Far East.

1747/4th April
Date 5.4.41.
Recd. 0830.

IN.

142 B.

Cipher.

Addressed War Office. Repeated Acting Prime Minister Canberra,
Defender Wellington, Consul General Batavia (for Governor-General)
C. in C. East Indies, C. in C. China.

04434.
17550 cipher 4/4.

G.H.Q. F.E./219/2 4/4.

1. Air. (a) Enlargement Koepang Timor to facilitate use of Hudsons
commenced February 21st.

(b) Singkawang number 2 aerodrome Dutch West Borneo will be
equipped to accommodate one permanent and one visiting R.A.F. Squadron.
Estimate time to complete two or three months. Anticipate contracts
will be placed by Dutch in mid-April.

(c) Sembawang selected as the base for 3 Dutch bomber squadrons
and Kallang for 1 Dutch Fighter squadron when operating in Malaya.
Accommodation already adequate.

(d) Cocos Islands arrangements being made for use by Dutch flying
boats.

(e) Detailed arrangements between Malaya and the Netherlands East
Indies regarding stores pay transport food medical services proceeding
satisfactorily through liaison officers and visits by specialist
officers.

2. Communications. Anglo Dutch Australian Communications conference with
American observer completed report few days. Action to implement
recommendations is proceeding.

3. Oil denial.

Conference between Buchan engineer of Sarawak oilfields and Dutch
authorities held at Bandoeng on March 21st resulted in satisfactory progress
towards complete correlation of Somer and Dutch oil denial scheme.
Conclusions reached.

(a) If capture of oilfields appears probable Dutch will operate
demolition schemes and destroy or fill with cement all wells.

(b) Miri to prepare similar total destruction scheme but not
necessarily including subsurface demolition of Seria field.

(c) All Miri and Dutch schemes whether for denial or total
demolition to include removal or destruction of some essential
equipment parts.

Governor of Straits Settlements telegram to Secretary of State
for the Colonies 0145 dated March 30th. Dutch are considering
complete denial scheme as alternatives to demolition if recapture of
oilfields appears possible.

4. Ambon and Portuguese Timor. Detailed sketches for buildings
required by Australians if forces are moved to Marsha and Timor have
been prepared by Australian officers. Constructional materials being
despatched from Australia first available ship. Detail works
projects and drawings given Chief of General Staff Netherlands East
Indies General ter Poorten before he left March 28th.

5. Defence South Pacific. Steps already taken by New Zealand
Government to provide defences at Fiji and Tonga. Defence of Vile
under consideration Commonwealth Government.

6. Liaison. ADA appendix C paragraph 13. All under column. "Now
3rd." have commenced duty except 2 from Australia to Netherlands East
Indies to course of appointment.

Recd. in Admiralty 0730/6.

1st Lord.	V.C.N.S.	1747/4.	I.P.
1st S.L.	A.C.N.S. (F)	D.O.D. (F)	W.D.
2nd S.L.	A.C.N.S. (T)	D.D.O.D. (F)	Hd. of M.
3rd S.L.	A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C.D. (H)	D. of L.D.
4th S.L.	C.S.O. 1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (H)	D. A/S W.
5th S.L.	D. of P. (2)	D.N.I. (4)	D.M.S.
		N.I.D. 10.	D.D.I.C.
			D.T.D.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MYSON)
SARDINIAN)
PRINCE)
SILVERFIR)
MANGKAI)
RIO DORADO)
ATHELF OAM)

In Convoy O.B. 294, overdue at their destinations. All with exception of RIO DORADO are believed to have been attacked by enemy raiders between 15/3 and 26/3, (D.S. 577, 4/4).

U.S.
Coastguard
Cutters.

Your 1010/3. What type of engines have these Vessels?
(1st S.L. 0217/4 to N.A. Washington).

FRANKFURT
ERLANGEN
RHAKOTIS
QUITO
BOGOTA

German ships FRANKFURT, ERLANGEN painting grey. RHAKOTIS awaiting 180 tons fuel. S.O.(I) Callao of opinion QUITO, BOGOTA will be next to sail.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 0956/4, to Admty. etc.).
Consul Coquimbo reports German ships QUITO, BOGOTA almost certain sail tonight or tomorrow 5/4.
(S.O.I., Callao, 1208/4, to C.in C. A.W.I.).
N.S.O.(I) Callao 1208/4. Proceed at best possible speed to establish patrol off Coquimbo. BISHOPDALE will be instructed to R/V with you in position 30° S. 72° W. at 1600Z/8.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1601/4, to PRINCE HENRY).

PRINCE HENRY

Your 1631/3. PRINCE HENRY should be sent to Esquimalt as Halifax is congested with shipping awaiting repair.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1244/4 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

VITTORIO
VENETO

Following from Navy Department.
From U.S. Naval Attache Rome 1/4.
Ministry of Marine neither denies nor admits loss or damage of a battleship.
They had no report of battle for 24 hours except from messages (? intercepted) between British Units.
(N.A. Washington 1525/4).

/ Dakar.

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Dakar.

Following from War Department.
From Dakar 2/4. Navy personnel now present number 60,000. In spite of statements by C.O.S. that all native troops arriving are being demobilized, it is believed that they are being kept in service and that French "civilians" recently arrived are really officers and N.C.Os. to form Cadres for expanded forces.
(N.A. Washington 1704/4).

NORDERNEY
MONBALDO
Orders to
PRINCE DAVID

Establish patrol off Para River to intercept NORDERNEY and MONBALDO if they sail. Endeavour not to be sighted.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1853/4, to PRINCE DAVID).

Publicity,
ships
refitting
in U.S.A.

Policy outlined in your 1900/1 is concurred in. (D.P.D. 1943/4 Approved by 1st Lord to B.A.R.M. and 2012/4 to MALAYA)

Australia.

U.S.10.

Admty. 2202/27 and your 1145/27.
All ships of U.S.10 except NIEUW AMSTERDAM should be victualled for voyage to Suez.
(D. of S.T. 1923/4 to A.C.N.B.).

4.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

Unknown Ship.

Following from Resolution Island:
0149 GMT unknown station sending SSSS spark signal QSA3 bearing 80 approx. uncalibrated. No further particulars due short transmission and no rebroadcasts heard. (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0012/4, to Admty. etc.).

→ WELCOMBE

British, 5122 tons. Following has been read:- SSSS 59.07 N. 23.42 W., WELCOMBE torpedoed, de MAS.
(Wick Radio, 0156/4) In Convoy S.C.26.

→ HELLE
→ WELCOMBE

HESPERUS is escorting TENAX in approx. 058° 47' N. 024° 05' W. at 0700. Have picked up 24 survivors of HELLE and am searching for WELCOMBE and U.Boat(Weather) 59° 04' N. 23° 43' W.
(HAVELOCK, 0718/4, to C.in C. W.A.).
Both in Convoy S.C.26.
Unless survivors of HELLE and WELCOMBE have been recovered detail one corvette to search. (C.in C. W.A., 0822/4 to VETERAN).
My 0718. Have picked up 26 men of WELCOMBE and complete crew of HELLE. Both ships sank. My p.c. and s. 059° 15' N. 024° 00' W. 100° 14 knots.
(HAVELOCK, 1501/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

BRASIL

Norwegian 8130 tons. Following from Resolution Island. 1355 G.M.T. SSSS DE LIYV 56.16 N. 27.50 W. BRASIL attacked by Submarine. Signal too weak for Bearing (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1230/4, to Admty.)
(BRASIL, 1355/4) (Valentia Radio, 1355/4).

HARBLEDOWN

British, 5414 tons, in Convoy S.C.26. HARBLEDOWN torpedoed and sunk 058° 15' N., 023° 20' W. 0300/4, 24 Survivors. VERITY, CHELSEA, WOLVERINE, VIVIEN, CONVULVULUS and rest in company, course 090° 5 knots. Owing to escort fuel position unless weather moderates by tomorrow propose amending route through 057° 26' N. 015° 00' W., 056° 00' N., 007° 30' W.
(VETERAN, 1600/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.War Diary.4.4.1941.
Friday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)HARBLEDOWN
(contd.)

C.A.F.O. 380.

- (a) Attack not seen by escort, reported 10 minutes later by another ship.
- (b) Port, no
- (c) WOLVERINE C to G VETERAN B to F
- (d) HARBLEDOWN ~~is~~ sunk
- (e) 0255/4, 058° 17' N. 023° 18' W.
- (f) 100° 5 (corrupt group) G wind 4 sea 3 visibility 3 miles.
- (h) Attack from Port bow or beam. Cdre. reports attacks on S.C.26 probable 2 U Boats, 1 each bow firing when end on front resumed after each emergency turn. (VETERAN, 1630/4, to C.in C. W.A.).

ATHENIC

British 5351 tons, in Convoy S.C.26. Following has been read. SSSS 58.32 N. 20.13 W. ATHENIC torpedoed 1755/4. (Liverpool, T.O.R. 1858/4). Proceed to assistance of ATHENIC torpedoed in 058° 32' N., 020° 13' W. at 1754/4. (C.in C. W.A., 1917/4, to SCARBOROUGH ARBUTUS). My 1917/4. If no sign of ATHENIC rejoin Convoy and leave ARBUTUS to continue search. (C.in C. W.A., 2327/4 to SCARBOROUGH).

BEAVERDALE
(torpedoed 1/4)

ELM and THAMES should be in 061° 10' N. 028° 40' W. at 2359/3. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0002/4 to A.C.O.S.). If nothing found return to Reykjavik with ELM if in company. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2015/4, to THAMES). My 2015/4, request you will recall ELM. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2016/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.).

Your 1328/4 (Request for movements of Dutch Tug THAMES). THAMES sent with ELM to search for survivors of S.S. BEAVERDALE in 060° 50' N. 029° 19' W. Time of departure 2000/2. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2223/4, to Admty.)

War Diary.

4.4.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- 0315 D/F indicates U.Boat in approx. 046° N. 037° W. at 0315Z/4.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1151/4, to N. Atlantic Escort Force RAMILLIES, SURCOUF, DIOMEDE, QUEEN ELIZABETH.).

- 1225. D/F at 1225 B.S.T. U-boat in area 54° to 56° N. 23° - 27° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1323/4).

Estimated U-boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1410/4).

- 1550. Periscope reported 4 miles east of Duncansby Head at 1500 moving east. (B.3) R.A.F. Wick informed.
(A.C.O.S. 1529/4, to SARDONYX).
My 1529/4, if no contact by 1700 proceed in execution of previous orders.
(A.C.O.S. 1608/4 to SARDONYX)

- 1455. Admty. Message A.F. position 56° 16' N. 27° 50' W. at 1355/4 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1533/4).

- 1836. Intercept DALEBY, Addressed CORTES (Begins) DE 63 Periscope sighted quarter mile Port Beam (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, 1836/4).

- 1855. Admty. Message A.F. position 58° 32' N. 20° 13' W. at 1755/4 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1921/4).

- 1940 D/F at 1940 B.S.T. U/Boat in approx. 47° N. 3° 30' W. probably bound Lorient.
(D.D.I.C. 2020/4).

- 2311. D/F at 2311 B.S.T. U/B in area 55° 30' N. to 56° 30' N. 21° W. to 24° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2353/4).

War Diary5.4.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsAttack on
S.C. 26
U. 76
Sunk.

WOLVERINE and SCARBOROUGH escorting Convoy S.C. 26 sank U.76 this morning in 58° 32' N., 20° 15' W, taking the captain and 41 officers and men prisoners.

H.M.T. VASCAMA on Northern Trawler Patrol attacked a S/M this morning 80 miles S.E. of Iceland, but without apparent success.

SUFFOLK, covering operation S.N. 8, sighted the periscope of a S/M this evening, 120 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath.

ASSINIBOINE
damaged

ASSINIBOINE (escorting SS GLENARTNEY) was seriously damaged in collision early this morning with a merchant vessel in the North Channel

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest this morning reported the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in the same berths.

3 German
destroyers
pass Dover
Straits.

There were indications this evening that probably 3 German destroyers passed through the Straits of Dover at about 1900, possibly proceeding to Brest. Two M.T.B's were despatched from Dover to make contact with the enemy, but were unsuccessful in doing so.

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Long range aircraft are now operating from Iceland.

49 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Brest last night and claim a hit with a 1900lb. bomb on one of the enemy battle cruisers.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S.455 reported being attacked at 1611 off Withernsea no damage was caused.

Convoy E.C. 2 was bombed this evening off Buchan Ness and SS MARS arrived off Aberdeen at 2315 with U.X.B. on board, having been attacked twice off Aberdeen. SS RATTRAY HEAD, a straggler from Convoy E.C. 2 was attacked and sunk at 2230 off Aberdeen.

SS RATTRAY HEAD
Sunk.

SS ST CLEMENT
Sunk.

SS ST CLEMENT sailing independently when attacked was bombed and sunk off the Ythan River (Aberdeenshire) this evening.

War Diary5.4.1941.
SaturdaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperation
B.S. 53

TEVIOT BANK reported this operation completed at 1530 (see 4/4)

S.N. 8.

R.A.M. with 1st M.L.S. and 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. ~~this morning~~ to lay mines in the Iceland-Faeroes Passage. C.S. 2 in GALATEA with AURORA and C.S.1 in NORFOLK with SUFFOLK are covering the operation. ~~S.S.~~ p.124.

Mining of
Thames Estuary

Extensive minelaying by enemy aircraft occurred last night from the Thames Estuary to the Humber and off Cornwall. There was considerable activity in the Shoeburyness-Sheppey area, when the positions of 22 mines were plotted.

Milford Haven was reopened at 1145 subject to local restrictions.

War Diary

5.4.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Two Italian and two Danish ships were taken over at Montevideo by the local authorities this morning.

Mediterranean

6 Wellingtons dropped 10,500 lbs of bombs on Tripoli harbour last night and report having hit the power station.

East Indies

It appears from air R/C that all merchant men except four at Massawa have been scuttled.

A destroyer lies submerged on her side 65 miles N.N.E. of Massawa; this may be one of the two Italian destroyers which are not yet accounted for.

America & West Indies

German communique states that VOLTAIRE (A.M.C) has been sunk by auxiliary cruiser.

PRINCE DAVID, proceeding to patrol off Para River (see 4/4) has been ordered to proceed along VOLTAIRE's track.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.ARIGUANI
MAPLIN
PATIA
EMPIRE AUDACITY.

Fighter Catapult Ships ARIGUANI, MAPLIN, and PATIA and Auxiliary Aircraft Carrier EMPIRE AUDACITY are allocated to the command of C. in C. Western Approaches. (D.O.D. H. 1804/5.)

Londonderry
not to be used as
M/L Base.

Your 1416/50. Request 5th Flotilla may be transferred to Holyhead and next Flotilla available to Stornoway. It is not proposed to utilise Londonderry as an M/L operational base. (C. in C. W.A. 2140/5).

Movements.S/Ms of 6th
7th., and 9th,
Flotillas on
leaving Biscay
Patrol.

Submarines of 6th, 7th, and 9th Flotillas leave patrol after dark April 6th, and proceed submerged by day as follows. (Capt. S.5 0140/5 and Correction).

Operations.Proposed
operations.

A.C.N.S.(H) 0959/5 to C. in C. Nore. See Operations Volume.

East Coast
Patrol.

No A.P. vessel at Sheringham buoy tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1003/5).

Iceland
W/T
Facilities.

With a view to increasing W/T navigational facilities in Iceland the following proposals have been made. 6. Request your remarks or any alternative proposals. (A.C.N.S. T. 1630/5).

War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (contd).Interception
of
SCHARNHORST &
GNEISENAU.

- E.T.A. HOOD with three destroyers 0910/6.
(F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1845/5 to A.C.O.S.)
E.T.A. 0530/6 in SOMALI with BEDOUIN,
MATABELE and MASHONA in company. Destroyers
have instructions to rejoin C. in C. H.F.
in 051°W.022° W at 0900/9. Anticipated
time of sailing 1600/7.
(Capt. D. 6 1930/5 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
Raise steam.
- (1st S.L. 2306/5 to KENYA).
Steer towards 46° 00' N. 21° 30' W. at 15
knots.
(1st S.L. 2325/5 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).
- HOOD is to proceed with despatch, fuel at
Scapa and your route and speed.
(1st S.L. 2330/5 to B.C.1).
- KENYA proceed north of Ireland at 20 knots
to 50° N 20° W.
(1st S.L. 2357/5 to C.S. 10).

Interception
of Six Enemy
Destroyers.

Proceed with despatch to R/V with 5th D.F.
and KIPLING in 130° Wolf Rock 10 miles.
Report to Captain (D) 5. time at R/V and
course you will steer to R/V after passing
R/V steer 090°.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2315/5 to KELVIN).
Proceed with KIPLING to Redezvous with
KELVIN and JACKAL in accordance with my
2315/5. Information six enemy destroyers
sailed form Cape Blanc Nez steering 222° at
2215/5. Further instructions follow.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2325/5 to Capt. D. 5).

Attacks on
Patrol Vessels
and Trawlers.British Air Activity.

Day 4/4. 8 Blenheims carried out a sweep
off the Danish Coast North of Sylt but saw
nothing to attack. 6 Blenheims swept the
Coastline from Goulet Riec to Belle Isle two
of these aircraft made beam attacks on a
Trawler 3 miles West of the Ile de Groix
scoring one direct hit amidships and several
near misses. Two other aircraft attacked a
similar Trawler in same position. Near
misses observed. On the return journey one
of these aircraft having no bombs left mach-
ine gunned 7

154, 154

MOST SECRET.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Attacks on
Patrol Vessels
and Trawlers.
(cntd.)

Patrol vessels off Brest, apparently minesweeping.
(H.Q.B.C. 0130/5).

Patrols.

My 1825/5. Para 4. Crossover only being carried out from 0245/6 to dawn as follows.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0155/5).
My 1825/5 paragraph (b) carry out from 0130/4 until dawn.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0459/5 and 0709/5).
Two Blenheims flying at an interval of 5 minutes apart will carry out a line patrol between 045° Muckle Flugga 15' and 045° Muckle Flugga 50' from 0600/6 until 0900/6 and again from 1400/6 to 1700/6. Object to intercept F.W. Aircraft.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2512/5).

Escort.

Expect A/S air escort from 18 Group Sunderlands throughout daylight today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0222/5 to VANQUISHER, etc.)

Thames Estuary
Dusk Patrols.

Your A267 4/4. Confirmed that Dusk Patrols can operate at Dusk over Thames Estuary above 5,000 feet without interference by A.A. Fire from special ships. It is pointed out that on clear nights during moonlight periods balloons of Thames Barrage may be flying up to 6,000 feet.
(C. in C. Nore 1012/5 to H.Q.F.C.)

Bombing Restrictions
on A/C from
Iceland.

A. Long range aircraft are now operating from Iceland. T.B.R. are therefore to be imposed by you to cover the return route of submarines after they are detached from convoys and while within 600 miles of Iceland. Applications are to be addressed to H.Q.C.C. repeated C. in C. of the Areas concerned.

B. In the case.....

5.4.1941.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Bombing Restrictions
on A/C from
Iceland. (contd).

B. In the case of submarines proceeding to a port in U.K. or Iceland instead of returning direct the necessary bombing restrictions will be applied for by F.O.(S) while you are absent from U.K. C. When more than 200 miles from the convoy on their return route S/Ms should report their position in order that the B.R. are not kept in force for an unduly long period. (F.O.S. 1131/5 to Capt. S.2.)

Offensive
patrol, Ile de Re
Ushant.

With the object of destroying enemy shipping two A/C of 53 Sq each armed with 4 X 250 GP bombs are to institute the following offensive patrol. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1150/5).

SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.Brest.
Rotterdam.
Nieuport.

On Night 4/5 a force of 49 aircraft again attacked the Battle Cruisers. Conditions were much more favourable than on the previous night. The ships could be seen while a certain amount of patchy cloud at 2/3000 ft. provided useful cover for the lower flying aircraft reports suggest that the objectives were fairly straddled by the majority of bombs, although many burst could not be seen. One Hampden attacking the Battle Cruiser in the dry dock from a low level claims a direct hit with a 1 900 lb. bomb while a Wellington bombing in a steep dive at 1,000 ft. straddled the Battle Cruiser alongside the quay. Many fires were started in the Dock area, notably one believed to be from a hit on a tanker. Flak from the ground was less than on previous occasions, but fire from the ships was again intense. Two other Blenheims of group 2 and 1 Wellington of 3 group attacked Nieuport Docks. No results were seen. Rotterdam. Oil Storage. This target was attacked by 3 A/Cs. Results were not observed, although bombs seen to burst in target area. (H.Q.B.C. 1834/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Search.

Admiralty 1935/5. Three Albacores leave Hatston at daylight /6, to search an area between 360° and 315° from Muckle Flugga to as great a depth as endurance permits.
(C. in C. Rosyth. 2224/5.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SALVUS
(Bombed 4/4)

In F.N. 49 hit by two bombs at 2100/4 in 53° 05' N. 01° 27' E. Broke in half and sank at 2245/4. PUFFIN with 33 survivors proceeding Humber.
(C. in C. Nore 0021/5 0105/5.)

Portsmouth
bombed.

At 2300, 2 H.E. bombs were dropped 100 yds., east of 466 store at Frater. No damage or casualties. Some incendiaries round Courbet at Dolphins. At 0020 1 H.E. dropped 1 mile east of Horsesand Fort.
(C. in C. Portsmouth. 0120/5).

St. Merryn
bombed Night
4/5.

Air Raid on night of 4/5 caused following damage.
(Supt. C.E. Devonport 1215/5).

FORTUNA
(Believed
bombed 2/4)

Two Bodies washed ashore at Berwick have been identified as members of crew of FORTUNA. Loss of this vessel with all hands must now be accepted.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1256/5).

Convoy "Plumb"
PLUMB.

1 airplane in sight of convoy. Position from centre of convoy is 53° 48' N 0° 32' E. "Plumb"
(Convoy PLUMB 1602/5).
1 enemy aircraft still over Convoy.
(Convoy PLUMB 1606/5)
My 1601. Heinkel machine gunning.
No damage.
(Convoy PLUMB 1611/5).

Incendiary bombs.....

MOST SECRET.5.4.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Incendiary
Bombs.

There is evidence that by new technique the enemy may in future drop very high concentrations of incendiary bombs. Arrangements to be made for reducing fire risks.
(Civil Lord 1654/5).

Operation G.W.Mining.

Amend as follows.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0005/5).
Operation G.W. postponed until further orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2353/5).

S.N.8

Scapa departure C.S.2 in GALATEA with AURORA.
(A.C.O.S. 0721/5).

Falmouth
Area.

At 1605/3 Mine detonated in 210° Pulruar Coastguard Station 5 cables approx.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0939/5).

Z.M.E.28

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1530 today, to lay at midnight, returning on completion about 0900 tomorrow.
(PLOVER 1024/5).

Milford
Haven.

Port is open subject to local restrictions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1145/5).

P.W.7

M.T.B's will carry out operation P.W. (7) tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1224/5).
My 1224/5. Operation P.W. 7 postponed due to weather.
(C. in C. Nore 1901/5).

War Diary.

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd.).

Thames
Estuary.

There was considerable mining activity in Shoeburyness Sheppey Area during night 4th/5th April. Positions of twenty two mines have been plotted majority being within one mile of No. 2 Yantlet Buoy. Slight haze on surface of water otherwise clear night. Balloons were at 4,500 feet. First planes over appeared fairly low but most at estimated height of over 5000 feet. Their general route seemed to be on a south Westerly course over the Maplins, turning at the Eastern end of the balloon barrage and out over the Medway Channel. Planes were very difficult to see and ships fire though heavy was not thought to be very effective. Only one mine exploded prematurely. Some mines reported descending slowly with little splash, others fast with big splash. Descent through air in all cases was almost silent. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1254/5.).

B.S. 53.

Operation B.S.53 completed.
(TEVIOTCBANK 1530/5.).

Orfordness
3 explosions.

Coast Guard Orfordness reports 1 heavy explosion followed by 2 light explosions heard bearing 165° 6 to 8 miles approx. Shingle Street. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/5.).

Spurn Point.

The following mine exploded at 1615/5 by S.A. Gear. (F.O. Humber 1855/5.).

Miscellaneous.

Re comprehension proposals. (A.C.N.S.H.) 1912/5.).

Enemy Intelligence.

TUNAHOLM.
VENEZUELA.
CAPELLA.
CASTOR.

My 1211/27 and 1642/4. (1) Swedish TUNAHOLM now due to sail from Gothenburg 7th also VENEZUELA who will be directed to follow same route.

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligenece. (contd).TUNAHOLM.
VENEZUELA.
CAPELLA.
CASTOR. (contd).

(2) CAPELLA is not permitted by Germans to sail until arrival of CASTOR whose safety is now causing concern to Swedish authorities. They would be grateful if you have any information when she was last reported. (N.A. Stockholm 1147/5).

SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU

Visual R/C of Brest this morning reports SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU still in same berths.
(D.D.I.C. 1154/5).

Enemy
Trawler-type
Vessels.

German vessels of the trawler type are known to be employed on weather reporting service. One or more are stationed in the Atlantic probably between 46° N. and 50° N. and 32° W. and 40° W. In addition to weather reports it is suspected that reports are made of passing shipping. One or more are also stationed in the vicinity of Jan Mayen Island.
(D.D.I.C. 1650/5).

Six Enemy
Destroyers
in Straits
of Dover.

There are indications that probably 6 German destroyers passed through the Straits of Dover at about 1900. It is possible they may be proceeding to Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 2154/5) (F.O.S. 2322/5 to S/MS Area A.)
Destroyers proceeded from the vicinity of Cape Blanc Nez at 2230, Course S.W.
(D.D.I.C. 2307/5).
My 2307/5. Three destroyers rounded Cape Gris Nez at 2253 steering 177° about 15 knots, and altered course to 194° at 2330.
(D.D.I.C. 2350/5).

MOST SECRET.5.4.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Military Convoys. Shipping & Convoys.W.S.8Following are proposed arrangements.
(D. of S.T. 0415/5 to P.S.T.O. Clyde etc.)Temporary instructions for Convoys passing through Irish Sea.Ref. para 1 of your 0246/4., permission is urgently requested to sail O.B.M. 307 consisting of 17 ships Midday/6 otherwise five days delay is involved and relegation O to A slow convoy besides their being exposed to mine and other air danger during that period.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1105/5. to C. in C. W.A.)Navigation Lights.Ships burning navigation lights in areas of bombing practice should switch them off immediately on approach of suspicious aircraft.
(C. in C. W.A. 1112/5).E.C. Convoys Code words.Details of procedure to come into force with Convoy E.C.4.
(D.T.D. 1121/5 to A.G.M.(Home) 214 AZ)Responsibilities of C.Os.Reports of proceedings show that Commanding Officers are not always aware of their responsibilities for the safe conduct of the convoy and its escorts. Steps are to be taken to bring to the notice of Officers concerned the full implications of Article 32 of C.B.04024 (40).
(V.C.N.S. 1646/5 "A" Mge.)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.EMILE
FRANQUI.
(Grounded
5/4)

Your 2207. GLEANER and CHAMPION are to stand by EMILE FRANQUI and resume operation at Daylight. ANSTRUTHER life boats instructed to proceed to EMILE FRANQUI now. (C. in C. Rosyth. 0100/5 to GLEANER). EMILE FRANQUI in tow of tug CHAMPION arrived Methil anchorage 2300/5. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2336/5).

ASSINIBOINE.
LAIRDSWOOD.

Badly damaged by collision with LAIRDSWOOD at 0310. My position 055° 05' N. 005° 32' W. Am returning to harbour. (ASSINIBOINE 0315/5).
My 0315/5. Damage as follows. No water abaft fore peak. Unable to anchor. LAIRDSWOOD reported damage not known and proceeding on her way. E.T.A. 1345. (ASSINIBOINE 0646/5).

BROADWATER.

Both evaporators and distillers out of action. Fresh water remaining for 34 hours. Making for Londonderry. My position 055° 51' N 021° 09' W. (BROADWATER 2100/5).

PETROBUS.
(R.F.A. Oilst.)

(British Tanker, 475 tons). Arrived Invergordon 1700/4 having been in collision with unknown surface vessel in 57° 36' N. 01° 33' W. at 0206/4. Have arranged to send vessel to Inverness to discharge cargo, and to effect temporary repairs. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1202/5).

LUDLOW

(Destroyer). F.O. i/c Invergordon's 1202/5 LUDLOW reports having sustained slight damage as result of collision with unknown ship at 0210/4 April and is undergoing temporary repairs which are expected to take two days. (C. in C. Rosyth 1818/5).

AYRSHIRE.

(A/S Trawler) Arrived. Steering gear broken down. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1821/5)

NAIAD.

My 1435/2. NAIAD delayed 48 hours due to defects. (F.O. 15th C.S. 2110/5).

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OTUS

Admty 1413/4. (OLYMPUS & OTUS may be ordered to Malta after present duty.) Cancel reference to OTUS. (1st S.L. 0008/5 to OTUS, OLYMPUS). Return Gibraltar by same route diving by day. Adjust speed to pass through 030° 04' N 7005° W at 0700/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0410/5 to OTUS).

MIRROR

Departure KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting cable ship MIRROR in accordance with F.O.C. N.A. 1246/30/3. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE remaining in company until MIRROR enters territorial waters after completing repairs in approx position 4 miles Funchal. (S.O.(I) Gib. 0446/5).

MALVERNIAN
CAMITO

MALVERNIAN 1930/4 not to CAMITO N.P.M. 267 not received. Your 1230/4. Request anticipated date when MALVERNIAN and CAMITO will have to leave patrol to fuel at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1326/5 to F.O.C.N.P.)

French
shipping.

Gibraltar 1515/5 French minesweeper ENGAGEANTE. French ships KILISSI, CAUDEBEC, TADORNE, MINERVA, laden passed eastbound. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1615/5).

REPULSE

Request routeing instructions given to REPULSE and ships in company. (D.O.D. (H) 1628/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy of
G.O.C.W. Africa.

If Vichy French attack Free French. (W.O. 1630/5) See Lion Copy.)

BRITANNIA
survivors.

My 1347/3 (survivors in CABO DE HORNOS) Consul Cadiz reports only 8 passengers and 20 merchant seamen have arrived Cadiz. Wounded and service personnel detained Tenerife. Embassy taking appropriate action. (NA.Madrid. 1631/5)

From War Office.

Cipher.

Addressed G.O.C. West Africa.

IMMEDIATE.

60175 cipher (M.O.4) 5/4/41.

Your G/2186 / cipher 29/3.

Following from Chiefs of Staff begins:-

Your policy will be to provide assistance in supplies stores and troops if required by Free French for defence of their territory, provided such assistance can be given without prejudice to security of your own Command.

In planning you will be guided by the following:-

(a) Any force despatched to assist Free French should be provided for ensuring defence of areas strategically important to ourselves and should not (repeat not) be placed unreservedly at disposal of Free French for use anywhere in Free French territory.

(b) Areas of strategic importance to us:-

(i) The air reinforcement route, and in particular the Fort Lamy area.

(ii) Threatened routes of approach to our own Colonies.

Ends.

Colonial Office have not repeat not given details to Chairman WAGON.

Request therefore you will pass information before Conference meets.

1630/5.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C. H.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.

2nd S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(T)

C.S.C. to 1st S.L.

D. of P.(2)

D.O.D.(F)

D.D.O.D.(F)

D.O.D.(H)

D.D.O.E.(H)

D.N.I.(4)

D.S.D.

D.N.A.D.

D. of L.D.

D.H.S.

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

I.P.

Duty Captain.

/ T.O.O. 1650/29 re situation arising if Free French are attacked by Vichy French.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

D.D.I.C.

E.P.S.

D.T.D.

N.I.D.10 Paym. Cdr. Wilson.

(Received from War Office, 0720/6)

MOST SECRET.War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (contd).BRITANNIA
survivors.
(contd).Teneriffe 1730/3. Re sinking of BRITANNIA
(Internment of Naval Military personnel).
Presume all necessary steps are being
taken to obtain their release.
(Head of M 1713/3 to N.A. Madrid.)Escort
for
NARKUNDA.My 1832/4. FURIOUS has joined REPULSE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810/5)Italian S/Ms
movements.Italian source value still unknown reports
five large Italian submarines have left
Gaeta for Lorient and Tripoli should pass
Straits any moment. Four submarines left
Italy 2/4 for Dodecanese..
(N.A. Madrid 1845/5)Yugoslav
shippingHope that if Yugoslavia is attacked, Yugo-
slav ship owners will be willing to order
their vessels to make for nearest British
port. Yugoslav ships at Lisbon should
proceed with all despatch to Gibraltar.
(Head of M. 1913/5 to N.A. Lisbon).Re
reporting.Your 1849/4. A. This is being done. B.
19 Group R.A.F. will adopt procedure desired.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1951/5 to S.O. Force H.)SAVONA
TRAPANI
(German)3/4 SAVONA left for Italy TRAPANI arrived
here.
(Valencia. 2045/5).Orders to
Force HRaise steam.
(1st S.L. 2220/5).Orders to
Force H &
FIJI"Dinch"
If you fuelled after WINCH and are still at
sea, proceed at 20 knots to Westward, FIJI
following you as soon as ready. If in
harbour proceed to Westward as soon as ready
There are indications that German battle-
cruisers may leave Brest Sunday night.
(1st S.L. 2311/5 to F.O. Force H.)

MOST SECRET.5.4.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CABO VILLANO
(survivors of
CLAN OGILVY
and BENWYVIS
torpedoed 21/5)

N.A. Madrid's 1923/3. In view of likelihood of these survivors being from BRITANNIA, presume you will do all you can to intercept ship to prevent their internment in Buenos Aires.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 0007/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0007/5/4. Signal from CABO VILLANO to PETER KEBR intercepted and quoted in S.O.(I) Freetown 1137/2 stated 24 survivors were from CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS. N.A. Madrid (?0745/2/4) states survivors were from same two ships, informant Spanish Minister of Marine. British Consul St. Vincent reports signal from CABO VILLANO to same effect also. Request information if any information to suggest that these survivors are from BRITANNIA.

(C. in C. S.A. 1043/5 to Admty).

Your 1043/5.No.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2152/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

Italian &
Danish
ships
taken over.At 0830 local time today, Italian ships FAUSTO, ADAMELLO, were boarded by Uruguay Naval Police. 1/2 hour later police boarded the two Danish Ships C.H.R. SASS and LAURA. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1304Z/5).
Crews are being removed.
(N.C.S.O. (I) Montevideo 1514Z/5).VOLTAIRE
German
Claim.German official communique this morning states British Auxiliary Cruiser VOLTAIRE as well as BRITANNIA sunk by German Auxiliary Cruiser. Have you any information. (D.D.I.C. 1806/5 1502/5 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. A.W.I.)
Have no information.
(C. in C. S.A. 1548/5) (C.C.A.W.I., 1132/5)

5.4.41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

RAVENNA }
VERACE }
MULTIDO. }

*Beauforts
for Malta.*

Unconfirmed report states these Italian ships, all armed by Ignazio Messina and Co. have been lost. (D.S. 578, 5/4.). X.1575. A.486. Your X. 728 4/4. 6 Beauforts for Malta personnel mentioned not repeat not reached Malta. If Beauforts sent now will naturally attempt to operate them but prospects of doing so without personnel not rosy. Proposals. (H.Q. Malta 1020/5. to Air Min.).

Assisted
take off
gear.

Great value of assisted take off gear has been conclusively demonstrated during FORMIDABLE's recent operations within the fleet. Enabled great majority of fighter take offs, to take place without interference to the Fleet's movements. (C. in C. Med., 1041/5.).

War material
for Greek
factories.

Loss of NORTHERN PRINCE is very serious for Greek powder factories. 3. Request urgent consideration to practicality of shipping proportion of each of lost supplies in CACHALOT C. in C. Med. 1239/6

Air Operations.
OLYMPUS.

Proposing certain operations. (C. in C. Med. 1339/5.). See Mediterranean Volume. Re operating her. (V.A. Malta 1351/5.). See Mediterranean Volume. 0159/5 not to Capt. S.1. OLYMPUS should proceed Malta for water and thence patrol off Benghazi as ordered by Capt. S.1. (C. in C. Med. 1401/5, to V.A. Malta.).

VITTORIO
VENETO.

It is reported that VITTORIO VENETO arrived Taranto having been hit by two torpedoes. C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1846/5.).

/Mining.....

War Diary.

5.4.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Mining of
Suez Canal.

Questions. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1847/5 to
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.).

Sponge
fishing
ships.

Seven Sponge fishing ships arrived 1200
from Benghazi. (S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk 1941/5).

PROTEE.

Discussion of Admiral Godfroy's proposal
that PROTEE should go to Indo-China
(1st. L. 2043/5.). See Mediterranean
Volume.

War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Re Regent
of Iraq.

Your 1855/4. Consider if COCKCHAFFER leaves Basra with Regent his cause will be prejudiced and situation aggravated. Also consider situation at Basra Station of sufficient gravity to demand presence of Warship. (N.O.I.C. Basra, 0020Z/5, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.).

Your 0020Z/5. FALMOUTH proceed Basra to embark Regent. COCKCHAFFER sails for outer Bar immediately after transfer. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0355Z/5, to N.O.I.C. Basra.).

Your 1730Z/4 and 0020Z/5, inform me if representative of H.M. Govt. has any concrete proposal for disposition of personnel concerned. Point out to him the governing fact that H.M. Ships may be used to convey such persons to a safe place but must not be used as bases for political activity. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1645Z/5. to N.O.I.C. Basra.).

German
Unit.

My 0716/4. D/F of a German target at 1617Z /4 gives a position within 600 miles of 035° S. 040° E. Above position very indefinite. The main inference to be drawn is that there are two German surface units at present in S.W. Indian Ocean. (C. in C.E.I., 0022Z/5, to E.I., Sqdn.).

Italian
Destroyers.

My 2340/4 para. 1 (b) Italian destroyer CESARE BATTISTI sailed in company with Italian destroyers PANTERA, TIGRE, DANIELE MANIN, and NAZARIO SAURO, (from Massawa on 2/4.). (C. in C. E.I., 0304z/5, to Admty.).

U.S.10.

Your 1147/1 and 1613/2. Possible services for which TAKLIWA, SLAMAT, PRESIDENT DOUMER, KHEDEVE ISMAIL and ships intended for U.S.10 could now be used are as follows (D.S.8. 0414/5 to P.S.T.O's Egypt, Bombay.).

/Cables.....

War Diary.5.4.41.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Cables.

Your 1846/2. Concur as regards East Indies communications. Is it intended to (A) Lay Aden/Berbera cable. (B) Relay Aden/Djibouti cable should French Somaliland become Free French? Both are desirable but neither essential from a Naval Point of view. (C. in C. E.I., 0530/5, to C. in C. Med.).

Fuel
Supply
Seychelles.

My 0022/5/4. (Presence of German surface units.) In view of indications of enemy units in Indian Ocean demands for fuel in Seychelles and Mauritius areas may be considerable. Situation there gives me some concern owing to small capacity of APPLELEAF and (?low) endurance of Force T. Request a loaded commercial tanker may be diverted to Seychelles now. PEARLEAF must be retained for the present in Ceylon area available for use ^{with Atoll} ~~with Atoll~~ or ^{Diego Garcia} ~~Diego Garcia~~ if hunt goes east. (C. in C. E.I., 0712Z/5, to Admty.).

DUNERA.

Your 2117/4. Consider definitely unsuitable for conveyance of Mechanical Transport or cargo. (D.S.T.O.Mombasa, 0915Z/5 to D. of S.T.).

Air Operations.
Night 3/4
April.

A.815 5/4. X.1556.
4 Wellingtons dropped 6250 lbs. bombs on Tripoli harbour hitting W/T Station, and starting large fire here, and at base of Eastern Mole etc.
3/3. Photographic R/C Durazzo.

Attacks on
Italian
destroyers off
Port Sudan.

4. Amplifying details of air attack on Italian destroyers off Port Sudan on 3/4. Blenheim R/C reported 3 Italian destroyers left Massawa 1/4 of which 1 ran aground Nocra Island and 2nd returned Massawa presumably with rescued crew of first. 2nd. Blenheim r/c., reported further 5 destroyers left Massawa 2/4 1 of which returned and was unsuccessfully bombed by Blenheim off Massawa early morning 3/4. F.A.A. Swordfish subsequently located 4 destroyers 30 miles east Port Sudan sinking 1 by torpedo and damaging a second which was afterwards bombed and sunk by 2 Blenheims. The remaining 2 destroyers made off, in

/direction.....

War Diary.

5.4.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

direction Jedda but during afternoon Wellesleys located them aground 12 miles south Jedda and bombed them in co-operation with KINGSTON. Blenheims subsequently made a further attack registering direct hits on both destroyers and setting one on fire. 2 Wellesleys lost, crews saved. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1226/5.).

DURMITOR
(Yugoslav.)

Your 1001/1. (N.T. in W.R.). DURMITOR notice of requisition served 1100/4. Survey held, and following for your information. (D.S.T.D., Mombasa, 1402Z/5, to Admty.).

Air R/C.
Massawa.

My 2340/4. (1) Air R/C of Massowa a.m./5, Visual report 4 ships have been scuttled and sunk. Three in entrance to Khoa Dakliyat one in entrance to main harbour (II) No further information of CESARE BATTISTI and VINCENZO G. ORSINI obtained. (C. in C. E.I. 1434Z/5.).

R/C of Massawa.
MASSAWA.

My 1434/5. Massowa p.m. Air R/C 5/4 shows in addition (i) One Destroyer on her side submerged with only davits showing in 016⁰ 35' C39⁰ 40' name not yet known (ii) All merchant Vessels scuttled and sunk except four (iii) Above is from visual report Photographs are awaited. (C. in C. E.I., 1956Z/5.) See 0228/8. re destroyers sunk.

China.

BUFFALO
mined.

At 2340Z/4 Mooring Vessel BUFFALO when proceeding with Salvage Party and led by surveying boat to salve a crashed aircraft off Singapore fouled a mine on extreme edge of Minefield blew up and sank.

/Casualties....

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5.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China Contd.

BUFFALO
mined.

Casualties will be signalled.(C. in C. China, 0315/5, to Admty.).
Further details. (C. in C. China 1133Z/5.).

RAMSES
FURIERE
CONSOLONI.

Kobe arrival 3/4 German RAMSES. My 0711/27 /3, additional Italian Ship is FURIERE CONSOLONI. Trader for Yamashita. (C.O.S. Singapore 0406Z/5.).

America & West Indies.

MANGKAI (Dutch))
SIMNIA (tanker))
ROYAL CROWN.)
MYSON.)
SARDINIAN PRINCE)
SILVERCFIR.)
RIO DORADO.)
ATHELFOAM)
EMPIRE INDUSTRY.)

Overdue, now presumed captured or sunk by raiders on 15/3 and 16/3. (D.S. 578, 5/4).

Re sinking
of VOLTAIRE.

Your 1502/5 (see South Atlantic).
Reply no. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1132/5, to Adty.).

Orders to
PRINCE DAVID.

Steer 025° at best possible speed. Further orders follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1211/5, to PRINCE DAVID.).
My 1211/5. German communique states VOLTAIRE sunk by auxiliary cruiser. Date and time unknown. Proceed best possible speed to search along VOLTAIRE's track. VOLTAIRE, should have been in 015° N., 040° W., about daylight/4, altering from course 58° to 117° in this position. Speed 14 knots. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1212/5.).

/Routing.....

War Diary.

5.4.41.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Routing of
H.M. Ships to
cover convoys.

Your 1121/3. This will be done in future whenever circumstances permit.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1410/5. to C. in C. A.W.I.).

U.S.S.R.
VATSLAV
VOROVSKI.

Went ashore Columbia River bar 3/4) cargo and vessel total loss. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1434/5.).

SOUTHGATE
sighting
LACONIA,
16/3.

Your 1805/2 and N.C.S.O. St. John's N.B. 1705/2. It appears that LACONIA did not carry out the procedure laid down in A.G.M. 640A of 25/12. Request you will take such action as you consider necessary to draw attention to this. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1816/5. to R.A.3.).

War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.U. BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ship Attacked.See page 174.S/M's Reported.

Your 1151/4. Bearings from U.K. place this U/B in approx. 58° N., 23° W. Bearing from Bermuda evidently inaccurate. (D.D.I.C. 0109/5, to C. in C. A.W.I.).

0412.

D/F at 0412 B.S.T. U/B in area 54° N., to 55° N., 24° W., to 26° W. (D.D.I.C. 0449/5.).

It is possible that a U-Boat will pass Muckle Flugga westbound between midnight and dawn. (D.D.I.C. 1935/5.).

2120 GMT/4.

Adty., mge AF Position 8 R 15 N., 14B, 15 W., at 2120 G.M.T./4. (C. in C. S.A. 1938/5.).

2026
By SUFFOLK.

One enemy Submarine bearing 050° distance 1 mile course unknown. My position $59^{\circ} 52'$ N., $8^{\circ} 9'$ W. (SUFFOLK 2026/5.). My 2026 periscope plainly visible submarine probably following merchant ships whom I will order to alter course my position now is $059^{\circ} 49'$ N., $008^{\circ} 14'$ W. (SUFFOLK 2036/5.).x based on reference at 2000.

1926.
G.M.T.

Reference Admty., mge., AF, position $59^{\circ} 52'$ N., $8^{\circ} 09'$ W., at 1926/5 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2112/5.).

2026.

U-boat sighted in $059^{\circ} 53'$ N., $008^{\circ} 08'$ W., at 2026/5. (C. in C. W.A. 2155/5.). Estimated U Boat dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1415/5.).

War Diary.5.4.1941.
Saturday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Attacked.By VASCAMA.

One enemy submarine in position 63.08N., 14.00 W. (VASCAMA, 0835/5 to Lyness W/T.). My position 63.08 N., 14.00 W., S.06 obtained contact. Echo showing pronounced doppler. Fired one pattern. Am still in contact. (VASCAMA, 0900/5, to S.O.T.N.P. Lost contact searching area, my position 63.03N., 13.54W. X 06. (VASCAMA, 0930/5, to S.O.T.N.P.).

By WOLVERINE
and SCARBOROUGH
U.76 sunk.

*(first attack
on 4-14-41)*

WOLVERINE and SCARBOROUGH attacked U.73 (sic) in position 058° 32' N., 020° 15' W. U-boat brought to surface and ARBUTUS tried to take her in tow but U-boat sank 0950. WOLVERINE has Captain Von Hippel and 3 other Officers and 36 crew. SCARBOROUGH and ARBUTUS 1 survivor each. (HAVELOCK 1045/5 to C. in C. W.A.). Confirmation from prisoner stating number of U-boat was 76 not 73. (ARBUTUS 1600/5.).

At 2237.

A/S Vessel reported attacking contact in 055° 006' 005" N 29' W., at 2237. (Liverpool W/T 2512/5.).

War Diary.

5.4.41.
Saturday.

U - BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

S.C.26. My course 115° 7 knots. TENAX in company.
LEONIDAS ² CAMBANS Endeavouring to join VETERAN. Have 29
WESTPOOL survivors of LEONIDAS and one from
Survivors. WESTPOOL. (HESPERUS 0700/5.).

S.C.26. My 1045/5 and your 2327/4. ARBUTUS
ATHENIC steering gear damaged temporarily.
(torpedoed WOLVERINE standing by. SCARBOROUGH and
4/4.) HAVELOCK joined S.C.26. Area round
ATHENIC's position thoroughly searched
without trace. (HAVELOCK, 1055/5. to C. in
C. W.A.).

ATHENIC Have picked up 38 crew total survivors
LIGURIA ATHENIC now sunk, also 10 survivors ex
survivors. LIGURIA, and navigation officer from U 73.
At least 6 hospital cases on board.
Arriving Liverpool. (ARBUTUS 1536/5.).
x 76

BEAVERDALE Report received from Icelandic Trawler
(torpedoed 1/4.) that 33 survivors from BEAVERDALE picked
up. Two more lifeboats 23 men each
believed between 060° 50' N., 029° 40' W.,
and in S.W. Iceland.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1606/5, to Admty.).

MARLENE. Ship sunk probably by S/m in 008° 15' N.,
014° 17' W., at 2115/4. (C. in C. S.A.
1936/5.). This was MARLENE, see 6/4.

* Amended from BR. 1887
Page 50, should read 19' W.

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6.4.1941.

Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU

The movement of German destroyers down channel, reported yesterday, was considered by the Admiralty to indicate that the enemy battle cruisers may be leaving Brest soon.

The following dispositions were made:-
Capt. D. 5 (KELLY) to proceed with KIPLING to R/V with KELVIN and JACKAL off Wolf Rock to cover Dartmouth-Falmouth convoy during the night. The destroyers returned to Plymouth at 0807/6 and sailed at 1855/6 for Ile de Bas.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, on passage to Halifax to steer towards 46° N., 21° 30' W., to be joined by REPULSE who is to be relieved by LONDON (with C. in C., H.F.) as escort for FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA.

HOOD, on passage to Scapa (arrived 0815/6) to fuel and return to patrol in the Biscay area. She left Scapa at 1946/6 with 3 destroyers.

KENYA, in the Clyde, sailed at 0432/6 to join C. in C., H.F. (KING GEORGE V) off the Bay of Biscay.

Force H left Gibraltar at 0030/6 with FIJI and 3 destroyers and proceeded towards 41° N., 16° 30' W.

C. in C. Home Fleet is to take all the above forces under his orders.

The submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay was to have been reduced from 14 to 4 submarines this evening, but the return of all submarines except two is to be postponed unless shortage of fuel necessitates return.

/All destroyers....

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6.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

Watch for
SCHARNHORST
Y GNEISENAU
cont.

All destroyers in Portsmouth, Nore and Dover areas, not employed on defence of trade, to have steam at immediate notice by 1900/6, all M.T.B's to concentrate at Dover armed with torpedoes, in case the enemy battle cruisers should pass up Channel.

FERNIE, WIVERN and CLEVELAND to patrol 5 to 15 miles north of Le Havre, tonight. The enemy destroyers entered Cherbourg at 0720.

At 1230 they were reported in the chops of the Channel. They were attacked by Coastal Command aircraft who report having torpedoed one in 48° 45' N., 4° 20' W; it is not known whether the enemy vessel sank.

R/C at 1830 today showed GNEISENAU had left dry dock and was in Rade d'Abri with tanker and tugs alongside; and SCHARNHORST alongside T.B. station with torpedo nets still in position.

Nore A/P

To meet the present shortage of A/P vessels C. in C. Nore has authorised a reduction in the number of A.P. trawlers and drifters on patrol in his command.

Atlantic
convoys to
have A/S escort
to 35° W.

A redistribution of escort forces in Western Approaches is to take place, to provide escorts to about 35° W for all H.X., S.C. and appropriate O.B. convoys, commencing with O.B. 312, S.C. 28 on 19/4. (See C. in C. W.A. 1203/6).

COMORIN
destroyed.

A.M.C. COMORIN carrying military personnel for Freetown and providing ocean escort for S.S. GLENARTNEY (carrying military stores for Suez) caught fire at 1400 today in 54° 34' N 21° 20' W and had to be abandoned later and torpedoed and sunk by BROKE. The latter sustained damage, presumably when rescuing survivors.

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled on account of the weather.

Air patrols were maintained off Brest almost continuously during today.

Enemy Air Activity

SS ANDONI

SS ANDONI was attacked this afternoon between the Longships and Lizard and had casualties but does not report any damage.

SS GLENFINLAS
damaged.

Convoy F.S.455 was unsuccessfully attacked at 1055 off Orfordness
SS GLENFINLAS was bombed and damaged at 1230 G.M.T. off Orfordness. She was taken in tow and bombed again at 1329.

SS OLGA S
sunk

OLGA S sailing independently was bombed and sunk this morning in 55° 48' N., 9° 45' W. (60 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland)

N. ZOGRAFIA
damaged

NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA reported being bombed in 57° 10' N., 11° 52' W., at 0933. Another report says the ship was hit by two aircraft torpedoes.

SS DUNSTAN
sunk.
BOADICEA

SS DUNSTAN in convoy O.B. 306 was bombed at 1059 in 58° 57' N., 8° 26' W (70 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis) BOADICEA, standing by her was bombed this afternoon, but was not hit. DUNSTAN sank later.

/KOROT II....

War Diary6.4.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity-Contd.

KORAB

← KOROT II and three other fishing trawlers were attacked off Buchan ness tonight, but no apparent damage was caused other than slight machine gun damage. Faroese trawler NAREBERG KG 14 was sunk at 1100 in approx. 60° 30' N., 5° 30' W.

SS EMPIRE SAILOR
Damaged.

WINDERMERE and EMPIRE SAILOR are reported to have been attacked this afternoon off the Butt of Lewis. The latter appears to have been slightly damaged.

WALLCE and convoy F.N.450 were bombed at 1439 off Harwich; no ships were hit.

HASTINGS and convoy E.N. 95 were ineffectively bombed at 2127 off Aberdeen.

Trawler CALIPH reports unsuccessful attack at 2230 off the Smalls.

(From "Chronology of Principal Naval Events")

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1941

GREECE: Convention with British signed 9/1; Mr Eden and Gen. Dill, conversation in Athens, 2/3; British Forces move to Greece from Egypt, 4/3, 11/3; invaded by Germany, 6/4; air attacks on Piraeus, 9/4, 11/4; Imperial forces retire to Lamia (Thermopylae), 14/4; decision to withdraw Empire Forces, 21/4; capitulation of forces in Epirus and Macedonia, 23/4; withdrawal of Govt. to Crete, 23/4; evacuation of Imperial troops, 23/4; Navy placed under orders of C-in-C Mediterranean, 24/4; heavy enemy air attacks on ports, 24/4; German parachutists land on Isthmus of Corinth, 26/4, 27/4; Corinth Canal blocking operation, 27/4; German forces enter Athens, 27/4; evacuation completed, 2/5; German a/c arrive at aerodromes, 30/8.

War Diary6.4.1941.
SundaySITUATION REPORTMiningOperation
Z.M.E. 28

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

S.N. 8.

R.A. (M) reported this operation completed at 1829/6.

Enemy aircraft minelaying took place in the Thames Estuary last night.

TORRENT
sunk.

H.M.Y. TORRENT was mined and sunk today off Falmouth.

Several mines were detonated off Milford Haven today.

MediterraneanGermany
declares
war on Greece
and Yugoslavia

Germany announced early today that a state of war existed with Greece and Yugoslavia.

The Admiralty have instructed F.O.C.N.A. that no Yugoslav ships should be allowed to pass into the Mediterranean. All Yugoslav ships have been instructed to proceed immediately to an Allied or neutral port.

America & West Indies.MALAYA

Arrived New York today - first ship to report in U.S.A. under Lend Lease Act.

MOST SECRET.6.4.1941.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.East Coast Patrols.

Number of A/P Trawlers and Drifters on Patrol may be reduced to meet present shortage of vessels available. Vessels should however as far as possible patrol in pairs to meet possible enemy action.
(C. in C. Nore 1051/6).

Northern Patrol.

Suggest T.R. Trawler patrol lines be moved about 60 miles south west of their present position so that Trawlers on these patrols will be near convoy route to south east of Iceland.
(C. in C. W.A. 1947/6).

Movements.DUNEDIN

DUNEDIN is to remain at Plymouth until further orders.
(1st S.L. 0022/6).

Operations.Interception of SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

Continue in execution of present orders. Further instructions will follow.
(1st S.L. 0011/6 to REPULSE.)
Your 2306/5. KENYA ready to proceed 0345.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0024/6).
1. Movement of German destroyers down channel indicates that battlecruisers may sail shortly, earliest probable time being night of 6/4.
2. Movements have been ordered as in my 2311/5, 2325/5, 2330/5, 2357/5 and 0011/6.
3. Request you will take all forces under your orders and report to Admiralty what dispositions you desire, passing your message to Scapa by W/T, using your special W/T set. Admiralty will then broadcast your instructions.
4. If no signal is received from you by 1200 B.S.T./6 it will be assumed that you do not desire to break W/T silence even on your special W/T set. Admiralty will then order dispositions.
(1st S.L. 0041/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Interception of
SCHARNHORST
7 GNEISENAU
Cont:-

Sailed C.S. 10 in KENYA in accordance with Admty 2357/5. (N.O.I.C., Greenock 0432/6)

Scapa arrival B.C.S. 1 in HOOD, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE and TARTAR. (A.C.O.S. 0815/6)

Arrived SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MASHONA, MATABELE at 0600/6. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1035/6)

Admty 2330/5. Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with ZULU, MAORI and ARROW at 2100, passing through 58° 40' N., 008° W., thence to 050° N., 020° W., speed of advance 15½ knots. C. in C., Rosyth and C. in C., W.A. are requested to provide A/S air escort on 7th and 8th April Code word "R.L.L." ~~REBEL~~. If destroyers require fuel they will be detached to Londonderry to await for further orders. (B.C.S. 1 1231/6)

All available M.T.B's are to be prepared for immediate service armed with torpedoes. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1446/6)

My 0041/6. Para 4. Battlecruisers are believed to be still in Brest. After today submarine patrol must diminish in numbers rapidly owing to their endurance. 2. Assuming battlecruisers leave Brest at dusk on 6th, it is hoped they will be detected by submarine and/or shore based air reconnaissance at daylight/7. 3. C. in C., H.F. is requested to detach LONDON forthwith to R.V. in daylight/7 with REPULSE, who passes through 41° N., 22° W., at 1300/7 course 360°. LONDON is to relieve REPULSE as escort for FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA; REPULSE is to proceed to R/V with QUEEN ELIZABETH. KENYA is to proceed to join KING GEORGE V; all other units as already ordered.

/4.....

6.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Interception of
SCHARNHORST
1 GNEISENAU
cont.

4. KING GEORGE V and Force H are to maintain positions from which they can bring the enemy to action in daylight/7 if located.
5. At 0800/8 units are to be ⁱⁿ the following positions:
HOOD 54° N., 15° 30' W.
KING GEORGE V and KENYA 50° N., 21° W.
QUEEN ELIZABETH and REPULSE R/V in 46° N., 21° W.
LONDON escorting FURIOUS, ARGUS, and NARKUNDA steaming North on meridian 23° W.
Force H maintaining position near 41° N., 16° 30' W.
6. VELOX is to return to Gibraltar, other destroyers to remain in company with heavy units as long as possible, fuelling at sea if desirable.
Oiler CAIRNDALE and submarine PANDORA are in position 32° 30' N., 32° 30' W.
8. All times are zone - 1 which is to be used in all signals for this operation.
9. On receipt of this signal all forces referred to above come under the orders of C. in C., H.F. who will take any action necessary. (1st S.L. 1529/6, A.C.N.S. (H) 2300/6)
- Your 1930/5. SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE and MASHONA are to complete with fuel and proceed to rejoin C. in C. H.F. in 50° N., 21° W. at 1200/8. (1st S.L. 1534/6)
- A.M. 1529/6. Request you will operate 5th D.F. so as to intercept enemy Battle Cruisers if they endeavour to proceed East up the English Channel and to shadow them should they steer to the westward from Brest. DUNEDIN is to be retained at Plymouth. (1st S.L. 1542/6 to C. in C., Plymouth)
- All destroyers not employed on defence of trade are to have steam at immediate notice by 1900/6 and be ready to proceed to sea if enemy leaves Brest. (A.C.N.S. H. 1617/6)
- A.M. 1446/6. All available M.T.Bs are to concentrate at Dover forthwith and are to be operated by V.A. Dover in event of German Battlecruisers now at Brest endeavouring to pass East up the Channel (A.C.N.S. H. 1618/6)

/Admty. 1542/6....

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SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations-Contd.Interception of
SCHARNHORST
7 GNEISENAU
Contd. -

Admty. 1542/6. Primary object is to intercept and attack enemy battle cruisers should they proceed Eastwards.

2. Should information show enemy is proceeding westwards endeavour to gain touch and shadow.

3. ~~Proceed~~ Proceed with 5th D.F. to arrive at 048° 50' N., 004° 25' W., by 2230/6.

Then patrol between longitude 004° 25' W. and longitude Ushant. Failing other information leave patrol at 0430/7 and return to Plymouth.

4. Own force. S/M L.27 proceeding up channel estimated 30 miles north of Ushant 1600/6. A.S.V. fitted with aircraft are carrying out following cross over patrol.

(a) 048° 25' N., 006° 05' W., and 047° 20' N 005° W.

(b) 048° 40' N., 006° W and 048° 40' N., 005° 10' W., from 2030/6 till 0030/7.

(C. in C., Plymouth, 1725/6 to Capt. D.5.)

Sailed 1855 KELLY, KELVIN, JACKAL, KIPPLING. (C. in C., Plymouth 1941/6)

Own destroyers have left Plymouth to arrive vicinity of Ile De Bas 2230/6 to attack Battle Cruisers should they leave Brest and proceed Eastward, or to shadow should they proceed Westward.

(F.O.S., 1941/6 to S/Ms Area A)

Scapa departure F.O.C. 1 B.C.S. in HOOD, ZULU, MAORI, and ARROW. (A.C.O.S. 1946/6)

Admty. 1529 and 1813. If local escort available HURRICANE could fuel at Londonderry and join HOOD daylight/8 with 82% fuel remaining. My P.C. and S 056° 34' N., 011° 36' W., 110° 10 knots. (HURRICANE 2100/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

A. Should enemy battlecruisers be reported at sea it is not my present intention to order submarines to concentrate on their line of advance since by an alteration of course enemy might thus pass through a gap in our patrols.

B. Own heavy ships are operating well to Westward of submarines and it is important therefore that submarines sighting the enemy should report as soon as possible after completion of attack.

(F.O.S., 2147/6 to S/Ms on Patrol)

/My 1617/6....

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Interception of
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU
Cont -

My 1617/6. 20th Flotilla is to be prepared for minelaying tomorrow Monday night. Request you will watch the French Coast in the vicinity of Cap La Hague with remaining destroyers tonight Sunday in case German Battle Cruisers come east. (1st S.L. 2319/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Interception
of Enemy
Destroyers.

Sailed KELLY and KIPLING 0012/6. (C. in C., Plymouth 0027/6.) Latest information enemy destroyers proceeded from Cape Blanc Nez., at 2225, increased to full speed at 2343 course 191° possibly for Cherbourg. Torpedo bombing attack not possible. After rendezvousing cover Dartmouth-Falmouth convoy, and return to Plymouth to arrive 0700/6. (C. in C., Plymouth 0031/6 to D.5)

East Coast
Patrols

Tonight following A.P. positions will not be filled. A. Sheringham Buoy. B. 5 Buoy to Hearty Knoll. (C. in C., Nore, 0955/6)

My 0900. Patrols have taken up alternative positions. (N.O.I.C., Brightlingsea. 1344/6) All patrols sheltering in harbour. (N.O.I.C., Brightlingsea 1830/6)

Channel
Patrol

INTREPID, ICARUS, CLEVELAND, FERNIE and JERSEY will patrol between longitudes of Nab Tower and Portland Bill South of 50° 15' N., between 2000/6 and 0000/7. JERSEY will be detached so as to arrive Plymouth 0700/7. Policy shoot at sight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/6)

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Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Search for
Enemy Destroyers.

Six enemy Destroyers were reported in the Dover Straits P.M. 5/4 proceeding West. Later reports indicate that three may have left the Force. The Force may be proceeding to Brest.
Six aircraft 53 Squadron to search in line abreast at visibility distance from 48° 43' N., 4° 18' W., to 49° 30' N., 2° 13' W. If force sighted aircraft to attack and report. Aircraft to leave first position at 0600 hours 6/4. Armament 2 500 S.A.P. Own submarines may be in area.
(A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 0217/6 to St. Eval)
CH/G2/6/4/41 CJAY.2. Available A/C of 59 Sqdn. are to attack the destroyers in Cherbourg reported by J/59 this morning, but only if weather conditions are suitable.
(~~Chatham~~ A.C.H.Q., 0845/6 to Thorney Island)

Escort

Expect Escort 18 group Whitleys from 1130 until dark tonight. (C. in C., Rosyth 0806/6 to VANQUISHER etc.)

Patrols

Air Patrols today. ^{"Unit", "Stat", "Bert", "Stand"} ~~UNIT STAB BERT STAND~~
~~Home~~ (C. in C., Rosyth 0810/6)
2 Blenheims will fly chain patrol Bass Rock to Bell Rock 1130 to 1330 also one Harrow Cross, Forth, Fifeness to St. Abbs Head 1200 to 1220 (C. in C., Rosyth 0946/6)

Information is required whether enemy shipping proceeding up channel by night. It is thought that movements eastward of Cape Gris Nez are by day only but that vessels may make this point from westward shortly before or at daylight. With effect from 7/4 and dependent upon whether conditions are suitable for attacks by M.T.Bs., one aircraft is to carry out a R/C for surface craft between 2100 - 0100 hours in the following area: 50° 35' N., 1° 53' E., 50° N., 0° E., 50° N., 1° E., 50° N., 1° E. Two circuits to be flown. Sighting of surface vessels to be reported by W/T. (Chatham Broadcast 1527/6)

/TRIBUNE.....

War Diary

6.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

TRIBUNE

Request T.B.R. for TRIBUNE (? parting company) with H.X. 117 in daylight/6. TRIBUNE is to report when more than 200 miles from convoy her P.C. and S. T.B.R. will be in force within 600 miles of Iceland. (R.A. 3 1208/6)

812 Squadron
Six Aircraft
in ARGUS.

Six aircraft of 812 Squadron are to embark in ARGUS for temporary service. Aircraft should be at Abbotsinch by 11/4. Requisite proportions of Squadron personnel and stores are to be embarked on the same day. (5th S.L. 1225/6)

Interception
of SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.

Consider enemy Battle Cruisers will probably leave Brest tonight or in immediate future.

Request maximum possible scale of air R/C be arranged designed to detect and then shadow the enemy if he leaves Brest. (1st S.L. 1535/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

Movement of
Flight to
Roborough.

O/426 6/4 reference Admiralty 1950/4 of 4/4/41. Request "D" Flight 2 A.M.C.U. be moved forthwith to Roborough. Fighter Command willing to accept this commitment. Request advice as to when move will be completed.

(A.O. Air Ministry, Whitehall, 1615/6 to H.Q., 17 Group C.C.)

Bombing
Restriction

My 1725. Request bombing restrictions. (C. in C., Plymouth 1825/6 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRETWar Diary6.4.1941.
SundayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityST. CLEMENT

(British) 450 tons) N.O.i/c Aberdeen reports fishing trawler BOMBAY arrived Aberdeen 0015/6 with 10 survivors from ST. CLEMENT bound from Kirkwall to Aberdeen in convoy W.N. 9. (C. in C., Rosyth 0325/6)
About 2150/5. ST CLEMENT proceeding independently when in 57° 19' N., 10° 50' W. was attacked by one aircraft. No direct hits, two near misses with H.E. Bombs and machine gunned. Ship sank almost immediately. Chief engineer missing. 10 survivors. No casualties picked up from two ships boats. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1118/6)

MARS

(Dutch 1582 tons) Arrived off Aberdeen 2315/5 with unexploded bomb on board. Vessel will enter harbour on morning tide. Bomb safety officer aboard. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 0350/6)

Convoy
E.N. Even

Fighter assistance despatched to convoy ^{MISSION}
~~MISSION~~. (Lyness W/T 0637/6 and 0845/6)

NICOLAOU
ZOGRAFIA.

(Greek, 7156 tons) Bombed in 57° 10' N. 11° 52' W. (Valentia 0933/6.)
In 056° 56' N., 012° 17' W., 31 survivors recovered. NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA hit by 2 aircraft torpedoes at 0830/6. Ship is afloat and considered salvageable by tug. (ESKIMO 1615/6)
Proceed forthwith to assist. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1645/6 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE)
Sailed ASSURANCE, RESTIVE 1800/6. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1910/6)
31 survivors of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA rescued by ESKIMO. Tugs being sent. Unless (? weather) permits you standing by damaged ship until daylight return to Londonderry (C. in C., W.A. 2047/6 to BROADWATER)
R/V withescort at 0800 tomorrow in 56° 05' N., 09° 20' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 2130/6 to RESTIVE, ASSURANCE.)

/Detach one...

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

NICOLAOS
ZOGRAFIA.
- Contd.

Detach One ship at daylight to meet tugs and ASSURANCE and RESTIVE proceeding to assist NICOLAOS ZAGRAFIA. (C. in C. W.A., 2131/6 to VETERAN.).
My 1615. Nothing further found. Am proceeding Greenock with 31 survivors. E.T.A. 1120/7. (ESKIMO 2135/6.).

Convoy
F.S:55.

Enemy Aircraft bombing Convoy ^{"Plumb"} PLUMB in 52° N., 1° 44' E. (Spare Convoy 1055/6.). My 1055- M E 110. 4 Bombs. No hits. (Spare Convoy 1058/6.).
Fighters have been sent to Convoy ^{"Plumb"} PLUMB. (Nore W/T 1105/6.).

DUNSTAN.

(British, 5149 Tons) Bombed in 59° 09' N., 8° 22' W. (Portishead W/T 1059/6.).
Sail ZWARTE ZEE and BRIGAND in company with all despatch to assist DUNSTAN. BOADICEA standing by. DUNSTAN may be proceeding slowly towards Loch Ewe. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1526/6 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).
Stand by DUNSTAN. 2 tugs should arrive shortly after daylight/7 escort them back to Minches when DUNSTAN is in tow. (C. in C. W.A. 1903/6 to LADY MADELINE.).

STAFFORDSHIRE.
Bombed
28/3.).

Has been refloated. Ship now considered in no danger. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1119/6.).

RATTRAY HEAD
Sunk.

(British, 496 tons) RATTRAY HEAD, cargo bricks, joined from Methil E.C. 2 for Stromness, was astern of convoy because of weather. Attacked by 2 engined A/C off Aberdeen at 2230/5 flashing buoy - machine gunned 3 bombs hit ship which sank at once, 8 saved, including mate and chief engineer. Master and Boatswain last seen on raft, not picked up. 8 survivors 4½ hours on raft, picked up by fishing trawler RONONIA - 6 miles E.S.E. of Girdleness. Survivors, un-wounded but bruised, have been landed at Methil. (N.O.I.C., Methil 1222/6)

/Convoy E.N.....

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SundayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air ActivityConvoy
E.N. Even.Fighters are being sent to the assistance
of Convoy ~~MISSION~~. (Lyness W/T 1228/6)GLENFINLAS

(British, 7572 tons) Bombed. Unable to steam. Am standing by and embarking injured. My position 052° 01' N., 001° 47' E. (SANDWICH 1248/6)
Fighters being sent. (Nore W/T 1249/6)
Am endeavouring to take GLENFINLAS in tow, but have no proper towing arrangements (SANDWICH 1306/6)
Received at 1226 from SS GLENFINLAS - been bombed again same position (N. Foreland Radio 1329/6)
Received 1230 G.M.T. from SS GLENFINLAS Captain says we (?are) still being attacked, several near missed. (N. Foreland Radio 1332/6)
Fighters have been despatched. (Nore W/T 1335/6)
Received 1253 G.M.T. from SS GLENFINLAS. Position is the same. Require tugs immediately. (N. Foreland Radio. Recd. 1406/6)
One tug from Harwich and one from Yarmouth proceed to tow GLENFINLAS now. Towing is to proceed to Harwich. You are to escort to Cork Light Vessel. (C. in C., Nore 1409/6 to SANDWICH)
Departure tug KENIA to assist GLENFINLAS (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1413/6)
Request fighter protection for ~~TABLE~~ "Table" in 52° 3' N., 1° 49' E., (SANDWICH 1437/6)
Fighters have been despatched to ~~TABLE~~ "Table" (Nore W/T 1449/6)
Departure of tug DIVERSION at 1453 to assist GLENFINLAS. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1506/6)
GLENFINLAS not in immediate danger of sinking. Have on board 2 British Engineers, 10 Chinese crew: One engineer and 2 Chinese badly injured. Propose landing them at Harwich. (SANDWICH 1500/6)
GLENFINLAS in tow of small tug from Harwich, Trawler LIBERATOR trying to assist. Searching for sign of tug from Yarmouth. Speed of tow 1.5 knots. (SANDWICH 1715/6)

/LIBERATOR's..

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

GLENFINLAS
cont:-

LIBERATOR's line has parted and tug cannot hold GLENFINLAS against tide. Have ordered GRQD GLENFINLAS to anchor. My position is 051° 56' N., 001° 30' E. (SANDWICH 2005/6)
Position of GLENFINLAS 051° 56' N., 001° 30' E. Proceed immediately to assist with tow. (C. in C., Nore, 2101/6 to DIVERSION)
It is essential two tugs should be sent to GLENFINLAS anchored (SANDWICH 2112/6)
Departure tug KENIA to assist GLENFINLAS (F.O.I.C., Harwich 2302/6)

Six M/S
Trawlers.

Request fighter protection for ^{"Skipper"}SKIPPER (MANGROVE 1255/6)

A/C over
Scapa Flow

At 1230 enemy aircraft identified as Ju. 88 passed over Flow height 4000 feet and would probably have seen into fleet anchorage. Cloud ceiling approximately 4000 ft. Aircraft was engaged by ground defence when seen over Pentland Firth. (A.C.O.S. 1325/6)

Convoy
F.N. Even (450)

Request fighter protection for Convoy ^{"Agent"}AGENT, in position 51° 23' N., 1° 5' E. (WALLACE 1337/6)
Fighters have been sent to convoy ^{"Agent"}AGENT. (Nore W/T 1345/6)

OLGA S.

(British, 2252 tons) VIVIEN and CHELSEA have 29 survivors, 3 wounded, from OLGAS (corrupt group) bombed at 1010 today in 055° 48' N., 009° 45' W., (VERITY 1338/6)

EMPIRE SAILOR

(British, 6140 tons) attacked in 59° 2' N., 7° 9' W., (Liverpool W/T 1355/6)
EMPIRE SAILOR. Cancel my 1353/6. (Lyness W/T 1411/6)
OSWALDIAN report begins. Escorting EMPIRE SAILOR attacked by aircraft to Butt of Lewis as he has defect in engine room. He is proceeding to Loch Ewe. 1650/6 end. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1736/6)

/Convoy O.B...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
O.B. Even.

Request fighter protection for ^{"Onset"} ~~ONSET~~
~~185 VJOL 68.~~ 185° 63 miles from 60°
 N. (? longitude.). (BOADICEA 1425/6.).
 My 1425. No hits. (BOADICEA 1427/6.).
 My 1439 V 2 XJ - 5 bombs. No hits.
 (WALLACE 1503/6.).

WINDERMERE.

Emergency Air Attack. 31° Q Butt of Lewis.
 54. (WINDERMERE T.O.R. 1505/6.).

GEDDINGTON COURT.
 (Bombed
 3/4).

One 250 kilo bomb removed and dumped in 27
 fathom. 56° 9' N., 2° 48' W.
 No 3 hold flooded. Bomb hole of other
 bomb seen about three feet under present
 water line abreast flooded hold. If
 bomb is in hold, B.S.O. considers bomb now
 reasonably safe due to time elapsed.
 Request ship be moved to dock at Rosyth
 as soon as possible. (N.O.I.C. Methil
 1732/6.).

ANDONI.

(British, 678 Tons) Arrived. Reports being
 attacked by aircraft between Longships and
 Lizard at 1430/6. One Army Gunner, one
 R.N. Gunner, slightly wounded. (F.O.I.C.
 Falmouth 2015/6.).

Convoy
E.N. Odd. (95)

Help ^{"Night"} ~~NIGHT~~ in 57° 10' N., 1° 49' W.
 (Lyness 2125/6.).
 One enemy aircraft bearing 100° height
 unknown position 57° 12' N., 1° 50' W.
 (HASTINGS 2127/6.).
 My 2127. One bomb no hits. (HASTINGS
 2132.). Aircraft still in vicinity of
 convoy. (HASTINGS 2140/6.).
 My 2140. Aircraft still in vicinity of
 convoy 57° 16' N. 1° 45' W. (HASTINGS
 2158/6.).

6.4.1941 **192**
SUNDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

- G.W. Operation G.W. is to be postponed.
(1st S.L. 0004/6).
- Z.M.E.28. Operation Z.M.E. 28 completed.
(PLOVER 1016/6).
- Medway Channel. Ships using Medway Channel are to keep to southern side of Channel between three and five Medway Channel Buoys.
(Capt: S.6. 1114/6 to STURGEON).
- Thames Estuary. Explosions. Explosions etc. in Thames Estuary for night of 5th/6th April. At 2256 two heavy separate explosions at a very short interval appeared to be in position south of Nore Sand reference my 1254/4, on night of 4th/5th April at 2205 there were two heavy explosions probably mines in water near Maplin Buoy.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. Sheerness, 1318/6).
- Milford Haven. Following eleven mines detonated today off St. Annes and Great Castle Heads. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1733/6 and 1852/7).
- Spurn Point. Two mines exploded today by S.A.Gear. Details.
(F.O.Humber, 1756/6).
- S.N.8. S.N.8. completed.
(R.A.(M) 1829/6).
- Plymouth. One red mine detonated 0652 today 198° Breakwater Light 1.63 miles.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1850/6).
- TORRENT. (A/S Yacht) Mined and sunk. 50° 5'10"N., 4° 57' 25" W.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2030/6).

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

193

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

INTREPID.
ICARUS.

My 2319/6. INTREPID and ICARUS are to embark reduced outfits of Mark XVII mines with flooders A.M. tomorrow. Request you will signal time they will be ready to proceed.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2321/6 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

Four M/V's.

Aircraft reports 4 merchant vessels in 47° 47'N., 08° 15'W. Course unknown, at 0325/6.
(D.D.I.C. 0514/6).
My 0514/6. Course at 0325/6 was 180°
These were small vessels.
(D.D.I.C. 0930/6).

3 Destroyers.

3 destroyers. Entered Cherbourg Harbour at 0720/6. A/C report.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0745/6).
(D.D.I.C. 0823/6) (F.O.S. 1038/6).
My 2154/5. It now appears that only 3 destroyers were concerned.
(D.D.I.C. 1005/6).

3 Destroyers
off Ushant.

Three enemy Destroyers bearing 270° distance one mile. Course 225. Position 48° 42'N., 4° 8'W.
(Plymouth W/T 1230/6 to 19 Group H.Q.)
(D.D.I.C. 1327/6).

Surface
Unit.

By D/F at 1230 surface unit between 046° N., 047° N., 003° W., 005° W.
(F.O.S. 1257/6 to TIGRIS).

WAR DIARY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Cherbourg.
Shipping at
1045/6.

PRU Sortie H/800 date 6/4/41 time 1045 hours shows in Cherbourg shipping since harbour Roads last seen visually on 31/3/41. Now anchored in Grande Rade one large M/V not camouflaged possibly 8,000 tons German PREUSSEN or LA PLATA. At Digue Du Homet large Tanker about 12,000 tons two Coasters and five Trawlers. In Petite Rade one smaller Tanker. (PRU Benson, 1525/6).

CASTOR.

Your 1147/5. No information of CASTOR since leaving Port Arthur, Texas on 12/3. (D.O.D. (H) 1624/6 to N.A. Stockholm).

Seven
Destroyers
off
Brest.

At 1445 in 048° 29'N., 004° 50'W. seven destroyers course southerly 12 knots. (F.O.S. 1648/6 to S/M's Area A).

Brest.
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

At 1400/6. SCHARNHORST still present at same berth surrounded by T.B.nets. GNEISENAU has left dry dock and is now moored in middle of Rade Abri South of SCHARNHORST with seven or more tugs alongside her one of which is now in steam. Port Militaire not covered by photographs and Rade Abri mainly obscured by cloud but additional tug seen in steam also Flak ship approaching entrance to Rade. (PIS St. Eval, 1800/6). (D.D.I.C. 1813/6).
At 1830/6. SCHARNHORST still present at T.B. Station surrounded by torpedo nets. GNEISENAU still present in Rade Abri in position previously reported today. Three tugs are now alongside her on starboard side and a large vessel possibly MV or tanker a new arrival since 1400 hours 6/4/41 now alongside her on port side. Large vessel probably tanker previously reported still alongside at seaplane station. Four probably five vessels in line astern seen on distant oblique. Photograph. Possible mine-sweepers are at Eastern entrance to Goulet de Brest. Port Militaire and Port de Commerce covered by indistinct photographs. (PRU St. Eval, 2145/6 to H.Q.B.C.) (D.D.I.C. 2318/6).

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941. 195
SUNDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Escorts,
to 35° W.

Arrangements for escort groups, based in Iceland etc.

(C.in C. W.A. 1203/6 to Admty etc.)

See Lion Copy.

H.X.114.

8 hours late at R/V. Easterly gales and fog. EMPIRE MERMAID, straggler ahead, bombed and sunk. Following casualties from air attacks in St. Georges Channel:- HIDLIFJORD and SAN CONRADO total loss, ADELLEN, KAIA KNUDSEN and CHESAPEAKE damaged.

(D.T.D. 1603/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Yugoslav
ships.

Following has been broadcast to all Yugo-slav Merchant ships. Yugoslav Govt., have given instructions to all Yugoslav ships abroad to proceed immediately to an Allied or Neutral port. Masters of Yugoslav ships are warned to disregard any contrary order which may be received from sources which may be under enemy control. Pending further instructions from Yugoslav Govt., if any Master is in doubt he should refer to Owners' Representatives in London or New York or to the nearest Yugoslav diplomatic or consular representative. (Ends).

(A.C.N.S.(T) 2312/6 "A" Message and 2327/6 to Rugby Radio).

6.4.44
Sunday

Shipping Timings

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1203/6 April.

195A

IN

From: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date: 6.4.44.

Time: 1503.

P/I BY SECRET T/P

Addressed. Admiralty., C. in C. Home Fleet., A.C.C.S., F.O.C.M.P., R.A.D., F.O's i/c Iceland, Greenock, Belfast, Liverpool, N.O.'s i/c Aultbea, Stornoway, Capt's D. Greenock, Londonderry, Liverpool., S.O's 1st and 6th M.S.F.

ILLUSTRATION

37. I intend to make following arrangements to provide escort to about 35 degs. West for all H X, S C, and appropriate O B Convoys.

(1) 3rd and 12th Escort Groups will be based in Iceland, sailing from U.Y. with O B 310 on April 13th and O B 311 on April 17th respectively. Iceland Groups will be relieved periodically.

(2) These Groups will work as four half-groups, each half-group escorting an outward and homeward convoy between 35 degs. West and limit of normal escort from U.K. Average strength of these half-groups will be two to three destroyers, three Corvettes, and two trawlers, with occasional reinforcement by destroyers from U.F. and fast escort groups.

(3) Escort between U.K. and Iceland will be provided by a half-group detailed from Escort Groups based in U.K. plus minesweepers of first and sixth M/S Flotillas based at Aultbea or Stornoway. Average strength of these escorts will be 2 destroyers, 2 corvettes and 3 minesweepers.

This scheme will start with O B 312 - S C 28 on April 19th.

(4) Pending this redistribution of forces, following arrangements will be made to provide escort further west as soon as possible:-

- A. H X 118 and S C 27 will be met as far west as feasible by telescoping escorts of O B 307 and 308.
- B. H X 119 will be met in 35 degs. West by all available destroyers of fast escort groups, subject to commitments for special convoys.

(5) Following arrangements will be made to provide substitute escorts for 3rd and 12th Escort Groups on homeward journey from Iceland to U.Y.

- (A) Two Groups additional to escort in 4.(B) will meet H X 119.
- (B) One Group will meet H X 120.

(6) OG, HG, and SI Convoys, and OB Convoys on Southern Routes will be escorted as now by a full group.

(7) It is assumed that HX and SC Convoys will be timed to cross appropriate OB Convoys in 35 degs. West.

1203/6

Advance copy sent D.T.D., Duty Capt., D.O.D. (H)

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

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1951.
SUNDAY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ASSINIBOINE.

My 1601/5. For "Arrived ASSINIBOINE"
read Arrived ASSINIBOINE with Collision
damage.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1837/6).

S.S.
NEERBERG.

17 survivors apparently from Norwegian
ship landed Sule Skerry A.M. today.
Ship's name appears to be S.S. NEERBERG.
(A.C.O.S. 2238/6).

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Watch for
SCHARNHORST
& GNEISENAU.

Admty., 2220/5. Proceed towards 41° 00' N., 16° 30' W., at 20 knots. Report forthwith E.T.A. (1st. S.L., 0029/6 to F.O. Force H.). Departure S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FEARLESS, FORESIGHT, FAULKNER, FIJI. (S.O.I., Gib., 0030/6.). Your 0029/6. E.T.A., 1500A/7, Force H to proceed towards specified position. (S.O. Force H., 0320A/6, to Admty.). Fuel state of Force "H" on sailing A.M./6. RENOWN, SHEFFIELD, and FIJI, complete, ARK ROYAL, 300 short. (F.O.C.N.A., 1942/6, to Admty.).

MALVERNIAN
CAMITO.

F.O.C.N.P. 1644/5. Proceed to Gibraltar. Report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A., 0106/6 to MALVERNIAN, CAMITO. Your 0106/6. Arriving Gibraltar 1400 zone -1 9/4. (CAMITO, 0252/6, to F.O.C.N.A.). My 0106/6 pass through 036° 00' N., 010° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1030/6 to MALVERNIAN, CAMITO.

Italian
U-Boats.

Possibly 5 Italian U-Boats may shortly attempt to pass Straits of Gibraltar westbound. (F.O.C.N.A. 0903/6, to OTUS, 0949/6 to N.A. Stn.).

Yugoslav
Ships.

No Yugo-Slav ships should be allowed to pass into the Mediterranean. (A.C.N.S.(T). 1045/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

OLYMPUS.
Operatio.
"Principal".
(Interception of
DUNKERQUE. later
cancelled.)

Your 1401/5. OLYMPUS arrived Gibraltar 2/4 after 20 days on convoy duty and sailed for operation "PRINCIPAL" on 3/4. N.O.I.C. Malta pass to S.O. Submarines Malta. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046/6, to C. in C. Med.).

MARQUÉS DE
COMILLAS

Spanish left Lisbon for Havana on 5/4. If intercepted following passengers should be interrogated. (D.N.I. 2210/6 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. A.W.I.).

/French.....

198(A)

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

VOLTAIRE.

Your 1714/5. (Re position) Yes. This is possible. (D.D.I.C. 0118/6 to C. in C. S.A).

TACOMA
(German).

The action taken today against Italian and Danish Ships has not affected the situation as regards German Ship TACOMA which is interned in Montevideo. Her crew are allowed to remain on board but it is reported that additional precautions are being taken to prevent sabotage. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0129Z/6 to D.N.I).

XXIV MAGGIO
LECH
BABITONGA.

Pernambuco reports Italian XXIV MAGGIO has returned alongside quay to complete taking fresh water. At Rio de Janeiro German LECH has not yet received sailing permit but is still loading. BABITONGA still remains ready to sail. (S.O.I. Montevideo 0151Z/6 to S.O.I. Freetown).

Crews for
Whalecatchers
POL 1
POL 5.

In view of difficulty of providing crews for Whalecatchers POL one and POL five from the United Kingdom intend making the following arrangements which will expedite their sailing.
(3) Anticipate that both vessels will sail about 20/4. Request confirmation that both vessels should proceed to Alexandria. T.O.G. 9832B/7. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0832/6).

MARLENE
torpedoed
4/4,
proposals
for NAPIER
and NIZAM.

MARLENE torpedoed by U-Boat in 008° 15' N. 014° 17' W. at 2020 N/4. Destroyers in convoy and aircraft searching area today. W.S.7 with four destroyers leaves Freetown noon/7 for southward. S.L. 71, 50 ships, leave noon/8 with 4 Corvettes routed outside Verde Island. NIZAM, NAPIER with HIGHLAND MONARCH arrive Freetown 8/4. Have no orders for NAPIER and NIZAM but propose after fuelling they join S.L. 71 and assist in escort in case convoy is located and shadowed by U-Boat between Freetown and Verde Island. This considered as urgent matter and presence of additional destroyers should be utilized. (C. in C. S.A. 1050N/6 to Admty).

/Your.....

198(B)

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MARLENE
torpedoed
4/4
proposals
for NAPIER
and NIZAM.
(contd).

Your 1050/6. NAPIER and NIZAM are on passage to join Med. Fleet vide A.T. 0138/2/2 and must not be delayed. (A.C.N.S.(F). 1711/6 to C. in C. S.A).

Personnel
from
ORMONDE.

Your 1721/2. Intend to embark 100 of those service personnel in ALMANZORA leaving Capetown 8/4 for Freetown and U.K. and a further 110 in WINCHESTER CASTLE leaving Capetown 9/4 direct for U.K. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1147/6 to Admty).

Falklands
Defences.

Admty 2022/28. Re ammunition etc. (D. of L.D. 1214/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

Raiders.

Your 0022Z/5. Suggest one of these units raider C. (No. 16) but could be ADMIRAL SCHEER. Probable position at 1616Z/5 within 150 miles 058° S. 040° E. Second unit possibly some 500 miles North of this. Both probably proceeding (?) northward. (C. in C. S.A. 1259/6 to C. in C. E.I.).

Sal Island
A/C's
reported.

My 1917/12/1. Officer from CLAN MACNAB reports that when boats passing North of Sal Island Midday 20/5 observed plane approaching at High speed from S.E. passing centre of Island then headed for N.E. afterwards two large columns of smoke like signals arose from centre of Island. Survivors from ALMKERK (Dutch) torpedoed P.M/16 state that a large seaplane flew round vessel five hours before vessel was torpedoed and when about 250 miles from Sal. Possibility that Italian planes may be scouting off Sal before run to Cisneros and signalling result to ground staff. (C. in C. S.A. 1621/6th to Admty)

/NORDERNEY.....

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NORDERNEY.
(German).

H.M. Consul Para reports German ship NORDERNEY now loaded. Gargo includes 1500 tons rubber. Any opportunity to intercept NORDERNEY should be taken. Pending further instructions interception is not to take place inside Carribean. (D.E.W.D. 1744/6 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. A.W.I.).

W.S.7.

Sails Freetown 1500/7 to arrive in position 31.11 S. 14.45 E. at 1600/15 where Durban portion will leave. Request HAWKINS may R.V. in this position. Ref. your 0814Z/1. (C. in C. S.A. 1957/6 to C. in C. N.I.).

Service
Personnel.

My 1721/2. Essential that no transport sailing independently should leave Cape with more than 100 Government personnel on board. My 1858/6 Personnel surplus to this number in DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and NEA HELLAS should be transferred to MONARCH OF BERMUDA at Capetown together with 250 personnel already disembarked from ORMONDE. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD and NEA HELLAS should then be sailed unescorted as soon as possible. MONARCH OF BERMUDA should be sailed with EMPRESS OF JAPAN and C. in C. S.A. is requested to consider provision of stronger escort such as NELSON. (D.O.D.(F) 2202/6 to C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BIRMINGHAM.
S.L. 70.

Your 1905/1, 2155/2. It will not now be possible to provide a relief to allow BIRMINGHAM to fuel at sea. She should therefore continue with the Convoy until meeting a local escort. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2245/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German
Warning
to Ships
in Aegean.

Concurrently with German declaration of the invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece, ~~and~~ Turkey and also the Eastern Mediterranean had become a theatre of war. The only free zone, says the announcement, is Turkish territorial waters and neutral ships are advised to use this route. Any ship entering the area of operations exposes itself to risk of destruction by mines or other means of warfare. (The Times, 7/4/41.).

Italian
Zone.

Italy has declared the Adriatic north of 41-50 N., to be dangerous to navigation. (D.S. 580, 7/4.).

PREMUDA
sunk 12/11.

Italian newspaper Il Telegrafo of 8/3 state PREMUDA, 4427 tons, in convoy on night of 11-12/11/40, was attacked by overwhelming forces, set on fire, and sunk. (D.S.580.).

Benghazi
demolitions.

Chief of Staff No. 73. Following action carried out at Benghazi. (details). Not possible to breach moles enough to be properly effective nor was any means available of blocking outer entrance. Intended to lay Cucumbers during next few days, and considered harbour will be un-useable for a considerable time and landing of stores will have to be done by lighter-ing, a slow process at this port. (C. in C. Med., 1016/6, to Admty.).

ARKADIA
(German).

Left Istanbul for Braila, 7/4. (Galatz. 1026/6.).

OLYMPUS.

Your 1351/5. It is intended to base OLYMPUS at Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1102/6.).

Tripoli
bombed.

Operational Summary No. 300 up to 1200/6. Night 4/5, 6 Wellingtons dropped 10,500 lbs bombs on Tripoli Harbour starting fire among Barrack stores. Large explosion caused at base of Eastern Mole and power Station hit. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1118/6.).

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

UNIQUE
UPRIGHT.

Sail at 1930/7 and proceed through 035° 22' 014° 14' and 034° 00' 024° 00' thence Alexandria as ordered by Capt.S.I. (Cdr. S.I. 1129/6 to UNIQUE, UPRIGHT, etc.).

OLYMPUS.
RORQUAL.

F.O.C. N.A.'s 1720/4. Route for OLYMPUS to Malta. RORQUAL made passage North of Pantellaria during daylight 2/4, experiencing no difficulty. Escorted French submarines may be encountered Central Mediterranean proceeding to and from Beirut. (V.A. Malta 1210/6, to OLYMPUS.). Your 1720/4 (N.T. in W.R.). OLYMPUS routed through (A) 038° 10' N. 005° 00' E. (B) 038° 05' 011° 10' (C) 037° 18', 011° 17' thence north of Pantellaria by route taken by RORQUAL 2/4 ref. my 1210/6 to OLYMPUS. Request I may be informed when OLYMPUS is due to leave patrol. No date for arrival at Malta has been given. (V.A., Malta, 1245/6 to F.O.C.N.A.). Your 1245/6. OLYMPUS should have left patrol approx. 0700/5 acting on Admty., 0159/5. Your (?210)/6 not yet received. (F.O.C.N.A. 1710/6 to V.A. Malta.).

Battleships.

Your 1316/4. Battleship strength in Mediterranean will suffice for present but I should like consideration given to exchange of BARHAM and QUEEN ELIZABETH, at suitable moment.(reason) (C. in C. Med., 1240/6, to Admty.).

Attack on
YORK
boats used.

My 1321/6 Part 1. Your 1452/4. Following is repetition of my 0901/1. Adty., 1413/29/3. Boats used in attack on Suda Bay were not submersible. Description. (YORK 1315/6, 1319/6.).

Battle of
Cape
Matapan.

Cancel my 451 B, (1213/2 - Battle of Ionian Sea.). This engagement is to be referred to as "Battle of Cape Matapan". (C. in C. Med., 1439/6 to Med. Stn.).

War Diary.6.4.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.German
Unit.

My 0022/5. Another D/T position of a German target was obtained in same area at 1416Z/5. (2) NORDDEICH frequencies 16970 kc/s and 12720 kc/s are being used. (see A.M. 7873 A 23/3 and 792 A 23/2. (C. in C. E.I., 0306/6. to E.I., Sqdn.).

COBURG
KETTY
BROVIG.

Your 2352/3, (Proposal to release news of COBURG and KETTY BROVIG incident.). Consider news should be withheld a little longer. Present German W/T transmitting activity in Indian Ocean may be connected. (C. in C. E.I., 0410Z/6, to Admty.).

Force T.

My 1636/29. Force T. is to leave Patrol so as to arrive Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 8/4. (C. in C. E.I., 0756Z/6, to Force T).

Situation
at Basra.

Your 1644/5. Position now as follows: Regent and A d C two Ministers, in FALMOUTH at Basra. Local authorities have not indicated that they are aware of this fact. Police and military representing Rashid Ali faction ostensibly in control. Military demonstrations as in Baghdad not carried out at Basra. Am informed by reliable authorities reason to be uncertain of local attitude combined with shortage of ammunition. Local situation at the moment comparatively quiet. (N.O.I.C. Basra 0845Z/6.).

*See also next page*CORFU.

My 1418/2. CORFU will leave Durban 7/4 for Mombasa. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0937z/6, to C. in C. E.I.).

COLOMBO.
B.N.24.

Bombay departures COLOMBO escorting B.N.24. (S.O.I. Bombay, 1105z/6, to Admty., etc.).

/Military.....

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Military
Medical
Unit in
Hospital
Ship.

A complete Military Medical Unit has been given passage in a Military Hospital Ship employed on East Coast of Africa. D.S.T.O. Mombasa demurred at first but Medical O-in-C. in the vessel considered the 1929 Geneva Convention permitted this to be done and D.M.G. Nairobi and Deputy Judge-Advocate Force H.Q. who were also consulted concurred. It appears to me to conflict with Admty., 1530/31/8/1939 to C. in C. East Indies only and if this is agreed at Admiralty suggest War Office be asked to issue necessary guidance to their Officers. (C. in C. E.I., 1314/6 to Admty.).

EAGLE.

To join S.Atlantic Station as soon as she can be passed through Suez Canal. C. in C. E.I., requested to signal proposals for her movement to Capetown. (A.C.N.S.(F)2241/6, to C. in C's, Med., E.I., S.A.).

Situation
Basra.

Regent in FALMOUTH at Basra, possibility of attempt to seize. To re-establish his authority an adequate militant force will be required backed up by a vigorous blockade (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 2310Z/6, to C. in C. E.I.). *See previous page -*

China.

FURIERE
CONSOLINI
(Italian).

Was at Kobe on 26/3. She is one of 4 Italian ships reported as employed on coastal trade under Japanese flag. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

War Diary.

6.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GRANLI, Norwegian. Reported overdue at Demerara, Aruba, Port Arthur, New York and Freetown respectively. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

BRITISH STRENGTH,
SOLITAIRE,
Norwegian.
HARTBRIDGE.
UMONA.

CONTE
BIANCAMANO
(Italian).

Press reports state that on 5/4 a U.S. transport left Colon, Panama, for New York with her crew. (D.S. 578, 6/4.).

MALAYA.

Arrived New York. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0908/6, N.A. Washington 2030/6.).

WAR BRAHMIN.

Your 1140/3. Every effort must be made to reduce time under repair. Request report. (Controller, 1407/6, to Cdre i/c Bermuda.).

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Leave Curacao 7/4 and proceed to show yourself off Cartagena, taking care not to enter territorial waters. Proceed thence to Kingston Jamaica, to arrive 10/4. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1621/6, to VAN KINSBERGEN). My 1621/6. Movement of VAN KINSBERGEN ordered in my 1132/28, did not take place owing to non receipt of signal by ship addressed. Matter is being dealt with. (C. in C. A.W.I., 162z/6, to Admty.). Cancel my 1621/6. Proceed at best possible speed to Trinidad and refuel. Further orders will follow. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2201/6, to VAN KINSBERGEN.).

Shipping
Routes.

For N.C.S.O.'s. My 2236/18/3. Ships may be routed North of Sable Is. after 15/4. Sydney (C.B.) Harbour is not likely to be navigable before 1/5. Gulf of St. Lawrence. Ships should be able to arrive Father Point by 20/4. Reports on ice conditions between Cape Race and Quebec and suggested routes will be broadcast twice daily. (D.T.D. 1844/6, to C. in C.'s.).

/U.S.S.....

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)U.S.S.
NIBLACK.

U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK leaves Halifax for Iceland at 1815 Q on 6/4. (route). E.T.A. Reykjavik at 0700 zone + 1 12/4. One Warrant Officer and 8 ratings R.N. taking passage for onward transport to U.K.
(R.A.3. 1919/6 to DERBYSHIRE, THUNDERBOLT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, CIRCASIA, TRIBUNE, etc.)

Caribbean
interceptions.

Your 1744/6. Are instructions that interception is not to take place inside Caribbean Sea to be also applicable in the case of enemy ships which may leave Caribbean Ports.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2222/6 to Admty).

New Zealand.COBURG.
KETTY
BROVIG.

Your 0101/2. Considered news should not be published for the present, because German W/T Activity in Indian Ocean may be connected. When news can be released arrangements similar to my 2021/7/3 will be made.
(D.P.D. 1658/6 to N.Z.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships
Attacked.MARLENE.
(torpedoed 4/4).

British 6507 tons, torpedoed in 08.15 N.,
14. 17 W. at 2020N/4.
(C.in C. S.A. 1050N/6 to Admty). See
South Atlantic.
Was bound from Calcutta to Freetown and
London. Torpedoed about 70 miles
W. by S. of Freetown (D.S. 580, 7/4).

?

Ship survivors position 56° 40'N.,
11° 45'W.
(Liverpool W/T No T.O.O./6.)
Ships survivors in four open boats and
rafts (position) sea choppy.
(Liverpool W/T 1150/6).
Proceed at best speed to search for
survivors in 4 open boats and rafts by
A/E reported by A/C in 056° 40'N.,
011° 45'W. at 1150.
(C.in C. W.A. 1208/6 to BROADWATER).

BEAVERDALE.
(torpedoed
1/4).

Following from Icelandic GULLTOPPUR,
R.K. 247 (begins). Understand survivors
BEAVERDALE picked up consist of 2 more
life boats 23 men each believed between
060° 50'N., 029° 40'W. and Reykjanes S.W.
Iceland (ends) If no information has
been received in regard to remaining life
boats flying boats and destroyers will
search area first light tomorrow Monday.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2034/6 to A.C.O.S.)

Submarines
Reported.

0008.

D/F at 0008/6 bearings of unknown enemy
unit, probably U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 0053/6).

Italian
U/Boats.

Possibly passing Gibraltar.
(See North Atlantic.)

Estimated
U/Boat
dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1345/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.4.1941.
SUNDAY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Reported.
(Contd.)

By
WINDERMERE.

Following received from WINDERMERE, have dropped a pattern 6 depth charge in 059° 51'N., 008° 16'W. Contact was firm. Appears non sub, but treating same cautiously and making further investigations in area. 0930/6.(Ends). (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1328/6 to C.in C. Western Approaches.) WINDERMERE resumed patrol. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1846/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Watch for
enemy
battle cruisers

R/C of Brest at 1145 showed one battle cruiser but the harbour was not completely covered. At 1530 one battle cruiser was alongside the T.B. station and the other in dry dock. There were 3 destroyers in the Rade d'Abri, one of which has been present since 5/4.

D. 5 (KELLY) with KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL and JERSEY left Plymouth this evening for 48° N., 7° W to attack, report and shadow the enemy battle cruisers if they leave Brest.

Diplomatic relations with Hungary have been broken off.

British Air Activity

47 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night.

6 Blenheims attacked shipping off the Danish coast today.

Air patrols were maintained off Brest last night.

War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Trawler VOLESUS reported being attacked at 0940 in 60° 10' N., 9° 45' W. No details are known.

Aberdeen trawlers LOCH LEE and LOCH AWE were bombed and gunned by F.W. in 61° 2' N 5° W this morning; the only damage caused was from cannon shell.

VERSATILE and convoy F.S.456 were bombed at 0935 off Yarmouth and again about noon. No damage is reported.

SS KIRKWOOD in convoy E.C. 4 was damaged off Southend.

Convoy of 29 merchant vessels called for fighter assistance at 0822 off the Lizard.

ROCHEBONNE
sunk

M/S Trawler ROCHEBONNE was bombed and sunk off the Lizard today.

SS BROOM was machine gunned 0015 in 51° 36' N., 5° 48' W., no damage except bullet holes.

War Diary7.4.1941.
MondaySITUATION REPORTMiningSS ELIZABETH
sunkSS ELIZABETH was mined and sunk off
Portscatho today.

The inner harbour, Holyhead was closed early this morning. Liverpool was closed at 0130 and Convoy O.B. 307 was delayed until 1730. The port was opened at 1105 but was closed again at 2136.

The Clyde was closed at 2345 (see 8/4) and approach to Rosyth at 2316.

Mediterranean

Heavy
Air Raid on
Piraeus.
Mines dropped.

There was a heavy air raid on Piraeus last night. Three ships appear to have been hit, one of which, CLAN FRASER blew up whilst alongside and caused many fires ashore and in ships. The port will be completely out of action for several days. About a dozen mines are believed to have been located. CALCUTTA and AJAX were taken safely out of harbour over the mines. No sweepers for magnetic mines are available for Greek waters until the arrival of gear embarked in NIZAM and NAPIER (due Freetown 8/4 escorting HIGHLAND MONARCH)

Certain areas off Yugoslavia are declared dangerous from mines.

A subsequent report from N.A. Athens states that British ships lost, in addition to CLAN FRASER were CYPRIAN PRINCE (by direct hit) and CITY OF ROUBAIX (set on fire by CLAN FRASER explosion and blew up.) The Greek losses due to fire are estimated at 60 lighters, 20 caiques, 2 tugs and 8 about 8 medium to small steamships. *KATIE MOLLE* and *DEVIS* were damaged and *PETALI* was severely damaged.

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War Diary

7.4.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Situation
at Massawa

Air R/C of Massawa 6/4 showed that the floating dock appears to have been scuttled and the only ship afloat is a hospital ship. FLAMINGO picked up some 42 survivors of destroyer DANIELE MANIN this morning. GIOVANNI G. ACERBI is scuttled off Ras Abdel Kader.

Swordfish R/C at 1200Z today reports Dahlak Island in process of being evacuated. Four ships are sunk and one beached there.

Destroyers
for Meditn.

All destroyers in the Red Sea are to be sent to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet.

CAPETOWN
torpedoed.

CAPETOWN was torpedoed by an E-Boat at 2324 today while patrolling off Mersa Kuba in 16° 10' N., 39° 16' E.

China

It is proposed to convene a Conference at Singapore to prepare plans for conduct of military operations in the Far East on the basis of Anglo- U.S. - Dutch Cooperation.

America & West Indies

PRINCE DAVID is to try to intercept one unescorted French merchant ship eastward bound across the Atlantic and to send her under armed guard to Trinidad as a test case.

MOST SECRET.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Operation "Augment"
AUGMENT.

Cancel my 2236/6/9/40. Circumstances may render it essential for the Admiralty to order reinforcements at very short notice to one Command in the U.K. at the expense of one or more of the other Commands, the latter being so reduced that all Operations in progress or anticipated have to be abandoned.

2. To initiate this Operation the Code word AUGMENT has been instituted.

Particulars and Examples.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1237/7).

Scuttling
of own
M/V's to
avoid
capture.

Questions raised in your 1552/31 are being investigated urgently.
(D.T.D. 1539/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

N.A.,
N.A. & W.I.
and
Home
Commands.
Alteration
of
Operational
Boundaries.

Operational Boundaries between North Atlantic, North America and West Indies, and Home Commands will be altered as follows as from 0001/15.

(a) Northern limit of North Atlantic Command will be the parallel of 43° N., from Coast of Spain to position 43° N., 40° W.

(b) Eastern limit of North American Command will be the meridian of 40° W. from 5° N., 43° N., thence along parallel of 43° N., to 30° W. and up meridian of 30° W., and then as at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1806/7) (A Message 936A.)

REMMAREN.
MARGARET
JOHNSON.

Swedish REMMAREN intercepted and detained pending instructions from Admty. Request information whether any decision has been reached re para.3 of your 1918/3 as this ship has accommodation for about 12 passengers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1816/7).

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Cond.)

CACHALOT
SURCOUF.

Re em [REDACTED] them to carry urgent stores to and in [REDACTED]:
(F.O.(S) 1902/7).

10th A/S
Group.

My 1203. Consider 10th A/S group would be more usefully employed based at Iceland, operating against U/Boats and on rescue work on convoy route to South West of Iceland.
(C.in C. W.A. 1942/6).

Movements.

VICTORIOUS
NAIAD.

In order that adequate escort may be provided, and to meet the requirements of C.in C. Rosyth, the departure of VICTORIOUS from the Tyne is to be deferred until 15/4.

2. It is unlikely that the assistance of Destroyers from Home Fleet can be expected for this movement. The three Hunts loaned from the Nore Command should therefore be retained for this duty.

3. The departure of NAIAD may also be postponed in order to afford additional A/A escort to this ship.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1905/7).

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.

MONDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Interception
of
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

SOMALI, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, MASHONA
 sailed 2115/6.
 (Capt: D. Londonderry, 0035/7).
 My 1941/6. Destroyers have returned to
 Plymouth.

(F.O.S. 1008/7 to S/M's Area A).
 Arrived 0855 KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN,
 JACKAL.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1009/7).
 You will be required to join HOOD who
 sailed p.m. 6th escorted by ARROW, MAORI,
 ZULU. Remain at Londonderry until
 orders for R/V are received from 1st
 B.C.S.

(R.A.D. H.F. 1014/7 to Capt: D.4.)
 Object. To locate, report, and shadow
 enemy battle cruisers if they leave
 Brest and proceed to westward.

Information. (ii) SCHARNHORST and
 GNEISENAU were at Brest at 1130/7.

(iii) Own Aircraft are carrying out
 cross over patrols as in my 1725/6 and
 will report and shadow enemy battle
 cruisers.

(iv) Own submarines are on patrol to
 south and west of 048° 30'N., 008° 00'W.
 and may leave patrol at any time.
 Submarines are not to be attacked until
 proved hostile.

(v) Own surface forces will be in
 following positions at 0800/8. HOOD
 054° N., 015° 30'N., KING GEORGE V., and
 KENYA 050° N., 021° W. QUEEN ELIZABETH
 and REPULSE 046° N., 021° W., Force H.
 near 041° N., 016° 31'W. LONDON, FURIOUS
 ARGUS, and NARKUNDA steaming North on
 Meridian 023° W.

Execution. 5th D.F. are to pass gate
 at 1700/7 and proceed to be in 180, Wolf
 Rock 10 at 2030 thence steer towards 048°
 N., 007° W.

(vii) If no report of enemy movements
 is received by 0300/8 return towards the
 Lizard and thence to Plymouth reporting
 P.C. and S. at 0530 so that fighter
 protection may be arranged.
 (C.in C. Plymouth, 1535/7 to Capt: D.5.)

/The instructions

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

~~General~~ Operations (Contd)

Interception of
SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU cont.:

The instructions contained in A.M.1617/6 are to be in force tonight.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1700/7).

My 1542/6. It is requested you will dispose of 5th Flotilla tonight so as to operate against the enemy battlecruisers should they leave Brest and proceed to the Westward.

(1st S.L. 1702/7 to C.in C. Plymouth).

Sailed 1725. KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, JERSEY.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1805/7).

Informing S/Ms as C.in C. Plymouth 1533/7.

(F.O.S. 1903/7 to S/M's Area A).

My 1535/7. Request aircraft concerned may be warned of movements of 5th D/F. In view of the nature of the operation bombing restrictions over a large area are not being asked for.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1903/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

My 1529/6. No further information has been received in the Admiralty necessitating a change in the instructions ordered in A.M. 1529/6.

(1st S.L. 1923/7).

My 1535/7. You will of course neglect no favourable opportunity to attack.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1931/7 to D.5.)

Ships in harbour are to raise steam and proceed to sea.

(V.C.N.S. 2032/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 2058. Have cancelled all practices. Am proceeding West. EXETER in company.

(ARETHUSA, 2247/7 to A.C.O.S.)

At your discretion cancel Admty. 2032/7.

(1st S.L. 2331/7).

Revert to usual notice for steam. Ships at sea are not to enter harbour before dawn.

(A.C.O.S. 2357/7 to Scapa Force).

Eastern
Channel
Patrol.

2 Motor Launches are patrolling between Number 10 buoy and Dungeness.

(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1625/7 to PUFFIN.

Your 1625 received and understood.

(PUFFIN 1745/7 to N.C.I.C. Dover).

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.

MONDAY.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Brightlingsea
Patrols.

My 1045/7. Patrols taken up alternative position.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1727/7).

Corvette
off
Milford
Haven.

At 1915 A/C saw a Corvette with incorrect deck markings. Corvette taken in tow by Pilot Vessel off Milford Haven. (C.in C. Plymouth 2217/7).

British Air Activity.

Coastal Command Aircraft reports having torpedoed enemy destroyer at 1230/6 in 48° 45'N., 4° 20'W. Not known whether vessel was sunk.
(D.D.I.C. 0029/7 to D.5.)

Brest
and
Dutch
and
Belgian
Coasts.

On 5/4 SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU attacked by one Hampden in very bad weather. No results could be seen.

On night 5/6. No operations were carried out owing to unfavourable weather.

On 6/4. Seven Blenheims carried out a sweep off the Dutch Coast. A cargo vessel of about 2,000 tons beached on a Sandbank 12 miles South of Dan Helder was attacked by 3 Aircraft and, although no direct hits are claimed, all bombs dropped within 20 yards of the vessel. This is possibly the 2,000 ton ship in convoy which was badly hit by a Blenheim of 82 Squadron on 31/3.

One Blenheim attacked a 3 Span Railway Bridge side of IJmuiden Docks. (South) Another Blenheim machine gunned from 50 feet a ship-bombing range complete with four full scale model ships 2 miles north of Zandvoort.

/Later in

MOST SECRET.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Later in the day 7 Blenheims covered the same area and also that between Flushing and Ostend. Of these 2 Aircraft made two attacks on the Iron and Steel Works adjoining the North side of IJmuiden Docks which had been shown active. Results obscured. The third aircraft attacked 3 ships at the East End of the Berghaven. Heavy flak and evasive action prevented observation.
(H.Q.B.C. 0137/7).

Bombing restrictions.

Your 1208/6. As H.Q.C.C. and F.O.(S) have only a very approximate idea of the return routes of submarines after leaving their convoys it is requested that either you or S.2. will apply for bombing restrictions to cover the return route only, allowing the smallest reasonable margin for navigational error.
(F.O.S. 1254/7 to B.S.3.)
Request bombing restrictions between lines Bishop Rock, Ushant, and Start Point CAP LA HAGUE from 2000/7 to 0800/8.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1453/7 to H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel my 1453.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1635/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

Brest.
Calais.
Ostend.

Night 6/7 Apr. Brest - SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

A force of 47 aircraft consisting of 19 Wellingtons of 1 group, 26 Wellingtons of 3 group, one Hampden and Manchester of 5 group once again attack the Cruisers at Brest.

The weather was exceptionally bad and 10/10 cloud made identification of the target impossible, many aircraft being guided to the docks by flak fire. No results were observed except two red explosions. The Manchester of 5 group however, came down to 1,500 feet and attacked a ship alongside the harbour but his bombs were believed to have overshot.

Docks at Calais. Attacked by one Wellington of 3 group but no results

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Docks at Ostend attacked by two Blenheims. Bursts were seen on edge of Dock No.1. other results not observed. Wilhelmshaven by one Blenheim. No results observed.
(H.Q.B.C. 1620 /7).

Own A/C
engaged
by
Destroyer
on 2/4.

A.586. 7/4. Without prejudice to current or subsequent action request you report on following incident. Seven Blenheim aircraft report being fired on by British Destroyer when 14 miles east of Southwold at 1158/2. Aircraft were flying at heights between 50 and 200 feet. All aircraft flashed the letter of the period and fired correct recognition signal but fire was continued.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1745/7 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

DUNSTAN
(Bombed
6/4).

DUNSTAN abandoned. On fire fore and aft, back broken, sinking. Returning to base with ZWARTE ZEE.
(BRIGAND 0445/7).

Convoy.

Convoy of 29 M/V's and escort requires air assistance, my position, 044° 6 knots, in 49° 59'N., 5° 4'W.
(S.O.M.L. 0822/7).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Convoy
F.S.Even. (456)

"Arena"
Convoy ~~ARENA~~ needs air assistance. My position 52° 40'N., 2° 2'E. (SHELDRAKE 0925/7). "Arena"
Fighters being sent to Convoy ~~ARENA~~. (Nore W/T 0935/7). "Arena"
Aircraft bombing Convoy ~~ARENA~~ my position 52° 35'N., 2° 2'E. (VERSATILE, 0935/7).
My 0935. 3 Bombs dropped, no damage reported. (VERSATILE 0945/7).
You have been firing at friendly fighters. (C.in C. Nore, 0959/7 to VERSATILE).
Your 0959. No fighters in sight when dive bomber attacked and was fired on. (VERSATILE 1011/7 to C.in C. Nore).
Convoy
F.S.Even. (456) Convoy F.S.Even. Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of even numbered F.S.Convoy. (Nore W/T 1223/7).

VOLESUS.

VOLESUS attacked by aircraft in 60° 10'N., 9° 45'W. (Lyness W/T 0940/7).
Intercepted at 1018 D E.G K R. 60° 10'N., 9° 45'W. VOLESUS aircraft still in vicinity 1115/7. (Port Patrick Radio 1018/7). 60.10N., 9.45W.
VOLESUS. Aircraft still in vicinity 1005/7. (Lyness W/T 1109/7).
Intercept 1115 G.M.T. VOLESUS. Cancel my AAAA. (Liverpool W/T 1114/7).

GLENFINLAS
(Bombed
6/4).

Arrival H.M.T. KENIA. S.S. GLENFINLAS anchored in examination anchorage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1023/7).

NICOLAOU
ZOGRAFIA.
(Bombed
6/4).

ESKIMO arrived with survivors. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1059/7).
In position 056° 58'N., 011° 54'W. No sign of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA. Am searching area with tug in company. (VERITY 1500/7).
Position of NICOLAOU ZOGRAFIA by good fix was 056° 56'N., 012° 17'W. at 1600/6.
VERITY pass to tugs. (C.in C. W.A. 1914/7 to VERITY).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)ROCHEBONNE.

(M/S Trawler). Bombed and sunk SSE Lizard Head 3 miles. 8 survivors, 2 seriously injured, 1 dead.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1214/7).

Convoy
E.N.Even.

Even numbered E.N.Convoy needs air assistance, my position 51° 41'N., 1° 20'E.
(CATTISTOCK, 1226/7).

KINGSTON.

(British 628 tons). Arrived Newport yesterday. Reports being machine gunned by 2 aircraft with German markings in territorial waters one mile inside Barrel Light Vessel from 1900 to 2015/4. 16 casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1233/7).

DELHI
attacked
on 4/4
WHITBY
(Trawler)
bombed
on 4/4.

(1) Trawler DELHI H.742 steaming S.E. 6 miles from Hook Light machine gunned at 1445/4/4 by twin engined German aircraft which approached from eastward and flew on westward after one attack. No hits.

(2) Trawler WHITBY M.141. Fishing 3 miles S.S.E. of Blackwater L.V. machine gunned and bombed at 1850/4/4 by two aircraft flying very low. Three attacks Six bombs. Ship leaking and disabled. All crew picked up by Trawler JACKLYN. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1235/7).

Convoys
E.N.Odd
and Even.

Fighters being sent to odd numbered and even numbered E.N. Convoys.
(Nore W/T 1237/7).

MARS.

(Dutch 1582 tons). Captain states bound for Glasgow from Thames with cargo of cement, left convoy No. E.C.2. to enter Aberdeen with boiler defects. Attacked by A/C at 2115/5/4 2 miles east of Aberdeen dropped 3 bombs near ship. Again attacked by A/C at 2130/5/4 in same position, 4 bombs, 3 missed and one S.C.250 kgs. H.E.Bomb fell on deck,

/did not

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

MARS cont..

did not explode, and finally disposed of overboard by B.D.O. Both A/C machine gunned ship. Ship returned fire with 2 Hotchkiss and 2 Lewis guns. Deckhouse, steering gear, and deck damaged. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1314/7).

EMPIRE
SAILOR.
(Bombed
6/4).

Reports considerable damage auxiliary machinery. Will not require dry docking but repairs cannot be executed ship's staff. Ship unfit for ocean voyage but can proceed coastwise at 14 knots. Request instructions.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 1540/7).

GEDDINGTON
COURT.
(Bombed
3/4).

N.O.I.C. Methil, 1732/6. Have ascertained ship can be lightened and listed to bring bomb hole above water. Repairs will be carried out at Rosyth.
(A.S.Rosyth, 1613/7).

CALIPH.

(Trawler). 15 miles N.N.E. of Smalls, at 2230/6/4 attacked by one low flying aircraft. Two large black objects dropped 12 feet off the bow. Did not explode. Skipper thinks objects were aerial torpedoes. No damage or casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1630/7).

KOROT II.
KOROB II ? ↙

N.C.S.O. Scrabster reports that Polish Fishing trawler KOROT II bound for Iceland was attacked by E/A 2 miles off Buchaness 2200/6. 3 bombs near missed without damage to vessel but M/G fire slightly damaged superstructure. No casualties. E/A then attacked three trawlers 3 miles to S.E. KOROT II replied with her gun but no apparent hits.
(A.C.O.S. 1720/7).

Arbroath.

One UXBM in domestic area. Request earliest action.
(Arbroath, 2318/7 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool.

Port of Liverpool closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0130/7).
O.B.307 delayed. Known minelaying.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey. 0928/7).
1100 Port of Liverpool opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1105/7).
Port of Liverpool closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2136/7).

Holyhead.

Inner Harbour of Holyhead closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0309/7).

Thames
Estuary.

Mine detonated by L.L.Trawlers at
2010/6 246 degrees B.2. Buoy 1.05 miles.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 0910/7).

Tyne.

At 0650/7. One mine exploded by S.A.
gear in 076° North Tyne Pier Light,
4 cables.
(P.M.S.O. N.Shields, 1125/7 and 1314/7).

Operation
J.O.

Your 1303/7. Admty L. M/O.D.2032/41 of
14/3/41. Operation "C" should be
carried out tonight by INTREPID.
(1st S.L. 1559/7).
Your 1559/7. INTREPID will be escorted
by CLEVELAND and FERNIE.
Short title of Operation J.O.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1903/7 to Admty).
Your 2321/6. INTREPID ready to proceed
at 1330/7. ICARUS has embarked*but has
reported excessive vibration between
speeds of 15 and 25 knots. This is under
investigation and it is considered
desirable that cause should be found
before allowing her to proceed on an
operation. * Mines.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1303/7).
INTREPID, FERNIE and CLEVELAND sailed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 2157 /7).

Spurn
Point.

L.L.Trawlers exploded a mine at 1110
today in 290° S.P.P.7.6 miles.
(F.O.Humber, 1815/7).

WAR DIARY.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)ELISABETH.

(British 945 tons). Arrival 1700/7.
A/S LINCOLNSHIRE with nine survivors
of S.S. ELISABETH mined approx. E.S.E.
Porthscathe 5 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1844/7).

Milford
Haven.

At 0825/7. One mine detonated in 075°
St. Anns Head Light 14.5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1852/7).
At 1800/7. A/C saw two explosions
just outside boom, Milford Haven.
Searched area for enemy aircraft, nothing
seen. Presumed Mines.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2217/7).

Firth of
Forth.

Approaches to Rosyth closed from 02°
52'W., in Q.Z.S. 175 westwards. Q.Z.S.
196 and 197 closed. East Grangemouth
Channel closed. D.G.Range Burntisland
closed. All due to suspected enemy
minelaying. Methil and Approaches are
open.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2316/7).

Clyde.

River Clyde closed due to enemy
minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2345/7).

Enemy Intelligence.Brest.

R/C of Brest carried out 1145/7. Harbour
was not completely covered but one
battlecruiser was seen in same position
in Rade Abri as yesterday. Further
R/C being made.
(D.D.I.C. 1344/7).
Photographs of Brest this morning show
1 Battlesruiser still alongside T/B
station but Rade Abri, where pilot
reported seeing one battlecruiser moored,
was not covered by photographs.
(D.D.I.C. 1529/7).

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MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

GLENARTNEY.

BROKE's 0417/7. (COMORIN destroyed by fire). GLENARTNEY is to proceed forthwith on her voyage independently, if necessary without destroyer screen and with survivors onboard. If survivors are on board, ship should call at Freetown to disembark them.
(V.C.N.S. 1226/7 to BOREAS).
See also next page

GLENARTNEY.

Your 1226/7. Request information from what ship survivors are.
(C.in C. S.A. 1351N/7, to Admty).
Reply: COMORIN, see 1614/8, South Atlantic.)
Your 1226/7. Parted company noon/6. My position estimated noon/7 051° 44' 018° 08' course and speed made good 158° 9. All times are zone + one.
(BOREAS 1441/7 to Admty).
Your 1226. GLENARTNEY left 1400 in 055° N., 020° 30'W. Instructed to call at Freetown to land survivors. Am proceeding to join H.G.57.
(BROKE 1959/7 to Admty).
See also next page

H.X.115.

On time at R/V favourable weather. Following ships torpedoed and sunk night before arrival at R/V (29/3) HYLTON, LIMBOURG and GERMANIC.
(D.T.D. 1648/7 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.

MONDAY.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.COMORIN
sunk.

(Freetown Convoy escort Force).
Caught fire in a boilerroom 1400/6 and
whole ship caught. Ship abandoned by
2359, and I have torpedoed her.
LINCOLN 121, GLENARTNEY 104, and BROKE
179 survivors including captain. Intend
to proceed with LINCOLN and GLENARTNEY
to North Channel when COMORIN sinks.
My position is 054° 34'N., 021° 20'W.
(BROKE, 0417/7).
COMORIN sunk in 054° 51'N., 021° 02'W.
Have 121 survivors.
(LINCOLN 1300Z/7).

AYRESHIRE.

Arrived with steering gear defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1206/7).

CREOLE.

(French S/M) Has developed further
engine trouble. Date of sailing
uncertain.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1547/7).

MAHOUT.

MAHOUT, destination Liverpool, reports
D.G. gear only 70% effective.
(VANQUISHER 1701/7).

MOST SECRET.7.4.1941.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U/B Report.

At 0026A/7. See U-Boat Campaign.

French
Convoy.

French destroyer TEMPETE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1635/7 escorting French M.Vs CHELMA. MONSELET, ARAGAZ and WINNIPEG. (D.O.R. 8/4).

ERNA OLDENDORFF.
GERDA VITH.

German ERNA OLDENDORFF and GERDA VITH arrived Ferrol 26/3 to be docked and take bunkers former from Marin and latter from Vigo. (Guyat Coruna 1140/7 to Admty).

Yugoslav
ships.

Your 1913/5. Does this include ANTE MATOKOVIC who has cargo and orders to proceed Sydney C.B.? OLGA TOPIC discharging wheat for Swiss Gov. ready about 22/4. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1214/7 to Admty).

See HQ Page 1102 S.4.41.

BRITANNIA
survivors.

Your 1713/5. (Sinking of BRITANNIA Internment of Naval Military Personnel). Yes. M.F.A. states no difficulty anticipated but there are always delays. (N.A. Madrid, 1807Z/7 to Admty).

South Atlantic.MONARCH OF
BERMUDA.
EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.
CATHAY.

Your 2141/19. MONARCH OF BERMUDA due to leave Durban 15/4 has on board 1250 service personnel for U.K. 250 other personnel at Durban also awaiting passage. Proposed MONARCH OF BERMUDA embarks all available service passengers and sails with EMPRESS of JAPAN from Capetown about 19/4 escorted by CATHAY. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1114B/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

BIRMINGHAM
S.L. 70

Comply with Admty 2243/6/4. (BIRMINGHAM will continue with convoy until meeting local escort.) (C. in C. S.A. 1126/7 to BIRMINGHAM.)

Suspicious
Signals.....

MOST SECRET.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Suspicious
Signals.

My 1937/24 and your 1047/25. (quotes 1937/24 re dummy message received at Freetown). These signals traced to MILFORD who was endeavouring to jamb suspicious merchant ship which she was investigating. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1219/7 to Admty).

PORTADOC

Overdue shipping. PORTADOC due Freetown 4/4 from St. Lucia 17/3 has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1247/7 to Admty). Following has been read. S.O.S. PORTADOC 7.17 N 16.53 W Sinking rapidly taking to boats need immediate assistance. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1450N/7).

TEMPLE MOAT

Overdue shipping. TEMPLE MOAT due Buenos Aires 28/3 from Clyde 19/2 has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1337/7 to Admty).

OLTUL SIRETUL
PRAHOVA
R

My 122 G time 1157/13/12. Instructions to capture Roumanian ships OLTUL SIRETUL and PRAHOVA are cancelled. (C. in C. S.A. 1437/7 to S.A. Stn.)

Convoy delays
Freetown.

Your 1944/29. Average delay for ships waiting convoy at Freetown apart from other reasons is 6.4 days. (C. in C. S.A. 1457N/7 to Admty).

W.S.7

Departure 1500/7. NELSON escorting W.S.7 Local escort WISHART, DUNCAN, FOXHOUND, VIDETTE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1515N/7 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

At 1540 G.M.T. Bearings of enemy unit. (D.D.I.C. 1728/7 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

ILLUSTRIOUS

Estimated that after essential repairs to both main steam pipes ILLUSTRIOUS will be ready to sail from Durban a.m./19th for Freetown without calling at Cape Ports. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1830/7)

K.G. MELDAHL... ..

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd),

RORQUAL

Sail at 1930/7 and proceed through 035° 22' 014° 14' and 034° 00' 024° 00' thence Alexandria as ordered by Capt. S.I.
(Cdr. S.I. 1129/6 to RORQUAL)

NIZAM
NAPIER

Request arrival of NIZAM and NAPIER may be expedited as magnetic mining has started in Piraeus, and no sweepers are available for Greek waters until arrival of gear embarked in these destroyers.
(C. in C. Med., 1141/7 to Admty).

SURCOUF

My 1524/14/3. Request reply concerning use of SURCOUF. If practicable ship would be invaluable both for Malta supply and for running out urgent requirements for Middle East.
(C. in C. Med., 1143/7 to Admty).

Suda Bay
Defence.

Admty 2005/2. Immediate measures. Sufficient alarm nets, buoys and (?Moorings) have been sent to Suda Bay to make a gate in outer line alarm nets. Two motor launches are being sent for Boom Patrol as soon as these can be made ready for service. (2) Long term policy. Consider that standard A/B boom fitted with a gate and adequately patrolled is a good defence against boats of the type used at Suda Bay. Intend to lay A/B A/S Boom ex KIRRIEMOOR as soon as possible. Request passage of KIRRIEMOOR may be expedited.
(C. in C. Med., 1219/7 to Admty).

Yugoslav
Mined Areas.

Dangerous areas due to mines exist in following areas of Yugoslavia (A) within 12 miles of coast between Bar 042° 03' N 019° 05' E and Dubrovnik 042° 38' N 018° 07' E.
(B) Planinski Channel 045° 16' N 014° 33' E. to 044° 15' N 015° 32' E.
(C) Area to eastwards of line running from Blitvenica Island 045° 38' N 015° 35' E to Western extremity of Korcula Island, 042° 59' N 016° 36' E.
(C. in C. Med., 1614/7 to Med. Stn.)

CLAN FRASER:.....

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

CLAN FRASER
total loss.

S.S. CLAN FRASER total loss in harbour result enemy action. Cargo saved, all vehicles boots and approx 70 tons tyres and tubes. Please repeat order balance first opportunity (B.M.A. Athens 1630/7 to W.O.)

Enemy A/S
Units.

Greek S/M C.O. recently sighted 2 Italian ships painted white with red stripes which were at first mistaken for hospital ships. A tug escorted by 3 diesel schooners stationed 5 cables ahead and on each beam all towing sweeps and wearing N.U.C. Balls has been sighted in vicinity of Spartevento Cape under circumstances that indicated it was some form of A/S Sweep.
(Capt. S.I. 1845/7 to 1st S.F.)

Enemy
Convoy.

2 Merchant ships with 2 escort vessels in 055° 45' N. 015° 13' E. Course 315°. 10 knots at 1448 B.
(V.A. Malta, 1902/7 to UPRIGHT, UPHOLDER).

Bosphorus
minefield

Turkish G.S. state laying of eastern outer Bosphorus mine field (running N.E. from Yum Burnu) and deep mine field inside Bosphorus will commence very shortly. They do not intend to lay western outer Bosphorus mine field at present. (3) Whole area outside Bosphorus will be declared dangerous to shipping. (N.A. Angora 1906/7).

Hungary

Diplomatic relations with Hungary have been broken off.
(Head of M. 1928/7 to C. in C. Med).

German
Schnellboats.

Report received that three German Schnellboats arrived in Marseilles on 31/3. (C.2.) (D.D.I.C. 2221/7 to C. in C. Med, etc.)

LIVORNO
SPARTA
TRAPANI

6/4. Arrivals German Steamers LIVORNO, SPARTA,. Departure TRAPANI for Marseilles. (Valencia. T.H.I. 2230/7).

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Massawa,
survivors
of D. MANIN

My 1956/5. Result of Air reconnaissance Para 1 is confirmed. Identity still unknown. Floating dock appears to have been scuttled. Only one merchant ship afloat at Massawa. Dahlak Island visual report, two afloat two sunk in territorial waters, two merchant vessels alongside and one merchant vessel anchored off Assab. FLAMINGO picked up Captain two officers and 39 survivors of Italian destroyer DANIELE MANIN at 0400Z/6 and is taking them to Suez.
(C. in C. E.I. 0530Z/7 to Admty).

ADMIRAL
SCHEER
raider
positions.

C. in C. S.A. 1259/6 and 1504/6. (Re probable position of ADMIRAL SCHEER). Request Admiralty's opinion as to composition and position of D/F targets at present in Indian Ocean.

(C. in C. E.I. 0700Z/7)
Your 0700Z/7. Fixes were very indefinite but concur in approx positions given in C. in C. S.A.'s 1259/6. No definite evidence of presence of two units or of their identity.

Raider 16 thought to be still in Indian Ocean and possible that minelaying in Bass Straits was by another unit which may now have returned to Indian Ocean.

According to Wolff and to Norwegians rescued from Whale Catchers SCHEER is returning home, but there is no confirmation of this, except that she has been at sea since 25/10.

(D.D.I.C. 1929/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.6

C. in C. S.A.'s 1259/6. Suggest DORSETSHIRE leaves W.S.6 forthwith and proceed Durban area. If approved CANBERRA will give cover to W.S. 6 until GLASGOW joins. HAWKINS at Durban is at 48 hours notice for 25 knots.
(C. in C. E.I. 0714Z/7 to Admty).
Your 0714Z/7 approved.
(V.C.N.S.1216/7)

CERES

My 0630/31 CERES is to leave NIEUW HOLLAND in vicinity of Berbera and proceed to Aden
(C. in C. E.I. 0758Z/7 to CERES).

Crews for captured ships.....

War Diary.

7.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (contd).

Crews for
Captured
ships.

Your 0742/4 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (re anticipated capture of enemy ships intact at Massawa and Assab). Indian engine room and saloon crew unlimited. Indian deck crew limited to 12 ships. No officers available.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0815Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Iraq situation

Summary.

(MICE 1250/7 to W.O.)
DORSETSHIRE is to leave W.S.6 now and proceed to Durban adjusting speed to arrive a.m./10. (C. in C. E.I. 1412Z/7 to DORSETSHIRE).
My 0330/7. Scrutiny of air photographs of Massawa show GIOVANNI G. ACERBI scuttled off Ras Abdel Kader. Only ship afloat at Massawa is a hospital ship. Swordfish R/C 1200Z/7 reported Dahlak Island being evacuated. 4 ships sunk. One beached at Dahlak.
(C. in C. E.I. 1740Z/7 to Admty. etc).

Army Thanks
to R.N.

In a special Order of the Day issued on occasion of Fall of Addis Ababa, General Cunningham states "The work of the Navy supporting us in the initial stages has gained our greatest admiration. To themselves also fell the task of opening successive ports and giving us our life line. That foodstuff has never been really short is a remarkable achievement for which we must be grateful to our sister service, in co-operation with our transport."
(N.L.O.N. 1800/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Situation
and
Dispositions.

Your 1458/4. Concur in principle but do not consider that threat of Submarines or raiders entering Red Sea is sufficient to justify retention of two destroyers which are urgently required in Mediterranean. All destroyers are to be sent to Mediterranean forthwith. When situation permits, intended that following further redispersions should take place. SHOREHAM and FALMOUTH to join Mediterranean Fleet. S.N.O. Persian Gulf to Transfer to an R.I.N. sloop. PARRAMATTA and YARRA to remain for the present in the Red Sea. CALEDON, CAPETOWN and all R.I.N. units to remain on your station.
(1st S.L. 2004/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

MESSAGE 1720/7th April.
OUT.

231A

MOST SECRET

To: C. in C. China. 678.
C. in C. East Indies. 676.

Date 7.4.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (F).

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.1 to Commanders-in-Chief, Far East, China and East Indies. Begins -

1. Arising out of the Staff talks in Washington, it is proposed to convene a Conference at Singapore to prepare plans for conduct of military operations in Far East on basis of Anglo-United States-Dutch co-operation in conformity with report of Washington conversations, but without political commitment.
2. Admiralty telegram 1848 of 4th April to Cs.-in-C. China and East Indies refers: Understand copy of report is also being flown direct to Singapore on instructions of United States Chiefs of Staff.
3. United States have agreed to 18th April as date for assembling conference.
4. C.-in-C. Far East, to be chairman of conference. Following will attend or be represented in addition to United States representatives :-
C. in C. China.
" East Indies.
Australian Chiefs of Staff.
New Zealand Chiefs of Staff
N.E.I. Defence Authorities.
5. His Majesty's Government is communicating with Dutch and Dominion Governments concerned. C-in-C Far East should arrange direct with Dominion and N.E.I. Defence Authorities concurrently.
6. C-in-C Far East, to proceed with arrangements for conference forthwith.
7. On conclusions of main conference, opportunity should be taken to complete plans on basis of U.S. neutrality and clear up any outstanding points arising out of Anglo-Dutch-Australian conversations held at Singapore in Feb. 1941.
8. Further instructions follow. Ends.

1720/7.

Secretary to 1st S.L.

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

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.7.4.1941.
MONDAY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)CAPETOWN,
torpedoed
by E/Boat.

CAPETOWN has been torpedoed by submarine.
(CAPETOWN, 2324Z/7 to C.in C. E.I.)
My 2324. Am still afloat off Kuba.
(CAPETOWN 2346Z/7 to C.in C. E.I.)
My 2324, for U/Boat read E/Boat.
(CAPETOWN, 0050Z/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

*(Continued on p. 262)*China.Japan
and
N.E.I.
Rubber.

My 1047 24/3. Dutch Naval C.in C. denies existence of any secret agreement. Japan asked N.E.I. for 30,000 tons rubber and 1941 quote has been fixed at 20,000 whereas average for 1937 1938 and 1939 was 13,000 tons.
(C.in C. China, 0917Z/7 to Admty).

Singapore
Conference.

Chiefs of Staff No.F.E.I. to C.in C. Far East, China, and E.Indies Conference at Singapore on basis of Anglo-U.S.-Dutch co-operation arrangements.
(1st S.L. 1720/7 to C.in C's China and E.I.) Text in Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.Enemy Unit.

Bermuda's 1517/6, not to DESPATCH or DIOMEDE. Bearings indicate an enemy surface unit in approx. 29° N., 50° W., at 1917/6 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0231/7 to C.in C. A.W.I., DESPATCH repeated DIOMEDE.)
A.M. 0231/7. Proceed to search in vicinity of position 029° N., 050° W.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0803/7 to DESPATCH).

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

VAN KINSBERGEN
NORDERNEY
MONBALDO.

My 2201/6. After fuelling Trinidad proceed to establish patrol off Para River, to intercept German ship NORDERNEY or Italian MONBALDO if they sail. Maintain patrol to limit of your endurance and then return Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1032/7 to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

PRINCE DAVID.
CARADOC.
French ship
to be
intercepted.

My 1212/5. Orders for patrol. Object is to intercept one unescorted French Merchant ship eastward bound across Atlantic and to send her under guard to Trinidad as a test case. Interception is not to take place within Caribbean Sea nor within 20 miles of French or Neutral territory. I intend CARADOC should relieve you on this patrol about 17/4 and that you should then return Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1122/7 to PRINCE DAVID).

U.S.Coastguard
Cutters,
engines.

Your 0217/4. Reply.
(N.A.Washington, 1244/7).

KATWIJK.
(Dutch).

Ministry of Shipping's 1757/11/3. Not arrived La Guaira.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1424/7).

MARAJO
boarding
incident.

Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff informs me that Br. N.O.Port of Spain, Trinidad, boarded MARAJO, Brazilian Naval Tanker entirely manned by Naval personnel and closed their wireless 27/3. Also would not permit Captain send land cable. C.of S. gone to see Min.For.Aff. With a view to smoothing over difficulties here Ambassador would appreciate very early reply.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1711/7 1731/7 to Admty).

WAR DIARY.

7.4.1941.
MONDAY.

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships
Attacked.

BEAVERDALE.
(torpedoed 1/4).

F.O.I.C. Iceland's 2034/6. No news of further survivors.
(C.in C. W.A. 0116/7 to F.O.C.O.S.)
My 2034/6 ACTIVE sailed. (Search for survivors of BEAVERDALE).
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0705/7 to A.C.O.S.)
Form Orange IC/C2/7/4. Air search for survivors of BEAVERDALE. Nothing sighted until 1605 in position 63.48N., 24.37W., a life boat sighted on course approx. 070° T.5 knots, boat crowded approx. 20 crew. Iron rations and fresh water dropped successfully apparently greatly appreciated, crew appears to be vigorous and well. Message from aircraft to lifeboat gave course to steer and distance from Utskalar Lighthouse. Message received by Syke from B/204 1723 information passed to F.O.C.Iceland who despatched WHITEHORN at 1955.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 2300/7 to Admty.etc.)

WAIPAWA
(attacked
13/3).

Br. M.V. WAIPAWA reports attacked by torpedo at 0600/13/3 in 056° 12'N., 007° 19'W. Only indication bubbles and foam in wake of torpedo. No other information (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1123/7 to Admty).

Survivors
From
BRITISH
VISCOUNT,
WELCOMBE,
HELLE.
INDIER,
WESTPOOL.
(S.C.26).

E.T.A. Bar 0930/8. Survivors from BRITISH VISCOUNT, WELCOMBE, HELLE, INDIER, WESTPOOL. Request where these should be landed.
(HAVELOCK 2047/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines
Reported.

0026.

At 0026 A/7. D/F bearings show an Italian U/Boat within 120 miles of position 034° 00'N., 015° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0614/7) 0826/7 to N.A.Stn).

Estimated
U/Boat
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1353/7 F.O.S. 1546/7, 1756/7).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Watch for
SCHARNHORST
and
GNEISENAU.

At 0800 today units engaged in the watch for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were to be in the following positions:-
HOOD 54° N., 15° 30'W.
KING GEORGE V, KENYA, 50°N., 21° W.
QUEEN ELIZABETH, REPULSE R/V in 46° N., 21° W.
Force H near 41° N., 16° 30'W.
LONDON, escorting FURIOUS, ARGUS and NARKUNDA steaming north on meridian 23°W.

At 2000 G.M.T. today C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with destroyer screen was due to return to Scapa. REPULSE and destroyer screen were to proceed to Gibraltar to fuel.
HOOD and KENYA to R/V in 50° N., 21° W. and QUEEN ELIZABETH to be in 45° N., 23° W, all at 1200/9, after which they are to patrol near these positions. Force H to remain south of 43° N, AC Force H assuming command at 2000/8 G.M.T. of the forces operating in the Biscay area.

Foreign
fishing
vessels.

It is suspect that foreign fishing vessels are reporting the movements of our shipping. Masters are to render a report of all foreign deep sea fishing vessels sighted in the East Atlantic, English Channel and North Sea.

Independent
Sailings.

Ships of 12 knots and above sailing from Liverpool for overseas via the North Channel, may proceed independently.

WAR DIARY.8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.SITUATION REPORT.British Air Activity.Heavy raid
on Kiel.

208 aircraft of Bomber Command last night carried out what is reported to be the largest and most successful raid yet made on a German port. 190 tons of H.E. and 56 tons of incendiary bombs were dropped. R/C at 1830/7 had shown the pocket battleships ADMIRAL SCHEER and LÜTZOW and two HIPPER class cruisers (probably the ADMIRAL HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN) to be present.

20 aircraft attacked Bremerhaven and 10 Emden last night. *In the latter raid and further raid on Emden 8/4 April Air Ministry state that it is reported that BURGENDAM (7320 tons) and BUKAREST (4400 tons) were sunk. In the raid on Bremerhaven last night and on 7/4 April six ships loaded with war supplies are reported to have been sunk.*

Enemy Air Activity.

Several East coast convoys were attacked today but no ships are reported damaged.

Attacks
on Naval
Bases.

Belfast was attacked last night. Admiralty work, was not affected, but aircraft works were severely damaged and there were several casualties.

About 120 enemy aircraft operated in the Forth area last night. No damage was caused to Naval property.

Slight damage was caused to shipyards in the Glasgow area, and a merchant ship under construction was damaged in air attack last night.

Damage was caused to the M.T.B. Base at Yarmouth, by air attack early this morning.

Bombs were dropped on Harwich about noon today. Paddle minesweeper LORNA DOONE was damaged alongside.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
J.O.

INTREPID, FERNIE and CLEVELAND
carried out this operation last night.
(Mines laying on Havre - Cherbourg route.)

Mining
of Clyde.

Mines were laid in the Clyde during
air attack last night and the river was
partly closed.

Thames
mined.

Mines were reported in the Thames
and traffic was stopped between
Gravesend and Tower Bridge from 0605
to 1345.

S.S. AHAMO was mined and sunk about
30 miles East of Mable Thorpe early
this morning.

Belfast
mined.

Belfast was closed at 0215 and reopened
East of Grey Point at 1041. At 1430
the port was completely open.

The Amble was closed at 1234, Holyhead
was opened at 1936. Liverpool was
reopened at 1300. Three mines were
detonated.
A mine was swept off the Needles.

North Atlantic.

S.S. ESKDENE was torpedoed at 0548 in
34° 43'N., 24° 21'W.

A signal was intercepted tonight from
S.S. FORT DE FRANCE (left St. Thomas
27/3 for Casablanca) that she had been
"attacked" in 27° 39'N., 28° 6'W by a
British ship.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.

TUESDAY.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.UMONA
sunk
6/4.

FOXHOUND reports picking up 3 survivors from S.S. UMONA in 7° 25'N., 13° 55'W. she states that the ship was torpedoed and sank at 2000/6.

Convoy
escorts.

In view of the definite location of the German pocket battleships in Home Waters and of the battlecruisers at Brest, the strength of major convoy escorts can be reduced to one cruiser south of Freetown.

S.L. 68
SS. JHELUM.

Survivors landed near Dakar 6/4 state that JHELUM was torpedoed at 2000/21/3 about 300 miles N.W. of Cape Verde Is. after Convoy S.L.68 had scattered.

Mediterranean.

German forces are reported (by H.Q. R.A.F. Greece) to have entered Salonika at 1600 G.M.T./30/3.

Mooring vessel MOOR was blown up by an enemy mine at the entrance to Grand Harbour Malta, at 1500.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Massawa.

Our troops began to occupy Massawa during this forenoon. Tugs and harbour craft left the port, but no warships were seen to leave. The harbour is blocked and there are extensive demolitions. 12 Swordfish are operating near Massawa.

One of them bombed a small destroyer (reported to be the ~~X.G.~~ ORSINI) in the harbour at 0941Z but did not hit it.

At 1550Z today Swordfish bombed two E/Boats at Dahlak, straddling them, but results were not observed.

8.4.1941.

TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

240

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Scrutiny
for
more
Escort
craft.

As we now have to escort Convoys to 35 deg W. it is essential to provide as many additional escort craft as possible. I should be grateful if you would scrutinise the employment of every vessel under your command, whether fitted A/S or not, with a view to seeing whether they could be loaned temporarily to N.W. Approaches.

The Need is urgent.

(1st S.L. 0213/8).

Your 0213/8. The only Vessels I could make available would be one Group of Minesweeping Trawlers. Due to the increasing length of daylight the swept and Convoy Channels can be searched for longer periods and in view of this I am prepared to release the 73rd Minesweeping Group fitted A/S as a temporary measure. (A.C.O.S. 1325/8).

A.M. 0213/8. Important commitment in this command at present is provision of HUNT class destroyers to escort C.E. and C.W. Convoys. Of the six allocated, TYNEDALE is already lent Plymouth and BERKELEY is refitting. Consider it inadvisable to surrender more.

Until invasion becomes imminent, consider that the four VEE class destroyers allocated Portsmouth could when fit for service be loaned to N.W. Approaches, together with 20th D.F. now at Portsmouth.

Destroyers would then not be available for extraneous escort duties or to provide cover for important groups of M.V's on passage between Needles and Dartmouth.

It is still necessary to provide yachts or A/S trawlers as close escort for these groups, a commitment Plymouth has asked Portsmouth to accept. If this escort is to be maintained it is not possible to surrender any more of these craft pending an allocation of M.L's for Local Patrols. Three yachts have already been surrendered and one sunk.

(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1513/8).

Your 0213/8.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Scrutiny
for more
escort
craft cont.-

Your 0213/8. I see little hope of being able to surrender any ships.
(C.in C. Nore, 1514/8).

A.M.0213/8. The four A/S Trawlers recently transferred from W.A.Command can now be returned.

2. A further Hunt is an urgent requirement for A/A escort between South Coast Ports and Bristol Channel.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1745/8).

Your 0213/8. Intend to lend the following sloops to C.in C. W.A: HASTINGS on relief, JAN VAN BRAKEL about 14/4, JASON on completion, Norwegian T/B SLEIPNER about middle of April. STORK and BLACK SWAN complete repairs early May. When these two latter ships have worked up I intend to lend FOWEY and GLEANER to C.in C. W.A. FOWEY and GLEANER have A/S and reasonable radius of action but not very powerful A/A armament which however should be sufficient to deal with the comparatively small scale of air attack to be expected in Northern latitudes. BLACK SWAN and STORK will be far more use to me on the Northern Escort Force between Methil and Scapa where there are continual air attacks on convoys.

My present force will now enable me to have two escorts for almost all convoys between Firth of Forth and Thames and any reduction to this number is most undesirable.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 1851/8).

MANSUSIA.

Your 1150/4. ^RMANSUSIA intercepted in Skopen Fiord and allowed to proceed.
(N.C.I.C. Faroes, 0833/8).

Employment
of
O.10.H.32.
H.33.

After completion of repairs H.33 will be ready for service about 10/4 and H.32 about 12/4. O.10 is ready now. In view of situation should these submarines return north for A/S training or should they be kept available together with STURGEON, UNION, and URGE to relieve submarines now on patrol.
(F.C.S. 1012/8).

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941. 242
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Arming of
Iceland
Fishing
Vessels.

Your 1912/5. Icelandic Government's proposals. Suggest possibility of arming Icelandic ships when they next call U.S.A. should be considered. Request instructions.
(N.C.I.C. Iceland, 1207/8).

SURCOUF.
CACHALOT.

Proposals contained in your 1902/7 are approved. Work is to be given the highest priority.
(Vice Controller, 1434/8).
CACHALOT and SURCOUF are required in U.K. to prepare for service abroad. Request you will arrange for their recall forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1940/8 to F.C.S.)

A.M.C's
of S.A.
Command.
Expediting
of Refits.

A.M.C's of S.A. Station at present refitting are urgently needed by C.in C. S.A. It is requested therefore that completion of refits may be expedited if at all possible.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1610/8).

Oiler for
Stornoway.

C.in C. W.A. 1203/6 and 1411/6. Can a 2,000 ton oiler be spared from Scapa for Stornoway.
(D. of S. 1641/8).

REMMAREN.

Your 1816/7. REMMAREN is to be detained until arrival of next westbound Swedish ship, expected tomorrow, when she may be released.

2. REMMAREN should be routed as in A.M.1921/3.

3. Permission to embark passengers is still awaited from Sweden but there is no objection to your making local arrangements if master is willing to do so on his own authority.
(D.C.D.(H) 1737/8 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).
My 1816/7. REMMAREN examined and found correct. Request instructions.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1745/8).

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Escorts
from
Iceland.

My 1756/4. In order to meet the very heavy escort commitments about 14/4, the following arrangements have been approved.

2. S.N.9 to be delayed, and three of 17th Division to be sailed to Iceland as soon as ready to escort S.D.One to U.K.

3. GARLAND, PIORUN, LEOPARD and LEGION to fuel in Iceland and be available for inward escort as desired by C.in C. Western Approaches.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1809/8).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Dover
Gun
Defences.

Admiralty 2152/3/1. Withdrawal of 5.5" guns on C.P.11 mountings from Dover area has been deferred, and will be reconsidered in three months time.
(D. of L.D. 1323/8 to G.H.Q. H.F.)

Movements.

LINCOLN.

Your 0800/7. Meet FURIOUS at 0800/9.
(C.in C. W.A. 0032/8 to LINCOLN).

VICTORIOUS.
NAIAD.

Admty. 1905/7. On further consideration N.O.I.C. Tyne considers it very desirable that VICTORIOUS should sail a.m. 16/4 so as to allow more minesweepers for minesweeping. Proposed programme. Request C.S. 15 may sail NAIAD to act as A/A escort accordingly.
(C. n C. Rosyth, 1752/8).

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

A.F.D.13.

My 2210/7/4. Operations postponed 24 hours until suitable A/A escort is available.
(C.in C. Nore, 1700/8).

DUNEDIN.

My 2327/27/3. DUNEDIN should be sailed for Gibraltar now.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2126/8).
Sailed 2110 DUNEDIN. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0445Z/13.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2117/8).

Operations.

Interception of
SCHARNHORST and
GNEISENAU.

Note: For Force H signals see N.Atlantic. Negative patrol from 1400/7 short of distilled water. Necessary to remain on the surface from 0001/9 until arrival. E.T.A. 1300/9 230° Lizard Island 17.
(O.9. 0430/8 to F.O.S.)
Destroyers are to revert to normal notice for steam as in my 1225/29/3.
(C.in C. Nore, 1028/8 to D.16, D.21).
M.T.B's are to remain at Felixstowe for the present, reverting to normal notice.
(C.in C. Nore, 1141/8 to BEEHIVE).
Arrived 1128 KELLY, KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL, JERSEY.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1449/8).
H.50. SOKOL, SEALION, SUNFISH, OBERON, L.26, H.34, TORBAY, H.31, TUNA, TAKU, H.44 on patrol, between 44° 40'N., and 48° 50'N., and between 8° W., and 12° W.
(F.O.S. 1614/8, 1936/8 and 2358/8).
Now that submarines are leaving their patrol it is of increased importance that air reconnaissance be designed to give the best chance of detecting the departure of the battlecruisers.

2. All other considerations must stand aside.
(1st S.L. 1725/8).

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Interception of
SCHARNHORST &
GNEISENAU contd.

At 2000 G.M.T. today C.in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with destroyer screen should return to Scapa.

2. REPULSE and destroyer screen are to proceed to Gibraltar and fuel.

3. HOOD and KENYA are to R/V in 50N., 21° W. QUEEN ELIZABETH is to be in 45° N., 23° W. Both these positions are to be reached at 1200/9 and patrols subsequently maintained in these respective vicinities.

4. Force H. should remain as desired south of 43°N.

5. A.C. Force H is to assume command of the forces operating in the Biscay area at 2000/8 G.M.T. and should issue any orders he may consider necessary. (1st S.L. 1859/8).

A. CACHALOT is to leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Holy Loch as routed by S.3.

B. Remaining Submarines are to remain on patrol to prudent limit of endurance or until further orders are received and then to return to Falmouth.

C. Submarines are to pass to westward of 48° 30'N., 7° W. and report expected time of arrival when North of this position.

D. TUNA proceed to position 70 at 0200/9. (F.O.S. 1921/8 to Submarines Area A).

A. Submarines have been ordered to remain on patrol until the limit of their endurance is reached.

B. Following positions are occupied but submarines will not report until at least 2 days after leaving patrol. TIGRIS off Belle Isle.

TUNA	70.
H.44	73.
TAKU	71.
H.31.	74.
TORRAY	72.
H.34.	75.
L.26.	77.
OBERON	76.
SUNFISH.	78.
SEALION	79.
SOKOL	80.
H.50.	81.

WAR DIARY.

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

[REDACTED] of
SCHARNHORST,
GNEISENAU cont.

C. Numbered positions follow to
QUEEN ELIZABETH and REPULSE.
(F.O.S. 1926/8 , 1244/9).
My 1926. Particulars of S/M positions
70 to 82 inclusive.
(F.O.S. 1933/8 to QUEEN ELIZABETH, REPULSE)

Denmark
Strait
Patrol.

Intend to leave Hvalfjord A.M./10th for
Denmark Strait after boiler cleaning.
(C.S.l. 0733Z/8).

East Coast
Patrol.

No A/P ships at Sheringham Buoy tonight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1103/8).

Operation "Dunlop"
DUNLOP.

ARGUS will be required to transport
aircraft to Gibraltar, for another
operation similar to WINCH and is to
load six operational Swordfish and up to
26 Hurricanes by lighter from Abbotsinch.
The exact number of Hurricanes is to be
determined by trial.

2. ARGUS is to be ready to sail as soon
as aircraft have been embarked.
Anticipated date by which embarkation will
be complete should be reported as soon as
possible.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1606/8).

My 1606/8. Code name for this operation
is DUNLOP, "Dunlop".

(D.O.D.(H) 1640/8).

Admty's. 1119/7. Request I may be
informed when to expect ARGUS. Owing to
possibility of having to close river
due to enemy action propose loading at
Tail O' The Bank.

(N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1744/8).

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Danish,
Dutch,
and French
Coasts.

On 7/4 Six Blenheims set out to attack shipping off the Danish coast, about 40 fishing boats of 80/300 tons 20 miles N. W. of Blaavands Huk were attacked by one Blenheim scoring one direct hit. Second Blenheim attacked the same fleet causing one vessel to heel badly and settle low in the water. It then attacked a wireless station two miles south East of Blaavands Huk. The remaining four Blenheims all found targets scoring a direct hit on a small vessel, narrowly missing a cargo vessel of 1500 tons and a trawler of 150 tons. Five Blenheims carried out a sweep off the West and East Frisians but saw nothing to attack.

A Further six aircraft swept the N.W. Coast of France East of the Cherbourg Peninsula, two of them bombed two trawlers North West of Le Havre, but no hits are claimed.

Eight Blenheims set out to attack the Iron and Steel Works and Power Station at Ijmuiden. Bursts were seen and a direct hit was registered.
(H.Q.B.C. 0201/8).

Patrols.

Air patrols today. ^{"Stal" "Hornli"} STAB, HORNLI, S.A.3. and ~~UNSI~~ already flown.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0930/8).
PL/G11/8/4. In order to report and attack enemy battle cruisers leaving Brest one A/C of 22 S.P.U. R O N armed with torpedo is to patrol line Pierres Noires to Basse du Lis from 2100/8 to midnight.
(H.Q. 19 Group, 1738/8 to St. Eval).

Sweeps
off
French
Coast.

Plots from CHL Station indicate enemy surface craft activity in positions 49° 45'N., 2° 35'E., 50° 45'N., 2° 50'E. 50° 40'N., 0° 20'E., at approx: 1030/8. Four A/C to carry out sweep to cover these positions.
(Chatham, 1155/8).

/Offensive sweep

WAR DIARY.

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TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Offensive sweep to be instituted by two A/C of 53 Squadron armed 250 lb. GP A/C to approach Gironde from West and sweep up coast at visibility distance finishing off Brest at last light. (H.Q. 19 Group, 1448/8).

Kiel,
Bremerhaven,
Emden,
bombed.

Night 7/8 April. An attack on Kiel by 208 Aircraft assisted by moonlight and perfect visibility constituted the largest and most successful raid yet made on a German port. 190 tons H.E. and 56 tons incendiary dropped.

In addition 20 aircraft successfully attacked Bremerhaven and 10 aircraft again attacked Emden. (H.Q.B.C. 1758/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
F.N.Even.

^{"Agent"}
Convoy ~~AGENT~~ being bombed. My position 54° 40' N., 1° W. (WALLACE 0110/8). My 0110. 2 bombs, no hits. (WALLACE, 0128/8).

Arbroath
(bombed
Night 7/8).

My 2318/7. Number of aircraft passed over Station and one attacked when searchlights close to aerodrome switched on. (Arbroath, 0132/8).

Glasgow
Area.
Air
Attack.

0500 Glasgow area appears to be clear of raiders. Damage so far reported not extensive. Bombs H.E. and incendiary reported in Glasgow area. One Merchant ship under construction No. 433 in Connells Yard damaged by H.E. Bomb in No.1 Hold, also frame shed and furnaces hit. One furnace demolished and one damaged. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0545/8).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

No damage to Naval Establishments. Details are not yet available but comparatively slight damage believed sustained by the following shipyards. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2255/8).

Firth of
Forth
Area
bombed.

Approximately 120 enemy aircraft operated in Forth area between 2115/7 and 0500/8. Few bombs and a number of incendiaries dropped. No damage to Naval property. One unexploded parachute mine in domestic quarters Arbroath. Low cloud apparently frustrated attacks. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0825/8).

NAERABERG
sunk.

(Faroes Trawler). My 2238/6. Ship on passage Faroes to Fleetwood, attacked and sunk by enemy A/C at 1100/6 in approximate position 60° 30'N., 05° 30'W. Whole crew of 17 now at Lyness and will be returned to Faroes when passage can be arranged. No casualties. (A.C.O.S. 1002/8).

LOCH LEE
LOCH AWE
attacked.

At 0935/7 Aberdeen trawlers LOCH LEE and LOCH AWE on passage Faeroes to Aberdeen were attacked by Fock Wulf A/C in 61° 02'N., 02° 05'W. Two bombs dropped close to each trawler but no damage or casualties except from Cannon shell. Trawlers proceeding Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S. 1015/8).

Belfast
bombed.

Air attack last night (a) Harland and Wolff Admiralty work not affected. Aircraft shops four and half acres completely destroyed by land mine direct hit. (b) Two officers and seven ratings wounded, ten employees of Harland and Wolff killed. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1227/8).

Yarmouth
bombed.

Air Raid damage Yarmouth base 0030 to 0515 as follows. (O.C.W. Shotley, 1330/8).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)BROOM
Attacked.

(British 347 tons). At 0015/7, in 51° 36'N., 5° 48'W. aircraft machine gunning. Several bullet holes above waterline into cabin and afterhold. No casualties, none missing. Vessel proceeding Swansea. Aircraft approached from North.
(Surveyor Customs, Newry 1500/8).

(Bombed
3/4).
GEDDINGTON
COURT.

Propose sailing for Rosyth at 0800 tomorrow. E.T.A. Forth Bridge 1100/9.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1714/8).

Tyne.
Enemy A/C
in sea.

Blyth's 0342/8. Master of S.S. GLENPARK reports that at 0340/8 an enemy plane fell into the sea 2 miles east of 20 C buoy, on fire. Red glare falling into sea also reported by P.W.S.S. Tyne at that time.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1747/8).

Harwich
bombed.
LORNA DOONE
(Paddle
Minesweeper)
damaged.

At about 1200 today 3 or 4 hostile A/C flew over Harbour and dropped two or three salvoes of bombs. LORNA DOONE berthed at Harwich Pier damaged by near miss requires docking. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1830/8).

Convoy
F.N.51.

Enemy aircraft bomber attacking Convoy F.N.51.
(HOLDERNESS 2100/8).
My 2100. No hits or damage.
(HOLDERNESS 2108/8).
One enemy aircraft attacking odd numbered F.N.Convoy in 52° 45'N., 2° 12'E.
(Rosyth W/T 2355/8).

Convoy
F.S.Odd.

Enemy aircraft bombing odd-numbered F.S.Convoy in 53° 33'N., 0° 58'E.
(CATTISTOEK, 2137/8).

8.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Belfast.

Port of Belfast closed owing to suspected enemy minelaying.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 0215/8).

Belfast Lough East of Grey Point open to shipping.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1041/8).

Port of Belfast is now open.

(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1430/8).

AHAMO.

(British Tanker, 8621 tons). Mined and sinking in 053° 22'N., 000° 59'E.

PINTAIL standing by. Request immediate assistance.

(WOLFHOUND, 0219/8).

AHAMO stern submerged and abandoned. Have rescued Commodore, his assistant and 29 survivors 4 slightly injured (corrupt group) H.A. quick firing guns (currpt groups). Have thoroughly searched area. Am rejoining convoy. (PINTAIL, 0339/8).

Your 0219. Tug has been sent.

(N.O.I.C. Humber, 0426/8).

Tug PRIZEMAN left Immingham at 0446 to assist AHAMO.

(F.O.Humber, 0535/8).

Arrival PINTAIL with survivors from AHAMO at 1130.

(F.O.Humber, 1138/8).

Wreck of AHAMO in 053° 22'N., 000° 59'E.,

(C.in C. Nore, 2009/8).

(Capt: S.6. 2150/8 to URGE).

Clyde.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 2345/7. River is only closed above boom. Ships may proceed as far as Rothesay Bay.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0538/8).

Mines reported in Clyde off Flagship Buoy and in the river off John Browns.

Several U.X. bombs in river. River will remain closed until sweeping has been carried out.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0545/8).

Clyde open to limited traffic as follows.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1328/8).

WAR DIARY.

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TUESDAY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Clyde cont:-

My 0538/8. River is now only closed above Princes Pier. Ships are to keep well clear of the following dangerous areas.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1600/8).
Amend my 1600/8 to read. River is now only closed above Great Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1650/8).

River Thames.

Mines reported in River Thames, Galleons Reach and St. Clements Reach. Traffic between Gravesend and Tower Bridges stopped until position is classified.

(F.O.I.C. London, 0615/8).
All traffic in River Thames stopped between Tower Bridge and Southend.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1058/8).
Cancel my 1058/8. Navigation may now be resumed throughout the river. Ships passing through St. Clements Reach are to keep well to the North.
(F.O.I.C. London, 1345/8).

Operation J.O.

Operation ^WO. completed. Nothing to report.
(D.20 0715/8).

Thames Estuary.

Unexploded mine, parachute attached, on recreation ground. Wainscott School, between Upnor and Hoo.
(C.in C. Nore, 0745/8).

Newhaven Controlled Minefield.

Will be in operation from noon today.
(F.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0920/8).

Barrow Observation Minefield.

Laying completed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0946/8).

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8.4.1941.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

German
Mine off
Needles.

1 German mine type X swept and sunk in 190° Needles Light 6 miles on 7/4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0956/8).

Floating
Cylinders
seen.

At 0745/8 in 54° 45' N. 0° 24' W. A/C saw 3 Metal cylinders painted black with white stencilled letters at one end. Cylinders apparently not connected together. They were 5 to 6 feet long and about 2 feet in diameter all floating same way up and all had a small hole in the top. They were floating high in the water. SOUTHDOWN was informed. (Fitreavie 1030/8).

Amble.

Port of Amble closed owing to suspected mine laying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1234/8).

Milford
Haven.

My 1852/7. Second, Third and fourth Mines detonated off St. Anns Head on 7/4 as follows. (F.O.C. Milford Haven 1258/8).

Liverpool.

Port opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/8).

ICARUS
INTREPID

My 1303/7. ICARUS ready for service. Request information whether mines should be retained on board as this is undesirable in view of possible air attack. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1327/8).
1. ICARUS is to disembark mines.
2. INTREPID and ICARUS are to remain under the orders of C.in C. Portsmouth subject to them being held at 24 hours notice to embark reduced outfits of mines. (D.D.O.D.M. 1615/8).

2 British
Mines destroyed.

2 British mines destroyed on 6/4 57° 23' N. 14° 47' W. and 57° 04' N. 13° 30' N. (ARBUTUS 1805/8).

Holyhead.

Holyhead now open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1936/8)

S.N.9.

My 2211/4. AGAMEMNON will not now be present on these dates. Amend second position to read (details). (R.A.M.L. 2021/8).

War Diary.8.4.1941.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Enemy M/V's
off Ushant
on 7/4.

Aircraft reports 5 small vessels with one larger possibly destroyer in 48° 08' N. 05° 22' W. at 2220/7 course 220° 10 knots. (C.in C. Plymouth 0049/8 to D.5.)
Aircraft reports 2 ships approx. 4000 tons and 2 smaller ships about 1000 tons in 48° 6' N. 4° 50' W. at 2130/7. Course 200° 6 to 8 knots. (C.in C. Plymouth 0149/8 to D.5.).

→ Kiel.

R/C shows ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER, LUTZOW, and two HIPPER class cruisers at Kiel on 7/4. (D.D.I.C. 0130/8).

Brest.

Photographs of Brest at 1530/7 show 1 Battle Cruiser alongside T.B. Station and the other in Westernmost dry dock. (D.D.I.C. 0344/8).
My 0344/8.
Photographs also show 2 destroyers in Rade Abri.
Harbour partially obscured by cloud. (D.D.I.C. 1253/8).
My 1253/8. Further examination shows 3 destroyers in Rade Abri of which one has been present since 5/4. (D.D.I.C. 1730/8).

M/V's
off Lorient.

A/C reports Two Merchant vessels course 068°, 10 knots. My position 47° 33' N. 3° 26' W. at 0655. (Burnham Radio 0715/8).

Bremen.

Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance of Bremen today shows one 8" cruiser present, probably SEYDLITZ. (D.D.I.C. 1812/8).

Foreign
Deep Sea
Fishing
Craft.

Admiralty Message "EW". It is suspected that foreign fishing vessels may be reporting movements of our shipping.
In order to obtain detailed information of these vessels, Masters should render a report to the N.C.S.O. at their first port of call of all foreign deep-sea fishing vessels sighted in the East Atlantic, English Channel, North Sea.
The following particulars are, where possible, to be supplied. (D.T.D. 2104/8).

→ German Main
Units.Positions. (D.D.I.C. 2130/8) See Lion Copy

(Next page)

254A

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

2130/8 April
OUT

To A.I.C.17
S.O. Force II

Date 8.4.41

NAVAL CODE (B)

From Admiralty.

German main units.

Kiel	7th April.	Pocket Battleships ^{ADMIRAL} LÜTZOW and SCHEER 8" Cruisers ^{ADMIRAL} HIPPER and PRINZ EUGEN One SCHLESWIG Class battleship
Brunsbüttel	8th April,	One SCHLESWIG Class Battleship
Bremen	8th April,	8" Cruiser SEYDLITZ
Brest	7th April,	Battlecruisers GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST
Swinemünde	8th April	6" Cruisers EMDEN and one LEIPZIG class.
Unknown		Battleships BISMARCK and TIRPITZ. One probably TIRPITZ left Kiel between 15th March and 18th March. BISMARCK reported at Odynia, 20th March. (Graded C.2) Aircraft Carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN. One LEIPZIG Class Cruiser. Cruiser KÖLN.

2130/8
D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8)

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

War Diary.

8.4.1941.

Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Bunkers.

In order that an estimate of bunker requirements may be made, Masters of all ships sailing in convoy should be informed, with adequate notice, of the approx. distance on the convoy route to U.K. port and the speed at which their vessels will be required to proceed during the voyage. (D.T.D. 1134/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Yugo-Slav
Ships

To be treated as allied ships in regard to the supply of confidential documents. (D.T.D. 1209/8).

Independent
Ships,
North Channel.

A.M. 1922/3 and 1821/4. Ships of 12 knots and above sailing from Liverpool for ports north thereof as far North as and including Clyde, and for overseas via North Channel, may proceed independently. Independently sailed ships of over 13 knots arriving from overseas via North Channel may proceed as far South as Liverpool independently. (D.T.D. 2101/8, to C.in C. W.A.).

War Diary.

8.4.1941.

Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PEGASUS.

My 1311/28. PEGASUS has developed major crank shaft defects. Cannot comply with programme.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1211/8).

COMORIN.
(Lost by
fire 6/4)

Intend proceed Greenock arriving there about noon tomorrow. Survivors 35 officers 145 ratings. Casualties.
(BROKE 13^{03Z}/8).

ASHBURY

Returned from O.G.058. Due to collision with Dutch Trawler 301.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1430/8).

PRIMROSE

P. c. and s. 2000/8, 061° 15' N. 017° 50' W. 306° 13.
Asdic will not transmit.
(PRIMROSE 1906/8).

PRIMULA

Has not sailed on O.G.58 and has returned to Harbour for repairs to A/S gear. Damage caused when shipping dome. Estimate repairs cannot be completed before 1000/9.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1950/8).

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War Diary.8.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Bunkers
and speed.

My 2014/10/2. To enable estimate of bunker requirements Masters of ships sailing in H.G. convoys should be informed of the speed at which their ships will be required to steam during the voyage.
(D.T.D. 1135/8, to N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

N.A. Command
Limits.

Admty. 1806/7 para (a) (Northern limit of North Atlantic Command). Does this alter the Gibraltar Intelligence Area?
(S.O.I., Gib. 1544/8, to Admty.).

Hurricanes,
Gibraltar.

My 1606/8. Request report whether you have any recommendations for improving arrangements for transfer of Hurricanes at Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 1722/8 to F.O.C.N.A.).

FIJI

To be detached so as to arrive Freetown by 18/4. (1st S.L., 1829/8 to F.O. Force H).

LIVORNO
(German)

LIVORNO left 7/4 for Marseilles.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2100/8).

FORT DE FRANCE

Intercept 27.39 N. 28.06 W. attacked by British. Garrigues (thought to be name of Master) (ends).
(Valentia Radio, 2242/8, to Admty.).
Note:- Gross tonnage 4279 tons
Left St. Thomas 27/3 for Casablanca.

South Atlantic.Enemy Unit.

D/F bearing from Simonstown and Durban at 1517Z/7 indicates position within 200 miles 033° S. 012° E. reliability 70% and may refer to raider C, (No.16). Bearing may have been taken at Northern D/F station.
(C.in C. S.A. 0141N/8, to S.A. Stn.).
My 0141N/8 D/F. Bearings at 1556Z/8 indicate Units moving westwards.
Position within 200 miles 039° S. 026° E. Reliability 70%. Units possibly Auxiliary.
(C.in C. S.A., 2031N/8, to S.A. Sqdn.).

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S.L.71
MAURITIUS

My 1901/4/4.

S.L.71 sails p.m./8 MAURITIUS arrived Freetown a.m./8 (A) If Mauritius sails 9th or 10th will overtake convoy 200-400 miles from Freetown but will have to be relieved in about 33° N. to fuel at Gibraltar or fuel at sea. (B) Alternatively MAURITIUS sailing 5 days after convoy could overtake in lat. Cape Verde Islands and then stay to about lat. 44° N. before proceeding U.K., but this would entail remaining in the convoy by day and night to economise fuel. MAURITIUS requires boiler cleaning and time in harbour to make good accumulated defects.

Recommended alternative A be adopted, ship proceeding to Gibraltar to make good defects and boiler clean if alternative escort can be provided.

(C.in C. S.A., 1253N/8, to Admty).
Your 1253N/8. Alternative (A) Approved.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 0034/9).

COMORIN

Your 1351/7. Survivors (in GLENARTNEY) are from COMORIN who caught fire in N.W. Approaches on 7/4 and had to be sunk.

(D.O.D.(F) 1614/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

Note by W.D. COMORIN caught fire on 6/4 not 7/4.

Dakar

Asking for information about defences etc.
(War Office 1645/8 to G.O.C. W. Africa).

Shipping
Route.

Request any amendments to route given in my 1316/1 which you have made on account of U/B reported off Freetown.

(D.T.D. 1650/8, to C.in C. S.A.).

NEWCASTLE
W.S.7
NELSON

Request you will detach NEWCASTLE forthwith to proceed at best speed to St.Helena and fuel. After fuelling NEWCASTLE is to take over escort of W.S.7 as arranged by C.in C. S.A. NELSON on relief to return to Freetown. NEWCASTLE to escort Durban portion of W.S.7 to Durban and then carry out wear and waste test. (1st S.L. 1739/8, to R.A.S.A.D.).

/Convoy Escorts
/ S. of Freetown.

War Diary.

8.4.1941.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Convoy
Escorts S.
of Freetown.

In view of definite location of German Pocket Battleships in Home Waters and of battle cruisers at Brest, strength of major convoy escorts can be reduced to one cruiser South of Freetown.
(1st S.L., 1741/8 to C.in C's S.A. E.I., etc.)

CILICIA
S.L.71.

Departure 1630/8 CILICIA as ocean escort to convoy S.L.71 and thence to Freetown in accordance with C.in C. S. A. 2015/7/4.
Local A/S escort CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, CROCUS, MARGUERITE until a.m./17.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1751N/8, to Admty.).
S.L.71 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2221/8 - filed in Shipping).

DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS

Request you will arrange for DORSETSHIRE to escort ILLUSTRIOUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, to Freetown.
Decision will be made later as to whether ILLUSTRIOUS will part company in vicinity of St. Helena and proceed independently using high speed at night, to Trinidad, or continue to Freetown.
(1st S.L. 1752/8, to C.in C. S.A.).

LECH

Rio de Janeiro reports German LECH will leave Quay tomorrow 9/4 and may load additional cargo in stream.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2211Z/8, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.Proposed
Pipe Line.

In event blockage of Canal and destruction of (?Haifa) Refinery, proposed pipeline is vital to Army as transport by rail of naval fuel would throw impossible load on railways and available tank wagons. R.E. and Naval Authorities consider scheme feasible. If proposal and expenditure approved by Admiralty have offered to free 110 miles pipe and to undertake supervision of contracts. (C.in C. M.E., 0845/8, to W.O.).

War Diary.

8.4.1941.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)OLYMPUS

Proceed forthwith to patrol off Palermo.
(Capt. S.1, 1057/8, to OLYMPUS).
My 1057/8. Object of patrol destruction of
transport leaving Palermo for Sicily
Channel. (Areas dangerous to mines).
(Capt. S.1, 1237/8, to OLYMPUS).

Libya H.Q.
Moves

Operational Summary No.303 up to 1200 hours 9/4
Situation regarding communications as
follows. Communication has been maintained
between this headquarters and H.Q. R.A.F.
Cyrenaica except for break 1200 to 1615 hours
7/4. Inability of Sqdns. to report
operations due mainly to rapid and frequent
movements. Forward Ops. H.Q. still in
Tobruk area and presumed also Fighter and
A.C. Sqdns. Rear H.Q. moving to Mersa Matruh
or Maaten Bagush. 257 Wing and heavy
bombers concentrating Fuka area 9/4.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1154/8).

French
S/M's.

French Submarines SOUFFLEUR, CAIMAN, and
MARSOUIN Escorted by Sloop ELAN leave
Bizerta today for Beirut. (Route).
These submarines should not be interfered
with provided they remain on the surface and
in company with their escort.
Attention drawn to Admty. 373 A of 28/8/40
and 452 A of 8/10/40.
(C.in C. Med., 1203/8, to Med. Fleet).

Piraeus
losses and
mining, use
of alternative
anchorages.

Your 2041/7 Army and S.T.O. arranged last
night to use Volo, Khalkis, Eleusis, Dot
Scaramanga.
Mine marking organisation was far from
perfect and is doubly difficult as
Cdr. Douglas Watson's death has taken the
one officer who had made all arrangements.
They were trying flash off mines with a
loop all yesterday but without success.
Greek Captain of Port and Admiral in Charge
of area have both been relieved and a captain
put in general charge.
British ships lost are CYPRIAN PRINCE and
CLAN FRASER by direct hits and CITY OF
ROUBAIX set on fire from CLAN FRASER explosion
and subsequently blew up in the harbour.
Greek losses due to fire estimated at 60
lighters 20 caiques 2 tugs and about
8 medium to small steamships.
(N.A. Athens, 1203/8, to C.in C. Med.).

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8.4.41941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Libya
Withdrawals.

Operational Summary No.302 up to 1200 hours
8.4.41.

Our units withdrawing East of Frontier except for Fighter and Army Co-operations Squadrons at Tobruk. Arrangements being made to operate mobile advanced landing ground East of Tobruk. Units have lost some M.T. but little other technical equipment.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1213/8).

LATONA
(minelayer)

Admty. 1216/4. I should much prefer LATONA, high speed and endurance both being essential. Should like LATONA sent out as soon as possible, her working up being done out here.
(C.in C. Med., 1436/8 to Admty.).

Germans at
Salonika

Operational Summary No. 117.
German forces have entered Salonika 1600 hours G.M.T.
(H.Q. B.A.F., Greece, 1750/8).

Air raid
on Piraeus

* DAISY MOLLER
+ KATIE MOLLER

Position 8/4. D MOLLER GOALPARA Awaiting escort CLAN FRASER, Sunk in berth. CLAN CUMMING + K MOLLER and DEVIS damaged. Commerce CITY OF ROUBAIX and CYPRIAN PRINCE sunk. Three ships berths and cranes completely out of action. Offices and contents demolished. DELANE, BENRINNES, CITY OF NORWICH, CINGALESE PRINCE, expected to arrive Alexandria daylight 11/4. (Div. S.T.O. Piraeus 1821/8).

TETRARCH

Cancel my 1653/3. (Concentrate on coast between Burat and El Brega) Concentrate on area Khoms. Cape Misurath. On way to new area endeavour to transmit a brief summary of traffic encountered. (Capt. S.1, 1845/8, to TETRARCH).

Greece,
Ammunition.

Situation after loss of cargoes NORTHERN PRINCE CLAN FRASER, etc. (B.M.A., Athens 2209/8, to C.in C. M.E.).

East Indies.

SAVORGNAN DE
BRAZZA

Adm. Muselier is anxious that SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA may take part in active operations in Red Sea, or if too late, may still show the flag in Massawa Harbour.
Request you detach her from present duty of escorting FORT BINGER and send her to the Red Sea at best speed.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0015/8, to C.in C. E.I.).

/ CAPE TOWN

(torpedoed 7/4)

War Diary.8.4.1941.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)CAPETOWN
(torpedoed
7/4).

CAPETOWN was torpedoed by an E-Boat at about 2315Z/7 when off Mersa Kuba. Extent of damage not known but she was still able to make signals at 0100Z/8. KINGSTON and KIMBERLEY are proceeding to her assistance Swordfish will hunt E-Boat at dawn. (C.in C. E.I., 0226Z/8, to Admty. etc.).

My 2324/7. CAPETOWN was torpedoed starboard side in B boiler room at 2315/7 while patrolling off Kuba in 016° 10' N. 039° 16' E. Ship was steering North and one torpedo track was seen approaching ship approximately 100 yards off ship. Torpedo was running on surface and explosion was a comparatively small one. Considered that enemy was an E-Boat. No boat seen.

CAPETOWN is being towed by PARNAMATTA up Swept Channel and I propose PARNAMATTA and CAPETOWN should proceed Port Sudan where any possible repairs could be temporarily effected. At 0400Z my p.c. and s. are 016° 18' N. 039° 15' E. 004°, 4 knots approx. Sea calm. Have directed INDUS to take over duties of S.O. Force G. Details of damage and casualties. (CAPETOWN 0340Z/8, 0441Z/8, to C.in C. E.I.).

↳ Italian
Destroyers.

My 1740/7. It appears probably the sunk destroyers reported in my 1956/5 and 0730/2 are same destroyers. If so both CESARE BATTISTI and VINCENZO ^GORSINI are still unaccounted for. (C.in C. E.I., 0228Z/8, to Admty. etc.).

Massawa
Occupied.

My 0228/8. N.L.O's now in Massawa report (a) at 0614Z/8 seven enemy ships left harbour and fired on British troops advancing up coast.

(b) at 1137Z/8 Massawa was being occupied by our troops.

(c) at 1209Z/8 between 10 and 12 ships including small warship(s) had left Massawa. 12 Swordfish are operating in the vicinity of Massawa. One bombed a small destroyer in Massawa harbour at 0941Z; no direct hit. (C.in C. E.I., 1316Z/8, to Admty.).

→ Destroyer reported to be VINCENZO G. ORSINI, see 0540/9.

R.A.F. attacked enemy positions W. of Massawa on 8/4. Ships in harbour also attacked. One small ship was hit and there were several near misses. (D.S. 584/11/4).

AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH

....

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

AQUITANIA
MAURETANIA
QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH

Your 1923/4. Fuelling arrangements.
(C.in C. E.I., 0800Z/8, to D. of S.T.).

CORNWALL
W. S.6.

My 0556/2 CORNWALL is to escort W.S.6 to position H, my 1250/18/3 refers, and is then to proceed to Aden.
(C.in C. E.I., 0806Z/8, to S.N.O. Red Sea).
Admty. 2241/6. Intend CORNWALL to accompany EAGLE to Capetown, leaving Aden about 18/4.
(C.in C. E.I., 0808Z/8, to Admty.).

Red Sea,
destroyers

Admty. 2004/7. Situation in Red Sea is not yet clear and has changed slightly since above message was made. Retention of three remaining destroyers for a few days longer is necessary. My 0226/8 and 1316/8 refer. Each ship will be released to Mediterranean at very earliest possible moment.
(C.in C. E.I., 1500Z/8, to Admty.).

Massawa
Occupied.

N.O.I.C. Massawa reports Massawa occupied 1300Z/8. Harbour blocked. Extensive demolition. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/8, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

U.S. Coastguard
Cutters.

Crews to be formed from Ratings now in MALAYA and RESOLUTION as arranged by C.O., MALAYA. N.A. Washington, is requested to arrange suitable help with taking over machinery as our ratings have no experience with turbo electric drive.
(D.P.S. 1131/8 to N.A. Washington, MALAYA, RESOLUTION).

Suspicious
Tanker.

British KHETI reports sighting half loaded tanker 054° 35' N. 035° 10' W. at 1400Z/27/3. (Details). Altered course on being sighted from 090° to 270° and increased from slow speed to 15 knots. Unknown vessel made no Q Q Q Q Message and gave impression of waiting rendezvous. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1142/8, to Admty.)

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8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CANTON

Request earliest indication of refitting port for CANTON.
(D.O.D.(F) 1210/8 to B.A.R.M.).

MARAJO
boarding
incident.

N.A. Rio's 1711/7. Request immediate report. (Hd. of M. 1441/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).
Your 1711/7. Immediate investigation ordered. In view of possible repercussions on visits of H.M. Ships to Brazilian Ports, request you take early opportunity of expressing to Brazilian authorities our concern at such an incident having occurred.
So far as is known, no notification was made of MARAJO's visit to Port of Spain. (Head of M. 1610/8 to N.A., Rio).
Your 1441/8. Following is summary of Governor of Trinidad's telegram to British Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro, MARAJO failed to comply with normal procedure for naval vessels of requesting pratique by W/T on approach. Civilian Officer of Harbour Master's Staff (not Naval) boarded vessel on arrival at night and unfortunately proceeded to seal wireless as a normal procedure for merchant ships. No protest made here except Brazilian Consul enquired from local government whether this was general measure of precaution and was told yes, it not being appreciated Consul was referring to MARAJO. Most grateful for conveying suitable expression of regret.
No delay occurred in despatch of cable in English but reply in Portuguese temporarily withheld for normal investigation by censor and released through Brazilian Consul when censor satisfied that it was a Government telegram. (Ends).
MARAJO expected here shortly and I will (?group omitted) suitable apology.
MARAJO frequently calls here.
(Capt. i/c Trinidad, 1815/8, to Admty.).

PRINCE ROBERT

Your 0035Z/6. C.in C. A.W.I. 0952/27/2. Regret PRINCE ROBERT's E.T.A. Suva cannot be advanced from May 3rd. She will then be available to escort AWATEA to Vancouver. Future disposition of PRINCE ROBERT is being reconsidered and she may not be available for further convoys from Southern Waters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516/8, to N.Z.N.B.).

War Diary.

8.4.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

R.C.N.
Corvettes.

Your 1630/4.R.C.N.crews will remain with the ten corvettes now in U.K. but it would be appreciated if the vessels were loaned to R.C.N. for the duration of the war or such time as they continue to be manned by Canadian personnel. Conditions of agreement to be similar to those embodied in C.A.F.O. 307/41. All cost of upkeep and maintenance to be chargeable to Canadian Govt. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1616/8 to Admty.).

Spanish
MARQUIS DE
COMILLAS

Do instructions in your 2210/6 over-ride those in your 2315/15/12 regarding non intervention in American neutral zone? (C.in C. A.W.I., 1632/8, to Admty.).
Reply: No. (D.N.I.. 1842/9).

SURCOUF

After consultation with Admiral Musellier it has been decided that SURCOUF should return to U.K. forthwith and prepare for special service abroad. SURCOUF is to part company from convoy forthwith and proceed (route).(F.O.S. 2154/8, to SURCOUF).

Convoy escorts:
re Command

Your 1817/3. Captain of A.M.C. who is senior to Captain of capital ship cannot be ordered to place himself under command of his junior officer but you should request Captains of A.M.C's concerned to make this voluntary surrender of command. Alternatively it will be necessary to relieve them by less senior officers. (1st S.L. 222/9 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

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8.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.ESKDENEBritish 3829 tons. Following has been read.
SSSS 34.43 N., 24.21 W. ESKDENE torpedoed
0548/8.(Gibraltar W/T, 0618/8, F.O.C.N.A. 0934/8
to PANDORA).

Now taking to boats.

(Gibraltar W/T, T.O.R. 0652/8).

UMONA
(torpedoed
30/3)FOXHOUND reports picking up three survivors
from UMONA in 07 25' N. 13 55' W. who state
ship sank 2000/6. *See p. 233*

(C.in C. S.A., 1007/8, to Admty.)

My 1007/8. Survivors now indicate ship
torpedoed by U-boat 30/3.

(C.in C. S.A., 1641N/8, to Admty.).

UMONA, British, 3767 tons, bound from
Durban for Freetown and London with general
cargo, had sailed from Walvis Bay on 20/3
(D.S. 582).Search for
ship's boats
reported 6/4.

Have been searching the area since 1500/7.

Nothing sighted, weather report.

(VERITY, 0700/8, to C.in C. W.A.).

WORCESTERSHIRE
(torpedoed 3/4)Arrived WORCESTERSHIRE escorted by HURRICANE.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1755/8).VOLENDAM
(torpedoed
30/8/1940).Dutch S.S. VOLENDAM, now beached 1 mile east
of Helensburgh, is required to proceed to
Mersey for repair, and the following
arrangements have been made.Necessary protection from air attack requested.
(D.S.T., app. D.O.D.(H), 1841/8, to C.in C.W.A.)JHELUM
(torpedoed
21/3)Survivors landed near Dakar 6/4 state JHELUM
(British 4038 tons) torpedoed 2000/21 about
300 miles N.W. Cape Verde Island after convoy
(S.L.68) had scattered. (Names). 2 Indians
died in boat. 2 boats with rest of crew
missing. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2041N/8, to Admty.)
(D.S., 583, 10/4)./ LINCOLN ELLSWORTH
(torpedoed 6/4)
BEAVERDALE
(torpedoed 1/4)
BRITISH RELIANCE
(torpedoed 3/4)

War Diary.8.4.1941.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

LINCOLN ELLSWORTH
(torpedoed 6/4)
BEAVERDALE
(torpedoed 1/4)
BRITISH
RELIANCE
(torpedoed 3/4)

LINCOLN ELLSWORTH torpedoed and sunk 062° 37' N. 027° 06' W. 1200/6. Total crew of 29. SOUTHERN WAVE has picked up 16 and DERBYSHIRE 13. BEAVERDALE reported lost 060° 33' N. 029° 16' W. 1/4. Total crew of 79. SOUTHERN WAVE has picked up 26, Icelandic trawler GULLTOPPER picked up 32. Boat, probably with remainder, sighted from the air yesterday but search to-day so far unsuccessful.
BRITISH RELIANCE torpedoed and sunk 058° 25' N. 028° 21' W. Crew of 51 picked up by TENESSEE. All survivors at Reykjavik will be sent to U.K. in return journey D.S.One. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2230/8).

S.C.26.

Report of attacks, 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4, and subsequent destruction of U.76 (Capt. D. Liverpool, 2330/8 to Admty.). See Lion copy.

Submarines Reported.

0648.

Admty. Message A.F. Position 34° 43' N. 23° 21' W. at 0548/8 G.M.T.
(Admty., 0846/8, to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

0908.

German 0908 B.S.T. U Boat in area 6 miles radius from 038° N. 014° 30' W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1212/8, to REGISTAN).

Submarines Attacked.U.76.

Sunk 6/4 by ARBUTUS and SCARBOROUGH.
(Capt. D., Liverpool, 2330/8 amended 1640/9)
see Ships Attacked - S.C. 26, Lion Copy.

By LINCOLN

Attacked possible contact in 053° 09' N. 020° (?03') W. Remaining in area and joining FURIOUS at 1100/9.
(LINCOLN, 2359/8, to Admty.).

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2330/ 8th April

IN.

From Capt. D.Liverpool.

Date 9.4.41.

Recd. 0025.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty, D.A/S.W. Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches.

IMPORTANT.

Preliminary report of attacks on S C 26 and subsequent destruction of U.76 compiled from reports of Commodore (MAGICLIN) VETERAN and WOLVERINE.)

C. 26
Attacked
- 4/4
U.76.

2235/2. No escorts in company. No. 52 torpedoed. Altered course 50° ~~degs~~ to Port for 1/2 hour.

0040/3 No. 11 torpedoed. Altered course 80° ~~degs~~ to starboard for 1 hour.

0300 torpedo from starboard hit No. 41. Two more starboard ships hit and convoy scattered.

Tanker hit and illuminated area then several more ships hit, including WORCESTERSHIRE. Midnight 2/3 VETERAN heard of attacks and 9th Group sent to rescue by C. in C.

0645/3 VETERAN hearing convoy had scattered proceeded with WOLVERINE to arrest dispersion. This considered imperative.

Commodore and seven collected at 1600 and search continued for remainder.

Made 50° ~~degs~~ alteration after dark with clearing sweep astern.

0242/4 HARBLEDOWN (II) hit by two torpedoes. No signals made by convoy. WOLVERINE on port quarter turned out and later fired illuminating rockets.

VETERAN did not hear or see explosion but saw one rocket followed five minutes later by orange firework. Proceeded to rear of convoy and found HARBLEDOWN stopped. Carried out fruitless search then picked up survivors.

1800/5 VETERAN received S.O.S. from ATHENIC. Being ignorant of position SCARBOROUGH and ARBUTUS detached 48 hours previously by C. in C. VETERAN detached WOLVERINE who arrived in position at 2215 and carried out A/S and survivors search throughout night, firing signal rockets to attract attention.

Sighted SCARBOROUGH and ARBUTUS at dawn and organised search.

0737 WOLVERINE gained contact. Carried out two single charge attacks. ARBUTUS gained and lost contact. SCARBOROUGH approached, gained contact, told to attack. SCARBOROUGH dropped pattern of 10. U.76 surfaced 0922 and abandoned ship. ARBUTUS boarded and endeavoured to tow. Conning tower ~~locked~~ and U-Boat sank in 1/2 hour.

~~Prisoners~~

Capt (D) Liverpool, 2330/8, to Admiralty

Not locked but entry ~~undisturbed~~
by chlorine (see 1640/9)

Prisoners talkative. Strongly recommend
interrogation postponed until receipt of report.

2330/8.

(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.
Trade. D.A/S.W)

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

268

9.4.41.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy
battle-
cruisers.

At 1830 today both battle cruisers were still at Brest, one in dry dock and one alongside the T.B. Station.

Iceland.

In view of the increased use of Iceland in connection with the defence of trade in the N.W. Approaches it is under consideration to include Iceland in the Western Approaches Command.

Flurry
off
Brest.

At 0830 a large ship, whether warship or merchant ship was uncertain, escorted by 3 destroyers was seen leaving the Goulet de Brest on a westerly course. Torpedo bombers were sent to attack; DUNEDIN, who left Plymouth at 2110/8 for Gibraltar was informed; and Capt. D.5 (KELLY); KIPLING, KELVIN, JACKAL and JERSEY sailed from Plymouth, at *1225, KASHMIR being ordered to join them off the Eddystone, to intercept and attack the enemy off the Casquets. Eventually, the force was ascertained to be a 3000 ton merchant ship with 3 escort vessels. For various reasons, the Beauforts did not attack until 1804; the result was not seen. Search by 5th D.F. was without result, and it is considered the enemy vessels probably took shelter in the Channel Is.

* 1150 - 340 p. 199.

M.T.B.
Operation.

The M.T.B's were sent last night to investigate an R.D.F. plot in mid-Channel.

S.L.
Convoys.

It is desired to increase the speed of S.L. convoys, and a report has been asked for from Freetown of how many ships would have been excluded from S.L.66 to 70 if only ships of 9 knots and above had been sailed.

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Further
heavy raid
on Kiel.

139 aircraft of Bomber Command last night dropped 136 tons of H.E. and 34.6 tons of incendiary bombs on Kiel. Results are reported by H.Q.B.C. as "devastating". 5 Aircraft attacked Rotterdam Petroleum Harbour last night and 21 attacked the docks at Bremerhaven.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attacks in
the North.

GLEANER, ALYNBANK and Convoy ^{"U-boat"} were attacked about 2120 off Noss Head and one ship was hit.

Examination vessel CRAIGBO was slightly damaged by machine gunning off Aberdeen at 2130 today. H.M.T. INVERTAY was slightly damaged by machine gunning at 2144 in 57° 15' N. 1° 55' W.

Convoy E.C.4 was attacked this evening off Duncansby Head and S.S. BRITISH WORKMAN and PANDORIAN were hit but proceeded to Kirkwall under their own power. A local patrol vessel was unsuccessfully attacked at 2137 near Copinsay.

H.M. (Barrage balloon) Trawlers ANNABELLE and CLOUGHSTONE were attacked at 2300 off Rattray Head and both were slightly damaged. Trawler STRATHGYLE, rescuing survivors of trawler SYLVIA (vide postea) was bombed 2215 today in 58° 26' N. 2° 58' W. but was unhit.

Attacks in
the west.

S.S. KYLEGORM was attacked and hit at 0958 off St. Anne's Head, but proceeded into port. AVON VALE (destroyer) and A/S Trawler KINGSTON BERYL shot down the enemy plane.

/ S.S. DENNIS ROSE

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

S.S. DENNIS ROSE was attacked at 0945 off the South Bishop and had one casualty but no damage. A fighter shot down her attacker.

Tanker BUESTEN was damaged and abandoned, collier DUDLEY ROSE was abandoned and is believed sunk, and S.S. BJORNVIK reached Dartmouth damaged by aerial torpedo and with an U.X.B. on board (which subsequently exploded) as result of air attacks off Berry Head, Devon, this evening on Dartmouth to Needles Convoy.

Attacks
off
East
Coast.

M/S Group was attacked off Lowestoft at 0307 and M/S Trawler BEN GAIRN was damaged. P.M.S. PRINCESS ELIZABETH reports that she damaged an enemy plane which may have come down in the sea.

S.S. CORMARSH in F.N⁴51 was damaged by air attack at 0150 off Cromer but was able to proceed.

S.S. CHAUCER anchored at Humber L.V. awaiting. F.N⁴51 was bombed and damaged.

SOUTHDOWN and convoy F.S⁴57 were unsuccessfully bombed at 1035 off Orfordness and again at 1515 when tanker BRITISH STATESMAN was damaged.

A/S Trawler SAPPHIRE entered the Humber at 1405 with her gun damaged by a near miss.

VERSATILE and Convoy F.N⁴51 were attacked this evening off the Tees and S.S. ABERHILL was damaged.

Attacks on
Naval Bases.

Harwich was attacked again at 0150; examination steamer D'ARCY COOPER was sunk, believed with all hands, and P.M/S MARMION was badly damaged and set on fire and it is doubtful if she can be kept afloat. War Depot Launch FALCON (Air Rescue Boat) was sunk.

/ Ipswich was attacked

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Ipswich was attacked from 2300 to 2359 today and slight naval damage was caused and some civil damage at the timber stacks.

Tug KROOMAN was damaged by near miss during attack on Great Yarmouth last night.

Sporadic bombing of Portsmouth from 2207/8 to 0220/9 caused some damage to the dockyard (where the generating station received a direct hit) and to Naval Establishments.

Extensive damage was caused in the town by bombs dropped in Ramsgate this evening.

Attacks
7/4.

It is reported that trawler ELLESMERE was attacked at 2105/7 off Coningberg Light Ship and suffered superficial damage. Grimsby trawler SYLVIA was sunk at 1000/7 in approx. 61° 20' N. 5° 51' W.

Mining.

The Air Ministry reports that enemy aircraft laid mines today off East Anglia, Spurn Head to Farne Is., Montrose to Kinnairds Head, Duncansby Head and Scapa Flow.

C.in C. Portsmouth considers that the value of the results of minelaying by 20th D.F. (uncertain whether minelaying off Brest or French Channel ports is intended) is unlikely to be commensurate with those to be expected from employing these modern destroyers under C.in C. W.A.

/ S.S. LUNULA

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

S.S. LUNULA (oil tanker) was mined and sunk at 1650 whilst going alongside jetty at Thames Haven. The jetty was set on fire. Tug PERSIA was damaged whilst assisting LUNULA.

Aberdeen was closed at 0056. The Clyde is open by day only.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool. L.L. Trawler VARANGA was damaged at 1800 by the simultaneous detonation of two mines.

North Atlantic.

S.S. DUFFIELD (Tanker) torpedoed at 1730 G.M.T. in 31° 13' N. 23° 24' W. (450 miles S.S.E. of Azores). *See Page 264*

South Atlantic.

Raider.

An incomplete signal from an unknown ship reporting that she was being attacked by a warship was read at Freetown at 0705N/9 and may have referred to a position about 00.30 N., 20.00 W., near which there have been indications of enemy surface units.

Patrols.

Owing to the demands for escort of individual ships no ships have been available for some time, for organised patrol to intercept raiders supply ships, enemy and Vichy French merchant ships, except in the South American Division.

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9.4. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Piraeus
again
mined.

There was a further mining raid on Piraeus this evening. Twelve mines are reported and the reporting organisation is working well, though owing to lack of gear it is practically impossible to clear the harbour. C.in C. Med. is sending two minesweepers tomorrow. Convoy A.G.11 is being diverted to other, small, ports.

S/M's

UPHOLDER is to operate towards 37.05 N., 11.13 E., a focal point approached by convoys from Trapani and Naples. URSULA is operating in about 36.10 N., 11.00 E., and UNIQUE in about 34.35 N., 11.00 E.

Enemy
Convoy.

4 enemy M.V's escorted by 3 destroyers were reported to have passed Kelibia Roads light at 0900 G.M.T./9 southwards.

East Indies.

Red Sea.

U.S. Legation at Cairo state that when they are satisfied no Italian warships remain in the Red Sea U.S. Govt. may proclaim that American ships may use the Red Sea.

Italian
survivors.

900 naval survivors of sunk Italian warships are now reported at Jedda.

Raider-borne
aircraft.

Intelligence from German prisoners ex KETTY BROVIG and COBURG discloses that raider planes have a "trailing hook" device for use in a low dive over victims as soon as they are sighted to foul and carry away aeri-als.

/ PARAMATTA
/ YARRA

....

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

PARRAMATTA
YARRA

When naval commitments in the Red Sea are liquidated shortly, Admty. have proposed to Commonwealth Naval Board that the sloops PARRAMATTA and YARRA should reinforce A/A escorts in the Eastern Mediterranean owing to the growing air threat there.

America and West Indies.

PORPOISE

S/M PORPOISE, which has been employed on escort duties with Halifax convoys since November, is to sail for U.K. to refit on completion of her next escort duty.

Australia.

U.S.10.

Convoy U.S.10 will be escorted from Sydney to Fremantle by AUSTRALIA and SYDNEY, and from Fremantle to Colombo by AUSTRALIA.

MOST SECRET.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Faeroes

Re suitable sites for aerodromes. Suggest matter should be taken up with Air Ministry as an urgent requirement. (A.C.O.S. 1109 /9 to Admty).

Faeroes
Fish Craft,
Armament.

N.O.I/C Faeroes 1010/2. Recommend in lieu that defensive equipment be fitted in Faeroes fish craft as in Icelandic vessels vide your 1912/5. (A.C.O.S. 1201/9 to Admty).

Irish Escort
force. JACOB VAN
HEEMSKERK
A

To proceed to Belfast to be operated with Irish Sea Escort Force. Belfast will be regarded as her base. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK (C. in C. W.A. 1616/9 to HEEMSKERK).

A/A Escort
ocean and
Irish Sea
Convoys.

I consider reasonable minimum A/A escort is one A/A sloop., Wair, or Hunt per convoy. Total numbers of A/A escorts required is 17, distributed as follows. Present force comprises 12 A/A escorts. Additional requirements are 5 A/A Sloops Wairs, or Hunts,. (C. in C. W.A. 1711/9 to Admty).

Irish Sea
Air Escorts.

Consider that F.O.I.C. Milford Haven should be empowered to make direct application for fighter protection to H.Q.C.C. repeated Fighter Group concerned as is already done by the F.O.'s i/c Liverpool and Greenock. (C. in C. W.A. 1847/9 to H.Q.F.C.)

A.M.C's in
Denmark
Strait.

C.S.'s 1056Z/8. As A.M.C's are employed in Denmark Strait as a matter of routine their movements should normally be controlled by F.O.C.N.P. C.S.1 or any other force that may be operating in Denmark Strait, should do so in support of F.O.C.N.P.'s dispositions, which should only be altered in agreement with F.O.C.N.P. or in event of a special situation arising necessitating S.O. vicinity taking command of all units. (V.C.N.S. 1643/9 to C.S.1)

Western Patrol areas.....

MOST SECRET.9.4.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy. (contd).Western Patrol Areas.

To be increased by addition to the southward of V 1 and V 2, of new area W of similar depth and extending to Spanish territorial waters. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1704/9, to F.A.C.N.P. F.O.C.N.A.) (F.O.C.N.P. 2346/9 to Western Patrol)

Catapults in M.V's

Although agreed that Air Ministry will provide air and maintenance crews for Merchant Ships fitted with catapults, in view of temporary withdrawal of PEGASUS, first ship to be so equipped will be treated as a trial and will be manned for the first voyage by Naval Flying personnel. One pilot and maintenance crew of 804 Sqd. to be selected and given necessary instruction on Hurricane aircraft. (Approx date of embarkation). (D.N.A.D. 1912/9 to R.A.N.A.S.)

20th D.F. suggested change in nature of employment.

My 1513/8. Though I have no knowledge of results of minelaying by 20th D.F. seems that value of these results is unlikely to be commensurate with those that might be expected from employing these modern destr yers under C. in C. W.A. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2223/9 to Admty for 1st S.I.)

Iceland and W. App. Command, aircraft group.

Under consideration to include Iceland in W. Approaches Command. Proposed dividing line between W.A. and Orkneys & Shetlands Commands is to be from Cape Wrath to N.E. limit of Iceland, thence to coast of Greenland in 30° W. Request your opinion regarding inclusion of Iceland in No. 15 Group which is mainly concerned with the defence of trade, or in No. 18 Group which provides reconnaissance for Home Fleet and also operates in defence of trade. Possible best arrangement would be for aircraft of Iceland to be organised as a separate Group. (V.C.N.S. 2244/9 to C. in C. Coastal Cmd.)

MOST SECRET.9.4.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the United Kingdom.Loch Foyle.

Obstructions are being laid in entrance to Loch Foyle (position). Request all ships may be warned and instructed to pass Northward of obstructions. (GUARDIAN 1131/9 to Admty).

A/A defence
of
Faeroes

Your 1921/12/12/40 to C. in C. H.F.. Request further consideration may be given to A/A Defence of the Faeroes. Consider that at least four light A/A guns should be installed for defence of Thorshavn and shipping in the harbour. (A.C.O.S. 1533/9 to Admty).

VICTORIOUS

Your 1752/8. Approved. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1727/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Movements.

BRIGHTON
LANCASTER
ST. MARY'S

Admty 1809/8. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER to be detached off May Island and proceed Scapa Flow for fuel provision and water arriving before dark 10/4. BRIGHTON and LANCASTER are to R/V with ST. MARY'S in position 000° Butt of Lewis 15 miles at 1800/1land proceed Reykjavik for homeward escort of S.D.1 E.T.A. A.M./13th. (R.A.M.L. 1114/9). *See also next page*

MANCHESTER.

Unless further defects occur intend to sail MANCHESTER for Rosyth passing Tyne Pierhead 1145/10. E.T.A. May Island 1630, request fighter protection MANCHESTER proposes to carry out tilt test 11/4 necessary due to alteration in ships structure. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1452/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

SURCOUF

F.O.(S) 2154/8 (see America and W. Indies) From 056° 00' N. 035° 00' W., (route to Devonport). (C. in C. W.A. 1543/9 to SURCOUF.)

..... cont. -

MOST SECRET.9.4.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.SURCOUF.
(contd).

Amend my 1543/9 to read after "Devonport" escort to R/V 270° Barra Head 10 miles. Indicate E.T.A. at R/V.
(C. in C. W.A. 1843/9 to SURCOUF.)

CACHALOT

Required to arrive Devonport about 25/4 to embark stores referred to in my 1902/7.
(F.O.S. 1558/9 to S.3).

AGAMEMNON.
S.D.1

To proceed to Scapa and await A/A escort to Rosyth. My 1809/8. Two destroyers only are required for escort of D.S. 1 (? S.D. 1 intended). C. in C. Rosyth and A.C.O.S. requested to arrange onward passage of AGAMEMNON when A/A escort is available and R.A.(M) to detail one destroyer to assist with escort.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1658/9 to R.A. (M) AGAMEMNON).

Admty 1658/9 LANCASTER is to proceed Reykjavik a.m./10 for homeward escort of S.D.1 BRIGHTON is to wait Scapa and comply with para 3. My 1114/9 H.M.S. ST. MARY'S will arrive Reykjavik a.m./13 (R.A.M.L. 2058/9 to BRIGHTON, LANCASTER.)

*See previous page.*Operations.M.L. Patrol

Weather permitting one unit of Motor Launches is to carry out a Patrol tonight Thursday, for ten miles 010° from 55 Buoy, commencing at dusk returning to Harbour at daylight.
(C. in C. Nore 0041/9)

Sheringham
A.P.

No A.P. Vessel at Sheringham Buoy tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1029/9 to ships on E. Coast Convoy duties etc.)

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War Diary.9.4.1941.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations Contd.Intercep-
tion of M.V.
and 3 escort-
ing vessels.

Sailed 1130 KELLY, KIPLING, KELV [REDACTED] ACKAL, JERSEY. (C. in C. Plymouth 1225 [REDACTED])
 One merchant vessel 9000 tonw with three escorts in $048^{\circ} 32' N.$, $005^{\circ} 01' W.$, course probable 080° at 1112. Torpedo bombers being sent to attack. Remain in vicinity of Eddystone exercising as required.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1247/9 to Capt. (D)5).
 Raise steam. When ready proceed to join Capt. D.5 off Eddystone.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1249/9 to KASHMIR.).
 My 1247/9. A/C reports position of enemy M/V at 1423 $48^{\circ} 55' N.$, $04^{\circ} 02' W.$, and at 1505 in $48^{\circ} 50' N.$, $03^{\circ} 56' W.$
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1623/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth.).
 My 1247. M/V and escort in $48^{\circ} 55' N.$, $04^{\circ} 02' W.$, at 1423 estimated speed 15 knots. Torpedo bombers are proceeding to attack.
 Proceed to intercept and attack off Casquets. Fighter escort arranged Code Word "~~WARRIOR~~"
 Frequency 385 K/CS. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1641/9, to D.5.).
 My 1247. From reliable report escort consists of three destroyers.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1807/9 to D.5.).
 My 1641. M/V now reported 3,000 tons. Escort definitely not destroyers.
 Torpedo bombers attacked in approx. $49^{\circ} 25' N.$, $03^{\circ} 00' W.$, at 1804. Result un known.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 2007/9 to D.5). If no contact by 0300/10 return to Plymouth to arrive by 0700/10 reporting p.c.s. at 0530/10. (C. in C. Plymouth 2305/9 to D.5.).
 Your 1744/8, A.M. 1608/8 and 1119/7.
 Expected ARGUS will arrive Clyde 0800/11. Approved to load at Tail O' the Bank. Loading should if possible be completed in 4 days since ARGUS is required to sail on 15/4.
 (V.C.N.S.1304/9 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.).

ARGUS.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (contd).

Brightlingsea.

My 1003/9. Patrols have taken up alternative patrols. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 2130/9 to C. in C. Nore, etc).

TIGRIS
off
Brest.

Do not wish you to stick too rigidly to your position. Your job is to intercept the battle cruisers if after leaving Brest they make for St. Nazaire or Bordeaux. (F.O.S. 2329/9 to TIGRIS).

British Air Activity.

T.B.R.

Request T.B.R. between long. 05 and 07 W and North of 049° 15'. N between 0600 and 1300/9. (C. in C. Plymouth 0119/9)

Patrols.

Following patrols are being flown today both p.m. ~~SA 3~~ SA 3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0934/9) "Bart" Add to my 0934/9 patrol ~~BART~~ now in operation. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1504/9).

Blenheims fired
on by destroyer
2/4

Following received from Air Ministry:- "Request you report on following incident Seven Blenheim aircraft report being fired on by British Destroyer when 14 miles east of Southwold at 1158/2 Aircraft were flying at heights between 50 and 200 feet. All aircraft flashed the letter of the period and fired correct recognition signal but fire was continued". (D.T.S.D. 1403/9 to C. in C. Nore).

Bombing restrictions
in Channel.

My 1641. Request bombing restriction in English Channel between long. Eddystone and Cherbourg from 1730/9 until further notice. (C. in C. Plymouth 1653/9).

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Attacks on
Kiel.

Night 8/9 April. 159 Aircraft set out for Kiel to add to the destructions of the previous night and 139 succeeded in doing so. 136 tons of H.E. and 34.6 tons of incendiaries were dropped with devastating results. Details.

Petroleum
Harbour
Rotterdam.

5 Wellingtons of 1 Group detailed for the Petroleum Harbour at Rotterdam completed their task, bursts being seen and fires started.

Docks at
Bremerhaven.
Minor Attacks.

20 Blenheims attacked the Docks at Bremerhaven where extensive damage was done. One Blenheim attacked the Docks at Emden other targets attacked were a ship 20 miles North of Borkum. One Whitley attacked the docks at Bremerhaven and another dropped his load at Rendsburg. 9 Hampdens successfully laid mines, one also bombed the docks at Calais. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1655/9.).

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CORMARSH
(F.N.451)

My 0150 not to N.O.i/c Humber S.S. CORMARSH proceeding, badly holed engine room just above waterline. Still requires tug. P.c. and s. 53° 1' N. 1° 47'E. 288° 7 knots. (VERSATILE 0235/9).
Humber 9/4 Departure Tug PRIZEMAN at 0700 to assist S.S. CORMARSH. (F.O. Humber 0735/9).
S.S. CORMARSH 2848 tons in F.N.451 was attacked at 0150/9 near 56A buoy. E.T.A. Humber about 1430. Reported no casualties. (C. in C. Nore 0929/9).
Tug PRIZEMAN with S.S. CORMARSH in tow arrived 1310. (F.O. Humber 1319/9).
My 1319. CORMARSH proceeding independently, tug PRIZEMAN in attendance. (F.O. Humber 1354/9).

S.S. CHAUCER.

S.S. CHAUCER anchored Humber L.V. awaiting F.N.451 reports bomb damage to engine. Vessel in no immediate danger. Tug will be sent at daylight. (F.O. Humber 0250/9).
Tug SCOTSMAN with s.s. CHAUCER in tow arrived 1340. (F.O. Humber 1407/9).

Attack on
Portsmouth.

Sporadic bombing from 2207 to 0220 H.E. bomb fell in or near dockyard power station interrupting electric supply and causing casualties. Small fires in VERNON and DOLEPHIN. Casualties in VERNON. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0400/9).
Generating Station received a direct hit by H.E. Bomb. Time required for repairs is not expected to be less than two months. All Yard supplies at present are being taken from Grid and D.C. supplies are unaffected. (A.S. Portsmouth 1210/9).

Attack on
Yarmouth
KROOMAN
damaged.

Tug KROOMAN damaged by near miss during bombing attack on Great Yarmouth night 8/9th April. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0409/9, 1016/9).

/Attack.....

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Attack on
Harwich
D'ARCY
COOPER
sunk.
MARMION
damaged.

At 0100 one or possibly two large calibre bombs hit D'ARCY COOPER examination steamer and H.M. P M/S MARMION berthed at Harwich pier. D'ARCY COOPER sank immediately believed with all hands. MARMION badly damaged and set on fire. 16 casualties at least two serious. Fire extinguished but ship making water and it is doubtful if she can be kept afloat. Re further bombs 0215 - 0305. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0420/9, 1030/9).

Convoy F.S.

Help Convoy ^{"Booty"} ~~BOOTY~~. 1 enemy aircraft my position 51° 59' N. 1° 44' E. course 214° speed 8 knots. (SOUTHDOWN 1034/9). Enemy bombing convoy ~~BOOTY~~ my position 52° 5' N. 1° 49' E. (VALOROUS 1035/9). My 1035 Me. 110 no hits. (VALOROUS 1038/9) My 1034. 2 bombs dropped. No damage. (SOUTHDOWN 1044/9). Fighters are being sent to Convoy ^{"Booty"} ~~BOOTY~~ (C. in C. Nore 1045/9).

S.S. KYLEGORM when 4 miles 245° from St, Anns Head at 0958 was attacked by one enemy aircraft. Destroyer AVON VALE and A/S Trawler KINGSTON BERYL brought plane down by shell fire. Two prisoners picked up. KYLEGORM hit aft and proceeding into port. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1135/9)

Convoy E.N.

Fighters are being sent to Convoy ^{"USAGE"} ~~USAGE~~. (Lyness 1123/9).

BEN GAIRN
damaged.

N.O.I.C. Lowestoft reports:- M/S Group attacked by A/C at 0307/9 off Lowestoft. BEN GAIRN damaged by near miss entered Harbour for repairs estimated completion 16/4 1029/9 ends. 1131/9.

/ELLESMERE.....

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

ELLESMERE
(attacked 7/4)

Trawler ELLESMERE when one mile N.W. of Coningberg Light Ship at 2105/7 was attacked by planes dropping two bombs which exploded on starboard side and also a torpedo like object moving very fast and downwards moving parallel to ship. Superficial damage no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1302/9).

SAPPHIRE
damaged.

H.M.T. SAPPHIRE arrived Humber 12 pr. training gear out of action due to near miss. (VERSATILE 1352/9, F.O. Humber 1435/9).

Convoy F.S.

^{Booby}
~~BOOBY~~ bombed B.5. buoy no damage fighters present. (SOUTHDOWN 1515/9).

Raid on
Belfast.

Air Raid Belfast 0015/8 to 0400/8 by approx 10 enemy aircraft. About 15 H.E and 5 parachute mines and a number of incendiaries dropped. Military and Civilian casualties. Damage to aircraft body shop of Harland and Wolff's etc. Enemy aircraft destroyed 1. (Britni London No. T.O.O. Rec. 1545/9).

SYLVIA
sunk.

My 1815/7. Aberdeen trawler STRATHGYLE A 367 recovered at 1200/8 in 61° 52' N. 06° 10' W. survivors of Grimsby trawler SYLVIA G Y 1112 bombed and sunk by German aircraft 1000/7 in approx. 61° 20' N. 05° 51' W. Casualties. German plane believed J U 89 K. STELLA PEGASI'S search unsuccessful but little doubt this trawler is that reported by Faeroes whaler. 2125/8 ends. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1656/9).

Own fighters
fired on.

Convoy is reported to be firing at friendly fighter. (C. in C. Nore 1759/9 to SOUTHDOWN, VALOROUS).

/DENNIS.....

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9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd)

DENNIS ROSE.

DENNIS ROSE was attacked with bomb and m.g. fire by Heinkel at 0945/9 2.1/2 miles W.S. of S. Bishop, Opened fire. Thinks scored some hits. Plane crashed when attacked by Hurricane about 100 yards ahead of DENNIS ROSE. Army Gunner wounded. Otherwise no casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1834/9, N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1835/9).

KYLEGORM.

Attacked 0958/9 four miles 245° St. Anns Head with bomb and machine gun fire by Heinkel which crashed. KYLEGORM hit but safe. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1836/9).

Convoy
"Usage".

Help Convoy ^{"Usage"} ~~USAGE~~ my position 58° 28' N. 2° 39' W. (ALYNBANK 2116/9).
Help convoy "Usage" my position 58° 26' N 2° 40' W. Course 326° Speed 9 knots. Gleaner 2110/9).
My 2120 3 bombs 1 hit ship still under way. (GLEANER 2130/9).

Convoy W.N.

Help Convoy ^{"Material"} ~~MATERIAL~~ my position CPMB 0101. (HASTINGS 2159/9)

S.S. ABERHILL.

Bombed steering gear out of action, several casualties. Position 54° 37' N. 0° 23' W. (VERSATILE 2205/9).
S/S ABERHILL proceeding to Hartlepool with hand steering. Motor minesweeper M 3 standing by. Have taken off two seriously injured. (VERSATILE 2320/9).

PRINCESS
ELIZABETH
plane
damaged.

P.M/S PRINCESS ELIZABETH on A/A patrol at Rough Buoy last night 8/9 reports that at 0310 1 Enemy plane was turned as result of fire from ship, lost height apparently out of control and made off S.E. with a red glow and smoke coming from it. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2228/9).

Convoy
E.C.4.

E.C.4. attacked by 1 or 2 aircraft. 2 ships names unknown hit and proceeding Kirkwall under own power. (PIROUETTE 2245/9).

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

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Aberdeen
closed.

Port of Aberdeen closed owing to suspected mine laying by enemy aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0056/9).

Clyde
open.

River Clyde above great harbour Greenock open to traffic between sweeping operations.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0911/9).
River Clyde is closed to navigation from sunset tonight and will reopen to traffic up and down River as from 0930/10 until sunset.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1616/9).

Tyne.

2 Ground Magnetic mines detonated simultaneously at 0840/9 027° Tyne North Tyne Pier Light 8 cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 0935/9).

Off Needles.

1 German mine type X Star swept and sunk 8/4 in 165° Needles Light 9 miles. Mine exploded on hitting sea bottom.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1004/9).

Liverpool

Mine report to 1800/8. One detonated by LL Trawler AGNES WICKFIELD 288° Bar L.V. 3.6 miles. Two detonated by LL Trawler EBOR WYKE between Q4 Black and Q2 Red Buoys.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1004/9).

Operation
G.W.

Adty. 1403/20/3 and 2208/13/3. Operation G.W. should be carried out as soon as weather conditions are suitable. (V.C.N.S.1340/9).

Operation
S.N.9.

Cancel my 2211/4 and 2021/8.
(R.A. (M) 1443/9).

FIR
(mined 4/4)

Arrived 1530 in tow of RECOVERY. (Salvage V.(R.F.A.))
(C.in C. Plymouth 1551/9, 2228/9).

Thames Estuary.

Two mines detonated by S.A. Gear as follows:-
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1622/9).

Belfast.

250 kg. U.X.B. reported in Belfast harbour area. (Belfast 1635/9).

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)

Bristol Channel. Amend Adty. message 819A to read "Ships entering or leaving Bristol Channel should not exceed a speed of 9 knots when eastward of 4° 30' W. and a steady speed, etc." (D.T.D. 1705/9).

Operation B.S.54. A.C.N.S.(H) 1742/9 See Operations Volume.

AHAMO
(mined 8/4)
Milford Haven
Approx. position of wreck 53° 22' 50" N.
01° 00' 00" E.
(C.in C. Nore 1801/9).
Mines detonated 1628/9, 1656/9 off St. Ann's Head. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1802/9).

Harwich
Mine detonated by LL trawler in 51° 53' 43.9 N.
01° 6.5' E. at 1230.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1822/9, 2200/9).

Liverpool,
VARANGA
damaged.
Mine report to 1800/9 2 detonated simultaneously 4 yards astern of S.A. Trawler VARANGA in 098° Bar L.V. 3 cables. Ship severely damaged internally but hull intact. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1828/9).

Thames Haven,
S.S. LUNULA
sunk.
S.S. LUNULA oil tanker (6363 tons) with 8,000 tons of spirit on board apparently struck a mine whilst going alongside No.3 jetty Thames Haven at 1650 Ship sank immediately Ship and jetty still burning. Nine fire floats and 24 engines in attendance casualties not yet known fire on water not spreading.
(F.O.I.C. London 1922/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

Large m.v.
escorted by
3 destroyers.
A large ship possibly warship escorted by 3 destroyers sighted Goulet de Brest steering 290° speed unknown.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1039/9 to DUNEDIN).
Aircraft reports a very large vessel escorted by 3 destroyers leaving Goulet de Brest at 0830. It is not confirmed that this is a Man of War. (D.D.I.C. 1044/9).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Large m.v.
escorted by
3 destroyers
(contd.)

My 1039. Further aircraft report one large enemy unit escorted by three smaller units considered naval in 048° 17' N. 004° 55' W. course 305° at 0830/9.

(C.in C. Plymouth 1053/9 to DUNEDIN).

My 1044/9.

Position at 0830 now reported as 48° 17' N. 04° 55' W. Co. Westerly.

(D.D.I.C. 1135/9).

My 1135/9. Course approx. 305°.

(D.D.I.C. 1247/9).

A.M. 1044/9 and 1135/9. Subsequent R/C shows this to be 1 M/V and 3 escorting vessels last reported in PSMQ 3259 at 1114/9th. Course 080°.

(D.D.I.C. 1316/9).

Re British
cruisers west
of Faeroes.

Captain of Swedish MARGARET JOHNSON questioned by Germans at Christiansand on 6/4 informs me he was very hard pressed for intelligence of British Cruisers west of Faeroes Islands A 2.

(N.A. Stockholm 1237/9).

TARONGA

Following from Navy Dept.

From Stockholm 4/4. Armed raider TARONGA with upper works considerably altered, was in Oslo 2/4. (N.A. Washington, 1240/9).

My 2130/8.

Brunsbüttel 8/4 further examination shows reported SCHLESIIEN class battleship was probably coast defence vessel NIELS JUEL.

Wilhelmshaven 8/4 1 SCHLESIIEN class battleship in dock. (D.D.I.C. 1652/9).

Enemy
battlecruisers.

My 2243/9. Photographic R/C of Brest at 1830/9 shows both battlecruisers still present 1 in dry dock and 1 alongside T/B Station. (D.D.I.C. 2326/9).

Technical.

Attack on
~~YORK~~
YORK at
Suda Bay.

Reference A message 896A. Further description. Best defence is extreme vigilance and maximum number of patrols and lookouts should be organised when conditions for attack are suitable. Small boats armed with light automatics or rifles should prove effective to supplement larger patrol craft. Machine gun posts should also be organised to supplement guns covering ends of booms and narrow entrances. Precautions previously ordered against human torpedoes remain in force. (V.C.N.S. 1332/9.).

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Fishing
Boats to be
Reported.

Admty., message "E.W", S.O.(I)'s should forward reports of fishing boats sighted within 300 miles of any of the Eastern Atlantic Islands by signal to D.N.I., the detailed statement being sent by letter. (D.T.D. 1146/9, to S.O.I's Gib., Freetown, Capetown, Kingston.).

Speed of
S.L.Convoys.

Desired to investigate possibility of increasing speed of S.L. Convoys. Report how many ships would have been excluded from SL.66 to 70 inclusive if only ships capable of 9 knots and above in their existing condition had been sailed. (D.T.D. 1651/9 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.).

North
Bound
Convoys.

My 1028/15/3. In view of frequency of enemy mining off Humber and Tyne, ships sailing thence for Northern and West Coast Ports should be sailed in the first available north bound convoy, and should this be F.N. they should subsequently be sailed from Methil to join the next E.C. convoy. (D.T.D., 2026/9 to N.C.S.O.'s Tyne & Humber.).

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Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NIAGARA.

NIAGARA arrived with defect requiring at least 12 hours. (NIAGARA 0330/9, F.O.I.C., Iceland 2016/9.).

COMORIN.

Arrived BROKE with 180 survivors from COMORIN including C.O. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/9.).
Captain of COMORIN reports that at about 1500/7, a fire started in boiler room probably due to a split in oil fuel pipe. Though everything possible was done fire got out of control and the ship was burnt out. Rescue of crew difficult owing to heavy sea but Captain considers not more than 30 lost. Action of BROKE in going alongside repeatedly to take off crew is highly praised. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1442/9).

BROADWATER.

Arrived with condenser defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1010/9.).

Bales of cork reported by CRANFORD

Master of U.S. Ship CRANFORD reports between 38° 38' N., 18° 52' W., and 38° 59' N., 18° 10' W., from noon to 1600/6, his ship passed through numerous bales of cork which had not apparently been in the water for long. No signs of other wreckage. He considers that quantity of cork was too much for deck cargo. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1232/9.).

→ S.S. EDITH.

Sail AMSTERDAM to assist S.S. EDITH at anchor in 017° Point Lynas 8 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1715/9.).

EMILE FRANQUI.
(grounded 3/4.)

Details of grounding and towing. Taken in tow 5/4 April by H.M. Tug CHAMPION with assistance from personnel from GLEANER. Ship now in Leith Roads. (C. in C. Rosyth 1731/9.).

EDITOR
→ ? S.S. EDITH.

AMSTERDAM proceeding Point Lynas to assist EDITOR to Liverpool. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 2000/9.).

War Diary

9.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General- Raiders

Situation

D.D.I.C. 1922/9. See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic

Enemy Unit

At 0110 D/F bearing of unknown German unit was 266° First Class. (F.O.C.N.A. 0121/9 to N.A. Station)

U/Boat

D/f Bearings at 0110 indicate German U-Boat within approximately 40 miles of 034° 30' N., 021° 00' W., (F.O.C.N.A., 0822/9 to N.A. Station)

Routeing of S/Ms.

Following arrangements have been approved by C. in C., Med. F.O.C.N.A. to be responsible for routeing of S/Ms between Gibraltar and 009° E. CORMORANT to be responsible for passing information to S/Ms within above limit. C. in C., Med. 2000/3 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1138/9 to Admty.)

MALVERNIAN CAMITO

A.M. 2247/3. Unless V.A.N.P. disagrees intend sailing MALVERNIAN and CAMITO on 10th/4 to patrol K.1 and M.2 areas respectively to comply with A.M. 2244/3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/9 to Admty.) Concur. (F.O.C.N.P. 1715/9)

Italian Unit

At 2014/9. G.M.T. Italian mobile unit bearing 285 class 2. (F.O.C.N.A. 2144/9 to N.A. Station)

ATLAS (German)

Arrived 8/4 and left same day (Valencia T.H.I. 2230/9)

SECRET

1922/9 April.

OUT.

M E S S A G E

- TO. C. in C. Home Fleet. 977.
- P.O.C. North Atlantic. 347.
- C. in C. South Atlantic. 401.
- H.O.I/C. Simonstown. 552.
- R.A.S. D. 991.
- C. in C. America & West Indies. 86.
- Australian Commonwealth Naval Board. 30.
- C. in C. China. 691.
- H.S.H.C. Ottawa. 660.
- C. in C. East Indies. 715.
- New Zealand Naval Board. 91.
- H.A. Washington.

Date. 9.4.41.

291A

Naval Cypher 'C' &
Interdepartmental Cypher. (10).

Raider Situation.

From. Admiralty.

N I T E

My 1814/4.

North Atlantic.

1080

D/F indicated a unit in area ~~400~~ miles W. of Freetown and another 420 miles E by S from Bermuda on April 6th. Identities not known.

Germans claim raider which sank S.S. B IRELAND also sank H.M.S. VOLTAIRE. No confirmation but VOLTAIRE now overdue at Freetown.

TELEPHONT appears to be overdue from U.K. to Buenos Aires and AGNITA from Freetown to Curacao. Possibly attacked by unit which was W. of Freetown on April 6th.

South Atlantic.

No information.

Indian Ocean.

Considerable W/T activity 3/4 to 7/4 possibly due to Raider arranging R/V with supply ship. A second unit may be operating, but D/F's were too vague to confirm this.

Pacific Ocean.

No information.

1922/9, ~~amended~~ 1030/11

D.D.I.C. (Green Line 8).
(Approved A.C.H.S. (F).)

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.H.S.
- A.C.H.S. (H).
- A.C.H.S. (F).
- A.C.H.S. (T).
- Naval Secy.
- C. O. to 1st S.L.
- C.P.S. (4).
- O.D. (5).
- D.H.I. (4).
- D.T.D. (M).

- O.I.C. (2).
- D. OF P. (3).
- D.S.D. 9.
- I.P. (3).
- D.A/S.E.
- D.T.D. (4).
- W.D.
- D.F.D.
- D.S.D.
- M. (2).

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

RIO GRANDE
(German)

Left Rio Grande Do Sul on 31/10, reported in German press 20/2 to have arrived at Hamburg with a cargo of grain (D.S. 582, 9/4)

S.L. 71.
MAURITIUS

Your 1253N/8 alternative (a) approved. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0034/9 to C. in C., S.A.)

HERMES
(German)

Loaded German cargo steamer arrived this morning, details later. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 0946/9 to Admty.) My 0946 Steamer's name HERMES of (4,416) 7209 gross tons stated to have left Bordeaux 29 days ago. Will telegraph former name when this can be ascertained. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1432/9)

CLAN OGILVY
(torpedoed 21/3)

Following survivors of CLAN OGILVY arrived here 0130 this morning 6 and 15 Lascars. Englishmen are weak request instructions. (Vice Consul, Bissao, 1044/9 to D.N.I.)

K.G. MELDAHL
Escort.

Your 2015/7. Escort is not available. N.C.S.O. Takoradi to arrange in-shore route. (C. in C., S.A. 1219N/9 to Admty.) Your 2015/7 and other signals. Requirements for escort of individual ships are arising more frequently and if met will tend to absorb all forces not employed as convoy escort which might be available for operations against raiders, supply ships, German and Italian Merchant ships and Vichy French merchant ships. No ships have been available for any organised patrol with these objects for some time, except in the S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A., 1351/9 to Admty.)

UMONA
(Sunk 30/3)

Cancel my 1009/4. UMONA sunk by S/M about 30/3 off Freetown. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1244/9 to Admty.)

/PORTADOC.....

War Diary

9.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

PORTADOC
(Sunk 7/4)

Cancel my 1247/7. PORTADOC sunk by submarine off Freetown 7/4. (S.O.I. Freetown 1246/9 to Admty.)

CHARLES L.D.

Ref. Chesor, Mauritius T/0161 of 31/3 re CHARLES L.D.'s route from Dakar. Does your information obtained from other French ships held in Union ports show route of CHARLES L.D. to be that followed by all?
Important to obtain routes from any French ships intercepted report to Admty. and C in C., affected.
(D.D.I.C., 1434/9 to S.O.I. Capetown)

BRITANNIA
(Attacked by raider 25/3)
W/T jamming.

5 HOUR 30
MONTE NARANCO.

Master (Lieut. Cdr. U.S. Navy Reserve) of U.S. Ship LONE STAR reports intercepting at 0942 G.M.T./25/3 in 006° 22' N., 026° 22' W., BRITANNIA's distress message. 3 Spanish vessels GUIPUZCOA ALDECOA ARNO-MENDI, immediately started W/T conversation lasting 2 hours, this jammed any further signal BRITANNIA made and was obviously deliberate.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1450B/9 to Admty.)

BRITANNIA
Survivors in
CABO VILLANO

Spanish CABO VILLANO possibly calling at Santos 11/4 or 12/4 has 24 survivors of SS BRITANNIA possibly including naval ratings. To avoid internment in Argentine would you be able to intercept and remove? (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1610/9 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 1610/9. (corrupt group) received telegram from Captain VILLANO following is substance:- Inform Brazilian Govt. and Brit. Consular Off. have on board 24 survivors CLAN OGILVY and BENWYVIS picked up (corrupt group) degrees N. Request instructions from agents Chadwick and Kaye regarding survivors. (N.A. Buenos Aires 2310/9 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BRITANNIA
Survivors in
RARANGA

SS RARANGA put into Montevideo 9/4 with 57 survivors from BRITANNIA, sunk by enemy merchant raider a.m./25 in a

/Position....

War Diary

9.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

BRITANNIA
Survivors in
RARANGA-Contd.

Position estimated to be 8° N., 25° W. Arrangements being made here to land survivors, names only of whom are given in my immediately following telegram in P.L. to Admty. only under categories (a) officers on passage and civilian Passengers (b) naval ratings (c) crew of BRITANNIA. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1654/9 to Admty.) Lists (1656/9)

St. Vincent
(C. Verde)

My 1401/9. Information given at Freetown by a member of Shell Oil Company's Staff recently arrived from St. Vincent indicates that the British there have no plan for concerted action in event of German Coup and have no arms. (S.O.I) Freetown. 1951/9)

My 1654/9/4 raider appeared to be like one of newer HANSA line boats. (FELS boats) and was about 5000 tons. (Details) Broadside four guns estimated at 4.7 inch. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2016/9)

CATHAY
DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS

Admty. 1752/8 and your 1114/7. CATHAY is required at Freetown and should be sailed as soon as convenient. Request you will arrange for DORSETSHIRE to escort ILLUSTRIOUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN and MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (C. in C., S.A. 1701 N/9 to F.O.I.C., Simonstown)

Raider
Report

Following message read at Freetown 0705N/9 (begins) RR RR O 34 North²(ends) Signal ceased abruptly. This may have referred to position about 000° 30' N., 020° 00' W near which there have been other indications of enemy surface units. (C. in C., S.A. 1815/9 to S.A. Station)

Enemy Units

D/F Bearings at 2057Z/6 indicated surface unit within 200 miles of 007° 30' N., 032° W., reliable 75% and at 2116Z/6 possibly same unit slightly further north. D/F Bearings at 0252Z/2 indicated a different unit within 60 miles of 020° N., 028° W., and at 2307Z/7 surface unit 218° from Freetown reliable 55%. (C. in C., S.A. 2021/9 to S.A. Station)

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War Diary

9.4.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

LORENZ L.M. RUSS

Italian, expected at Trieste to dock on 17/4. Has been lying up in a Northern Adriatic port. (D.S. 582, 9/4)

Enemy Intelligence

Your 1845/8. Three small merchant ships. Three A/S trawlers. Numerous lorry convoys leaving Burat eastwards. (TETRARCH, 0001/9, to Capt. S.1.)

Minesweeping Greece.

You 1141/7. Recommended that one LL Corvette be sent to Piraeus. 27 Kango hammers should have reached Alexandria. Recommended that one conical S.A. box be sent to Piraeus. (D.M.S. 0015/9 to C. in C., Med. Appvd.1.S.L.) Your 0015/9. Regret Cdr. Douglas-Watson killed in bombing raid on Piraeus. HYACINTH is now at Piraeus. SALVIA and South African vessel MUROTO for Piraeus 10th. Capt. Shaw and one officer with Kango Hammer flying Piraeus 9th. Two above dispositions made a expense of minesweeping forces available Alexandria Canal zone, Gulf of Sollum Mersa Tobruk and Haifa. No equipment for 109 Minesweeping Group yet received. First reinforcement to Mediterranean minesweeping forces is therefore equipment in NIZAM and NAPIER. Request early action may be taken on my 1141/7. (C. in C., Med. 0939/9 to Admty.) Reply 1906/10.

See also next page -

UPHOLDER

Proceed to operate in area L 037° 00' N 011° 00' E., - 000° - 40 - 30. Follow convoy route thro' Q B B 86 as follows 090° Kelibia light 3 miles 05° to focal point 037° 05' N., 011° 13' E., which is approached by convoys from Trapani on course 230° and from Naples on course 212°. Information received Troop Convoy leaving Palermo shortly for Tripoli. URSULA is operating in area H. 036° 10' N., 011° 00' E., - 000° - 40' - 40. UNIQUE is operating in area K 034° 35' N., 011° 00' E., - 000° - 50 - 50. (Cdr. S. 1. 0937/9 to UPHOLDER)

/Suez....

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean Contd.

Suez
Canal
Mining.

Your 1847/5. In raid 11/3 organization for spotting mines proved satisfactory. 8 mines reported dropped. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0951/9, to Admty.). Text in Lion Copy.

Piraeus
Minesweeping
A.G.11.
diverted.

My 1203/8. Minesweeping continuing but without result. HYACINTH cannot sweep and we have no real acoustic sweeping gear. Urgent need to clear harbour of wrecks, first being tug VIKING alongside quay. Could an experienced salvage officer and plant be sent to take charge of whole? Once mines are clear we can probably use 6 good berths at least. Convoy A.G.11 is being diverted to Volo, Eleusis, Khalkis, Styliis. 2 ships will be at Khalkis which has no A/A guns but there is no better arrangement that can be made. (N.A. Athens, 1031/9, to C. in C. Med.). [Reply: p. 327] Further mining raid just delivered. Twelve mines neighbourhood Psittalia Keratsinivro. Reporting organisation working well. No casualties so far. (N.A. Athens, 2216/9, to C. in C. Med.). One mine destroyed by counter mining off coal wharf which has been cleared of ships. Continuing counter mining. With ships using Volo and Chalkis presume mining may be expected but there is no minesweeping gear either place. One skid is ready here except we have not the 4,000 yards cable required. Request 1600 yards be sent here for above places and Patras. Also could Kango hammers or other Accoustic sweep be supplied? We are using Magnetic spar sweep but bottom is very foul. Request depth in which Magnetic V can be used. Request a minesweeping officer be sent. Can I expect a sloop with double L sweep shortly as blowing up of CLAN FRASER has put HYACINTH'S sweep out of action. One mine at Cephalonia fell on shore. (N.A. Athens, 2228/9, to C. in C. Med.).

See previous page.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.MESSAGE.

0951/9 April.

From S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area.

IN.
Date 12.4.41.

Recd. 1218.

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Mediterranean.

AIDAC.*
667. Your 1847/5.

(ii) In raid March 11th organization for spotting mines proved satisfactory in sections where warning was received before attack took place. Lack of warning in South-east sector resulted in inaccurate reports and consequent delay. Warning system has been improved but will not be efficient until reliable instruments are available.

(iii) 8 Mines reported dropped. Of these 3 exploded on landing. One was detonated by LL sweep on same day. One detonated by S.A. on 15th. (a) Both of these explosions were almost exactly at marked position. 2nd. Mine had been dived for but could not be located owing to muddy bottom. After further interrogation of witness 2 were considered to be false reports. (b) Remaining mine was dived for and attempt made to detonate it by LL sweep and S A for 16 days it was then considered to be non operative. In this sector pot holes and strong tides render search difficult.

(iv) With regard to previous raids one mine exploded in 5 fathoms while being towed in a trawl towards shallow waters. One D M type fell on canal bank and was rendered safe and one C M fell in 6 feet of water where a temporary dry dock was built around it enabling this mine to be recovered.

0951/9.

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

* Most Secret.

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.T.D.(2)
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
N.I.D.10.(Pay. Cdr. Wilson.)
D.T.M.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Enemy
Convoy.

Secret source reports 4 enemy M.V's escorted by 3 destroyers passed Kelibia Roads light at 0900 G.M.T./9, steering southwards speed 8 knots. 3 of these vessels estimated 7,000 tons each. Weather foggy. (S.O.I. Malta, 1525/9, to Admty.).

German
in Italian
Fleet.

Your 1711/6. (N.T. in W.D.). Report originated from Athens but has been denied by British Naval Attache. No German prisoners were taken. Prisoners examined have denied there were any Germans in Italian Fleet except 5 stated to be on board Italian Salvage Ship TESEO. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1621/9, to Admty.).

Casablanca
Stores,
Shortage.

Following from Navy Dept., From Casablanca 20/3. Reliable source. Adm. D'Harcourt states there is a shortage of all naval supplies. Units in Casablanca have munitions enough for combat but no reserves. (N.A. Washington, 1627/9, to Admty.).

MOOR
mined,
enemy
Convoy.

Combined services report Malta up to 1600 hours 9/4. All times G.M.T. 8/4 Mooring Vessel MOOR blown up by enemy mine near entrance to Grand Harbour at 1500 hours. 28 out of 29 on board killed. 9/4. At 1413 1 M/V 8 to 10,000 tons 3 M/V's 6,000 tons course 270° speed 5 knots position 8 miles due North Lampione Islands. (H.Q.R.A.F., Med., 1700/9.).

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S.A. and
Red Sea.

Tel. No. 4, 8/4 U.S. Legation anxious to learn whether any Italian warships remain in Red Sea. When satisfied that there are none left U.S. Govt. may proclaim that American ships may use Red Sea and are relying on Legation here for information. Please telegraph position urgently. (Ambassador, Cairo, T.H.I. 0115/9 to C.in C E.I).

Massawa.
VINCENZO G.
ORSINI
bombed 8/4.
E-Boats
bombed.

My 1316/8. The ship bombed at 0941Z/8 is reported to be Italian Destroyer VINCENZO G. ORSINI. One very near miss. Two E boats were bombed at 1550Z/8 by Swordfish in Nocra Channel Dahlak (resulting target straddled but no results observed. The ships referred to in my 1316/8 para (1) were reported by Swordfish to be Harbour Launch Tugs and small craft generally, no warships were seen to leave. Search continues. British Minister Jemma reports there are now 900 Italian Naval survivors at Jemma. Endeavour is being made to find out exactly what ships they came from. (C. in C. E.I. 0540Z/9 to Admty). *(Detail, p. 330)*

Raider
Planes.

Following additional information obtained from interrogation of German prisoners ex KETTY BROVIG and COBURG: "Raider planes have a "trailing hook" device which is immediately used in a low dive over sighted victims with intention fouling and carrying away gauge aerals". (C. in C. E.I. 1242Z/9 to A.C.N.B., etc).

SAVORGAN
DE BRAZZA.

Admty 0015/8. Take action as you think best. (C. in C. E.I. 1832Z/9 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

War Diary.

9;4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

ASAKA.

Your 1829/20 Special Service Ship ASAKA by D/F in position 039° S. 050° E. at 1613Z/8 (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0251Z/9).

German
M.V. 'S.

Owing to shortage of shipping in Japan, Mitsubishi, Tokyo, endeavouring to negotiate with Hamburg Amerika Line for purchase of their ships in Japan. (List) (D.S. 582, 9/4).

ELBE
(German).

Yokohama ELBE move to Outer Harbour 2/4 where bulky object and cases were loaded, departed 8/4. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0319Z/9).

DURBAN.

Singapore departure 9/4 DURBAN for operations (S.O.I. Singapore, 1127Z/9 to Admty etc).

Indo-China
Trade.

Your 0843/24 and 1047/25. Your statement that agreement precludes interception within limits of British China Station of French ships bound for Madagascar or France is not understood. We could in no circumstances countenance any rubber exports to France and you should so inform Admiral Decoux. (V.C.N.S. 2230/9 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

U.S. Coastguard
Cutters.

Re supply of officers. (N.A. to 2 S.L. 0046/9 to N.A. Washington etc).

MALAYA.

Your UKARM 53. Secretary Knox would prefer news of arrival of MALAYA not to be published in British press. (B.A.R.M. 0119/9 to Admty).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Convoy
T.C.10.
RODNEY.

BATORY and GEORGIC will be sailed from Halifax 10/4 R.A. 3rd B.S. is requested to route convoy to pass through position "A" in 62° 20'N. 30° 00'W. Ocean escort RODNEY. (D.O.D.(H) 1013/9 to R.A.3 B.S. C. in C. W.A.)

Re diverting
KAIA KNUDSEN.

Your 1834/31 not to CHITRAL. Your 1601/22 received here as N.R. 112 G.A. at 0154/24/3. CHITRAL reports this signal not received. Request time of despatch on B.N. routine observing that CHITRAL had evidently set watch in accordance with your 1838/26/2 para (b) at this time. (F.O.3 B.S. 1038/9).

ATLAS
(German)
TALIAN

See pages 488+489, 10450

My 1501/2. ATLAS refloated discharging cargo. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1041/9 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

DURAZZO
(German).

My 0958/2 Crew of DURAZZO removed from ship but at liberty. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1042/9 to Admty etc).

Dutch
KATWIJK.

My 1424/7 (overdue) Ship arrived 7/4. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1057/9 to Admty etc).

AGNITA

British Ship AGNITA due Caripito 1/4 from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1059/9 to Admty etc).

CARADOC.
PRINCE DAVID.

Leave Bermuda A.M./11 and proceed at 15 knots to Trinidad passing through 020° N. 060° W. thence along Meridian of 060° W. You should complete with fuel on arrival at Trinidad A.M./15 and leave P.M. to relieve PRINCE DAVID on patrol. Object of patrol as in part 2 of my 1122/7 to PRINCE DAVID Leave patrol so as to arrive Trinidad 23/4 unless otherwise ordered.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1141/9 to CARADOC).

/TARONGA.....

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

TARONGA.

Following from Navy Dept. From Stockholm 4/4. Armed raider TARONGA with upper works considerably altered, was in Oslo 2/4. (N.A. Washington 1240/9 to Admty).

Enemy Shipping
Seized U.S.A.
MONGIOIA
CONTE BIANCAMANO
(Italian).

My 1201 of 5/4 (N.T. in W.D). Information contained therein officially confirmed, except following MONGIOIA serious damage CLARA boiler damage. Following information forwarded from navy department.
Balboa: CONTE BIANCAMANO seized with slight damage.
Following Danish vessels seized:- ~~NORFOLK~~
FRODE, E.M. DALGAS. Norfolk (Va.)
Gray's Harbour: NORDVEST.
Jackdonville: CAROLINE MAERSK.
Los Angeles: NORDPOL, NORDHVAL.
New York: AUSTRALIAN REEFER, BROHOLM
GEORGIA, GERTRUD, HANS EGEDA, JONNA, LUNDBY, MARNA. (N.A. Washington 1501/9 to Admty).

S.C. 28.

Halifax departure CHITRAL ocean escort S.C. 28. (S.O.I. Halifax 1550/9).

PORPOISE.

S.2's 0957/4. Request you sail PORPOISE for U.K. for refit on completion of her next escort duty. C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange onward routeing and escort of PORPOISE to Clyde. (A.C.N.S.(H). 1739/9 to R.A.3).

U.S. Forces.

War Cabinet direction that details regarding U.S. Forces to be moved to U.K. to be settled by you with U.S. Authorities. (1st S.L.1811/9 1812/9 to C. in C. A.W.I) See Operations Volume.

American
Neutral
Zone.

Your 1632/8. No. (D.N.I. 1842/9 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/MAROJO.....

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

MAROJA
boarding
incident.

My 1610/8 and N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1815/8. If not already done you should express regrets to Brazilian C.N.S. explain how mistake occurred and emphasize necessity for prior notification of visits by naval vessels to British ports. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2200/9 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro).

CANTON.
refit.

Your 1210/8 re CANTON, indication unofficially is Private Yard at New York. (B.A.R.M. Washington 2330/9).

Australia.

U.S.10.

In view of Admy. 0139/8 (N.T. in W.R) it is intended escort for U.S.10 should now be Sydney to Fremantle, AUSTRALIA and SYDNEY; Fremantle to Colombo, AUSTRALIA. (A.C.N.B. 0105Z/9 to N.Z.N.B. C. in C. E.I etc.).

PARRAMATTA.
YARRA.

Anticipated that Naval commitments in Red Sea due to Italian Forces will shortly cease and the redistribution of PARRAMATTA and YARRA has been under consideration. Desired they should reinforce A.A. escorts in East Mediterranean on account of the growing air threat there. Your remarks would be appreciated. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1603/9 to A.C.N.B)

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WUNREOD.
ESKADENE
(B.R. 133) p. 50)

Portuguese Navy reports steamer WUNREOD ~~ESKADENE~~ torpedoesd 34⁴³ N. 24.21 W. 0900/8. Destroyer TEJO left. Ponta Delgada 1100/8 search for survivors. (N.A. Lisbon 1547/9 to Admty).

See 8/4 - P. 266 -

DUFFIELD.

(British tanker, 8516 tons) SSSS From unknown ship 31. 13N. 23. 24W. DUFFIELD torpedoesd. (Gibraltar, 1730/9 G.M.T) (F.O.C.N.A. 1925/9 to N.A. Stn). DUFFIELD was bound independently from Curacao for Gibraltar. (D.S. 583). Following has been read from DUFFIELD. S.S.DUFFIELD Nr. 1 W. 4 9 1800 Gibraltar steaming south, master. (Gibraltar W/T, No. T.O.O/9).

Submarines Reported.

My 0203/9 and 0358/9. Estimated position of German U Boat within 40 miles of 34° 30' N. 21° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0624/9, F.O.C.N.A. 0822/9 to N.A. Stn).

Important. Your 1911/8 (U Boat in vicinity of Huelva) have patrolled off Huelva during night. Request instructions. (LOCH OSKAIG, 0730/9 to F.O.C.N.A).

1032.

Following has been read. SSSS 53. 38 N. 37. 22 W. NERISSA Submarine on surface. (Liverpool W/T 1032/9) (NOTE by Operations:- This may be SURCOUF) (W.D. Note:- This was SURCOUF see F.O.3 B.S., 1501/14).

0710

S/M reported in 060° 35' N. 001° 54' W. at 0710/9 course S.S.W. (A.C.O.S. 1120/9).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1354/9) (F.O.S. 1516/9 to S/M's Area A).

War Diary.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By STELLA
POLARIS.

STELLA POLARIS, ST. LOMAN, W.N. 11 position 058° 44' 30" N. 004° 26' 30" W at 0200 picked submarine contact ahead convoy bearing 126° extent 010° outside recording range. 0206 dropped pattern of 5 charges on bearing 091° target moving first right then left. Mark on Hydrophone defined. Strong smell of petrol. Contact lost after attack. Am searching four miles astern convoy then rejoining.
(ST. LOMAN, 0230/9 to A.C.O.S).

By WOLVERINE
8/5.

Their Lordships consider your attack on s/m on 8/3/1941 probably achieved the destruction of a German U-Boat. Congratulate you, Officers and Ship's Company on skill and perseverance with which both the 20-mile chase and the subsequent attack was carried out. Possible that the U-Boat was U-47 commanded by Prien. (1st S.L. 1334/9 to WOLVERINE).

U. 76.
sunk.

My 2330/8. Information from ARBUTUS indicates Conning Tower hatch was not locked. Entry handicapped by Chlorine. (Capt. D. Liverpool 1640/9 to Admty).

305

10.4.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Biscay Patrol

At 1620 today both enemy battle cruisers were in dry dock at Brest.

The submarines on patrol were withdrawn from the Biscay area after dark today. TORBAY and TAKU are proceeding to Gibraltar, the remainder to U.K.

KING GEORGE V arrived at Scapa at 1811/10 with 2 destroyers.

Operation
P Y A

4 M.L.'s sailed this evening from Yarmouth to operate against minelaying E-Boats.

The Coastal Force Flotillas in the Nore Command are being redispensed in the light of recent events.

Greenland

It is stated that an agreement was concluded today between the U.S.A. and the King of Denmark, for the establishment of U.S. naval, military and air bases in Greenland.

War Diary

10.4.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

306

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Bomber Command today attacked shipping off the French Coast.

Beauforts of Coastal Command last night attacked 5 merchant ships 40 miles S.W. of Lodburg and believe they torpedoed one ship.

Blenheims bombed and hit an 8000 ton merchant ship off Havre today.

Attacks were made last night on Bremer Vulkan Naval Shipyards at Vegesack and Emden and other targets.

War Diary

10.4.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

307

Enemy Air Activity

Swedish SS VENEZUELA reported being bombed by F.W. Condor in 62° N., 2° 30'W at 0837 G.M.T. The ship was clearly displaying Swedish colours and mistaking of identity was impossible. Seven 500 lb. bombs were dropped, one hit but failed to explode.

SS BROOMLANDS was unsuccessfully bombed at 1500 today in 56° 59' N., 2° 4' W., and had slight damage from m.g. fire.

Damage was caused at shipyards and establishments in the Newcastle area.

A few bombs were dropped in the Frater Depot and Dockyard storage area at 0015 causing some damage. There was further bombing at and near Portsmouth tonight, but no serious incidents or damage.

Lowestoft was bombed intermittently for some hours last night. There were several Naval casualties but no Naval damage is reported.

Damage was caused this evening by bombs dropped at Parkeston Quay.

3 motor fire floats were sunk in
-Ipswich Dock.

War Diary

10.4.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

308

Mining

Several mines were detonated off Liverpool today. Dutch coaster VIRGO was damaged but was got into harbour.

The Clyde will be open from 0930 to 2000 tomorrow.

Mediterranean

Submarine reinforcements

PANDORA (escorting CAIRNDALE) is to be withdrawn to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet and there will be no submarine at "Pedastal". CAIRNDALE is to return to Gibraltar. UNION, URGE, TORBAY and TAKU are also being sent to the Mediterranean.

Ports west of Tobruk are now in enemy hands. All Naval personnel have been withdrawn from these ports. Sollum, Bada and Mersa Matruh have been opened as feeder ports, the main supply port for the Army in Libya being Tobruk.

E-Boats at Marseilles.

It is reported that E-Boats have passed Lyons by river for the Mediterranean, disguised as life boats with the crews in plain clothes.
23 E-Boats are reported to have arrived at Marseilles via Rhone on 7/4.

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10.4.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Situation
at Basra.

EMERALD has been ordered to proceed to Basra and expects to arrive early on 12/4.

Iraqi reinforcements have arrived at Basra to resist a landing. A British force is being despatched from India.

Italian destroyers. The British Minister at Jeddah reports that CESARE BATTISTI is said to be ashore north of Lith. This is one of the two Italian destroyers in the Red Sea, which are not accounted for. The other
VINCENTO V.G. ORSINI was in Massawa a.m./8, when Swordfish bombed her unsuccessfully.

CAPETOWN

CAPETOWN (Torpedoed 7/4) arrived at Port Sudan today in tow of PARAMATTA.

America & West Indies

SS SALEIER was torpedoed at 1715 in 58° 4' N., 30° 48' W. U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK (on passage to Iceland) picked up all survivors.

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

310

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GLIMMAREN.

Swedish ship GLIMMAREN due to leave Gothenburg at noon/11 for South American port routed as follows.

2. Ship should not be molested, but should be stopped and examined in Skopenfjord.
(D.C.D.(H) 1155/10).

Stornoway.

Your 1155/6 and your 1411/6. Request information what extra commitment, apart from issue of Fresh provisions, will be incurred by probable basing 1st M/S Flotilla and 6th M/S Flotilla at Stornoway.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1238/10).

Reporting
of fishing
Craft.

My 1650/5. ^{N.T. & K.D.} Our own weather reporting ships ARAKAKA and TORONTO CITY of over 2000 tons operate alternately in following area.
(D.D.I.C. 1239/10).

Nore Command
Coastal
Force
Flotillas.

Disposition of Coastal Force Flotillas in the Nore Command has been reconsidered in the light of recent events.

2. The following allocation is proposed:-
(C.in C. Nore, 1750/10).

Submarine
Dispositions.

Request you will arrange for UNION, URGE, TORBAY, TAKU and PANDORA to reinforce Mediterranean as soon as possible.

2. The three Dutch submarines will remain on Gibraltar convoy duty.

3. It is accepted that ^{"Pedestal"} ~~PEDESTAL~~ oiler will be without a submarine escort.

4. Submarines in the Bay of Biscay should now be withdrawn.
(1st S.L. 1927/10 to F.O.S.)

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

311

Movements.

UNION.
URGE.

UNION and URGE are to be prepared to sail for the Mediterranean on 13th and 14th April, respectively. (F.O.S. 1651/10).

Operations.

East Coast
Patrol.

Tonight following auxiliary patrol positions will not be filled. A. Sheringham Buoy. B. five Buoy to Hearty Knoll. (C.in C. Nore, 1015/10).

Biscay
Patrol.

Your 0041/6. My intended dispositions were to have been passed in the following message.

2. It was not found possible to pass this message on special wave or through Aden and I did not wish to reveal my position to enemy particularly as it might encourage him to break out to North westward before our forces were in position.

3. I considered it most desirable to be close enough to enemy base:-

(a) To intercept enemy with adequate daylight remaining.

(b) To take advantage of any success achieved by our submarines or aircraft.

4. At same time, I wish to be reasonably clear of enemy air reconnaissance having regard to likely scale over so large an area. (C.in C. H.F. 1355/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.) 312

Biscay Patrol
cont:-

(a) Submarines are to leave patrol after dark 10/4 and proceed as indicated in Capt: (S) 5 0140/5 all dates four days later. (b) TORBAY and TAKU proceed Gibraltar with despatch. Routes. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (c) TIGRIS and TUNA proceed Holy Loch. Routes. Thence as ordered by Capt: (S) 3. (F.O.S. 1911/10).

My 1926/8. All submarines are leaving patrol after dark today. TORBAY and TAKU are proceeding to Gibraltar remainder to U.K.

(F.O.S. 1913/10).
F.O.S.(1911/10) Proceed through position No.62 thence as previously ordered by my 0140/5.

(Capt: S.5. 2128/10).
Following received from S.O.Force H. begins. Admiralty 701 from S.O.Force H. Subject to no further development request HOOD move into vicinity 120° 50 miles and QUEEN ELIZABETH into 110° 150 miles each morning until 1100 from position given in para. 3 of your 1859/8.

2. Force H. air reconnaissance would be assisted if result of Brest R/C could be transmitted by 1500.

3. Anticipate Force H must leave patrol 13th or 14th April. Destroyers have been refuelled T.O.O. 1330/9. Ends. (REPULSE 2200/10). *See also p. 324*

Operation
PYA.

Intend sailing M.L's 200, 197, 195, and 204 at 1800/10 for operation PYA. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1624/10).

Operation
by
M.T.B's.

Departure M.T.B's 22, 31, 32 and 34 at 19:25/10. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1958/10).

Interception
of Convoy.

My 1641/9. 5th D.F. arrived off Casquets at 2030/9 and swept WSW. but found nothing. It is considered M/V and escorts probably took shelter in the Channel Islands. (C.in C. Plymouth, 2201/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

313

British Air Activity.

Belgian,
Dutch,
and
Danish
Coasts.

On 9/4, 6 Blenheims set out to attack shipping off the Belgian and Dutch Coast, but saw nothing. 7 Blenheims swept Dutch Coasts and 3 of them attacked trawler of about 300 tons. No sinking claimed.

A further 7 Blenheims swept the Danish Coast North of Sylt. None of them found shipping to attack.
(H.Q.B.C. 0047/10).

Patrols.

Patrol ^{"Stal"} ~~SEAB~~ now being flown.
Patrol ~~HORNET~~ will be flown P.M.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0614/10).
Cancel my 1825/3. Commencing A.M. today following patrols will be flown.

(ii) Object of patrol (a) (b) and (c) to report and shadow large enemy warships
Object of patrol (z) to report and attack

(iii) In addition daily P R U of Brest will be carried out.

(iv) You will be informed if patrols (a) and (b) are not practicable on any day or if there is any change in disposition.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1145/10).

Colouring
fighter,
A/C.

Reference 221 A.Z. It is possible fighters of both old and new colour may be operating between now and 15/4.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1817/10).

Iceland
Organisation
of A/C.

AP 911. 10/4 Reference 2244/9/4 No.30 Wing Iceland will operate under No.15 Group and Western Approaches. The proposal that the aircraft in Iceland should be organised as a separate group is being considered when the number of aircraft there may make this desirable.
(H.Q.C.C. 1820/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

314

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
E.C.4.
BRITISH
WORKMAN
(British
Tanker,
6994 tons)
PANDORIAN
(British 4970
tons) 4159
bombed.

E.C.4. attacked by 1 or 2 aircraft 2166/9. 2 ships hit, names at present unknown, proceeding Kirkwall under own power. Local patrol vessel bombed and machine gunned near Copinsay 2137/9 apparently by different aircraft no hits. (A.C.O.S. 0004/10). My 0004. Names are BRITISH WORKMAN proceeding Kirkwall escorted by SALTARELLO, and PANDORIAN now proceeding Invergordon escorted by AUBRETIA. (A.C.O.S. 0053/10). Arrived BRITISH WORKMAN ex E.C.4. Convoy. Four casualties. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 0315/10). BRITISH WORKMAN now anchored and in no immediate danger but has list. Request salvage vessel be sent to make under water inspection. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 0645/10). AUBRETIA escorted S.S. PANDORIAN to Cromarty then proceeded to rejoin E.C.4. PANDORIAN now anchoring at Invergordon has no casualties. Damage by bombs not yet ascertained. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 0839/10). Arrival Invergordon 0830/10. PANDORIAN bombed at 2115/9 in about 15 miles 140° from Duncansby Head. Damage as follows. No casualties. Intend to effect temporary repairs, necessary to D.G. and steering gear at Invergordon. Vessel otherwise seaworthy in fine weather, main engines not affected. Request repair port may be communicated. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1114/10).

Lowestoft
bombed.

Lowestoft being bombed intermittently since 2147/9. So far no Naval damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0045/10). My 0045. No bombs after 0015. Several U.B's reported. All fires extinguished 0430. Estimated Naval casualties. A/C believed enemy reported in sea two miles eastward at 2330/9. No survivors found. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1116/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Ramsgate
bombed.

At 2345 enemy aircraft dropped two H.E. bombs on Ramsgate. Civil Casualties. Extensive damage to property. No casualties to Naval personnel or property.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0100/10 2210/10).

Portsmouth
bombed.

At 0015/10 4 H.E's fell in Frater Depot and Dockyard storage area. Some damage to Dockyard stores and slight damage to buildings. No casualties.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0132/10).

Portsmouth.
Damage by
Air Raid
on
night
8/9.

Damage by blast and debris during air raid on night of 8/9.4.41. was as follows.
(Supt: C.E. Portsmouth, 1045/10).

VENEZUELA.

(Swedish 6991 tons). Being bombed in 62°N., 2° 30'W. at 0837 G.M.T.
(Wick Radio: Recd: 0941).

Plymouth.
Thancker Oil
Depot.
Bombed.

Enemy Aircraft dropped about 30 incendiary bombs on Thancker oil fuel depot at 2335/9. All put out without damage.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1002/10).

KYLEGORM.
(Bombed
9/4).

My 1045/9. Tug ST. OLAVES with damaged Coaster KYLEGORM in tow arrived 1300/9. KYLEGORM beached on Milford Shelf.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1015/10).

Newcastle.

(d) Brigham Cowans Electrical store severely damaged and consequent destruction of Naval stores. Swan Hunters Dry Dock workshops extensive damage. Mercantile Marine damaged but effect on construction and repairs comparatively small North Shields Life Boat and shed demolished.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1445/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

316

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

FALCON.

(War Department Launch), which did duty at Harwich for Air Rescue Work was sunk by enemy action on 9/4.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1457/10).

Convoy "Range".

^{"Range"}
RANGE attacked between 2152/9 and 2210/9.

DUDLEY ROSE.
(British
1600 Tons)
sunk.

Four successive attacks made from landwards from very low altitude. Planes just skimming the sea, three leading ships of port column were hit.

BUESTEN
(Norwegian
Tanker,
5187 tons)
sunk.

No.1. Port Column DUDLEY ROSE One UXB in hold, one bomb exploding in boilers. Ship abandoned, crew transferred to CAPE D'ANTIFER and landed at Portland. Vicinity searched to daylight but no trace.

BJORNVIK
(Norwegian
812 tons)
bombed.

No.2. Port Column BUESTEN. Carrying Kerosene and Benzine was struck on third attack abaft the bridge catching fire immediately. Officers on bridge managed to escape in life boat and were picked up after one hour and landed Dartmouth. Total saved seven out of thirty. Fire extinguished noon/10. 35 foot visible of bow 135° 2.8 miles Barry Head.

No.3. Port Column BJORNVIK. Struck by aerial torpedo which passed through bulwark and hatch combings of No.2. hold without exploding. Several very near misses. Ship returned to Dartmouth leaking and entered at 0445/10. One Casualty 0515/10 by delayed time bomb exploding.

Estimated attacking aircraft varies from two to six, but no more than two being heard at one time.
(N.C.S.O.(D) 1553/10).

Ipswich
Air Raid
Night
9/10.

Air Raid damage as follows.
(Works, Shotley, 1620/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

317

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Ipswich
Air Raid
Night 9/10
cont:-

3 Motor fire floats property of Ipswich Corporation sunk in Ipswich Dock through enemy action.

(Admty. Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1730/10).

During Air Attack on Ipswich Docks between 2300 - and 2359 last night a large number of incendiaries and four H.E. were dropped on cliff quay.

Numerous stacks of timber were set on fire and timber warehouses gutted and others severely damaged by blast.

Fires were put out with assistance of landing parties from A/P vessels.

Messdecks on quay, baths, Sick Bay Canteen, S.D.O. and S.O.A.P's officers all seriously damaged by blast, falling debris, A/C cannon bullets, and fire.

No naval casualties.

One UXB near S.O.A.P's Office.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2330/10 and 0030/11).

SYLVIA
Trawler.
Sunk on
7/4.

Attacked by L.L.B. A/C in 61° 27'N., 5° 48'W. at 1000/7/4. No direct hits.

7 bombs dropped and vessel machine gunned. A/C believed to be F.W.Conger.

STRATHGYLE
(Trawler)
attacked.

Vessel sunk in 30 minutes. 1 killed 3 wounded. 10 survivors picked up by Trawler STRATHGYLE. 5 landed Thorshaven at Aberdeen. STRATHGYLE attacked 2215/9/4 in 58° 26'N., 2° 58'W. One bomb dropped, no hits. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1707/10).

ANNABELLE.
CLOUGHSTONE.

H.M.T. Trawlers ANNABELLE and CLOUGHSTONE attacked by A/C 3½ miles E.N.E. Rattray 2300/9/4. No direct hits. Slight damage to ANNABELLE. CLOUGHSTONE leaking. No casualties. Both vessels at Fraserburgh.

(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1721/10).

INVERTAY
(M/S Trawler)
attacked.
CRAIGBO
(Examination
Vessel).

Machine gunned by A/C off Aberdeen 2130/9/4. Slight damage, no casualties. H.M.T. INVERTAY machine-gunned by A/C 2144/9/4 position 57° 15'N., 1° 55'W. Slight damage, no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1759/10).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
THURSDAY.

318

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Unknown
ship
attacked.

A.A.A.A. Unknown station being
attacked by aircraft near Penzance.
(Lands End Radio 2231/10).

Harwich
Parkston
Quay.
bombed.

At 2150 single enemy A/C dropped 6 to
8 H.E. Bombs and some incendiaries on
Parkston Quay one H.E. in Harbour.
Damage largely superficial. Lines from
Sidings considerably damaged. Six
minor casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2359/10).

War Diary.

10.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

M.2.

M.2. Laid. (LINNET 0910/10.)

S.N.101.

My letter No.M.142/ML01000 dated 1/4/41. Propose to lay the Western Most Line of S.N.101 A.M./14.(R.A.M.L. 1022/10.).

Thames Estuary.

At 2330/9 A parachute mine thought to have been dropped over the Nore Sand. Low flying aircraft overhead at the Nore. At 0224/10, Heavy underwater explosion thought to be over Maplin Sands. (S.O. TLDF.1304/10.).

Rosyth Command.

19/3 to 8/4 inc.the following mines and anti-sweeping explosive floats have been dealt with in this command. Details. Majority of mines appeared between 1/4 - 8/4. (C. in C. Rosyth 1311/10.).

LUNULA.
(Mined 9/4.).

Mining of LUNULA. Request you report what mine lookouts are maintained at Thameshaven and if any mines were seen to fall in that area on the night of 7th - 8th April. When was the approach to the Thameshaven pier last swept for magnetic and acoustic mines? (A.C.N.S.T. 1322/10 to F.O.I.C. London.). Your 1322/10. Particulars of Mine Look-out Precautions and sweeping at Thameshaven. (F.O.I.C. London 1817/10.). Request you will sail two M.M.S. to operate in the London area as soon as possible. (D.M.S.1646/10 to C. in C. Nore.).

River Thames.

One mine detonated S.W. Broadness Point on South Side of St. Clements Reach. (F.O.I.C.London 1500/10.).

Spurn Point.

The following three mines exploded by LL Trawlers today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1755/10.).

/Operation H.A.....

War Diary.

10.4.41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation H.A.

Intended to prepare as follows to lay on Night 12/4 or soon after. Particulars. (A.C.N.S.H. 1915/10.). See Operations Volume.

Liverpool
9 Mines
detonated.
VIRGO
(Dutch,
397 Tons)
damaged.

Following Nine Mines detonated to 1800/10. Details. Dutch Coaster VIRGO approx. position 303 Bar Light Vessel 5 miles. Vessel damaged but now in Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2151/10.).

O.S.70.

Operation O.S.70 completed to-day. (Comdre. Sheerness 2326/10.).

Clyde.

River Clyde will be open to traffic up and down river from 0930 until 2000 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2347/10.).

WAR DIARY.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy M/V
and E/Boats.

One camouflaged merchant vessel about 5000 tons escorted by two E/Boats passed Gris Nez westbound at 1500 today, speed 15 knots. (V.A. Dover 1509/10)

Enemy
desire for
information
on 6/4.

A neutral merchant ship Captain questioned by Germans at Christiansand on 6/4 reports he was hard pressed for intelligence of British Cruisers West of Faeroe Island. A.2. (D.D.I.C. 2027/10)

3 Enemy
M/V's off
Havre.

Three enemy merchant vessels. Position 49°45'N. 0°10'W. course 062, 12 knots. (Portsmouth 2125/10)

Brest.

Photographs of Brest 1500 hrs. 10/4/41., show 1 battle cruiser alongside T.B. Station. Dry dock not covered, owing to cloud. (D.D.I.C. 2324/10.)

Miscellaneous.

Gas Masks
when boarding
U-Boats.

A case has recently occurred where Officer and ratings from one of H.M. ships who were able to board a damaged U-Boat with the intention of retrieving C.B. encountered chlorine gas. In all such cases in future C.O's are to ensure that the Officers and men concerned take their gas masks with them. (C.in C. W.A. 1855/10.)

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.B. Convoys.

Northern routed O.B. Convoys are in future normally being escorted by an A/S escort to about 30° W., and the last position given in Admty., convoy route should be taken as the dispersal point. A.M. 1245/16/9/40 A.M. 1729/28/9/40 and A.M. 2251/8/12/40 are cancelled. (D.T.D. 1325/10, to N.C.S.O.'s.).

Swedish Shipping.

Gothenburg Shipping Agreement. Routes to be followed. (N.A. Stockholm 1717/10.). See Lion Copy.

Convoy W.S.8.

Arrangements. 8. MORETON BAY. PRETORIA CASTLE and ARAWA will sail with W.S.8 "B". (A.C.N.S.(H) 1817/10).

Small Coasters.

A.M. 1922/3 para. (D) and A.M. 1821/4, the term "Small Coasters" is to be interpreted as coasters of not more than one thousand tons gross. (D.T.D. 1933/10.).

Tankers.

"Urgency One" "Two" or "Three" Meaning of the terms (A.C.N.S.(T) 2345/10.). See Lion Copy.

Independently routed ships sailing in company.

It has been suggested that when two or more independently sailed merchant ships whose speeds do not differ by more than two knots are ready to sail from a U.K. Port within 36 hours of one another they should be sailed in company for mutual A/A support. One master should be appointed as Commodore and if possible the Masters should meet before sailing. Separate routes should be given from 22° W. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 2613/10, to C. in C. W.A.).

SECRET

MESSAGE 1717/10th April

IN

322A:

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date 11.4.41.

Recd. 0200

INTER DEPARTMENTAL CIPHER (10 by Cable.)

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Gothenburg Shipping Agreement.

One.

Reference my 1642/4 - Swedish Foreign Office inform us that at Berlin recent German representatives in consequence of extension of war zone intimated that it can no longer permit ships to pass through British restricted waters or close to British territory. They propose following route which Swedish Legation London will present formally.

57 degs. 30' North	07 degs. 00' East
57 " 30' "	05 " 00' "
62 " 00' "	03 " 00' "
64 " 50' "	02 " 15' West
59 " 10' "	23 " 40' "
54 " 00' "	30 " 50' "

Two (a) As this route will take vessels 60 miles from Faeroe Is. Swedes will propose checking of ships en route should in future be done by radio.

(b) If this is unacceptable they will suggest alternative of using Gothenburg and give necessary undertaking that should Germans prevent any ship from going out, instructions for a corresponding eastbound ship to be detained west of dangerous area would be given. They suggest when a westbound ship has cleared position 57 degs. 30' North 7 degs. 00' East then a corresponding eastbound ship should be released from say Halifax Azores or Bermuda.

Three. In order to prevent undue delay they are asking that British will permit two homeward bound ships which cannot clear dangerous zone before April 16th to follow existing British route and that four westbound ships without prejudice to future arrangement should be allowed to follow route proposed in open one.

Early reply to this request will be appreciated.

1717/10.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(T)
 Secretary
 Nav. Sec.
 C.S.Q. S.L.
 R.
 Ops.(4)
 O.D.(5) for actio.

O.I.C.(2)
 D.T.D.(4)
 D.T.D.(1)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D.S.D.9.
 D.of P.(3)
 I.P.(3)
 V.D.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

2345/10 April.

OUT.

Date. 10.4.41.

To. A.I.G. 12.

Naval Cypher (A.1)

From Admiralty. Pass to N.C.S.O.'s.

My 2224/27. Tankers are to be regarded as ships carrying especially important cargoes.

2. Pending the introduction of improved defensive measures the sailing of all such ships between ports in the United Kingdom on such occasions as bright moonlight nights must be weighed against the degree of urgency of the requirement which will be indicated by the Admiralty as follows:-

Urgency One . signifies vital importance that cargo should reach destination without delay.

Urgency Two . signifies a few days delay may be accepted to facilitate provision of escort.

Urgency Three . signifies considerable delay is acceptable in order that safe passage may be assured but subject to the need for a quick round of shipping.

3. Para. 3 of my 1145/10/2 not to all addressees is cancelled.

2345/10.

D.T.D. (172)

Approved by A.C.N.S. (T)

Ops. (4)

O.D. (5)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (11)

D. of S.T.

D. of S.2A.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

Commanders-in-Chief, Flag Officers-in-Charge, and Naval Officers-in-Charge ashore at home.

War Diary.

10.4.41.
Thursday.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M/V
burning.

One Merchant vessel burning. Position 58° 42' N., 9° 41' W. Survivors in boats. (Liverpool W/T 1210/10.).
Sail LADY MADELINE to escort tug BRIGAND proceeding to assist unknown ship on fire. (C. in C. W.A. 1349/10, to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).
Request you sail Tug BRIGAND with despatch to assist merchant vessel on fire. LADY MADELINE is being instructed to escort BRIGAND. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1356/10 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.).
BEDOUIN is proceeding to assist. (C. in C. H.F. 1547/10.).
LADY MADELINE and BRIGAND sailed. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1631/10.).

BROKE.

BROKE's 0417/7. Following damage sustained. Ship requires docking. Request port for repairs. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1606/10.).

PEGASUS.

My 1211/8. Defects to crank shaft. Estimated time required 4 or 5 weeks. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1741/10.).

CAMITO.

My 1240/9. Sailing delayed on account of D.G. Defect. (F.O.C.N.A. 1924/10.).

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10.4.1941.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.DERNA
M. CROCE
(Italian)9/4 departure DERNA for Las Palmas, ~~Genoa~~
arrival MAURO CROCE from Genoa.
(Barcelona 0071/10).German Unit.At 0258 G.M.T. German Mobile Unit bearing
280° active. (F.O.C.N.A. 0431/10 to
N.A. Stn.).
Your 0431/10. Other bearings of this
transmission. Flowerdown. 283/2.
Halifax. 052/3. Jamaica. 041/3.
Position indefinite probably to Westward
of Ireland and to Eastward of 30° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1335/10).
Your 1335/10th not understood. D/F
Bearing signalled in My 0431/10 was 280.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1751/10 to Adty.).
Your 1751/10. My 1335/10 was to indicate
that Gibraltar bearing 280° was inaccurate.
(D.D.I.C. 0233/11 to F.O.C.N.A.).MARSDALEMy 2100/9. Remain on V.1 V.2. Your
attention is called to CA.F.O. 1777/40, para.2.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1030/10, to MARSDALE).UNDAUNTED(a) Report p.c. and s. of advance.
(b) D/F indicated Italian U/Boat vicinity
037° N. 011° - 012° W. at 2000/7.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1410/10 to UNDAUNTED).A/C reinforcements
for Malta.S.O. Force H. 1743/10 See Operations
Volume.Biscay
Patrol.REPULSE having completed with fuel is to
leave Gibraltar as early on 12/4 as possible
for patrol near 45° 00' N., 23° 00' W.
QUEEN ELIZABETH is to leave patrol and
proceed to Gibraltar to fuel, being
escorted through submarine zone by
destroyers used to escort REPULSE from
Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to
arrange rendezvous.
If this entails QUEEN ELIZABETH reaching
Gibraltar with less than 20% of fuel
QUEEN ELIZABETH is to proceed towards
Gibraltar and when well clear of patrol
area signal her intentions.
(1st S.L. 1838/10 to F.O.C.N.A.).

See p. 312.

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (Contd.)

PANDORA

Request you will recall PANDORA and R.F.A. CAIRNDALE to Gibraltar forthwith.

2. PANDORA will be required to reinforce Mediterranean Fleet, as ordered by C.in C. Med.

3. Dutch submarines will continue to provide escort for HG and OG convoys. (1st S.L. 2306/10, to F.O.C.N.A.).

TORBAY
TAKU
orders.

F.O.S. 1911/10 not to S.O. Force H. TAKU, TORBAY, proceed through following positions to Gibraltar. Report p.c. and s. on entering N.A. Station.

(d) UNDAUNTED estimated in position R at 1700/11 proceeding Gibraltar speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2342/10).

French
Convoy.

French armed trawler SERGENT GOUARNE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1445/10 escorting French M.V's SAINT CYRILLE, AUGUSTE and KAKOULIMA. (D.O.R. 12/4).

South Atlantic.

AMABILITAS
(Italian)

Bahia Blanca reports AMABILITAS has closed down steam and sailing preparations have been suspended indefinitely. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0303Z/10, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Reporting
Shipping
movements.

Your 1645/5 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown (Not recd. in Adty.) Request you will arrange that Free French S.N.O. Pointe Noire shall continue to report shipping movements to C.in C. S.A. Repeated A.C. Free French Forces as hitherto. N.S.O.(I) Freetown will pass this information to Fairmiss London until new Vice Consul is appointed. (C.in C. S.A. 0801/10, to B.N.L.O. West Africa).

Your 1305/2, to S.O.(I) Freetown. Am arranging for shipping movements to be reported as in my 0801/10. Except in this way Point Noire will not function as a Naval Reporting post until a Vice Consul is appointed. (C.in C. S.A., 0805/10 to Admty.)

/ HERMES

(ex KARNAK)

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

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HERMES
(ex KARNAK)

Reference My 1432/9 original name was KARNAK 7,209 gross tons. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 0937/10). Movements of KARNAK since August, 1939. (D.S. 584, 11/4).

German
RIO GRANDE

Left Rio Grande do Sul on 1/11/40 is reported by German press to be now in Hamburg. (D.D.I.C. 1038/10 to R.A.S.A.D.etc.)

S.L. convoys
re increasing
speed.

My 1651/9. Total ships in S.L.66 - 70 231. 59 ships under 9 knots would have been excluded. In addition 30 ships gave speed as 9.1. some of these would probably have had to be excluded. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1310/10).

S.S. CLAN
RANALD.

Overdue shipping CLAN RANALD due Capetown sixth not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1430B/10).

PRETORIA
CASTLE

C.in C. Portsmouth's 2043/5. Request PRETORIA CASTLE may be sailed for Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1445/10).

BRITANNIA
survivors.

My 2303/9 permission now granted for survivors to land in Montevideo on the understanding that they leave this country by first suitable British Ship which will be HIGHLAND BRIGADE. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 1734/10).

Orders to
ASPHODEL

Proceed to search for Sunderland reported landed near San Pedro River 013° 04' N. 016° 45' W. If located tow to Bathurst. Fuel available for you there. (C.in C. S.A. 1830/10).

D/F Bearings.

Your 1922/9. No bearings relating to 6/4 have been received which could indicate a position within 500 miles of the longitude of a point 480 miles West of Freetown. Suggest 480 should read 1080. (C.in C. S.A. 1850/10 to Adty.).

MONTEVIDEO
(German)

MONTEVIDEO at Rio Grande de Sul has been moved from quayside to inner roads as precautionary measure and guard aboard has been doubled. (N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2335Z/10).

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

327

Italian
Prisoners.

Your 1320/2.
Greek Govt. are reviewing question of transfer Italian Prisoners of war to us. There are other factors involved than purely legal. Will inform you their decision earliest possible. Military would welcome proposal. Meanwhile no reduction of Crete prisoners possible end. (M.A. Athens, 0200/10 to W.O.).

Germans in
Roumania.

Names of German Naval Officers in Constanza and Bucharest. (S.O.I., Istanbul 0945/10).

Operation
"Lustre".

Your 0414/5. Concur smaller ships than PENNLAND and CAMERONIA are desirable for "LUSTRE". Personnel ships able to lift 10,000 tons are required in Eastern Mediterranean at present for "LUSTRE" and Libya Campaign. (C.in C. Med., 1140/10, to D. of S.T.).

S/M's routes.

My 1433/11/2. Western limit for submarines proceeding on the surface by day is now 24° 00' E.
(Capt. (S) 1 1151/10 to 1st S.F.)

Salvage Craft,
Suda Bay,
Piraeus.

Your 1031/9. As soon as Salvage Tug PROTECTOR arrives Suda Bay and takes over salvage of YORK, tug IRENE VERANIKOS will be (? sent to) Piraeus. No experienced Salvage Officer or other plant is available. (C.in C. Med., 1156/10, to N.A. Athens).

Situation Report.

C.in C. Med. 1204/10 See Lion Copy.

NAPIER
required
in Med.

Enemy minelaying at Piraeus renders your earliest possible arrival in the Mediterranean most important.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1309/10 to NAPIER).

Enemy M.V.

One medium merchant ship passed Kilikic at 1030B proceeding south.
(V.A. Malta, 1315/10, to UNIQUE).

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 14.4.41.

Recd 1514.

327(A)

Naval Cypher (D) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty, repeated V.A. Malta, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, V.A. Force. H.

950 General situation report.

2. Western desert. All Naval personnel withdrawn from ports West of Tobruk. Bomba and Jezel Marakeh have been mined with "R" type mines by H.M.S. APHIS. Derna could not be tackled owing to speed of enemy advance. Benghazi dealt with as in my 1016/6 and GUONBARS will be laid as soon as possible. Sollum, Bada and Mersa Matruh being opened as feeder ports. Tobruk will be main supply as long as practicable particularly as road forward of Mersa Matruh in very bad condition. A/A defences have been increased to 24 heavy A/A guns at Mersa Tobruk. Army stat they have two months stores available in Mersa Tobruk. Heavy air action is to be expected with mining and problem will be to keep open this the only good port of supply S.O. Force 1 now has three gunboats and two destroyers under his orders and squadron will be kept at least at that strength. Swordfish striking force has had to be withdrawn owing to uncertainty of situation as regards aerodrome.

3. Malta four destroyers due a.m. 11th to act as night striking force, see my 1406/8. Maximum number of submarines patrolling on Tripoli route. R.A.F. starting to use Malta to attack Tripoli as they can no longer reach it from Western desert. This is most important factor and makes need for very long range bombers imperative.

4. Suda Bay. Hope repairs H.M.S. YORK sufficient to move her in 4 weeks time. Improvement of under water defence by means of material from station resources continues but until arrival of KIRRIEMUIR no entirely efficient improvement is possible.

5. Piraeus. Situation is given in B.N.A. Athens 1203/8 and 2228/8 and my 0939/9. Further mining raid took place on 9th result not known. Aegean convoys will continue to sail adjusted as necessary to possible rate of unloading.

1204/10.

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D. and D.D.I.C.

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

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War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

328

Free French
Ships.

De Gaulle wishes some to work in Eastern Mediterranean. Pros and cons. (C.in C. Med. 1332/10, C.in C. M.E. 2240/10).

A/C R/C's.

Combined service report Malta up to 1600 hours, 10/4. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1615/10).

Movement
Summary

C.in C. Med. 2142/10 See Lion Copy.

A/C R/C
10/4.

Unconfirmed by photographs. Palermo. At sea two large Merchant ships from 037° 35' 012° 05' at 1158B course 220° 12 knots. Tripoli. (V.A. Malta 1630/10).

Enemy
convoy.

Further R/C report 5 large merchant ships and 3 destroyers in 036° 10'N. 011° 58'E at 1540B zigzagging on mean line of advance 160° 10 knots. 8 Swordfish aircraft will report number south of Kuriat from about 2200/10. UNIQUE need not leave area K. but is to go deep if necessary. (Cdr. (S) 1 1758/10 to UNIQUE, URSULA)

Mining of
Piraeus.

One mine countermined off Piraeus. (B.N.A. Athens 1850/10).

Minesweeping
Equipment.

Reply to 0939/9. (D.M.S., to C.in C. Med., 1906/10).

E boats.

My 2221/7. Further reports received (1) Grade B.O. 3 'E' Boats passed Lyons by river for Mediterranean on 29/3. Crews were in plain clothes and boats disguised as 'life boats'. (2) Grade B.3. 23 'E' Boats arrived Marseilles via Rhone 7/4. (D.D.I.C. 1938/10).

Enemy convoys,
TETRARCH
to intercept.

R/C shows 2 large Merchant Ships 037° 35'N. 012° 05'E course 220° speed 12 at noon and 5 Merchant Ships 3 Destroyers 036° 10' 011° 58' zig zagging southwards 10 knots. Expected direction of approach to position A is from Kerkenah number 4 buoy or Lampion. Proceed with despatch to intercept north of position A 033° 08'N. 013° 15'E unless this signal is cancelled by Capt. S.I. Future movements will be ordered by Capt. S.I. (Cdr.(S) 1 2005/10, to TETRARCH).

/ Salvage, Piraeus.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

2142/10th April

FROM:- C. in C. Mediterranean Fleet DATE:- 11.4.41.

RECD:- 0525

NAVAL CODE (O) Secret by W/T

328(A)

ADDRESSED:- Mediterranean Fleet and S/MS repeated
 N.O.I.C. Alexandria S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area
 B.N.A. Athens V.A. Malta F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H S.O.
 Force 1 Inshore Squadron N.O.I.C. Palestine Port
IMPORTANT N.O.I.C. Port Said Group 201 S.B.N.O.
 Suda Bay

Movements summary (?44).

Part one H.M.S. DECOY H.M.S. ENCOUNTER and
 one Glen ship leave Port Said P.M. 10th due Lemnos
 1800/12 passing Cephalona S.E. 2730/11 to be
 joined by H.M.S. COVENTRY A.M./12.

Part two H.M.S. GRAYHOUND, tug ^{PROTECTOR,} ~~protector~~
 SYVERN, KOS 23, for Suda Bay and H.M.S. SALVIA,
 MURTO, 11th speed 9 knots via Kithera.

A S F 24, DRECONSHIRE, H.M.S. HAVOCK, H.M.S.
 HOTSPUR, due Alexandria, Port Said, tenth and eleventh.
 A S 25, H.M.S. GRIMSBY H.M.S. WRYNECK, H.M.S. COVENTRY,
 leave Piraeus 10th, passing Kithera Channel 2100/11,
 due Alexandria, Port Said, 13th and 14th. H.M.S.
 COVENTRY parts company p.m. 10th to Suda Bay.
 H.M.S. CALCUTTA from Suda Bay to join A.M. 11th.
 A.G. 12 H.M.S. CARLISLE, H.M.S. FLAMINGO, H.M.S.
 AUCKLAND, H.M.S. HEReward, leave Alexandria p.m.
 10th, passing Kaso 1900/11, due Greek ports 12th.
 H.M.S. AJAX, H.M.A.S. PERTH, Aegean duties covering
 destroyers in south Ionian sea night of 10th/11th.
 (corrupt group) squadron H.M.A.S. WATERHEN,
 H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, and 3 gunboats operating from
 Mersa Tobruk. Port west of Mersa Tobruk in
 enemy hands.

(3) Capt. (D) 14 H.M.S. JANUS, H.M.S. NUBIAN,
 H.M.S. MOHAWK, due Malta daylight 11th. 3 French
 S/MS, and French Sloop minesweeper ELAN, steering
 123 degs. from longitude 20° east to pass 10
 miles South Gavdo at 1600/thence 90 degs. to
 Beirut.

2142/10

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. C.I.C.

EG	1st Lord	M. (2)	D.T.D. (M)
	1st S.L.	Mails.	K.O.S. by
	V.C.N.S.	Movts.	
	Naval Sec.	D.S.D. 2.	
	C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.F.S.	
	Ops. (4)	I.P. (5)	
	O.D. 8.	W.D.	
	O.D. (5)	D.A/S.W.	
	O.I.C. (D.T.D. (4)	

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Salvage, Piraeus.

It has been necessary to direct salvage tug IRENE/VERNIKOS from Boom Work at Suda Bay to salvage work at Piraeus. A Boom Working Vessel is urgently required at Suda Bay and other commitments for Boom Vessels may develop in Greece at short notice. Could two Boom Working vessels be spared from East Indies Station? (C.in C. Med., 2112/10, to Admty.).

KASSANDRA
LOULODIS
TURKIA
GEORGIOS

Earliest possible arrival of following Greek ships now en route U.S.A. to Athens and carrying most essential stores is of utmost importance (1) KASSANDRA LOULODIS (2) TURKIA (3) GEORGIOS. (Adty. 2206/10).

R/C Tripoli,
Palermo.

My 1630 photographs show no repetition no Cruisers Tripoli (Libya), 2 Cruisers Palermo. 2 Merchant Ships apparently sunk and one ashore at Tripoli. T.O.O. 2151/10. (V.A. Malta 2210/10).

Yugoslav
request
for Naval
assistance.

C.in C. Med. 2310/10 See Mediterranean Volume.

War Diary.10.4.1941.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.EMERALD

To proceed to Basra with despatch.
(1st S.L. 0110/10 to C.in C. E.I.).
E.T.A. Shatt-el-Arab 0200Z/12.
(EMERALD 0210/10).
Karachi departure EMERALD 0300/10 for Basra.
(S.O(I) Bombay 1240Z/10).

Italian
Survivors.
Massawa.
LICHTENFELS

My 0324Z/10 part one. My 0540/9.
(I) Para. four. Minister Jedda reports about 300 of survivors are from CESARE BATTISTI said to be ashore north of Lith.
(II) Minister also reports an Italian aircraft landed Jedda a.m. 9/4 with 6 naval personnel and civilians.
(IV) Swordfish R/C of Islands off Massowa reports:-
(a) No naval vessels seen.
(b) Six tugs in Dahlak Bay.
(c) Many tents spread ashore and beach littered with ships life boats.
(C.in C. E.I. 0322Z/10).
My 0324/10 part 2 final.
(V) RAMB 4. (Hospital ship) is in Massowa under our control.
(VI) HINDUSTAN intercepted lifeboat containing 13 Germans from LICHTENFELS in 017° 43'N. 040° E. 10'E at about 1100 Z/9. They were endeavouring to escape to Jedda.
(VII) Italian demolition at Massowa reported to be efficient. (C.in C. E.I. 0324Z/10.).

CAPETOWN
(torpedoed
7/4)

My 0226/8. CAPETOWN in tow of PARRAMATTA E.T.A. Port Sudan 1000Z/10 where examination of damage will be made.
(C.in C. E.I., 0350Z/10, to Admty.).

CERES.

My 0758/6. CERES is to leave Aden P.M./11 and proceed Mombasa at 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I., 0756Z/10, to C.in C. Med.).

A/C operations
during capture
of Massawa.

8/4. 29 a/c bombed enemy positions West Massawa and ships in harbour in support of our troops who subsequently occupied town. Ships were shelling our troops. One hit with 20 lb. bomb on small vessel in harbour. Several near misses. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1156/10).

Movements
KIMBERLEY
KINGSTON
KANDAHAR

....

War Diary.

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

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Movements
KIMBERLEY
KINGSTON
KANDAHAR

My 1500/8 and your 1016/10. KIMBERLEY arrives Suez a.m./12. KINGSTON sails from Port Sudan probably 14th after boiler cleaning which is long overdue. KANDAHAR will leave (? Perim) p.m./10 for Port Sudan and Suez. She is due for boiler cleaning. (C.in C. E.I., 1208Z/10 to C.in C. Med.).

Situation
at Basra.

Reference Adty's 0110/10. S.N.O. Persian Gulf reports Iraqi reinforcements have arrived Basra from Baghdad to resist a landing. F.O.C.R.I.N. informs me H.M. Govt. has approved movement of Force Bari to Basra and arrangements are being made accordingly. Request I may be informed of policy to be followed at Basra. (C.in C. E.I. 1206/10 to Adty.).

NETRAVATI
collision.

In collision in 13° 31' N. 43° 01' E. at 2203Z/1 with Yugo Slav Ship BOSANKA bound for Aden and due Mombasa 15/4. BOSANKA seaworthiness not affected. Damage to NETRAVATI above waterline and repairs can be carried out at forthcoming docking. Consider no blame attached to either ship. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1410Z/10, to Admty.).

SCYTHIA
BERGENSFIORD

My 0556/2 para. two SCYTHIA and BERGENSFIORD may proceed to Aden unescorted from vicinity of Cape Guardafui. (C.in C. E.I. 1448Z/10).

British Force
for Basra.

War Office 1720/10 See Lion Copy.

S.S. INHARRIME

Details of contract to carry from Lourenco Marques and to land in Reunion and Tamatave native troops etc. (Consul-Gen., Lourenco Marques, 1725/10).

TAIKOO
to tow
CAPETOWN.

x
My 1226/9th. Request TAIKOO may be regarded as available to tow CAPETOWN from Port Sudan to Suez in due course. (C.in C. E.I., 1930Z/10, to Admty.).
x Deperming of TAIKOO (Salvage Tug)

Iraq .

Forces to be sent to Basra by sea and Shaibah by air. Details (C.in C. India 2230/10) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1720/10th April

331 (A)

FROM:- The War Office

DATE:- 11.4.41.

RECD:-

CYPHER

ADDRESSED:- C. in C. Middle East.

MOST IMMEDIATE

60968 cipher (M.O.5.) 10/4.

PART I British Forces for Iraq. H.M.G. have accepted viceroy's offer to despatch to Basra following troops now embarking Karachi previously destined CAPABLE.

One inf. bde.
One fd. regt.
One fd. amb.

plus H.T. and ancillary units but with no (repeat no) Engineers or Hospitals.

Greater part of force is already loaded and tactical loading not (repeat not) now possible.

If opposed landing likely force will require naval and air protection. Force due to sail 10 April.

PART II Following additions to force sail between 13 and 18 April.

One bty. A/Tk. regt. (18-pdrs.)
One combined general hospital.
One depot medical stores.
One field coy.

and additional supply personnel secs. Engineer base stores depot and ammunition reserves.

PART III 390 (390) British Inf. with 12 L M Gs. 6 V.Gs. 2 A/Tk. rifles move to Shaibah by air starting 13 April and completing move between 7 and 11 days later.

This force will be withdrawn as soon as Basra force established.

PART IV India intend to reinforce first brigade group to equivalent of at least one division as soon as shipping permits with two (repeat two) further brigades groups and base units and installations of SYBIL Force. Shipping for second echelon of reinforcements probably available in 21 days.

PART V In consultation with C. in C. Mediterranean and A.O.C. in C. you should now decide whether to send immediately a battalion from Palestine to Habbaniyah.

Please pass to C. in C. Mediterranean and A.O.C. in C. as from Admiralty and Air Ministry.

1720/10

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)

Received by hand from War Office at 1702/11

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.I./S.I.

D.M.S.

I.P.

D.

Diry Capain.

Head of M.

D.T.S.D.

C.D.I.C.

P.F.S.

D.T.D.

H.M.O. (Pay. Officer Wilson)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

2230/10th April IN

From C. in C. India.

Date 13.4.41.

Recd 0935.

331(B)

Cipher

Addressed C. in C. Middle East, repeated A.O.C. Brit. Forces Iraq, and War Office.

06216
3675/G Cipher 10/4.

Continuation of our 3628/G of April 10th, not to A.O.C. British Forces Iraq.

1. H.M. Government have now agreed to our proposals to send forces to Basrah by sea and Shaibah by air.
2. Following will leave India by sea almost immediately actual date will be signalled later. Commander Major General Fraser with nucleus of a Divisional H.Q. Details of his directive will be signalled later. H.Q. Divisional artillery 3rd Field Regt. 20th Infantry Brigade 26th Field Ambulance one Field Hygiene Section one Indian Division Troops Transport Company one Indian Infantry Brigade Transport Company one G.P. Transport Company one M.A. Section two Mobile Workshop Companies one Field Post Office one Senior Supply Officer and Supply Personnel Section one nucleus of an Ordnance Base Personnel 180 days reserve rations 3500 tons Ordnance Stores and clothing 60 tons ammunition and 165 reserve vehicles.
3. One British Battalion strength 400 all ranks arrive Shaibah by air between 13th and 19th April. Administrative arrangements made with A.O.C. Iraq this Battalion will communicate with India through R.A.F. channels at Shaibah. Battalion is under orders of A.O.C. Iraq until arrival of General Fraser.
4. Following will be despatched in addition between April 13th and April 23rd full details later. Light battery R.A. C.G.H. one Depot Medical Stores H.Q. Supply Personnel Company and two Supply Personnel Sections Base Ordnance Detachment Ordnance Stores 500 tons nucleus of a base engineer staff one Field Company one Field Park Company two Artisan Work Companies 2000 tons Engineer Base Stores M.A.G. Accounts Section nucleus of a Base Staff.
5. Provisional arrangements in hand to prepare remainder of division and base organization for despatch early as possible. Second Brigade Group should not be expected to embark before early May.
6. Above for your most secret information.

A.O.C. Iraq to pass copy of this telegram to Col. Hutchings at Shaibah with the intimation that Col. Hutchings and Maj. Plant are to remain at Shaibah until arrival of General Fraser at Basrah and subsequently to assist in disembarkation arrangements. Also request paramount importance of secrecy be emphasized.

Received from
2230/10. War Office 1455/14

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

10.4.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

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ASAKA.

ASAKA. Propose to stop ship at examination station outside harbour but within port area and enquire whether willing to submit to contraband and enemy export control. If unwilling, on grounds that she is a service vessel, is it to be contended that she is not a service vessel and that question whether she is or is not can only be determined by search? If unwilling on this or any other grounds shall refuse supplies and request ship to leave the port. Is access to be refused if ship submits to control? Please indicate action to be taken if cargo includes goods of enemy origin belonging to Japanese, whether Naval or military supplies or not. Recd. from Colonial (Sir. A. Caldecott. 0145/11.) Office.

TORRENS.
TRICOLOR.
TAMERLANE.

My 1253/26. Norwegian Ships TORRENS, TRICOLOR and TAMERLANE should be similarly diverted. (D.T.D. 1809/10.)

America and West Indies.

Raiders use
of Caroline
Islands.

Seattle reports (A.1.) that German raiders are being outfitted and supplied in Caroline Islands. Mail for raiders is said to be addressed to Capt. Von. Stahmer care of German Embassy Tokyo. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1206/10. to Capt. O.S., Singapore.)

French Ships.

Following from Navy Dep., 9/4 - Arrived ~~from~~ Morocco with general cargo, FORT DE TROYON and FORT DE DOUVAULT with 700 tons of munitions from Marseilles, a Polish Vessel name unstated details to follow. (N.A. Washington. 1227/10.)

10.4.41.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

H.X. 119,121.
Escort
arrangements.

QUEEN ELIZABETH will not now be available for Halifax convoy escorts.

2. REVENGE is to part company with convoy HX 119 11/4 and return to Halifax.

3. REVENGE will be required to sail as escort for HX 121 on 16/4.

4. NORFOLK is to leave the Denmark Strait and R/V with HX 119 who is escorted by AURANIA and MONTCLARE at daylight 13/4 or 14/4. HX 119 is routed through the following positions, to R/V 0645 G.M.T./18/4 in 60°40'N. 21°00'W.

5. H.X. 119 sailed from Halifax 1700 G.M.T./6 speed of advance 8.2 knots.

(1st. S.L. 1717/10.)

PORTLAND.
ORSORNO.*
(German.)

* ORSORNO?

Following classified A.2. PORTLAND arrived Cadiz 4/4 after rounding Cape Horn immediately oiling in South Atlantic from tanker attached German raider operating those waters. ORSORNO is following same route and procedure.

(N.A. Santiago de Chile. 1900/10, to S.O.(I). Calloa.)

War Diary.

10.4.41.
Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

MAURETANIA
NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Arrivals. 2355Z/9. HOBART and AUSTRALIA
escorting MAURETANIA and NIEUW AMSTERDAM
at Sydney. 0440Z/10. SYDNEY at Sydney.
(A.C.N.B. 1721Z/10.).

War Diary.

10.4.41.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

LINCOLN
ELLSWORTH
(torpedoed
6/4.)

Norwegian tanker, 5580 tons, torpedoed 140 miles W.S.W. of Reykjanes in Iceland on 6/4. 16 of crew of 29 picked up, and ship is presumed to have sunk. (D.S., 583,10/4) was independently routed from Reykjavik to Trinidad in ballast. (D.O.R. 12/4.).

SALEIER
torpedoed.

Dutch, 6563 tons. Had been in Convoy O.B.306. Following from Resolution Island (begins) 1719 G.M.T.SSSS 58.04 N., 30.48 W., (SALEIER) torpedoed 1715. Ship sinking fast. No bearing possible due to weak spark signal. (Ends.). (Naval Ottawa 1600/10. Liverpool 1717/10 de MAS, 1723/10 de G.K R.).

S/m's reported.

2000/7.

Report p.c. and s. of Advance. D/F indicated Italian U.Boat vicinity 037° N., 011° - 012° W., at 2000/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410/10 to UNDAUNTED.).

Estimates.

F.O.(S) 1431/10. to S/M's on patrol.

1100 to
1400.

3 U/Boats were sighted on Meridian 006° W., between 047° N., and 048° N., between 1100 and 1400. All steering Easterly course. (F.O. (S) 2317/10. to TIGRIS.).

2107/9.

By D/F at 2107/9 Italian U-boat approx., 037° N., 011° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1459/10, to MALVERNIAN.)
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/10.).

War Diary.

10. 4. 41.
Thursday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's attacked.

By HELIOTROPE
MALCOLM
FLEETWOOD.

Attacking contact first obtained by HELIOTROPE 1 mile ahead of convoy in 054° 44' N., 018° 18' W., at 1727. HELIOTROPE contact firm, MALCOLM contact doubtful. (MALCOLM 1805/10.).

Following attacks delivered HELIOTROPE 5 patterns so far on firm contact. MALCOLM one double pattern on doubtful contact. FLEETWOOD 2 attacks on another doubtful contact. Rejoining convoy with FLEETWOOD. (MALCOLM 1907/10.).

My 1805/10. One rating reported object breaking surface about half mile from HELIOTROPE in middle of convoy. Object might have been stern of U. Boat or whale. HELIOTROPE, BURNWELL, ordered to continue hunt heaving to midnight. Am proceeding to assist FLEETWOOD (? attacking doubtful) contact 210° 3 miles from HELIOTROPE contact 54° 44' N. 18° 18' W. (MALCOLM 1958/10.).

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War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay
Patrol.

QUEEN ELIZABETH left patrol at 0759 to-day, to fuel at Gibraltar, REPULSE was unable to berth at Gibraltar on account of a very heavy Levanter which rendered berthing impossible.

Both battle cruisers were at Brest at 1400 today.

M.T.B.
Operation.

M.T.B's 102, 35 and 70 were despatched at 2350/10, to intercept two merchant vessels and an escort vessel reported by aircraft in 49° 45' N. 0° 10' E. course 062°. The M.T.B's were later diverted to attack a camouflaged tanker and two trawlers at 0210 today in approx. 50° 7' N. 1° 17' E; they attacked with torpedoes, M.T.B. 70 possibly obtaining a hit. M.T.B. 35 exchanged shots with the enemy, scored hits and suffered considerable damage.

At 1015 to-day a vessel was plotted off Gris Nez, course N.E. M.T.B's 71 and 5 were sent to intercept, but returned owing to visibility increasing from one to five miles.

1st B.S.
Home Fleet.

Organisation assumed to-day:-
1st Divn. KING GEORGE V, PRINCE OF WALES,
DUKE OF YORK.
2nd Divn. NELSON, RODNEY, QUEEN ELIZABETH.

S. 1. p. 242

British Air Activity.

47 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked the enemy battle cruisers at Brest last night, dropping 50 tons of H.E. Swordfish of Coastal Command detailed to attack the enemy battle cruisers in Brest between 0130 and 0530 were unable to attack owing to darkness and weather. It is reported that a 4000 ton tanker and a destroyer have been sunk in Brest during the recent attacks (Air Staff Opnl. Summary No. 143).

War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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British Air Activity. (contd).

6 Blenheims to-day attacked patrol vessels off Norderney and claim some hits on minesweepers.

A 1500 ton merchant vessel attacked off Lister Light this afternoon was later seen abandoned and sinking.

Enemy Air Activity.

Five fishing trawlers were attacked at 1600 while on passage from Iceland to Grimsby; there was no damage but one casualty.

There was a light attack on Portsmouth from 2122 to 2222. Little Naval damage occurred.

A.A.
defence
of
Yarmouth.

In view of the extensive damage done to naval and civilian property in Yarmouth by enemy a/c within the last weeks F.O.I.C. Yarmouth considers further A.A. protection essential. The positions of heavy A.A. guns have been sited but the guns have not been mounted. C. in C. Nore concurs and points out that if the M/S Base and trawlers had been damaged the security of the heavy East Coast traffic to and from London would have been seriously risked.

War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft probably took place last night between Yarmouth and Flamborough Head.

Traffic in the Thames was restricted from 0115 to-day. The river was reopened at 1246. Several mines were detonated in the Estuary.

Boom vessel OTHELLO and yacht YORKSHIRE BELLE employed on boom defence duties were mined and sunk in the Humber to-day.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven and Plymouth, on shore at Poole.

The Clyde is open from 0930 to 2200.

South Atlantic.

U-boats
off
Freetown.

Dutch S.S. ALCINOUS reported being attacked by a submarine at 2222 in 7° 17' N. 14° 29' W. (150 miles S.W. of Freetown).

S.S. AEGEON was torpedoed at 1900Z in 6° 55' N. 15° 38' W. 160 miles W.S.W. of Freetown) The Chief Engineer of AEGEON stated that the s/m which sank the ship was French, of CIRCE class.

VOLTAIRE (A.M.C) was due at Freetown 9/4 but nothing has been heard of her. (see 5/4).

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War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S.S. DRACO was bombed and damaged to-day off Mersa Tobruk. An enemy attack on Tobruk was repulsed.

East Indies.

Red Sea.

It is stated that President Roosevelt to-day issued an order declaring that the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are no longer combat zones. The Mediterranean remains a combat area, and U.S. ships will not be able to go further than Suez.

Red Sea Convoys are now being discontinued.

War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

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RONNAREN.

Admiralty 1737/8. Swedish RONNAREN sailed 0745 today. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1001/11).

GLIMMAREN.

A.M. 1155/10. Sailing of GLIMMAREN now delayed until noon/15. (D.O.D. (H) 1040/11)

Arming of
Faroese and
Icelandic
Fishing
Craft.

Your 1010/2. Consideration is being given to arming Faroese and Icelandic fishing craft with machine guns on loan if they desire to have them. Guns could be provided at D.E.M.S. arming ports in U.K. and crews trained in their use.

Provision of specially armed craft for local protection cannot be contemplated at present. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1111/11).

Admty. 1912/5 and your 1207/8. Machine guns will be provided for Icelandic and Faroese trawlers and crews trained in their use at U.K. Ports only.

Larger vessels can be provided with two machine guns and other A.A. devices supplied to Allied ships. No.12 pdr. guns are available.

Re Icelandic ships trading to U.S.A. request names of vessels concerned, when their case will be considered.

Reference to detector ships is not clear. Special escort cannot be provided for Icelandic ships proceeding to U.K.

Arrangements could, however, be made for vessels capable of convoy speed to join inward bound convoys. Ships sailing for U.S.A. should proceed independently.

(A.C.N.S.(T)1914/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

A/S Striking
Forces in
W.A. Command.

The extended commitment of the W.A. Command will make provision of independent A/S striking force from resources within command more difficult than before.

Camouflage principle of offensive action must be maintained, and each escort group should therefore be regarded as a striking force within itself.

Where circumstances permit S.O. of escort should detail ship to act as a striking force if opportunity arises. (C. in C. W.A. 1205/11).

War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

6th M/L
Flotilla.

Your 1301/10/4. Intend to release 6th M.L. Flotilla proceed to its operational base as soon as six M.L.S. of the 11th Flotilla are ready for service. (C. in C. Nore 1219/11).

Home Fleet
Organisation.

Organisation number one is established and is to be assumed forthwith. 1st Division. KING GEORGE V, PRINCE OF WALES, DUKE OF YORK. 2nd Division. NELSON, RODNEY, QUEEN ELIZABETH. (C. in C. H.F. 1540/11).

Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth A/A
Defences.

In view of the extensive damage done to naval and civilian property in Yarmouth by enemy A/C within the last weeks I consider further A/A protection essential. The positions of heavy A/A guns have been sited and G.O.C. 2nd A/A Corps informs me that application for these should be passed to Admiralty for transmission to Air Ministry.

Request consideration to this may be given as a matter of urgency. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1850/11).

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1850/11 is fully concurred in. If damage done in recent raids had extended to M/S Base and to trawlers, security of the heavy East Coast traffic to and from London would have been seriously risked. (C. in C. Nore 2230/11).

Movements.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Adty. 1838/10. Have left patrol. E.T.A. Gibraltar daylight/(?14th). Will pass through position (?038 degs.) N.018°. 30' W. at 1200/12 (A) April. Landing personnel for American ships at Gibraltar.(QUEEN ELIZABETH 0759/11).

War Diary.

11.4.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Movements. (contd.)

LATONA.

1. It has been decided to sail LATONA to the Mediterranean via the Cape as soon as possible after completion of acceptance trials.
2. Working up will be carried out in the Mediterranean.
3. Important military stores and ship's spare gear will be embarked in the Clyde. Mines will not be embarked.
4. An amended programme should be forwarded, dummy lay in Clyde area being omitted. (1st S.L. 1150/11).

ARGUS.

A.T. 1304/9. Request you report what passengers, mails, stores and explosives can be carried in ARGUS, also in ocean escort as soon as detailed. (D.O.D. (F.)1315/11)

A.F.D. XIII

My 1146/10. Tow postponed until 12/4. (C. in C. Nore 1444/11).
My 2210/7 and 1146/10. Owing to tow arriving at Southend 3 hours late operation has had to be postponed. Request you will investigate cause of delay and report. (a) Whether Tow can arrive Southend at 1100 tomorrow. (b) Whether LYNCH is capable of towing satisfactorily and if so expected speed through water. (C. in C. Nore 1508/11 to F.O.I.C. London).
Your 1508. Dock and tug moored for night at Holehaven. (A) Yes (B) Yes. Speed 5 knots. (F.O.I.C. London 1904/11 to C. in C. Nore).
Intend to sail A.F.D.XIII in tow of Tug LYNCH tomorrow. Times as in my 2210/7. Escort COTTESMORE. F.O.I.C. London is requested to arrange for tow to be at Southend by 1100/12. (C. in C. Nore 2234/11).

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

Tanker and
Escort attacked.

M.T.B's 102, 35 and 70 dispatched at 2350 to intercept two merchant vessels and one escort vessel reported by 16 Group in 49° 45' N. 00° 10' E, course 062°, speed 12 knots at 2125. Instructed to make English coast at daylight. (V.A. Dover 0031/11). My 0031. M.T.B.'s intercepted a camouflaged tanker and two trawlers at 0210 in approx. 50° 07' N. 1° 17' E. Torpedo attacks carried out with possibility of one hit by M.T.B. 70. M.T.B. 35 also exchanged gunfire with tanker and trawlers, scored hits, and suffered considerable damage. Lieut. slightly wounded.

At 1015 C H L plotted one vessel off Gris Nez course northeast. M.T.B.'s 71 and 5 despatched to intercept but returned owing to visibility increasing from one to five miles. (V.A. Dover 1123/11).

Operation by
M.T.B.'s.

Following received from F.O. 4th M.T.B. Flotilla. Begins. Conditions unsuitable. Am returning. 0230 Ends. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0256/11). Arrival M.T.B.'s 22, 31, 32 and 34. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0700/11).

East Coast
Patrol.

Tonight following A.P. positions from Sunk Light Vessel. (A) Sheringham Buoy. (B) 5 Buoy to Hearty Knoll. (C. in C. Nore 1021/11).

Biscay
Patrol.

Re position (1st S.L. 1108/11 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. H.F. 2012/11 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.

Northern Trawler
Patrol.

C. in C. W.A. 1947/6. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1140/11 to A.C.O.S.)

STURGEON.

STURGEON is to be sailed on 12/4 for a patrol between positions 77 and 80. Object as in my 1949/27/3. (F.O.S. 1141/11).

/ Patrol by 10th A/S Group.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

Patrol by 10th
A/S Group.

My 1942/6. Request you will operate 10th A/S Group and maintain a constant patrol in the area 59° to 61° N. 30° to 32° W. Trawlers should spend about 60% of time at sea. 2. When patrolling by day Trawlers should normally be at visibility distance apart, by night they should patrol independently. (C. in C. W.A. 1620/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

S/M's to report
Shipping
sighted.

On arrival in harbour of submarines who have been on patrol in number of positions in Bay of Biscay report to me by signal any ships sighted to West of 007° West giving (a) description of ship. (b) position (c) course (d) date and time. Nil reports are required. (F.O.S. 1634/11).

Operation G.W.

Intend to sail 3rd M.L. Flotilla less M.L. 126 defective, escorted by SPIREA, KASHMIR, and JACKAL at 0800/12 for Gibraltar routed as follows. (C. in C. Plymouth 1927/11).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

"Stand"
STAND and S.A. 3 now in operation (C. in C. Rosyth 1154/11).
Your 1330/9 para. 2. This will be done whenever possible, but conditions over Brest have made routine reconnaissance quite impossible during last ten days. (A.C.N.S., H. 1211/11).
Patrols ~~MOON~~ and ~~CAMP~~ are not to be carried out tonight.
Four A/C of 59 Squadron are to carry out individual patrols to cover the French Coast between Cherbourg and Gris Nez during moonlight tonight. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1525/11).

/ Bombing Restriction....

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd).

Bombing
Restriction.

Request t.b.r. between longitude 005° and 007° W. and North of 049° 15' N. between 0600/12 and 2000/12. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1516/11).

Brest,
Bordeaux.
Rotterdam.
Lorient.

Day 10th April. 7 Blenheims of 2 Group set out in the afternoon to attack shipping and land targets between Belle Ile and Goulet Riec. Five aircraft each found a steam or motor trawler to attack and one of them found two. Attacks were carried out on all of them from low heights and two also machine gunned their target. No direct hits are claimed. Night 10/11 Apl. Weather was not wholly favourable for attacks as there was cloud over Brest during the latter part of the night.

SCHARNHORST AND GNEISENAU had been reported by their previous position and were attacked by 46 A/C's. Near misses on the ships were claimed by several Wellingtons, while bombs from other aircraft which overshot were seen to fall across 3, 4 and 5 Docks. All 5 Manchesters claim to have straddled the ships. The results of bombs from 9 Blenheims were unobserved. At Lorient, one Blenheim directly hit a Warehouse and Docks by the mouth of the river. (H.Q.B.C. 1636/11).

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth
bombed.

At 2150 1 H.E. fell in Clarence Yard and 2 in Forton Creek. No serious damage. Incendiaries in oil fuel depot and Clarence Yard. No fires. No casualties. at 0200. 3 H.E.s in harbour 200 yards E. of Bedenham Pier and 3 more at 0250, 2 or 3 H.E.s and some incendiaries in civil area round about but no reports of serious incidents. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0426/11).

/ BROOMLANDS.....

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

BROOMLANDS.

(British, 518 tons). Attacked by L.L.B. A/C in 56° 59' N. 24' W. at 1500/10. 2 bombs dropped 200 yds on Port quarter, also machine gunned. Height of A/C 200 ft. Vessel opened fire. No damage to A/C observed believed to be junker 88. Slight damage from machine gun fire. No Casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1151/11).

Convoy F.S.

Fighter aircraft are being despatched to assist "MERT". (Rosyth W/T 1208/11).

Unknown ship attacked.

Auto AAAA Bearing 295 strength 3/4. (Wick Radio: Recd. 1631/11).

LOCH LEE
LOCH AWE
attacked on
7/4.

Fishing trawler LOCH LEE and LOCH AWE both attacked by F.W. Condor in 61° 2' N. 5° W. at 0940/7. LOCH LEE two bombs exploded 30 yards port bow. LOCH AWE 2 bombs exploded 30 yards astern. Both slightly damaged by machine gun and cannon fire. No casualties. A/C flying 200 ft from East and after attack proceeded to East. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1646/11).

Convoy
F.N.452

Help Convoy ^{"Agent"} AGENT. One enemy A/C. My position 52° 25' N. 2° 2' E. (GUILLEMOT 1651/11). Fighters being sent to Convoy ~~AGENT~~ ^{"Agent"} (C. in C. Nore 1658/11).

A/C over
Jan Mayen.

Captain Uhling reports unknown aeroplane heard passing over Jan Mayen in fog at 0900 course S.W. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1721/11).

Harwich.
Parkeston
Quay damage
on 10/4.

Air raid damage Parkeston Quay 2140/10. Damage. (works, Shotley 1732/11).

/VENEZUELA.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Air Activity. (Contd).

VENEZUELA.

My 1030/11. Swedish VENEZUELA examined found correct. Master reports ship heavily bombed and machine gunned 0815/10 in 062°N. 2°30' W. Ship clearly displayed Swedish colours. Mistaking of identity impossible. Plane four engine bomber almost certainly F.W.Condor. Seven 500 pound bombs dropped from low level estimated 150 feet. First bomb struck aft penetrating into steering compartment but failed to explode and was disposed overboard by crew. Remaining six bombs exploded in water nearest estimated 150 feet. Plane disappeared Eastwards probably having exhausted bombs. Two minor casualties from machine gunning. Steering gear uninjured and ship in all respects seaworthy. Master intends to proceed onward to Rio de Janeiro dusk 12th unless contrary instructions received from Adty. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2103/11).

Mining.

River
Thames.

Stop all traffic in Galleons Reach and Barking Reach. (F.O.I.C. London 0113/11). All navigation is to cease between P.L.A. Harbour Service Station Erith and P.L.A. Harbour Service Station, Woolwich. (F.O.I.C. London 1025/11). River is now open to navigation. Ships are to keep to the South of the Channel in Galleons, Barking, and Halfway Reaches and to the North of the Channel in St. Clements reach. (F.O.I.C. London 1246/11).

Operation H.A.

My 1737/10. In view of your 1915/10 and 1343/5 and IMPULSIVE's 1134/10 intend ICARUS to delay boiler cleaning for 48 hours. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to sail IMPULSIVE from Humber not later than A.M./16. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1047/11). Admiralty 1915/10. Short title for operation is H.A. C. in C. Portsmouth

/is requested....

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining (Contd).

Operation H.A.
(Contd).

is requested to sail INTREPID and ICARUS to arrive Plymouth 0700/12. (C. in C. Plymouth 1105/11).

Admiralty 1915/10. Estimated very approx. positions of Submarine at 2030/12 as follows. As submarines positions are very uncertain and I am anxious that Submarines should not be delayed, I would prefer that this Operation be postponed until the night of 14/4 to avoid the possibility of an unfortunate incident. (F.O.S. 1652/11).

Sailed INTREPID and ICARUS for Plymouth 2200. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2203/11).

Liverpool
Restrictions.

Request urgent attention of N.C.S.O.'s be called to A.M.1240/26/2. Vessels are still arriving at outer end of QZ.211 in dark hours to their grave risk. If necessary independently sailed ships and groups should anchor at Holyhead in order to comply with this instruction. (D.T.D. 1105/11 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, Milford H).

Thames
Estuary.

Seven Mines detonated today as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1256/11).

Sterilisation
of Mines.

Admiralty's 1140/1. Home Fleet ships operating in the Faroes to Iceland passage do not normally run paravanes. Risk from drifting mark 20 mines is greatest in North Rona-Pentland-Cape Wrath Area in which paravanes are always run. As drifting mines in this area probably come mainly from southern end of barrier I recommend that sterilisation should be limited to future lays between North Rona and Faroes so as to retain maximum effect of barrier in the most important northern passage. (C. in C. H.F. 1431/11).

/Port Z.A.Minefield....

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining contd.

Port Z.A.
Minefield.

Your 1022/10. Concur. (D.D.O.D. M.
1504/11 to R.A.M.).

OTHELLO.
(Boom Defence
Trawler).
YORKSHIRE BELLE
(Boom Defence
Tender)
sunk.

Regret to report the loss by an underwater explosion of Boom Vessel OTHELLO, and yacht YORKSHIRE BELLE, employed on Boom Defence duties. Explosion took place at 1430 today in 010°. Haile Sand Fort $3\frac{1}{2}$ cables. Fear there are no survivors. (F.O. Humber 1735/11)

Clyde.

River Clyde closing to navigation at 2000 tonight will re-open at 0930 tomorrow. Any movement begun before 2000 may be completed. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1829/11).

Off Harwich.

WORCESTER reports at 0841 in $51^{\circ}59.4$ N. $1^{\circ}45.9$ E. one mine, probably acoustic, exploded. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2139/11).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

My 2324/10. Further photographs at 1620/10 show second battle cruiser in dry dock. (D.D.I.C. 0234/11).
Your 1330/9. Preliminary report of air Reconnaissance of Brest at 1400/11. Pilot reports 2 battlecruisers present. (D.D.I.C. 1447/11).

Kiel.
Cuxhaven.
Borkum.
Emden.

Following German warships reported. A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 1817/11).

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys.

Balloons.

Owing to difficulties encountered in flying kites from Merchant Ships suggest for urgent consideration that M.K.VI Balloons be supplied as soon as possible in addition. (C. in C.W.A. 1104/11 to Admty).

Ships for N. of Methil.

Ships in FN convoys bound for ports North of Methil as far North of and including Aberdeen should, if suitable for the inshore standard route, leave the convoy at No.21 E Buoy and proceed independently to their destinations. Such vessels must not be under weigh between sunset and sunrise after parting company with their convoys. (D.T.D. 1104/11 to C. in C.'s Nore, Rosyth).

Dartmouth Groups to sail in daylight.

Last night a number of low flying enemy aircraft were reported between Lands End and Berry Head presumably searching for shipping. Defence of groups against night attacks is more difficult than by day. It is intended to sail groups between Dartmouth and Falmouth by Q.Z.S.192 during daylight/12 instead of tonight. 10th Group will provide fighter escort. It is under consideration to sail all Groups as far as possible by day during moonlight periods. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1425/11, to Admty).

Expediting Discharge.

In order that labour may be engaged in time to commence discharge of ships immediately on arrival, requested that S.O. of Escorts may be instructed to signal to the F.O. i/c Liverpool not less than 12 hours in advance names of ships in company and E.T.C. at Bar L.V.

This is required for immediate information of shipowners. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1429/11, to C. in C. W.A.)

/T.C. 10....

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys (Contd).

T.C.10.

Sail HESPERUS from Liverpool fuelling at Londonderry, LEGION, PIORUN, GARLAND, French Light Cruiser LEOPARD from Iceland to meet convoy T.C.10 consisting of BATORY, GEORGIC, escorted by RODNEY in position 058°50' N. 035°00' W. at 1500 B.S.T./15 and escort to Clyde. S.O. A/S Escort, LEGION. (C. in C. W.A. 1549/11. to N.O.I.C's Iceland, Liverpool).

A/C attacks
on W/T
aerials.

Attention is drawn to A.M.S.I. 352, para. 2, and 159 para. 3. Evidence that German aircraft are attempting to carry away the main aerial by grappling it with a hook towed by the aircraft. The emergency aerial must therefore be kept permanently rigged and ready for immediate connecting up. (D.T.D. 1727/11. to A.I.G. 26 and 19).

ABBEKERK.

Loading important military stores at Leith, expected to sail by 20/4, is urgently required at the Clyde on 23/4. Request you will sail her and arrange adequate escorts, accordingly. (D.O.D.(H) 1909/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Ships for
E. Coast.

Ships sailing from West Coast U.K. ports and bound northabout for the East Coast should not be routed South of Methil. (D.T.D. 1910/11 to F.O.I.C's).

West Coast.

Dividing line for Northbound and Southbound traffic. (D.T.D., 1926/11) See Summaries Folder.

D.E.M.S.,
Iceland,
Faroes.

Arrangements. (D.T.D. 1914/11 to F.O.I.C. Iceland) See Policy.

Independent
sailings in
Company

Your 2613/10. Concur in principle but consider that ships routed North of Rockall, should proceed independently on reaching 15° W. and those South of Rockall 17° W. Recommend also that not more than two ships should sail in a group proceeding at 12 knots and not more than 3 or 4 in a group proceeding at 14 knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1928/11 amended 1006/12).

/Protection against
"E" Boats....

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd).

Protection against
"E" Boats.

Desired to make fullest possible use of "R" mines to protect East Coast Convoys against E-boats. Request you will make arrangements accordingly and signal your intentions. (D.O.D.(H) 1929/11 to C. in C. Nore).

W.S.8.

No non-essential messages to be made by W/T to escort of W.S.8 once the latter has sailed. Signals, concerning this convoy, passed between Simonstown, Freetown, Gibraltar and U.K. are to be passed by cable whenever time permits. (D.S.D. 2232/11).

Casualties and Defects.

CAMPBELTOWN.

Further serious condenser trouble has developed, necessitating dockyard assistance. (CAMPBELTOWN 0845/11).

ARGUS.

ARGUS reports boiler defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1023/11).

GOLDFINCH.

My 1703/5. Owing to defects discovered during preliminary trials sailing of GOLDFINCH will be delayed for two weeks. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1233/11).

EMPIRE TARPON.

My 1720/11. EMPIRE TARPON defective boilers unable to sail. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1900/11).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

PANDORA.
CAIRNDALE.

PANDORA and Oiler CAIRNDALE are to return to Gibraltar in company forthwith passing through (a) 031° 00' N. 018° 00' W. (b) 034° 00' N. 012° 00' W. thence to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0508/11 to PANDORA CAIRNDALE).

REPULSE.

Your 2201/10. Very heavy levanter unlikely to improve before Saturday makes berthing impossible. Remain to Westward. (F.O.C.N.A. 1002/11 to REPULSE). My 1001/11. Weather improving and expect conditions will admit of you entering harbour at 0730/12. Report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 2158/11 to REPULSE).

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

My 1838/10. QUEEN ELIZABETH's arrival at Gibraltar is more important than REPULSE's departure. QUEEN ELIZABETH is to fuel at Gibraltar as soon as possible. Indicate R/V for QUEEN ELIZABETH with destroyers forthwith. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1052/11 to F.O.C.N.A.). Admty 1052/11 and 1838/10. Only available destroyer at Gibraltar, VELOX, will be sailed to pass through 035° 35' N. 011° 10' W. steering 292° at 0800 zone - 1/13 to R.V. with QUEEN ELIZABETH whose E.T.A. Gibraltar is daylight/14. If any destroyer with REPULSE has sufficient fuel REPULSE is to detach one destroyer to join VELOX at 0800 zone-1/13. Weather conditions at Gibraltar still impossible for berthing ships, wind force 12 in squalls. Intend to sail BOREAS to join QUEEN ELIZABETH as soon as it is possible to fuel BOREAS. (F.O.C.N.A. 1254/11 to Admty). QUEEN ELIZABETH's 0759/11 Officers and ratings taking passage in QUEEN ELIZABETH should be returned to U.K. by first opportunity. F.O.C.N.A. pass to QUEEN ELIZABETH on arrival. (D.P.S. 2231/11 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/UNBEATEN.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (contd).

UNBEATEN.

A. My 1135/9 Amend Route as follows.
E.T.A. at position E. 0600/20 and at
position 350° Cape Spartel 10 miles, 0600/21.
Will enter North Atlantic Station at 0001/18.
(Capt. S.5. 1341/11 to Admty etc).

M.V.'s.
Gibraltar.

Instructions for Merchant vessels entering
Gibraltar. Information regarding Boom
signals and entrance to Admiralty Harbour
is not to be given to merchant vessels.
(D.T.D. 1728/11 to A.I.G. 26, 19);

TAKU.

Your 2342/10. My p.c. and s. 041° N.
011° W. 180° 11.25 knots. (TAKU 2145/11
to F.O.C.N.A).

TORBAY.

Your 2342/10. My p.c. and s. 041° N. 012°
W. 180° 13 Knots. E.T.A. 12 miles from
Europa Point 1400 G.M.T./13.
(TORPAY 2151Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A).

SHILLONG
S/M report.

Following has been read. SSSS de SHILLONG
32.25 N. 29.14 W. SHILLONG, suspicious
tanker and submarine sighted close.
(Gibraltar W/T 2340/11) (W.R. Note
?PANDORA and Tanker).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 2253/25/3. ILLUSTRIOUS docked 8/4/41 and undocked 9/4/41. Underwater fittings examined and no additional damage items to those detailed in Capt. Sup's. Alexandria Letter dated 27/2/41 ref. No 01426 were found. (N.L.O. Durban 1036B/11 to Admtly).

TWEED.

Overdue shipping. TWEED due Freetown 6/4 from Oban 11/3 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1151/11 to Admtly).

FORT DE FRANCE
(French)
interception report.

Following received from Valentia Radio (Begins) Intercept DE FORT DE FRANCE 27° 39' N. 28° 06' W. attacked by British Garrigues (thought to be name of Master) (ends) 2242/8 (ends). Have you any knowledge of interception of ship? (D.D.I.C. 1202/11 to C. in C. S.A. A.W.I. F.O.C.N.A.). (See also America & West Indies).
Your 1202/11. No information.
(C. in C. S.A. 2302/11 to Admtly).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.

My 1305/6. Leave patrol and return to Freetown so as to arrive P.M./14 or 0700/15 as convenient. (C. in C. S.A. 1207N/11 to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE).

BRIDGEWATER.

To leave St. Helena a.m./12 to arrive in position 024° 00' S. 016° 50' W. at 1800/14 and remain in that neighbourhood until further orders in case required by you at any later stage of operations. (C. in C. S.A. 1219N/11 to S.O. Force U)

DELHI.

To leave Freetown 1600/12 and proceed by direct route to Trinidad speed being adjusted to arrive 1200Z Plus 4/21. (C. in C. S.A. 1251N/11 to DELHI). Request information where DELHI will refit in U.S.A. (C. in C. S.A. 1255N/11 to Admtly).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (contd).

W.S.8A.

Re water supply. Freetown.
(D. of S.T. 1345/11 to C. in C. S.A).

PORTLAND
OSORNO
(German.)

Following A 2 report received from N.A. Chile. PORTLAND arrived Cadiz 4/4 after rounding Cape Horn and oiling in South Atlantic from tank (er?) attached to German raider operating in those waters. OSORNO is following same route and procedure (Ends) (S.O.I. Montevideo 1829Z/11 to S.O.I. Freetown).

→ NEWCASTLE
NELSON
W.S.7.

Your 1759/8 and my 2047/11. NEWCASTLE now unlikely to join W.S.7 before 028° S. one day from Capetown. NELSON has 12 officers and 139 ranks and ratings on board for Capetown. Your 1418/3 refers. Intend that on relief NELSON proceed at best speed to Capetown to disembark passengers, fuel, then Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 2051N/11 to Admty).

→ NEWCASTLE.

Admty 1759/8. Expect to arrive 0930/12. Fuel required 1600 tons. (NEWCASTLE 2152Z/11 to O.C. Troops, St. Helena).

German
NORDERNEY.

At Para, has left quay and anchored in stream. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2306Z/11 to S.A.D).

VOLTAIRE.

Your 1502/5. VOLTAIRE was due Freetown p.m./9. Nothing has been heard of her yet.
(C. in C. S.A. 2309N/11 to Admty).

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11.4.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNION.
URGE,
TORBAY,
TAKU,
→ PANDORA.

Are being sailed to reinforce Mediterranean Fleet. F.O.C.N.A. is being instructed to recall PANDORA to Gibraltar as soon as possible. F.O.(S) has been requested to give necessary instructions to the remainder to proceed to Gibraltar. Requested you will signal instructions for their subsequent movements to F.O.C.N.A. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0026/11 to C. in C. Med) See 1103/11 as to PANDORA.

U/B Report

S/M sighted in position 032° 41' N. 028° 10' E. at 2005/10. T.O.O. 0040/11. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria 0121/11 to S/M's on Patrol). My 0040/11 2 other Italian S/Ms may be patrolling within 20 miles of 034° N. 027° 50' E. and 033° N. 027° 15' E. T.O.O. 0755/11 (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 0802/11 to RORQUAL).

German
A/C's.

Considerable German Aircraft Activity at night time is to be expected during present period of moonlight nights especially in the vicinity of Crete. T.O.O. 0910/11. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 0952/11 to Med. Fleet and Submarines).

→ OLYMPUS.
PANDORA.

Cdr. S. Malta reports OLYMPUS has numerous defects and is unsuitable for operations in Mediterranean. PANDORA's condition on leaving for present operations was as given in my 1144/24/3. Admty. 0026/11. (it is considered) she is unsuitable for operations in Mediterranean. 1103/11. Your 1103/11. Report that OLYMPUS and PANDORA are unsuitable for service in Mediterranean is not understood. The making good of defects mentioned does not appear to be beyond local resources. Defects should not preclude submarines carrying out patrol operations where they are vitally needed as at present. It is recognised that considerably increased maintenance between patrols will be necessary in view of the age and hard running of these submarines. (F.O.S. 1953/11 to S.8).

/LATONA.....

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11.4.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

LATONA.

Your 1436/8. LATONA will be sent via the Cape as soon as possible, her working up being done in the Mediterranean. She should arrive Suez (date) and will carry important stores but no mines. (1st S.L. 1148/11 To C in C. Med).

TORBAY.
TAKU.

Admty. 0026/11. TORBAY and TAKU have recently carried out prolonged and strenuous duties. Considered essential they should have a suitable rest before proceeding on patrol. (F.O.S. 1149/11 to C. in C. Med).

JERVIS.
JANUS.
MOHAWK.
NUBIAN.

Ready to operate as requisite from night 11/12 April. When you are informed that destroyers have sailed at sunset for night operations you are to report southbound convoy when safe to do so after attack or if attack not possible by you. (Cdr. S.l. 1259/11 to UNIQUE).

Enemy
M.T.B.'s.

My 2005/2. Request report whether point of departure of attacking motor boats can be established, and whether there is any indication that they can be launched from submarines. (V.C.N.S. 1312/11 to C. in C. Med).

TETRARCH.

Codr. (S) 1 2005/10. Unless otherwise ordered leave patrol P.M./13 to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0500/19 (Route). (Capt S.l. 1445/11 to TETRARCH).

/Malta.....

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War Diary

11.4.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta Air Report.

Up to 1600/11. All times G.M.T.
0800 8 CR. 42's circled north of Malta.
8 Hurricanes up to 2 pf which engaged enemy at 17,000 feet shooting down 2 CR. 42's unconfirmed.
0930. A large enemy fighter offensive patrol numbers unknown, patrolled off the coast and were engaged by A.A. and Hurricanes. Hurricanes shot down one M.E. 110 and one ME 109 into sea confirmed and one JU. 88 probably destroyed but unconfirmed.
2 Hurricanes shot down both pilots killed. 1 Hurricane severely damaged. 3 other Hurricanes slightly damaged. During afternoon considerable activity 30 miles north by probable search and rescue aircraft. Ref. my I.227 10/4. Tripoli photos show no cruisers.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Med. 1715/11)

Corinth Canal

Re Blocking.
(N.A. Athens 1822/11 to C. in C., Med.)
Admiralty do not comment - page 491.

Negotiations for purchase 9 vessels from U.S.A.

Your 1339/21/1. Is there any further information regarding these high speed oilers. One would be of great value to me for passing oil fuel into Malta.
(C. in C., Med. 1827/11)

Enemy Convoy

Four destroyers four Merchant ships 035° 26'N. 011° 43'5 160°, 12 knots at 1700/11. Destroyers and Swordfish leaving to intercept South of Kerkenah. (Cdr. S.1. 1930/11 to UNIQUE, TETRARCH)

Yugoslav Ships.

Re markings. Yugo Slav warships and auxiliary ships in the service of Yugo Slav Navy. (Head of M. 1951/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Possible Enemy Landing Greece.

Usually reliable source states that during last few days large German and Italian units have been concentrated at Brindisi and Bari and that a landing on the west coast of Greece is contemplated. Graded B.O. (D.N.I. 2159/11 to C. in C., Med.)

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11.4.1941.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta A/C
Losses.

Official Communique issued in Malta 11/4 gives following figures of enemy aircraft destroyed by Malta fighters and A/A defences since the war with Italy. 132 confirmed destroyed; 44 probably destroyed but not confirmed; 58 damaged. Our fighters losses for the same period were 29, but 10 of the pilots are safe. (The Times. 12/4/41)

War Diary

11.4.1942
Friday 562

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

EMERALD

My speed reduced to 8 knots, defective condenser. Feared this trouble may (? recur) at high speed. (? My position) at 0200Z/11 was 025° 08' N., 057° 32' E. (EMERALD, 0214/11, to C. in C., E.I.) Your 1603Z/10, E.T.A. in lat. 028° N., is 0600Z/12. My 0214Z/11. My speed is now 18 knots, probability of further condenser trouble is greater at higher speed.
(EMERALD, 0826/Z/11, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf)

Force T.

HERMES 0600/8 to C. in C., E.I. only Force T. is to be at two hours notice for 20 knots and six hours for full speed and proceed with boiler cleaning.
(C. in C., E.I., 0748Z/11, to Force T)

HAWKINS
W.S. 7.

HAWKINS is to leave Durban p.m./14 and proceed to Capetown arriving a.m./17 HAWKINS will escort Cape portion of W.S. 7 onward to vicinity of Mombasa or Aden which will be decided later.
(C. in C., E.I. 0752Z/11 to HAWKINS)

CORFU

196. Your 0631/9. Re date of arrival of CORFU at Calcutta. Not before 5/5. Her maximum speed is about 8 knots.
C. in C., E.I. 0828Z/11 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

LEANDER
B.M. 6.

Departure LEANDER with B.M. 6. 0230Z.
S.O.I. Bombay, 0939Z/11)

/Kismayu...

11.4.41.

FRIDAY. 363

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd.)

Kismayu.

Re Coastal Defences, third gun later.
(C.-in-C.E.I. 0940Z/11, to Admiralty.)

CAPETOWN.
(torpedoed 7/4)

My 0441/8. Diving survey has been completed and discloses following damage. To make ship temporarily seaworthy for passage to a dockyard it is proposed to build Cofferdam. Timber for doing this thought to be available Port Sudan. Pending instructions concerning repairs CAPETOWN proceeding with work of lightening ship. CAPETOWN at present lying in No.5. berth main quay which is urgently required in connection with troop movements. (CAPETOWN, 1117Z/11, to C.-in-C.E.I., Admiralty.)

Red Sea.
Convoys
discontinued.

My 1048/11. 959 C (not to all addressees) which states that Red Sea convoys are being discontinued. Request convoy signals in accordance with my 0950/20/ 10/40 may continue to be sent. They should now be prefixed by word supply instead of convoy. (C.-in-C.E.I., 1140Z/11. to R.A. Malaya, etc.,etc.,)

Iraq revolt
policy.

Chiefs of Staff, No.75.
C.-in-C.E.I. 1206/10. General policy to be followed at Basra is that no offensive action should be taken except in retaliation. If landing is resisted force should be used. (1st S.L., 2213/11, to C.-in-C.E.I.)

China.

REGENSBURG.
(German.)

Yokohama departure 10/4 REGENSBURG previously reported loading oil 2/4. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0351z/11 to Admiralty etc.,)

War Diary.

11.4.41. 364
FRIDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd.)

Mosel (German)
FUSIJAMA
SUMATRA
VOLPI
XXVIII OTTOBRE
(Italian.)

Dornei report that Thai Govt. is considering purchase of Axis shipping in their ports.
(O.S. 584, 11/4.)

Indo-China
French Trade.

Your 2230/9. Confirmed position is as stated in my 0455Z/2/2 I am informing Decoux as directed regarding exports of rubber to France and stressing that we shall endeavour to intercept any such ships wherever found. I still wish however, to avoid interception within China Station in order to obviate possible retaliatory measures by which we might suffer most.
C.-in-C. China, 0515Z/11, to Admiralty.)

America and West Indies.

Refits in
U.S. yards.

Present policy of U.S. Gov, is to keep secret, as far as practicable, repairs to H.M. Ships in American yards. Arrangements re arrival after dark, etc. (D.O.D.(H). 0030/11. to C.-in-C.A.&W.I., R.A.3.)

U.S. Coast-
guard Cutters.

My 1244/7. Additional details of machinery are as follows.
(N.A. Washington, 1039/11, to Admiralty.)

ARICA.
(French)

Intercepted air letter Trinidad states French ship ARICA to leave Marseilles 12/4 for Martinique with goods for trans-shipment to New York.
(C.-in-C.A.&W.I., 1049/11, to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

11.4.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (contd.)

CARADOC.

Sailed in accordance with my 1141/9/4.
(C. in C. A. & W.I., 1053/11, to Admiralty,
etc.).

U.S. Forces
Bermuda
Trinidad.

Following is present position regarding
movement of additional U.S. Forces to
Bermuda and Trinidad.
(C. in C. A. & W.I., 1101/11, to N.A.
Washington.).

CANTON.

Request of unofficial information that
CANTON will refit at New York is suffici-
ently reliable to justify sending ship
there. Her earliest possible arrival at
refitting port is important in order that
her crew may be released for other service.
(V.C.N.S. 1212/11, to B.A.R.M. Washington.).

U.S. Navy.
Communications.

In view of growing co-operation of U.S.
request I may be kept informed of any steps
regarding co-ordination of Naval Communica-
tions. In absence of Admiralty directions
no exchange of such information has yet
taken place, but it is considered prelimin-
ary liaison should be established at an
early date. Request general policy.
(C. in C.A. & W.I., 1727/11, to Admiralty.).

FORT DE FRANCE.
(French)

Your 1202/11. (re South Atlantic).
Reply: No.
(C. in C. A. W & I., 2222/11, to Admiralty.).

War Diary.

11.4.41.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

PARAMATTA
YARRA.

Your 1603/9. Ministerial approval granted to moving of PARAMATTA and YARRA to Mediterranean. Approval subject to War Cabinet confirmation but this is anticipated and moving can commence forthwith if you so desire. (A.C.N.B., 0135Z/11, to Admty.).

U.S.10.

Your 1923/4th. Fuel and water capacity, QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, MAURETANIA, ILE DE FRANCE. Masters and O.C. troops all transports have been instructed to conserve fresh water to utmost after leaving Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., 0729Z/11, to D. of S.T., etc.).

Singapore
Conference.
SYDNEY.

Australian Delegation consisting of Adm., Colvin. Paynter, Capt. Foley and Cdr. Nichols departing Melbourne in SYDNEY on 12/4. E.T.A. Singapore 19/4 April. (A.C.N.B., 0816Z/11, to C. in C. China etc).

War Diary.

11.4.1941. 367
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SALEIER.
(Dutch)
(torpedoed
10/4.).

Request you will detach one destroyer at daylight/11 fuel permitting to assist SALEIER torpedoed in 58° 04' N., 30° 45' W., at 1717/10 G.M.T. Destroyer detailed to signal name when well clear of RESOLUTION. On completion destroyer to return to Reykjavik. (C. in C. W.A., 0035/11, to RESOLUTION.).

Your 0035/11. GARLAND detailed. My course and speed 194° 17, 60.37 N., 29.23 W. (weather). (RESOLUTION, 1200/11, to C. in C. W.A.).

At 1500 G.M.T. met U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK in 059° 49' N., 029° 28' W., with all survivors (63) of SALEIER on board. Am proceeding in company with NIBLACK to Reykjavik speed 24. (GARLAND, 1700/11, to C. in C. W.A.).

Further to my 1700 U.S. Destroyer NIBLACK acting independently from 1730 G.M.T. (GARLAND, 1815/11, to C. in C. W.A.).

LIGURIA
(torpedoed
29/3.).

Swedish, 1751 tons, now known to have been torpedoed 29/3, but position not yet known. Was bound from London for Las Palmas in O.B. 302 and left Loch Ewe 26/3. 10 survivors landed at Liverpool. (D.S., 584, 11/4.).

REYKJABORG
(Torpedoed
about 11/3.).

Your 1925/2. No possibility of enemy having obtained identification certificate. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1735/11.).

BEAVERDALE
(torpedoed 1/4.)

Master of BEAVERDALE states after being torpedoed he was shelled by 2 U boats, 1 very large and dazzle paint. Immediately before the attack R/T conversation believed in German was intercepted in the vicinity 500 K/cs. Suggest Master be further questioned on this point on arrival U.K. in S.D.1. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1933/11, to Admty.).

/AEGEON.....

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11.4.1941.
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

AEGEON

Greek 5285 tons. Following has been read SSSS 6.55 N., 15.38 W., AEGEON Torpedoed. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1900Z/11) Not in Convoy. (D.S. 585)

ALCINOUS

Dutch 6189 tons. Following has been read SSSS 7.17 N., 14.29 W., Dutch ALCINOUS attacked by submarine at 2200 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 2222/11)

THIRLBY
ALDERPOOL
(Torpedoed S.C. 26
3/4.)

THIRLBY in Harbour. No 1 Hold flooded, cargo grain, propose METINDA take over ship and temporary repairs can be effected, ship in no danger. 11 minor casualties and 2 fatal, also survivors of ALDERPOOL on board. (N.O.I.C., Aultbea 2223/11 to, C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

1300

Aircraft report submarine on surface steering 028° at 1300 in 047° 50' N., 009° W., (F.O.S., 1436/11 to Submarines on patrol in Area A.)

2000

Admty. message AF, position 6° 55' N., 15° 38' W., at 1900/11 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 2125/11 to G.B.M.S. Area 6a)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1438/11)

Mediterranean

2005/10.

32.41 N., 28.10 E. (See FOREIGN STATIONS, Med.)

/S/Ms attacked..

War Diary

11.4.1941. 369
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

By A/C
1400/11.

Me.

A/C M/107 on Stand Patrol at 1400 in position 57.58 N., 7.40 E., sighted U-Boat on surface on course 240° T, speed 4 knots (U-Boat description) About twelve of crew on deck. Weather bad heavy driving sleet showers. A/C made low level bombing attack from starboard quarter bombs falling 30-40 yards ahead of U-Boat A/C flew around in and out of sleet storms for 15 minutes and early in this period directly after bombing attack machine gunned hull thereby encouraging some of crew of deck to jump into water. Two M.E. 110's attacked our A/C from astern about 1414 hours causing it to take violent and immediate avoiding action into cloud. (Pitreavie 18 Ops, 2014/11 to Admtty etc.)

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

370

SITUATION REPORT.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation
at
Hammerfest.

destroy, Norwegian named
MANSFIELD today carried out an operation against the fish oil factory at *Ofjord* ~~Geusfjord~~ near Hammerfest. All essential machinery in the factory was destroyed, but not the harbour works or buildings. No enemy aircraft, shipping or troops were seen. The local quisling leader escaped, but his wife was accidentally shot. MANSFIELD left *Ofjord* ~~Geusfjord~~ at 0300.

U/Boat
Campaign.

It is reported today that Norwegian tanker BRASIL was unsuccessfully attacked by a U/Boat at 1230 S.A.T./4 in 56° 15'N., 27° 50'W.

Photographic reconnaissance of Brest showed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU there at 1330 yesterday, but the weather up to 1300 today has prevented further R/C. SHEFFIELD is returning to Gibraltar.

C.in C. Plymouth asks for six more hunt class Destroyers to provide convoy escorts in his command.

Operation G.W.

The 3rd M/L Flotilla, less M.L.126, left Plymouth at 0800 today for Gibraltar, escorted by SPIREA, JACKAL and KASHMIR. F.O. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA is to leave Scapa tomorrow with ARETHUSA for Seydisfiord to reconnoitre the Icelandic harbours and make touch with local garrisons in view of the possibility of raids against Iceland.

2nd C.S. R/c Patrol.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

371

SITUATION REPORT.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

3 Enemy Patrol Vessels were bombed and machine-gunned yesterday off Norderney; but all bombing operations were cancelled last night on account of unfavourable weather.

Enemy Air Activity.

Portsmouth and Avonmouth were attacked last night, considerable damage being done at both places though the Naval and Dock damage was slight. On ship was slightly damaged at Avonmouth.

Convoy H.X.117 was bombed at 1115 today in 61° 58'N., 16° 13'W., without damage apart from 8 casualties in TRILLIUM, Corvette; and LA CAPRICIEUSE asked for fighter assistance off Milford Haven at 1405 this afternoon.

Swedish
S.S. KEXHOLM
sunk.

Following the bombing of the Swedish VENEZUELA on the 10th, the Swedish KEXHOLM was bombed and sunk at 1250 today. S.W. of the Faroe Islands. The crew being rescued by CAPE PORTLAND. Two were wounded. It is reported that Free French CHASSEUR 41 shot down an enemy aircraft off the Nab early today.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

372

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mining.

Operations
H.A.
F.D.32
S.N.9.

At the request of F.O.S. Operation H.A. has been postponed to the night of 14/15; and INTREPID and ICARUS arrived at Plymouth this morning. CACHALOT reports operation F.D.32. completed; and RAM states that, if one additional destroyer can be made available by 16/4, he could sail on that day for operation S.N.9.

2. Mines were detonated off the Tyne, Milford Haven, in the Thames Estuary, and one off Spurn Point; and the Clyde will be closed at 2000 tonight until 0930 tomorrow morning.

Shipping and Convoys.

Sailings
by Day.

As forecasts predicted a clear night, C.in C. Plymouth proposed at midday that "Range" (escorted group from Dartmouth to Portland) should sail by day tomorrow, instead of tonight, to allow of better air protection.

Balloons.

Proposals for supplying balloons to be flown from merchant ships have been sent to the Air Ministry.

Irish
Trawlers.

Complaints have been received that Irish Trawlers interfere with fishermen in the Minches. Ships of Western Approaches Escort Group are to report such cases.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

373

REPULSE and FIJI, escorted by the destroyers HIGHLANDER and FORTUNE returned to Gibraltar this morning from the Bay of Biscay area. Destroyer FURY was detached to escort QUEEN ELIZABETH to Gibraltar.

While S.O. Force H's intention to establish definite positions for the various detached forces on the Biscay Patrol is appreciated, Admty. consider that the longitude of 20° W, is one in which ships should not operate owing to intelligence that Germans are working along this meridian.

French Force.

At 1300 today a French cruiser with a light cruiser and 2 destroyers was in position 35.52N., 09.17W, steering 300° at slow speed.

At 1225, DUNEDIN sighted a French A/C in 36.15'N., 12.15W.

South Atlantic.

BANFORA intercepted.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE reported at 0732/12 that she had intercepted the Vichy French BANFORA, 9,347 tons, from Dakar for Casablanca and Marseilles, and intended to escort her to Freetown. Americans in BANFORA reported 4 Vichy French S/M's and 2 destroyers left Dakar p.m./10, destinations unknown. BANFORA's captain gave maximum opposition and the crew at first refused to work the ship, but apparently changed their minds after the arrival of a strong armed guard.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

374

FORT DE
FRANCE.

There is no confirmation of the report via Valencia Radio on 8/4 that the French FORT DE FRANCE had been "attacked by British". F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A., and C.in C. A.W.I. are without information. An S.O.S. was intercepted at 1057/12 from the Greek NICOLAOS D.L. in 20.00 S., 22.21 W. No reason for the distress message is yet apparent.

Mediterranean.

Air Attacks,
Greece,
Hospital
Ship
ATTIKI
sunk.

Greek EVOIKOS is reported to have been sunk by air attack on Piraeus at some date prior to 12/4. RETRIEVER, cable ship was sunk by bombs off Phleva at midnight last night. At dawn the British tanker MARIE MAERSK was hit and set on fire. Greek Hospital ship ATTIKI, ^{was} sunk last night in Doro Channel by bomb whilst fully illuminated as hospital ship, there were several casualties. N.A.Athens reports that the scale of attack makes it impossible for sweeping to get ahead of mines until after many days under present conditions, and suggests getting all ships possible into deeper water. Several ships have passed out.

Western
Desert.

A further attack on Tobruk was repulsed today. Enemy armoured cars occupied Bardia. SKUDD, netlayer, shot down a Ju 88 when attacked p.m. today on patrol off Tobruk.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.) 375

Suda Bay.

Added protection against E/Boats or similar attacks has been instituted at Suda Bay.

Malta.

About 10 aircraft bombed Malta last night, but no Service casualties or damage were caused. Enemy losses were 1 confirmed and 1 probable. V.A.Malta's views on aircraft types required there are summarised in his 2015/12.

Enemy Convoy.

5 escorted merchant ships were reported at 1730B in 36.32 N., 11.12 E. They were attacked by Swordfish aircraft at 2040 and straddled, but proceeded intact. 2 torpedo Swordfish failed to return.

Captain D.14 with 4 destroyers was operating against this convoy, as he had done against a Tripoli convoy on the previous night. He was unable to intercept, but the convoy was forced to steer north during the night in its efforts to avoid our force.

TETRARCH today torpedoed a southbound fully laden tanker about 20 miles north of Tripoli.

East Indies.

CAPETOWN.

C.O. CAPETOWN (torpedoed on 7/4) considers that absolutely flat calm would be necessary throughout if she is to be towed to Suez. She cannot use her engines. He suggests a repair party be sent to Port Sudan to erect a cofferdam.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. (Contd.)

EMERALD.

EMERALD due at Shatt-el-Arab early tomorrow has been instructed to enter as though normal conditions prevailed.

Italian
Warship
from
Massawa.

Air search has failed to find the destroyer CESARE BATTISTI, and she may be sunk in deep water. ^{VINCENTO} V.G. ORSINI and GIOVANNI V.G. ACERBI are also believed sunk in deep water off Massawa. It is confirmed that the minelayer OSTIA has been sunk there.

Australian
Sloops.

With the approval of the Commonwealth Naval Board, PARRAMATTA and YARRA are to be sent to the Mediterranean as soon as they can be spared from the Red Sea. (See 9/4).

China.

Saigon reports that French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE and tanker LOT left on 10/4 for Madagascar on orders from Vichy. They are represented as not forming a proper part of French Far East Naval Forces.

An unconfirmed report states that French cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET will dry dock in Japan.

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.U.S.
refitting
Ports.

Following is the first list of ships to be refitted under the Lease and Lend Act, with the yards concerned:-

DELHI	New York.
RESOLUTION.	Philadelphia.
ILLUSTRIOUS.	Norfolk.
LIVERPOOL.	Mere Island, California.
MALAYA.	New York.
CANTON.	Hoboken N.J.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.VOLENDAM.

The Dutch VOLENDAM, torpedoed on 12/8/40 with refugee children on board for New York, and which arrived in the Clyde 3 days later and was beached, left today in tow for the Mersey to be repaired.

ALCINOUS.
ST. HELENA.
AEGEON.

Dutch ALCINOUS missed by 2 torpedoes at 2100/11, arrived at Freetown today. No trace has been found of the Greek AEGEON, torpedoed at 1800/11, but WISHART located a boat with 40 survivors of the ST. HELENA, torpedoed early today in about the same area S.W. of Freetown. C.in C. South Atlantic considers there must be 2 U/Boats at work in this area, which if not new have probably fuelled since leaving French Coast ports and likely at sea.

U/Boat
Campaign.

It is reported today that Norwegian tanker BRASIL was unsuccessfully attacked by a U/Boat at 1230 S.A.T/4 in 50° 15'N., 27° 50'W.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ARGUS.

Approved for ARGUS to be out of action until 2359/14 to enable essential boiler repairs to be carried out.
(D.C.D.(H) 0012/12).

See also next page

Belfast Lough.
Proposed additional Tanker.

In view of large increase in number of H.M. ships including cruisers using Belfast for bunkering purposes it is most desirable that another tanker should be based in Belfast Lough.

Reasons.

(C.in C. W.A. 0139/12).

Enemy bombing of Swedish M/V's VENEZUELA detained.

My 2103/11th. In view of attack today on KEXHOLM and possibility that you may wish to reconsider situation have considered it advisable to detain Swedish VENEZUELA here for further 24 hours.

Request immediate reply.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1241/12).

Your 2103/11 and 1241/12.

Use your discretion for sailing VENEZUELA at dusk observing undesirability of detaining Swedish ships in Skopen Fiord longer than absolutely necessary.

(D.E.W.D. 1759/12 to N.O.I.C.Faroes.)

Plymouth, Command Escort Groups.

My 1715/8 and my 1425/11. Under conditions of daylight sailing two Hunts or Wairs per group are considered essential.

& Wairs

2. For this a total of six Hunts/is required without allowing for refits or boiler cleaning.

3. It is requested six more Hunts be allocated to this command at an early date.

(C.in C. Plymouth, 1837/12).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.4.1941.
SATURDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

SHEFFIELD.

Request you will detach SHEFFIELD to Gibraltar now. On arrival ship may revert to 8 hours notice for four days.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/12 to F.O.Force (H)).

Operation
G.W.

Sailed 0800/12. 3rd M.L.Flottilla less M.L.126. Escorted by SPIREA, KASHMIR, JACKAL. E.T.A. 0800/18. Destroyers part company at dark 14/4 and return Plymouth.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 0959/12).

East
Coast
Patrols.

No A.A. vessels between 5 buoy and Hearty Knoll tonight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1015/12.)
4 M.L. on patrol tonight 5 miles 020° 20° from 55 buoy.
(C.in C. Nore, 1055/12).

Operation "Dunlop"
DUNLOP.

Number of operational Swordfish should not be reduced below six.
(D.N.A.D. 1217/12 to ARGUS).
It is anticipated that ARGUS will be ready to leave Clyde for operation ~~DUNLOP~~ on 15/4.

2. Ocean escort will be provided by LONDON from Clyde.

3. C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S escort and to sail, and route convoy.
(D.O.D.(H) 1247/12, 2245/12 and 1901/13).
A.M. 1606/8.

A Cruiser will be required for ocean escort to ARGUS probable date of sailing 15/4.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1508/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Admiralty information of QUEEN ELIZABETH's endurance appears to be inaccurate. Request you will signal from Gibraltar your estimated endurance for speeds of 15 20 and 24 knots.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1312/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

War Diary.

12.4.41.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

2nd C.S.
R/C Patrol.

Intelligence (graded A 2) has been received that Germans are seeking information of our cruiser dispositions West of Faroes.

(ii) This may be to facilitate routeing of surface raiders to and from Atlantic but may also be in preparation for raids against convoys in N.W. Approaches or against Iceland or Faroes.

(iii) F.O. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA with ARETHUSA is to be sailed from Scapa tomorrow and is to proceed (a) to Seydisfiord (b) to Akureyri (c) Reykjavik. Routes.

(iv) The initial route is ordered in anticipation of force being sighted by enemy air reconnaissance.

(v) The subsequent cruise has object of reconnoitring outlying harbours and making touch with local garrisons.

(vi) After refuelling Reykjavik the force is to proceed to patrol between T.R.36 and Iceland in accordance with My 1512/26/3.

(vii) ASCANIA's 0832/11 has been passed to F.O.C. 2nd C.S.

(viii) It is intended F.O.C. 2nd C.S. should visit Faroes when returning to Scapa from patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1549/12).

Biscay Patrol.

Your 1330/9.

Since HOOD and QUEEN ELIZABETH were both leaving patrol within such a short time no action was taken to implement the requests contained in your signal.

While your intention to establish definite positions for the various detached forces is fully appreciated, longitude of 20 degs. W. is one in which Admiralty considers ships should not operate owing to intelligence that Germans are working along this Meridian. A further signal will be made on general Biscay Patrol policy.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1615/12 to S.O. Force H).

Operation
Q.F.

Admiralty's 0959/5. Weather permitting intended to carry out operation to be known as Q.F. similar to P.X. Zero time 0130/15. (C.in C. Nore 2130/12).

War Diary.12.4.1941.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.3 Patrol
Vessels
attacked
off Norderney.

Day 11/4. Six Blenheims attacked off Norderney three naval patrol vessels of 600-700 tons. Middle ship seen to be low in the water after attack. One aircraft scored two direct hits on stern of rear ship and two very near misses. Leading ship also bombed by one aircraft but results unobserved. All six aircraft also raked the decks of these vessels with M/G fire. Night 11/12 April. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. (H.Q.B.C. 0025/12).

Patrols.

Air patrols today ~~unchanged~~ ^{"Unat"} and ~~unchanged~~ ^{"Stan"} now in operation S A 3 taking off 1400. (C.in C. Rosyth 1306/12).
3 Hudson A/C took off from Wick for Kaldadarnes at 1330/12. E.T.A. 1830/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1334/12).
Endless chain patrol by Blenheim aircraft from Muckle Flugga to 61° 20' N. 00 E. in operation from approximately 1430/2 until 1700/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1426/12).
My 1145/10.
Patrol A not being flown to-night. (C.in C. Plymouth 2323/12).

Colouring of
Fighter A/C.

My A.279 of 7/4. Owing to present shortage of stocks of duck egg Blue dope the alteration to under surfaces of day fighters is postponed one week to become effective as from dawn on 22/4. Fighter groups are to advise all concerned of this postponement. (H.Q.F.C. 2220/12).

Enemy Air Activity.Portsmouth
bombed.

Light attack with H.E. and incendiaries from 2122 to 2222. 2 medium fires in joiners store and M.C.D. drawing Office also 3 small fires in dockyard. Some damage done by blast at R.M. Barracks Eastney some damage by U.X.B. at R.N. Barracks. Bomb now safe. One suspected U.X.B. in dockyard. No casualties reported in Admiralty establishments. Some fires in Portsmouth and Gosport. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0035/12, Supt. C.E.1300/12)

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12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy
H.X.117.

Request Fighter protection for Convoy ^{"Broom"} ~~BROOM~~
(WANDERER 1115/12). "Broom"
Enemy bombing convoy ~~BROOM~~ in 60° 21' N.
10° 31' W. (WANDERER 1118/12).

KEXHOLM
(Swedish,
3815 tons)
sunk.

Request fighter protection. My position
59° 48' N. 9° 20' W. (CAPE PORTLAND 1130/12).
KEXHOLM abandoned ship. Do not consider
seriously damaged.
(CAPE PORTLAND 1135/12).
KEXHOLM heavily bombed now sinking.
(CAPE PORTLAND 1152/12)
Am still being attacked. (per S.O.Liverpool)
(CAPE PORTLAND T.O.R. 1205).
Aircraft left at 1210: KEXHOLM sank at
1250. Am now picking up survivors.
(CAPE PORTLAND 1253/12).
Proceed in company forthwith to assist
KEXHOLM. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1310/12 to
BRIGAND, LADY MADELAINE).
Have picked up whole crew. No fatal
casualties. 2 bullet injury may necessitate
calling at Stornoway. Proceeding Kirkwall.
E.T.A. 0930/13. (CAPE PORTLAND 1405/12).
Cancel my 1310/12. Return to Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1412/12 to BRIGAND,
LADY MADELAINE).

5 Trawlers
attacked.

5 Grimsby fishing trawlers on passage Iceland
to Grimsby in company were attacked from 100
feet with bombs and M/G fire by JU.88 in 59°
40' N. 08° 40' W. at 1600/11. No damage, one
casualty. E/A possibly damaged by M/G fire
from Trawler RUSSEL. Trawlers proceeding
Grimsby. (A.C.O.S. 1300/12).

LA CAPRICIEUSE.

Fighter assistance requested position 51°
34' N. 5° 35' W. course 120, speed 16.
(LA CAPRICIEUSE 1405/12).

Avonmouth
bombed on
Night 11/12.

Air raid on Avonmouth of 11/12. Avonmouth
Dock no serious damage, village badly
damaged. Portershead dock 1 ship floating
damaged by incendiaries other damage
negligible. Bristol Dock damage negligible,
town badly damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff
1721/12).

Convoy SAPPY.
"Sapper"

Help ^{"Sapper"} ~~SAPPY~~. Position 50° 44' N. 4° 45' W.
Course 199°. 7 knots.
(TYNE DALE 2235/12).

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12.4.1941.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
H.A.

Arrived 0700 INTREPID, ICARUS. (C. in C. Plymouth 0921/12).
A.M.1915/10 and F.O.S.1652/11. Intend to postpone operation tonight of 14/15 April. (C. in C. Plymouth 1007/12).

M.I.

M. One ^{layed} and field now completed. (LINNET 0944/12).

Tyne.

Two ground magnetic mines detonated simultaneously red L L at 0711/12 approx. 015°. North Tyne Pier Light $1\frac{3}{4}$ cables. (P.M/S.O. North Shields 0952/12).

Beachy Head.
Small
Explosion.

Following from Hollywell C.W.P. Small explosion east 1 mile from Beachy Head. Aircraft seen circling round position. Aircraft now proceeding westwards. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1057/12).

F.D.32

CACHALOT reports operation F.D.32 completed. (F.O.S. 1119/12).

Clyde.

River Clyde will be closed to navigation at 2000 tonight. Any movement begun before that time can be completed. Traffic can be resumed at 0930/12. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1123/12).

Milford
Haven.

3 mines detonated off St. Ann's Head as follows. Details. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1203/12).

Poole.

2 German magnetic mines type C detonated on shore as follows. Details. (N.O.I.C. Poole 1240/12).

Plymouth.

One acoustic mine detonated at 0725/11. Details. (C. in C. Plymouth 1242/12).

/Use of Sterilised Mines...

War Diary.

12.4.41.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining Contd.

Use of
Sterilised
Mines.

Your 1431/11. Concur that mines laid North of the Faeroes could have antenna active. It is not however desirable to dislocate production by again altering mines which have already been sterilized and such mines should be accepted. For the same reason the agreed order of laying this minefield should be maintained. Request your concurrence or remarks. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1317/12 to C. in C. H.F.). Proposals for using Mines already sterilised. Details and Reasons. (R.A.M.1416/12) See Operations Volume.

Thames
Estuary.

Mines detonated. Details.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1318/12, 1809/12.).

S.N.9.

If S.D. One leaves Reykjavik on 13/4. I expect to have five destroyers available by 16/4. Two destroyers will, however, be required for D.S. Two, presumably on 18/4. If operation S.N.9. is not to be unduly delayed I shall therefore require one additional destroyer for it, and could sail on 16/4, if one can be made available by that date. (R.A.M. 1422/12.).

East Coast
Mine laying.

Your 1929/11. Another batch of mines will be laid when E boats reappear and it is possible to form an idea of route used by them. Postponement of B.S.54 may be necessary owing to dumping other commitments of corvettes. It must be accepted that on nights when mines are laid motor craft cannot be used for anti E boat work. Request I may be informed if any decision on proposals contained in para. 2 of N.O.I.C., Harwich's 219/1256 of 20/3 forwarded with C. in C. Nore 1414/332 A/41/K of 26/3 has yet been reached. (C. in C. Nore 1650/12.).

Spurn Point.

At 0726 today a skid exploded a red mine in 244⁰ SPP 2.6. miles. (F.O.Humber 1742/12.).

War Diary.

12.4.41.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Photographic R/C at 1330/11, showed 2 battle cruisers present in Brest. Weather conditions up to 1300/12 have prevented further R/C. (D.D.I.C. 1424/12.).

Enemy Convoy.

Three enemy M/V's two enemy escort vessels ?? one enemy aircraft distance 6 miles. (A/C Duty H. 1514/12 to 19 Group H.Q.). P.c. and s. of 2 MD convoy 47° 25' N., 5° 34' W. Course 040 5 knots. (A/C. 1520/12, to 19 Group H.Q.).

Four Merchant Vessels bearing 340 distance 12 miles Course 060°. Position 47° 25' N., 5° 34' W. Course 040 5 knots. (A/C 1520/12. to 19 Group H.Q.).

Four Merchant Vessels bearing 340 distance 12 miles. Course 060°. Position 47° 25' N., 5° 36' W. (A/C 1532/12. to 19 Group H.Q.). P.c. and s. of 4 enemy merchant vessels as follows. Course 270, speed 5 knots. (A/C 1700/12 to No. 19 H.Q.).

War Diary.

12. 4. 41.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Oiling
Ships in
Open Sea.

Your 1204/26. EXETER fuelled in Scapa Flow from Oiler CELEROL at average rate of 112 tons per hour today and maximum of 140 tons per hour with pressure about 115 pounds. Ships were too close for safety in sea way. EXETER will repeat trial with Oiler ALDERSDALE using longer hose and span will make recommendations to Admiralty direct. (C. in C. H.F. 2026/12.).

War Diary.

12.4. 1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Air Protection
Irish Sea.

Al44 12/4. Your 1847/9. General arrangements for providing Fighter protection for shipping are under review. Meanwhile agree to your proposals. (H.Q., F.C., 0930/12, to C. in C. W.A.).

"Range" to
sail by day.

As forecast predicts a clear night it is proposed, subject to your concurrence, to sail ~~Range~~ by day on 13/4. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1201/12, to C. in C. Portsmouth.).

Dangerous
Cargoes.

A case has recently occurred of a ship, carrying explosives, blowing up as a result of a hit by a bomb and the rescue ship, which was going alongside, narrowly escaping severe damage. In future the Master of the special rescue ship sailing with a convoy should be given the names of ships in the convoy carrying dangerous cargoes. (D.T.D. 1328/12, to N.C.S.O. Mersey.).

See W/D 710.41 p.167

Balloons.

Your 1104/11 proposals on these lines have recently been sent to the Air Ministry and it is hoped to reach a decision at an early date. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1331/12 to C. in C. W.A.).

Irish
Interference
with
Fishermen.

Complaints have been received that Irish trawlers have been in habit of interfering with fishermen in Minches. Ships of Western Approaches Escort Group are to keep a look out and report such ships when encountered. (C. in C. W.A., 1821/12, to W.A. Command.).

War Diary.

12. 4. 41.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

A.F.D.XIII.
LYNCH.

My 2234/11. A.F.D.111, and tug LYNCH are aground in Edinburgh Channel. Tow has been ordered to return to Gravesend when dock refloats to await another tug. LYNCH is not considered capable of controlling this tow. Request arrangements may be made for either a more powerful tug or else another tug in addition to LYNCH before tow is attempted again. (C. in C. Nore 1704/12.).

War Diary

12.4.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE

Ordered to leave patrol and return to Freetown to arrive there p.m./14 or 0900/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 0044/12 to MARSDALE, ERICA, SNAPDRAGON.

REPULSE

My 2201/10. 7 hours late. 2 destroyers in company. FURY detached to escort QUEEN ELIZABETH. (REPULSE 0050/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1610/11 Section B. REPULSE and destroyer now proceeding Gibraltar approx. E.T.A. 0730/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0058/12 to UNDAUNTED).

"Q" Report

Following has been read QQQQ.9. 34 N. 22.13 W., AJAX suspicious. 0445/12.
(Gibraltar W/T, T.O.R. 0552/12)
Cancel QQQQ, my 0445/12.
(AJAX, 0550/12 to all British Merchant Ships).

Suspicious Tanker and S/m.

Proceeding to 032° 25' N. 029° 14' W. to investigate suspicious oil tanker and submarine. (ANCHUSA, 1015Z/12 to Admiralty).
Your 1015/12. Probably CAIRNDALE and PANDORA vide my 1212/11/4 and 2210/11/4.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1541/12 to ANCHUSA).

UNDAUNTED

My 1410/10 ordered UNDAUNTED to report p. c. and s. No communication has been received from her.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1020/12 to Admiralty) Ship O.K. see 0032/13. *See also next page*

UNDAUNTED, TORBAY and TAKU.

Adjust speed to pass through 350° Cape Spartel 10 at 1200/13, 1500/13, 1700/13 respectively and proceed unescorted to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/12).

BOREAS. VELOX, QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Departure BOREAS to join VELOX and R.V. with QUEEN ELIZABETH in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1702/11.
(S.O.(I) Gib, 1316/12).

FORT DE FRANCE (reported interception)

Your 1202/11. Have no information. (V.A.C.N.A. 1626/12 to Admiralty).

Operation "Dunlop"

My 1606/8. Arrangements for operation, from ARK ROYAL.
(D.N.A.D. 1636/12 to S.O. Force H.)

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War Diary12.4.1941.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic (Contd.)REPULSE
HIGHLANDER
FORTUNE

Heavy Levanter still blowing. REPULSE berthed 1500 today. Intend to sail REPULSE to comply with Adm 1838/10 A.M./13 escorted by HIGHLANDER and FORTUNE. In view of Adm 1529/6 request Admiralty inform REPULSE when destroyers should part company. Adm 0022/29. It is necessary to retain HIGHLANDER for escort duty for the present.
(F.O.C.N.A, 1744/12, to Admiralty).

French Units.

At 1300/12 French Cruiser with light cruiser and 2 destroyers was in $035^{\circ} 52' N, 009^{\circ} 17' W$. steering 300° at slow speed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2017/12 to S.O.(S) 7. FIJI etc, 2028/12 to UNDAUNTED, TAKU, TORBAY).
Following from KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. (Begins)
At 1700/11, 4 French Warships consisting of one heavy cruiser, class unknown, one cruiser AIGLE Class, two destroyers FRONDEUR Class with (? one) escorting in $033^{\circ} 36' N, 013^{\circ} 14' W$. proceeding slowly course 180° . Same ships again sighted 1300/12 in $035^{\circ} 52' 009^{\circ} 17'$ proceeding Eastward slowly. At 1330/12 ships altered course to 300° (Ends).
(F.O.C.N.A. 2026/12 to Admiralty).

UNDAUNTED

Your 1846/12. Anchor in Gibraltar Bay for the night.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2336/12 to UNDAUNTED).

French A/c.

Your 2017/12. Sighted French aircraft probably of Carvin 167 (corrupt group) type in $036^{\circ} 15' N, 012^{\circ} 15' W$. at 1125 G.M.T./12.
(DUNEDIN 2350/12 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MARSDALE
CAMITO
CORINTHIAN

MARSDALE is to return to U.K. on completion of present patrol. In order not to leave Southern zone empty F.O.C.N.A. may sail CAMITO to this area as he considers necessary. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to sail CORINTHIAN for Azores area when ready.
(D.O.D.(F) 1902/12 to F.O.C.N.P., F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BANFORA
(Vichy F.)

Have boarded Vichy (BANFORA) from Dakar for Casablanca and Marseilles, crew 105 passengers 50 women, 427 men, speed 15 knots. Consider it imperative I should escort her to Freetown outside Cape Verde Is. My position 0730/12 021° 38' 017° 24' W. Crew refuse to work. Sending armed guard and navigating (?party) on board.
(DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, 0732/12 to C. in C. S.A. Your 0732/12. Proceed outside Cape Verde Islands, be met and relieved later. (C. in C. S.A. 0935/12).
My 0732. Americans on board BANFORA report 4 Vichy French submarines and 2 destroyers left Dakar p.m./10. Destinations unknown. Escorting BANFORA as proposed. Capt. gave maximum opposition Crew are now working ship. Navigating Party reinforcing strong armed guard. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0939Z/12 to C. in C. S.A)

CLAN RONALD

Overydue shipping, my 1430/10, CLAN RONALD arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0930B/12).

Enemy
intelligence.

Consul. St. Vincent's 1515/10 is passed to you for information. Some of this information known and reported before including lack of gasoline supply. Chief items of interest suggestion of type of plane pilots possibility of reconnaissance and communication with submarines though no definite information submarines Italian. My 1917/12/1 and 1621/6/4 refer. Information not considered very definite but points to possibilities.
(C. in C. S.A. 1011N/12 to Admty).

Transports,
ILLUSTRIOUS
DORSETSHIRE.

Your 2202/6. MONARCH OF BERMUDA now at Durban will embark all available service personnel there. EMPRESS OF JAPAN due Durban about 15th vide C. in C. E.I. 0754/11. Proposed to sail these two ships with ILLUSTRIOUS escorted by DORSETSHIRE a.m./19 for Freetown direct.

NEA HELLAS due.....

MOST SECRET.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic.

Transports
ILLUSTRIOUS
DORSETSHIRE.
(contd).

NEA HELLAS due Capetown 14th will embark all service personnel at Capetown in addition to present passengers and 200 R.W.A.F.F. and will be sailed as requisite to join DORSETSHIRE and convoy off Outer End of Capetown Swept Channel. This will mean considerable delay to NEA HELLAS but is the best arrangement possible in circumstances as R.W.A.F.F. should not be landed at a Union Port and ship also requires de lousing.

(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1105B/12 to Admty). In view of C. in C. S.A. 2051/11 request you will amend instructions in my 1752/8 as follows - (A) NELSON to remain at Capetown for 48 hours and then escort EMPRESS OF JAPAN and MONARCH OF BERMUDA to Freetown for fuel and then to U.K. at best speed, or if German battlecruisers are at large then to U.K. with S.L.73.

(B) DORSETSHIRE to escort ILLUSTRIOUS to 5° N. 45° W. where C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to arrange for her to be met by a cruiser from his station. If necessary DORSETSHIRE and ILLUSTRIOUS are to fuel at Cape or St. Helena. DORSETSHIRE then to proceed to Freetown to escort S.L.74 to U.K.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 2000/12 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. A.W.I.)

W.S. 8

Your 1343/11/4. Water requirements of W.S.8A and W.S. 8B can be supplied without allocation of tanker.
(C. in C. S.A. 1106/12 to D. of S.T.)

NICOLAOS D.L.
(Greek).

*Ship was really in 20 S.
(a mistake by the
operator).*

Following has been read. NICOLAOS D.L. S.O.S. 20 0 0 S, 22.21 W.
(Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1129Z/12).
My 1128/12. Following is Ascension's 1059/12 intercepted at 1057. S.O.S. (NICOLAOS D.L.) 020° 00' S 022° 21' W.
(C. in C. S.A. 1242/12 to R.A.S.A.D. Force U).

Dispositions.....

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dispositions.

Weekly State.
(C.in C. S.A. 1315N/12) Lion Copy only.

German
M.Vs.

Reports received from 2 independent sources in Argentine one graded C.3 indicate possibility of one or more laden German merchant ships putting into Necochea Bahia Blanca or Madryn shortly. Ships are said to have aeroplane aboard. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1534Z/12 to S.O.I. Freetown).

DELHI

My 1251/11. DELHI's sailing postponed at least 48 hours.
(C.in C. S.A. 1637N/12 to Admty. etc.).

SECRETMESSAGE

1315N/12th. April IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 13.4.41.

Recd. 0047

NAVAL CYPHER "D" BY W/TAddressed R.A.S.A.D. Atlantic and West Indies Squadron
212. N.O. 1/c Simonstown. 683.

Weekly (?arrivals) April 12. Freetown. H.M.S. ALBATROSS
 H.M.S. VINDICTIVE. H.M.S. DUNCAN. H.M.S. FOXHOUND.
 H.M.S. VIDETTE. H.M.S. ASPHODEL. H.M.S. CALENDULA.
 H.M.S. SURPRISE. H.M.S. DELHI sails for Trinidad P.M.
 Freetown area H.M.S. WISHART. H.M.S. DRAGON and
 H.M.S. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE on patrol.
 Freetown, United Kingdom. H.M.S. ARAWA escorting S.L. 69.
 H.M.S. BULOLO and H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM escorting S.L. 70
 (corrupt group) and H.M.S. MAURITIUS escorting S.L. 71,
 with H.M.S. CLEMATIS. H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, CROCUS, MARGUERITE,
 as local escort.
 United Kingdom, Freetown. H.M.S. BOREAS H.M.S. ESPERANCE
 BAY. H.M.S. DUNEDIN. AMARANTHUS. (?ANCHUSA)
 Gibraltar, Freetown H.M.S. ERICA H.M.S. SNAPDRAGON.
 Freetown Simonstown H.M.S. NIZAM and H.M.S. NAPIER at
 St. Helena. H.M.S. NELSON escorting W S 7.
 St. Helena H.M.S. NEWCASTLE to join W S 7 when fuelled.
 St. Helena area H.M.S. ALCANTARA H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER
 H.M.S. MILFORD H.M.S. SEVERN
 Capetown H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE.
 Simonstown H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE H.M.S. DELPHINIUM.
 Simonstown Freetown H.M.S. CATHAY. French Ship PRESIDENT
 HOUDOUCÉ.
 Durban CITY OF DURBAN H.M.S. DORESETSHIRE H.M.S. HAWKINS
 H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS.
 South Georgia Freetown H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
 Plate area H.M.S. ASTURIAS.
 Rio de Janeiro area H.M.S. CUMBERLAND.
 Halifax H.M.S. CANTON.

1315N/12.

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

1st. Lord.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.
 Ops (4)
 O.D. 8.
 O.D. (5)
 M. (2)
 O.I.C.
 Mails

Movts.
 D.S.D. 9.
 D.P.S.
 I.P. (3)
 D.A/S.W.
 W.D.
 D.T.D. (4)
 D.T.D. (M)

D.H.

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12.4.1941.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

RETRIEVER
sunk.
(cable ship)

RETRIEVER sunk by bombs off Phleva midnight.
(N.A. Athens, 0042/12, to C.in C. Med.)
(See also 1835/12).

Piraeus
Mining.

Summary No.8. Result enemy air action night 9/10/4. Piraeus. Two mines exploded on shore wounding five, only other damage one tug and one caique sunk. No further mines in actual harbour or affecting harbour entrance. On first information Eastern Entrance to Scaramanga and Eleusis closed. Stores ships commencing discharge by lighter at old Phaleron for Scaramanga and Eleusis. Hoping Western Channel into Bay will prove deep enough for ships. Doubtful if any mines dropped at Volos and Khalkis. If dropped not yet affecting M.T. ships unloading at Khalkis and will start unloading Volos on arrival of landing nets being sent from Piraeus.
(Rear Braig 0110/12, to C.in C. M.E., W.O.etc)

Piraeus,
air attacks
MARIE MAERSK
hit.

Another heavy mining attack before Dawn. MARIE MAERSK hit and burning. Scale of attack makes it impossible for sweeping to get ahead of mines until after many days under present conditions. I think it better to get all ships possible into deeper water. Shall try to pass some ships out of Salamis Straits before dark and risk loss. The lack of gun (?protection) will expose them to (?coastline) attack but I see no alternative. (N.A. Athens 0835/12, to C.in C. Med.).

Suda Bay
Obstruction.

An obstruction has been laid 40 feet outside existing B 1 Baffle. (details)
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 0921/12 to Admty.
0946/12 to S/M's on Patrol).

I.F.F.
Equipment.

Need for an immediate supply and for the maintenance of an adequate reserve of IFF to enable all Fleet Aircraft and R.A.F. aircraft operations over the sea to be fitted with this equipment has become a matter of the utmost urgency. Reasons. (C.in C. Med., 0928/12, to Admty.).

/ S/M Reinforcements.

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12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

S/M
Reinforcements.

Your 0026/11 these reinforcements will be most welcome. It is not however desired to base large submarines on Malta particularly with number of U Class rising to ten. At the same time it is important that submarines should be available to operate in the Meditn. against traffic bound for Tripoli and this is rather beyond the range of U Class. It is for consideration whether about four of the O P and R Class submarines should not be based on Gibraltar for this purpose where they could form a Meditn. Division of 8th Flotilla under my operational control this would make a considerable saving in length of time on passage to and from patrol as compared with working from Alexandria. (C.in C. Med. 0948/12, to Adty.)

Yugoslav
Ships.

Markings. (Air Min. 1035/12 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.).

UPHOLDER,
→ UNIQUE,
URSULA,
TETRARCH

Orders. (Cdr. S.1, 1110/12, to S/M's on Patrol and 1319/12 to UNIQUE).

LIVERPOOL

Unless other more urgent commitments arise hope to complete LIVERPOOL ready for passage about 26/4. (C.in C. Med. 1146/12, to Admty)

Malta Air
Raid.

2000/11. About 10 aircraft believed JU.87's operated Sicily for 1 hour dropping bombs on various localities. No Service casualties or damage. Civilians killed and injured. Enemy losses 1 confirmed by ground defences and 1 most probably by fighter. (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1630/12).

Enemy
Convoy.

Five Merchant Ships with three escort in 037° 46' 011° 26' course 180° speed 11 knots at 1245B today. (Cdr. S.1, 1632/12, to S/M's on Patrol). Convoy of 5 escorted merchant ships in a position 036° 32' 011° 12' course 190° speed 13 knots at 1730B. Swordfish hope to attack at 2200 subsequently shadowing. Destroyers attacking near Kerkenah after midnight. Operate southern end of your area. (Cdr. S.1, 1928/12, to UNIQUE).

/ Yugoslav Supplies.

War Diary.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

396

Yugoslav Supplies.

Yugoslav legation believe that surgical supplies reached Piraeus in the following ships CITY OF ROUBAIX, SCOTTISH PRINCE, MUNCASTER CASTLE. They request you will do all that is practicable to move these supplies as rapidly as possible to Kotor by sea. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1802/12, to N.A. Athens).

→ Beauforts for Malta.

X613. 14/4.

Reference my X.728 4/4. Arrangements are now being made to despatch as soon as possible a further 6 Beauforts to Malta, making a total of 12 in all. (Air Min.1803/12, to Adty.).

Piraeus Bombed, ships sunk.

Operational Summary No.122 night 11/12/4. Numerous enemy aircraft laid mines in and around Piraeus, also bombed. Cable ship RETRIEVER sunk. 1 oil tanker set on fire. 1 hospital ship sunk. 3 confirmed 1 probably shot down by A.A.(H.Q.B.A.F., Greece 1835/12).

→ Malta Aircraft, need for Beauforts.

Following are my personal views on offensive aircraft at Malta. Type concerned are Swordfish, Wellington, and Beaufort. The most urgently required are Beauforts for attacks on Tripoli convoys. Wellingtons have done good operations against harbour and air bases, but in view of present situation in Libya consider this less important than attacks on shipping. Swordfish are limited in range and speed & can only operate on moonlight nights. The only ship apparently mined off Tripoli is large hospital ship aground. Water suitable for Cucumbers is limited to a small area round the break in reef and ships can proceed safely through this at very slow speed. Until mines are available similar to German ones which can be dropped by parachute in harbour and are effective if ship passes over at any speed, mining off Tripoli (Africa) is not likely to be effective and should be secondary to torpedo attacks. Strongly recommend grounding 830 Squadron if necessary to provide personnel to maintain Beauforts. Recommend also flying personnel from 830 Squadron be lent to Beauforts pilots being converted to twin engine aircraft as requisite. From naval point of view consider Beauforts are more important than Wellington and should have priority of Malta resources. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2015/12, to C.in C. Med.).

Air Attacks
Hospital Ship
ATTIKI sunk.

War Diary.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air attacks
Hospital
Ship ATTIKI
sunk.

Heavy attacks on Piraeus area are starting large exodus into country but moral is steadying somewhat. I hope labour will be available when port opens. West entrance into Eleusis Bay open and several ships passed out. Six Merchant ships passed out of Salamis Straits by main gate. Greek Hospital Ship ATTIKI was sunk last night in Doro Channel by bomb while fully illuminated as hospital ship.
(B.N.A. Athens, 2047/12).

War Diary.

12. 4. 1941.
Saturday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CAPETOWN
(torpedoed
7/4.).

Your 1117/11. What is your opinion on CAPETOWN being towed as she is to Suez. Would she be able to assist with her engines? (C. in C. E.I., 0626/12, to CAPETOWN.

Your 0626z/12. Reply. Consider absolutely flat calm necessary throughout voyage, always most improbable. CAPE TOWN unable to use engine for following reasons: Suggest if possible repairs party be sent Port Sudan to erect Coffer Dam. (CAPETOWN, 1302z/12, to C. in C. E.I.).

GLASGOW.

My 0556/2. GLASGOW is to leave convoy for Mombasa at dusk p.m. /13. (C. in C. E.I., 0748Z/12, to CORNWALL, GLASGOW.).

EMERALD.

Proceed to arrive at outer bar Shatt-El-Arab 0430Z/13. Authorities have been warned of your arrival. Make entrance as though normal conditions prevailed. Parade guard passing Khoramshahr, Iranian naval base. Salutes will probably be exchanged on arrival at Basra. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0850Z/12, to EMERALD.).

Assab.

Three merchant vessels at Assab. 11/4. Two of them on fire. (C. in C. E.I. 1056Z/12)

Italian
destroyers
in Red Sea.

My 0324/10. (1) Air Search for CESARE BATTISTI was negative but ship may be sunk in deep water. (2) N.O.I.C. Massawa grades report that ^{VINCENZO G.}ORSINI and ^{GIOVANNI G.}ACERBI are sunk in deep water at Massawa as A2. (3) Four submarines stated to have left Massawa last full Moon March. (4) Italian Minelayer OSTIA is confirmed sunk in Massawa. (5) Search for small craft etc., amongst islands is being carried out by Swordfish. (C. in C. E.I. 1126Z/12. to Adty., etc.).

"The position of Italian destroyers and torpedo boats known to have been in the Red Sea is as follows.
FRANCESCO NULLO - sunk by H.M.S. KIMBERLY ^E
off Harmil Island, 21.10.40. ^A

/LEONE.....

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War Diary.12. 4. 41.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.Italian
destroyers
in Red Sea.

LEONE. - sunk by F.A.A. off Isratu
Island (1.4.41.).
PANTERA) - beached and scuttled 20 miles
TIGRE.) South of Jedda (3.4.41.).
{ NAZARIO sunk by F.A.A. 19 miles East of
{ SAURO. - Port Sudan. (3.4.41.).
{ DANIELE -
{ MANIN. - sunk by F.A.A. 60 miles S.W.
of Jedda (3.4.41.).
{ CESARE
{ BATTISTI. - sunk off shore near Lith (-.4.41.)
GIOVANNI G. ACERBI (T/B) scuttled off entrance to
Massawa (4 or 5.4.41.).
VINCENZO G. ORSINI - Scuttled at Massawa (-.4.41.).
(T/B.).

N.I.D.3. 13th
April, 1941.PARAMATTA.
YARRA.

Admty., 2004/7, para 3 (b) and A.T.
1603/9 and A.C.N.B's 0135/11.
Request you will send PARAMATTA and YARRA
to the Mediterranean as soon as they can
be spared from the Red Sea.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1740/12, to C. in C. E.I.

China.DUMONT
DURVILLE
and tanker
proceeding
Madagascar.

French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE and Tanker
LOT left here 10/4. Adm. T. asks me to
inform Adm. Layton that they are en route
to Madagascar by orders from French Admty.,
and expect to pass Sunda Straits 14/4.
Also that these vessels are not proper
part of French Far East Naval Forces.
Tanker is reported to have full cargo of
oil fuel for Madagascar where stocks are
very low. Estimated stock bunker oil at
Saigon, 568 tons; Marine Stock, 50,000.
S.S. PIERRE L.D. left for Manila sole
purpose to take bunker and will return to
Saigon loading rice for France or French
Colonies. Unconfirmed report that French
cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET will dry dock in
Japan. (Consul-Gen., Saigon, T.O.R. 0550/12)

400

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

CANTON.

ARMUK 77. 11/4. Your 1210/8, despatched 1503, CANTON is assigned to Hoboken, New Jersey. Ship not informed. Request information regarding date of arrival. (B.A.R.M., Washington, 0244/12, to Admty.).

Arrivals
in U.S.A.
Yards.

ARMUK 83. Your 0030/11. Apparently U.S. Naval Staff not consulted regarding policy outlined in that signal. A.C. (arrival after dark) cannot always be complied with owing to necessity for berthing at slack water. For the present propose to instruct ships as to desired time of arrival after consultation with Naval Staff. (Adm. French, 1400/12, to Admty.).
/ para (A)

DELHI
RESOLUTION.
ILLUSTRIOUS.
LIVERPOOL.
MALAYA.

UKARM 66. Following yards have been selected for ships refitting in U.S.A. DELHI New York, RESOLUTION, Philadelphia, ILLUSTRIOUS, Norfolk, LIVERPOOL, Mare Island, West Coast, MALAYA, New York. (D.O.D. (F) 1617/12, to C. in C's etc.). See 0244/12, for CANTON.).

Suspicious
Ship.

American EXCAMBION reports being stopped at 0317Z/7, in 038° 12' N., 019° 23' W., by unknown cargo vessel of about 4000 G.T. Unknown ship who was completely darkened used searchlight approached within 400 yds., and signalled "I will look at you". Master of EXCAMBION convinced by wording of signal and build of vessel that she was German. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2333/12, to Admty., etc.).

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12. 4. 1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Hospital
Ships.

Request information regarding Admiralty policy reference hospital ships carrying Geneva markings. (i) Is publicity permitted regarding (a) name (b) movements (c) current location (d) description (e) photographing? Are hospital ships permitted to break W/T silence to signal E.T.A.? For practical purposes are British hospital ships regarded as privileged by enemy and therefore outside ordinary shipping security considerations? (D.N.I., Melbourne, 01252/12, to Admty.).

Reply: 1316 B/6/S. - P. 192 6/5/41

MOST SECRET.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

402

Ships Attacked.

THISTLEGORM
report of
unknown ship.

Following has been read.
S/M Raider Signal
44. 10 N, 29. 20 W, unknown ship, 0205/12
de THISTLEGORM, 4898 tons, Manchester to
Demerara.
(Liverpool W/T T.O.O. 0405/12).

PRINS WILLEM II
(torpedoed 8/4)

Dutch, 1304 tons I N P 1 include 82 (A)
KLIPPAREN Swedish. Remaining in company.
(B) Thorshaven (C) 61° 58' N. 13° 18' W.
(D) 0300/12 (E) intercepted course 040°
stated routed by 040° to 062° N. 013° W.
then 090° to Skopen. 13 survivors some
seriously injured of PRINS WILLEM on board.
Request to proceed independently at full
speed.
(NORTHERN SUN 0430/12, to R.A.N.P.)
Your 0430/12. Release and direct to land
survivors Thorshavn.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1001/12, to NORTHERN SUN)

VOLENDAM
(torpedoed
36/8/40)
salvage.

Sailed S.S. VOLENDAM in tow of FLYING
KESTREL, CROSBY and ABEILLE for Mersey.
Approx. speed of advance 5 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1626/12 to F.O.I.C.
Liverpool)

ALCINOUS.
(mined 11/4)

ALCINOUS arrived Freetown 12/4 reported
missed by two torpedoes at 2100/11 in
position MDBN (??12)N14.29 W. Sunderland
and subsequently WISHART located boat with
40 survivors from S.T. ST. HELENA torpedoed
at 0(?)30/12 in position 0(?) 11 N 14.19 W.
Position of AEGEON 1800/11/0655 N 15.38 W.
searched by Sunderland and destroyer but no
trace. If AEGEON position correct must be
two U-boats in area 2. These may be new or
if not submarines probably have fuelled since
leaving French Coast Ports and likely at
Sea.
(C.-in-C. S.A. 2131N/12, to Admiralty)

ST. HELENA
AEGEON.

ST. HELENA, British, on passage to U.K.
with grain and general crops, torpedoed
about 100' off Freetown. WISHART has 40
survivors.
(D.O.R. 14/4)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/Ms Reported.

Ref. Adm. message AF, position. 7° 17' N:
14° 29' W. at 2200/11 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0114/12)

Estimated U/B
Dispositions.

(D.D.I.C. 1220/12. F.O.I.C. 1446/12)

13.4.1941. [REDACTED]
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Biscay Patrol.
Large tanker
sunk by TIGRIS

At 1800 today there had been no R/C of Brest since 1330/11; but confirmation is being sought of a report graded C.2. that GNEISENAU has been seriously hit aft by two bombs. C. in C., H.F. left Scapa in KING GEORGE V at 0107 today with NIGERIA and 3 destroyers, and REPULSE and 2 destroyers left Gibraltar at 1615 to resume the Biscay Patrol. TIGRIS reports her successful completion of operation ~~BERNARD~~ and the sinking on 2/3 April of an armed and laden 10,000 ton northbound Tanker, in the Bay of Biscay. The tanker was brought to a standstill by gunfire, before being torpedoed; and F.O. (S) reports that the success of the gun action was entirely due to flashless ammunition. Similar ammunition was used by the enemy.

Cruise by
2nd C.S.

Intelligence has been received pointing to the possibility of a break out by surface raiders or a raid against convoys in the N.W. Approaches or against Iceland or Faeroes. F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA sailed from Scapa at 1135 this morning with ARETHUSA for Seydisfiord to reconnoitre the Icelandic ports before proceeding on patrol off Iceland.

Lack of
Sea keeping
qualities of
M.T.Bs.

Concern is felt as to the sea-keeping qualities of our M.T.B's as compared with those of E-Boats, and information on the subject is being collected.

27 young Norwegian Civilians reached the Faeroes this morning in a motor fishing-vessel from Aalesund to join the Norwegian armed forces in Great Britain.

War Diary

13.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping & Convoys.

Independent ships of approximately similar speed leaving the U.K. within 36 hours of each other are to be sailed in pairs for mutual support.

DIDD and ABDIEL are to take urgently required personnel and stores abroad.

British Air Activity

At Brest last night SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were attacked by 34 A/C which dropped 41 tons of bombs on their estimated positions but observed no results. Fires were also started at the S/M Base and Docks at Lorient; 18 aircraft dropped 22 tons of H.E. at the latter base.

4 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked and obtained a hit on a 2000 ton cargo vessel 10 miles west of Borkum; the ship was last seen well down by the stern.

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War Diary

13.4.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

At 2250 last night Convoy OBM 310 was attacked off the Smalls without damage; a German A/C and 3 prisoners shot down by the Escort of OBM. 310 were also brought into Milford Haven during this afternoon.

At 0357 today the British BARON BELHAVEN, 6591 tons, in Convoy B.B. 5 was bombed in 51° 33' N., 5° 32' W., and towed into Milford Haven later.

Convoys ^{"Sabbay"} ~~SAPPER~~ and ^{"Booby"} ~~WHEEL~~ were also bombed today, but all without damage; and the British EAGLESCLIFFE HALL was attacked at 1554 today while passing 54.A. Buoy off Orfordness: no damage is reported.

SS ARBEL (Belgian) was bombed and apparently sunk in 50° 6' 51" N., 5° 46' 2" W.

At 2237^{1/4} enemy aircraft dropped a stick of bombs off Ness Point, one falling in Waveney docks, Lowestoft. A.P. trawlers STRATHMAREE and DE LA POLE were slightly damaged. See p. 44-6.

One aircraft dropped bombs this morning near SS GLENFINLAS at Harwich. No damage resulted.

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13.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation
F.D. 32.

CACHALOT reported she carried out this operation on 28/3.

Six Hampdens laid mines off Brest last night.

Enemy aircraft carried out minelaying on a small scale last night off Trevos Head, Worms Head and in Falmouth Bay.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Spurn Point; and dangerous areas exist off the Lizard and in the Thameshaven area of the River Thames. The Clyde will be closed at 2000 tonight until 0930 tomorrow morning.

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

REPULSE.

Weather at Gibraltar was still unfit to sail REPULSE today for Biscay Patrol.

Fishing
Craft
as
Scouts.

26 French fishing boats under German control are reported engaged in reconnaissance of British shipping, working from Lorient and Quiberon.

French
Convoy.

QUEEN ELIZABETH sighted a French tanker and another M.V. escorted by the sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE in 35.26 N., 09.03 W this afternoon.

South Atlantic.

French
Shipping
W. Africa.

The French s.s. JAMAIQUE is reported to have arrived at Lome, Dahomey, on 10/4 full loaded from Cotonou. A small escort vessel is also reported at Lome.

U-boats in
South
Atlantic.

S.O. Force U reports that on 8/4 and 9/4 SEVERN sighted and unsuccessfully attacked at least 2 different U-boats, on more than one occasion, in approx. 25° S. 18° - 20° W.

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13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Libyan
Convoys.

An enemy convoy of 5 M.V's and 4 destroyers was reported at 0209/13 in 37° N., 12° E, and 5 M.V's and 3 destroyers at 1257/13 in 35.55 N. 11.50 E. TETRARCH was ordered to intercept.

C. in C. Med explains that part of the reason for the failure to intercept these convoys (carrying German reinforcements to Libya) is that Swordfish cannot shadow fighter escorted convoys by day and he has insufficient Glen Martins for this purpose.

Operation
M.D.I;

Orders for Operation M.D.I. are contained in C. in C. Med 1447/13.

Beauforts.

In reference to a request for more Beauforts at Malta, D.N.A.D. points out that the Beaufort compares unfavourably with the Swordfish for torpedo attack especially in face of surface opposition.

Tripoli.

3 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli between 1925 and 2000 and obtained 3 hits on shipping. 1 large M.V. was left burning fiercely.

Malta
Raids.

Malta had four alerts between 2107 and 0922, and bombs were dropped in three of them without causing any damage. In the third raid, 8 JU. 87's attacked 4 destroyers returning from an enemy convoy patrol, without scoring any hits.

Tanker
torpedoed
at
Brindisi.

815 Squadron laid mines at Brindisi last night and torpedoed a 10,000 ton tanker.

/Greece.....

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13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Greece.

Air attack on Greek ports and northern Aegean traffic is very severe. There were further air attacks on Piraeus last night and shipping was damaged. 20 enemy aircraft bombed Volo Harbour today and hit S.S. BRATTDAL and CITY OF KARACHI; both ships must be considered total loss. Piraeus is still closed and sweeping resources cannot keep up with the rate of minelaying at present; but Phaleron Bay and waters north and west of Salamis (but not Salamis Strait) are believed clear of mines. Unloading from dispersed positions by lighters is believed to be continuing and convoys are moving at a reduced rate.

Western Desert.

There was much enemy air activity in the Western Desert area today. Ships are continuing to use Tobruk where ~~S.S.~~ SKUDD 4 and BAMORA were damaged by air attack, neither seriously, though the latter had 68 casualties mostly Mauritius Harbour Corps. Minelaying is suspected at Tobruk. The enemy is to eastward round Tobruk and also holds Bardia (reported occupied by enemy armoured cars yesterday). The situation at Sollum is obscure but fighting is in progress; the N.O.I.C. has evacuated, gunboats and destroyers are operating from Tobruk against the coast in enemy hands. APHIS appears to have burnt out at least 5 aircraft when bombarding Gazala aerodrome.

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15.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Basra.

As the approach of EMERALD has been accepted comdacently, S.N.O. Persian Gulf considers that Iraqi authorities should be informed that troops are arriving from India. EMERALD arrived at Basra at 1215.

Massawa.

Although the entrance to Massawa harbour is practically blocked a clear passage still exists and one 400 ft. ship could be berthed. The water distilling plant and lighting are intact. Both floating docks are sunk. The northern channel is being swept today, to allow small vessels to enter with army supplies. A 5 ton floating crane and a number of lighters are available for unloading.

China.

Navicerts.

The system to be followed for Navicerts in the event of war with Japan is described in Admty. 1956/13.

A Dutch destroyer seized the Hungarian S.S. NYUGAT at 08.30Z today in 11° 18' S. 123° 44' E. and is taking her to Sourabaya. NYUGAT was under charter to Australian Wheat Board, but information had been received that her master intended to take her to Japan.

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

RAJPUTANA
sunk.

A.M.C. RAJPUTANA was torpedoed on the port side at 0625, and again on the starboard side at 0735. Her engines were disabled and she had to abandon ship in 64.50 N, 27.01 W. The destroyer LEGION recovered 277 of her complement leaving 41 unaccounted for, and took them to Reykjavik. A/C's reported that at 1015 RAJPUTANA was obviously sunk. The A/C's guided destroyers to the lifeboats. S.S. COLLEGIAN reported being chased by a S/M at 1748 today, about 400 miles S.W. of Halifax.

S.S. CORINTHIC, independently routed, was sunk by torpedo from a submarine at 2048 G.M.T., today in 8° 10' S., 14° 40' W.

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War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Disposition
Messages
to Fleet.
Suggested
Precautions.

Your 1529/6. It is considered possible a long message with priority most immediate and containing a large number of delivery groups may put the enemy on his guard. It is suggested a short preliminary message allocating a collective address such as "Battle Fleet" and marked "Immediate" only might overcome this danger. Alternatively as Admiralty have control of area broadcasts the operational message might be degraded to immediate. This would not result in appreciable delay in decyphering. (C. in C. H. F. 0029/13 to Admty).

M.T.B's.
Information
as to
Reliability.

Although our M.T.B's are only 70' boats concern is nevertheless being felt at their sea-keeping qualities and reliability as compared with the E-Boats at present operating.

2. Request information of the number of occasions on which our boats have been able to carry out operations off the enemy coast from 1/3 to the present date including the following information:
(A.C.N.S(H) 1212/13).

Anti
E-Boat
measures.

Your 1650/12. It is not proposed to adopt F.O.i/c Harwich's suggestion, for reasons that are being communicated by letter.
(D.D.O.D. M. 1450/13 to C. in C. Nore.)

STATHAV
with 27
Norwegians
from
Aalesund.

Norwegian motor fishing vessel STATHAV arrived here A.M./13 with 27 Norwegians escaped from Aalesund desiring to join Norwegian armed force in Great Britian. Propose sending them south in LOCHGARRY leaving here about 20/4 for Leith.
(N.O.I.C. Earoes 1702/13).

SALOPIAN.
WOLFE.
Precautions.

In view of attack on RAJPUTANA take all possible action to ensure safe arrival of SALOPIAN and WOLFE. (1st S.L. 1922/13 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

GALATEA.
ARETHUSA.

Scapa departure F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA, ARETHUSA. (A.C.O.S. 1135/13).

A.F.D.8.

Provided no other more urgent commitments for destroyers arise propose sailing A.F.D. 8 P.M./18.
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested make ATHERSTONE and if possible another Hunt available on this date.
3. C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange onward escort from Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth 1249/13).

CIRCASSIA.

My 0831/12. CIRCASSIA did not sail until 1800/12. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1824/12).

Operations.

Biscay
Patrol.

Scapa departure C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with NIGERIA, ELECTRA, ESCAPADE, and MASHONA. (A.C.O.S. 0107/13).

East
Coast
Patrol.

My 1026/10/3. Cancel special A/P Patrol position at Sheringham Light and Bell buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1039/13).

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA is to take N.P. 43 forthwith. Correct my 1120/10 to read Northern Patrol 173. (F.O.C. N.P. 1150/13).
My 1428/13. ASCANIA is to take N.P. 72 leaving N.P. 43 to pass between Southern extremity of Q.Z.X. 241 and Straumsnaes during daylight A.M. to-morrow. (V.A.N.P. 1430/13).
Ice limit now extends to position 85 miles 238° from outer end of QZX 241.
Are previous instructions to leave Patrol for Halifax on 14/4 still to be complied with. (ASCANIA 1722/13).

/Jan.....

415

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (contd).

Jan Mayen.

Have been unable to establish communication with Jan Mayen or J.H. BULL for 48 hours despite favourable conditions. (N.O.I.C Iceland 1201/13).
Cancel my 1201/13. Communication now established. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1437/13)

Operation "Dunlop."
DUNLOP.

Adty. 1225/6. 812 Squadron and 6 Swordfish embarked. (ARGUS 1211/13).
Your 1247/12. Anticipate three destroyers available to escort ARGUS 15/4. One additional destroyer 16/4. (C. in C. W.A. 1721/13).

Operation at Hammerfest.

E.T.A. Sullum Voe 2000/14. Mission carried out. Nothing else done. (MANSFIELD 2035/13).

Operation "European"
EUROPEAN.
Enemy Tanker sunk.

"European"
EUROPEAN successful. Destroyed armed laden 10,000 deadweight tanker northbound 2nd/3rd. (TIGRIS 2156/13) (F.O.S. 2332/13)

British Air Activity.

Biscay Air Search.

My 2323/12. 1 Sunderland will carry out following search today from Pembroke Dock. (C. in C. Plymouth 0041/13).

Bombing Restriction.

Arrive position A.Q.Z.S. 180 1100/13.
Request bombing restrictions. (H. 44 0630/13)

/Patrols.....

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War Diary:

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Patrols.

Patrol 'Stand' now in operation. Hornli from 1230. "Bert", "Stab", and "Trost" will be flown later if weather suitable. (C. in C. Rosyth 1122/13).
My 1122. Patrols "Bert", "Stab", and "Trost" are not being flown as weather is unsuitable. (C. in C. Rosyth 1706/13).
My 1145/10th. A. Until 0050/14, B Commencing 0830/14 25 miles to Westward Z continuing until 0500/14. (C. in C. Plymouth 2253/13).

Brest
and
Lorient
attacked.

On night 12/13 at Brest SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU were once more attacked by 52 aircraft no results were observed. 5 Whitleys dropped bombs on the harbour. At Lorient Submarine Base a successful attack was made by 18 a/c's. Large fire seen in the Naval Ordnance Works and in the south dock area. (H.Q.B.C. 1659/13).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
O.B.M. 310.

Attacked by aircraft off Smalls at 2250/12. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0250/13).

Convoy ^{"Young"}YOUNG.
attacked.

Fighter assistance requested Convoy ^{"Young"}YOUNG in 51° 33' N. 5° 37' W. (? 23rd Destroyer Divn. 0313/13).
Enemy aircraft bombing convoy ~~YOUNG~~ ^{"Young"} position F.D.M.Q. 3323. (?23rd Destroyer Divn. 0315/13).
Fighters are being despatched. (Plymouth W/T 0352/13).

/Convoy.....

417

13.4.1941.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy B.B. 5.
S.S. BARON
BELHAVEN
damaged.

S.S. BARON BELHAVEN bombed in 051° 33' N. 005° 32' W. Engine disabled. Request immediate assistance. YORK CITY standing by. (WOOLSTON 0357/13).
Enemy Aircraft Bombing position 51° 59' N 5° 31' W. No damage. (VICEROY 0400/13).
B.B. 5 attacked off Linney Head at 0245 and later at 0412 by aircraft, one ship bombed and damaged. YORK CITY standing by. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0435/13).
Sailed rescue tug SCHELDE to assistance of BARON BELHAVEN 233° 16 Miles from St. Anns. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0535/13).
Sailed rescue Tug CAROLINE MOLLER to assist BARON BELHAVEN. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0942/13).

BARON BELHAVEN is being towed into Milford Haven. Fishing Trawler R. 338 is Towing in a German plane shot down by surface escort with O.B.M. 310 off St. David's but no report received from escort. 3 prisoners being brought in by Fishing Trawler 1158. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1215/13).

Convoy 'Sapper.'
SAPPER.

One enemy A/C shadowing in 50° 22' N. 5° 50' W. My course 242°, speed 7 knots. (TYNEDALE 0540/13).
Fighter assistance requested Convoy 'Sapper.'
SAPPER Position 50° 18' N. 5° 50' W.
(NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE 0554/13).

ARBEL.

(Belgian, 901 Tons) Preliminary report. 17 survivors from Belgian ARBEL bound to Plymouth with coal landed at St. Ives. Ship bombed 50° 6' 51" N. 5° 46' 02" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1010/13).

/Convoy.....

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13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Convoy
F;S. Odd.

Enemy bombing convoy in 51° 52' N. 1° 35' E. (F.S. Convoy 1048/13).
My 1048. 1 Do. 215. 2 Bombs, no hits.
(F.S. Convoy 1053/13).

EAGLESCLIFFE
HALL.

(British, 1900 Tons) Intercept by Humber Radio at 1554 G.M.T. from EAGLESCLIFFE HALL. Just passed 54 A. Buoy. Attacked by A/C bearing 142° from Humber Radio. (F.O. Humber 1703/13).

Convoy "Wheal"
~~WHEEL~~
attacked.

Air ^{"Wheal"} attack on Convoy ~~WHEEL~~ (escorted Falmouth to Bristol Channel ships).
(Plymouth W/T 1730/13).

Mining.

Operation
P.W.7.
(Mining
off Ratel
Bank).

Weather permitting operation P.W.(7) is to be carried out tonight. In addition one unit of M.T.B's is to locate buoy in 51° 22' N. 2° 45' E. and report if in charted position or lit. Subsequently unit may operate to Eastward of Ostend. Any ship met to Eastward of 2° 30' E. may be attacked without challenge. Report M.T.B's detailed and time of sailing. (C. in C. Nore 1038/13 to BEEHIVE).
My 1038/13/4. Both M.T.B. Operations cancelled due to weather. (C. in C. Nore 1931/13).

F.D. 32.

Mines have been laid 28/3 as follows.
(CACHALOT 1053/13, F.O.S. 1129/13).

/Operation H.A.....

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War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Operation
HA.

Your 1829/12. Decision about position of minefield will be made A.M. tomorrow. (A.C.N.S. H. 1140/13 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Dangerous
Area off
Lizard.

Request following Q.Z.Y. An area dangerous due to mines is enclosed by lines joining the following positions. Cancel QZY 195 (C. in C. Plymouth 1207/13).

Clyde.

River Clyde will be closed to navigation at 2000 tonight. Any movement begun before that time can be completed. Traffic can be resumed at 0930/14. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1209/13).

Thameshaven
Area.

Owing to parachute minelaying on night of 8th/9th near Thames Haven and sinking of ~~trawler~~^{trawler} LUNULA, the area must be considered dangerous until after 19/4. Request all tankers berthing in river before that date may be sent to Purfleet and that all petroleum and spirit sent up river by barge may be loaded at Purfleet. (F.O.I.C. London 1457/13).

S.N.9.

Your 1422/12. It is hoped that a Destroyer will be available for this duty.. (R.A.D. 1642/13 to R.A.M).

Spurn
Point.

At 0707 to-day a magnetic mine was detonated by L.L. sweepers in 272° Spurn Point lighthouse 3 miles. (F.O. Humber 1747/13).

Brest
Approaches.

Request I may be informed of particulars of mines laid in Approaches to Brest by aircraft of Bomber and Coastal Commands, including estimated positions, types, and dates, if any, when inoperative. (C. in C. Plymouth 1907/13).

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDSS

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.
GNEISENAU
reported
damaged.

Weather conditions up to 1300/13 have prevented R/C of Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1456/13). My 1456/13. (1) No R/C of Brest up to 1800/13. (2) Weather conditions at Brest at 1500/13 as follows. (3) Reported C.2. that GNEISENAU seriously hit aft by 2 bombs. Confirmation is being sought. (D.D.I.C. 1826/13).

Enemy
Vessel.

By D/F at 1430 B.S.T. Unidentified enemy vessel, probably minor unit, in 54° 20' N. 2° 30' E. Bearings considered unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1551/13).

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13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Independent
Sailings
in Pairs.

When independently sailed merchant ships whose speeds do not differ by more than two knots will be ready to sail from a U.K. port within 36 hours of one another, they should be sailed in pairs for mutual A/A support. If routed north of Rockall they should proceed independently on reaching 15° W. and if south of Rockall on reaching 17° W. One Master should be appointed Commodore and if possible the Masters should meet before sailing. (A.C.N.S (T). 1344/13 to N.C.S.O's Aultbea, Oban etc).

Swedish
ECUADOR.

Leaves Faroes for Gothenburg routed as in AM 1921/3. Ship should not be molested. (D.O.D.(H) 1704/13 to C. in C., H.F. etc).

Military Convoys
DIDO
ABDIEL

To take urgently required personnel and stores abroad. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1310/13, 2202/13, and F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2144/13). See Lion copy.

W.S.8 A.

Your 1817/10. Anticipate 10 destroyers available for W.S. 8 A. (C. in C., W.A., 1742/13 to Admty).

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War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

M.T.B.36.

My 1648/12. Sailing postponed indefinitely owing to engine defect in M.T.B. 36. (HORNET 0837/13).

KINDERSLEY.

Has developed boiler trouble and is being diverted to Harwich. (WOLFHOUND 0920/13). Automatic S.O.S. heard at 1515 G.M.T. strength 2 bearing from Niton Radio 240° approx. (Niton Radio 1519/13).

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War Diary

13.4.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

UNDAUNTED

My 1020/12. Am in communication with UNDAUNTED. (F.O.C.N.A., 0032/13, to Admty.) Arrival UNDAUNTED (S.O.I.Gib 0430/13) UNDAUNTED has defective W/T volt regulator Repair requires 48 hours. Intend sailing UNDAUNTED for Malta 15/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1304/13 to Admty.)

REPULSE

My 1744/12. Weather still unfit to sail REPULSE (F.O.C.N.A. 1002/13 to C. in C., H.F.)

My 1002/13. No material change in weather Considerable element of risk in sailing REPULSE. Unless you consider situation requires risk being accepted, I do not intend sailing her until weather moderates. (F.O.C.N.A., 1204/13 to Admty. etc.)

CORDELIA
(German)

Istanbul departure 12/4 CORDELIA Braila 14/4. (Galata 1044/13)

TINOS
(German)

Arrival Carthagena 12/4 from Valencia to load oranges. (Cartagena 1115/13)

TORBAY
TAKU

Admiralty 0026/11 and F.O. (S) 1149/11. Intend to sail TORBAY and TAKU for Malta as soon as possible after arrival. (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/13 to C. in C., Med.)

Submarines

Instructions to submarines proceeding to Gibraltar, not to proceed east of longitude Spartel during dark hours, etc. (F.O.C.N.A., 1250/13 to Capt. S.5.)

French
Fishing Boats
Used as Scouts.

A.M. 1146/9. Following information (C.2) from French student who left Brittany end of January and arrived Gibraltar recently to join Free French. (A) 26 French Tunny Fishing boats under control of Germans are engaged in reporting movements of British shipping. All registered at Lorient bearing Registration Letter L preceding numerals and operated from Lorient and Quiberon in Channel, Atlantic and Bristol Channel.

/Fitted.....

13.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French
Fishing Boats
Used as
Scouts- Contd.

Fitted with W/T and capable of 16 knots.
(b) German authorities provide Skippers of fishing boats with identification signal consisting of hoist of three flags to hoist in the order given when German warship is sighted and in reverse order when British warship is sighted.

C. Hoist in reverse order believed to be the actual British identification signal as fishing craft were not molested or boarded by British warships when shown.

2. Informant claims information obtained from Skipper of one of the 26 ships so engaged. (S.O.I., Gib, 1316/13 to Admty.)

Comment by
N.I.D.

It is believed that Germans are using fishing boats for collecting information.

There is no confirmation that these boats use our recognition signals and this information should be treated with reserve.

HIGHLANDER
FORTUNE
BOREAS

F.O.C.N.A. 1744/12. HIGHLANDER and FORTUNE should be detached to Gibraltar when no longer required as local A/S escort. BOREAS should be sailed for Freetown as soon as practicable.
(A.C.N.S.,(H) 1530/13 to REPULSE, F.O.C.N.A)

Unknown
Warship report.

C. in C., A. and W.I. 2333/12 to Admty. Could unknown ship have been MALVERNIAN or CAMITO. (D.D.I.C., 1613/13 to F.O.C.N.A) American ship EXCAMBION reports being stopped at 0317Z/7 in 038° 12' N., 019° 23' W., by unknown darkened ship. Was this CAMITO? (F.O.C.N.A., 2000/13 to CAMITO) Your 2000/13. Yes. (CAMITO 2310/13)

French
Convoy

French Sloop escorting two M.V's in 036° 07' N., 009° 08' West at 1050/13 course and speed 127° 6 knots.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1755/13 to Admty. etc.) One French Tanker, one M.V. escorted by French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE bearing 050° 4 miles approx. course 346°. My position 035° 26' N., 009° 03' W.,
(QUEEN ELIZABETH 1916/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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13.4.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SEVERN.
Force U.

- At 0944/8 in 025° 00' S., 020° 00' W., SEVERN attacked S/M with 4 torpedoes but missed. Rough sea and heavy swell.
2. SEVERN shadowed till 1400 to attack again but lost sight.
 3. At 1945/8 in 024° 30' S., 020° 25' W., SEVERN sighted submarine unable to attack and lost sight.
 4. At 1210/9. SEVERN dived to attack S/M in 025° 07' S., 020° 05' W., but lost sight. Same type as first one sighted.
 5. At 1941/9. SEVERN attacked submarine of different type in 024° 24' S., 018° 46' W twice but missed. Rough sea and heavy swell impossible for gun action.
 6. At 0005/10 G.M.T. SEVERN heard weak and fading unintelligible signals on Kc/s 164. Nothing heard by others.
 7. No surface ships seen.
 8. Weather conditions impossible for aircraft in that area and probably unsuitable for submarine fuelling so consider all have passed northward.
 9. Am proceeding to area indicated in Ascension's 1059/12.
 - 10 SEVERN arrives there about 1800/13 while MILFORD returns to St. Helena to fuel, make this report and to await your further instructions.
 - 11 MILFORD will instruct BRIDGEWATER to R.V. with me in 021° S. 020° W. at 1800/15.
 - 12 Weather appears to be moderating and will probably permit aircraft R/C beginning 14/4.
 - 13 SEVERN has 4 torpedoes remaining.
 - 14 Request further instructions (S.O. Force U. 1028/13 to C. in C., S.A.)

S.L. Convoys

To avoid ships missing convoy from Freetown by a narrow margin N.C.S.Os at ports from which ships sail to Freetown should be aware of sailing dates of S.L. convoys. Masters of such ships should be given a secret envelope not to be opened until at sea containing date nearest to their E.T.A. on which a convoy sails from Freetown. (D.T.D. 1043/13 to C. in C., S.A., C. in C., A.W.I.)

/NORDERNEY.....

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13.4.1941
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

NORDERNEY (Gr)
MONBALDO (It.)

Your 2221/11 NORDERNEY left quay and anchored 11/4. MONBALDO anchored nine miles down river 27/3. Supplies both vessels are ready for sea.
(C. in C., S.A. 1123N/13 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

COMORIN
Survivors

Your 1206/11. As far as can be ascertained, 8 officers 96 others. No information about clothing.
(D.O.D. (F) 1238/13 to C. in C., S.A.)

St. Helena

Ships proceeding St. Helena should not break W/T silence in St. Helena area unless it is important to do so. Probable time of arrival will as far as possible be passed to St. Helena by C. in C., S.A. by W/T. (C. in C., S.A. 1347N/13 to S.A. Station)

Raider which
sank
BRITANNIA

My 1631/30/3. Additional details. (C. in C., S.A. 1411N/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

West Africa

Coordination of political and military effort (G.O.C., West Africa 1650/13)
See Lion Copy.)

French
SS JAMAIQUE

Arrived Lome 10/4 fully loaded from Cotonou and discharged 50 tons cargo. Small escort vessel also at Lome.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1801/13 to Admty.)

S.L. Convoy
Escorts.

Request date and time of arrival of S.L. Convoys at R.V. with local escort may be forwarded as soon as known so as to estimate average speed of advance Also if delayed by weather or any special circumstances. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1851/13 to Admty.)

/DORSETSHIRE....

SECRET.

MESSAGE

1650/13th April

IN.

426A

From - G.O.C. West Africa.

Date - 13/4/41

Recd. - 2350

CYPER.

Addressed - War Office repeated Wagon, Lagos.

IMMEDIATE.

G.2209 13/4.

My G/2208 12/4.

Wish to emphasize necessity for proposals made by Chairman Wagon 116 April 11th to S. of S. In the circumstances envisage political and military direction of H.M.G. will not repeat not be possible. Military control of West Africa is already centralized in G.O.C. and no difficulties will arise in taking any purely military decisions. Political control is however at present dispersed in the hands of four separate and independent quarters. Co-ordination of political and military effort would therefore be difficult both as regards policy vis a vis French colonies and rapidity of decision in measures for defence of West Africa. Press Foreign Office strongly that political direction in West Africa should in the circumstances envisaged be centralized in the hands of one man to whom necessary powers should be given to issue instructions to all Governors on matters relating to foreign policy in West Africa and on matters requiring common action for defence of West Africa. Also urge strongly that necessary directions should be issued now so that arrangement can be put into force at once when necessity arises. I foresee grave difficulties in co-ordination of political and military effort in West Africa unless this action is taken. Chairman of Governor's conference should be given the necessary powers.

1650/13.

Recd. form War Office 1405/14.

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

J.S

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War Diary

13.4.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS
Etc.

Admty. 0016/12. DORSETSHIRE, ILLUSTRIOUS, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, and MONARCH OF BERMUDA should be sailed in company as early as possible and should not be delayed for NEA HELLAS to join. (C. in C., S.A. 1921/13 to F.O.I.C., Simonstown)

My 1105/12. In view of information in C. in C., E.I. 0758/13 propose all ships in my 1105/12 including NEA HELLAS depart 19/4 from Durban in Convoy escorted by DORSETSHIRE and call at Capetown before sailing for Freetown. Call at Capetown necessary as certain ships require water cargo and important stores. This will keep convoy clear of W.S. 7 at Durban and Capetown. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2142B/13.)

War Diary.

13.4.1941
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Convoys.

Latest intelligence states convoys will probably leave Tripoli tonight 12th/13th for Italy. (Capt. S.1, 0115/13, to S/M's on Patrol)

Enemy
Convoy.

Following has been read:- Rinella W/T from Naval General Call Sign Block 6:
Enemy Merchant Vessels 2 Destroyers bearing 150° distant 3 miles course 160° my position at 0200 270° 37° N., 12° E., 6 miles.
(Scapa W/T, 0209/13).

Following has been read: Rinella W/T from Naval General Call sign Block 6
My 0209, position of 5 enemy merchant vessels and 4 destroyers 195 37° N., 12° E., 16 course 160° speed unknown. (Scapa W/T, 0310/13).

A/C attack
on Enemy
convoy, 12/4.

Special Operational Summary. Times G.M.T. As result Glenn Martin patrol west of Malta 12/4 reporting at 1045. 5 M.Vs and 3 destroyers position 37° 46' N. 11° 26' E. course 180° speed 10 knots. 8 Swordfish of 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to attack. 1 Swordfish shadowed before and 1 after attack. Both carried flares and 5 Swordfish carried torpedoes and 1 carried 6 by 250 lbs. bombs. Convoy attacked at 2040 hours. Bombs straddled convoy from 3,000 feet with possible hit or near miss on 1 M.V. Torpedoes evidently failed to find mark as convoy last sighted proceeding intact 16 knots 5 miles from Pantelleria. 2 torpedo Swordfish failed to return. (H.Q. Malta, 0230/13).

Operation
M.D.1.

Following operation, M.D.1, is to be carried out. (C.in C. Med., 1447/13 to Med. Fleet). See Lion Copy.

Enemy Air
Raids.

MARIE MAERSK hit 12/4 by air mine still burning. VOLO reports BRATTDAL and CITY OF KARACHI hit in enemy raid this morning must be considered lost. (D.S.T.O. Piraeus 1532/13).

Malta Request
for Beauforts.

Your 2015/12. Emphasized that Beaufort compares unfavourably with Swordfish torpedo attack especially in face of surface opposition, owing to lack of manoeuvrability at speed necessary for successful torpedo dropping. (D.N.A.D. 1621/13 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

/ TETRARCH to
intercept convoy.

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1447/13th. April.

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 14.4.41.

Time 0647

NAVAL CYPHER A.2. by Cable.

Addressed Mediterranean Fleet, repeated V.A. Malta, Admiralty, R.A. Alexandria, S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A., A.O.C in C Middle East. 201 Group.

IMPORTANT.

8. Following operation M D one is to be carried out.

A. Force A H.M.S.'s BARHAM VALIANT FORMIDABLE JUNO JAGUAR GREYHOUND GRIFFIN HAVOCK HASTY HCTSPUR HEReward KIMBERLEY H.M.A.S.'s STUART VOYAGER sail p.m. 15 as ordered F.O.C. one B.S. to R/V with convoy M E 7 about noon 17th April. H.M.S.'s PHOEBE and CALCUTTA are to sail later than Force A to overtake by 1000/16.

B. V.A. Malta is requested to sail M E 7 (3 16 knot ships) at dusk 16 escorted by H.M.S. NUBIAN H.M.S. MOHAWK H.M.S. DIAMOND. Convoy to pass North of Hurd Bank through position A 036 degs. 00' North 014 degs. 53' East thence direct at best possible speed for position B. 034 degs. 30' North 020 degs. 00' East.

C. F.O.C. 1st B.S. to detach H.M.S. PHOEBE and H.M.S. CALCUTTA p.m. 16 to join escort of M E 7 at daylight 17.

D. M E 7, to steer as directed by F.O.C. 1st B.S. until detached at ~~Colombo~~ 17 then through position C 033 degs. 30' N. 025 degs. 00' E. thence direct for Alexandria searched channel.

E. F.O.C. 1st B.S. to detach H.M.S. JUNO H.M.S. JAGUAR p.m. 17 to proceed Malta to arrive at daylight 18. H.M.A.S. STUART and H.M.S. VOYAGER to join M E 7 H.M.S. NUBIAN and H.M.S. MOHAWK join F.O.C. 1st B.S.

F. H.M.S. GLOUCESTER ~~II~~ to sail as directed by V.A.L.F. to join sunrise. V.A.L.F. H.M.S. GLOUCESTER II to R/V with F.O.C. 1st B.S. a.m. 17 at R/V to be appointed by F.O.C. 1st B.S. H.M.S. AJAX to Alexandria as directed by V.A.L.F.

G. V.A.L.F. informed H.M.S. GLOUCESTER to part company with Force A p.m. 17 to operate aircraft rejoin a.m. 18 as arranged by V.A.L.F. V.A.L.F. and available groups to take over Aegean duties. One destroyer to join V.A.L.F. from Force A.

H. Force A to proceed as ordered by B.S.1 to carry out F.A.A. attack on Rhodes at dawn 18 and return to Alexandria.

K. 201 group is requested to provide reconnaissance as follows 15th W.A.A., 16th and 17th Q R S, 18th W W A A. '

~~A.O.C. Mediterranean~~
~~S.S.T.C. Durban~~ is requested to provide reconnaissance area P p.m. 16 and reconnaissance of Messina Taranto if possible.

1447/13.

Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

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

M.D.1 postponed 24 hours (page 458) and again (page 523)

Cancelled. CiMed. 0930/17 (page 553)

429

War Diary.13.4.1941.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)TETRARCH
to intercept
convoy.

My 1110/12. Proceed to 033° 20' 013° 00' to intercept 3 destroyers 5 merchant ships reported 1257B/13 035° 55' 011° 50' 225° 12 knots.
 Leave P.M./14 in accordance with Capt (S) 1 1445/11. (Cdr. S.1, 1642/13, to TETRARCH).
 My 1642, position of convoy at 1803 B was 034° 50' 012° 15' 155° 15 knots.
 (Cdr. S.1, 1943/13, to TETRARCH).

Enemy
Shipping,
Tripoli.

Malta reconnaissance report to 1600 13/4.
 (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1650/13).

4 Malta
Air Raids.

Report Malta Part 2 up to 1600/13/4.
 4 alerts of approx. 1½ hours each between 2107 and 0922. First raid of 9 enemy aircraft coincided with Swordfish return from operations. Bombs dropped in various localities and in sea. Damage to telephone wires and negligible damage to private property. No casualties.
 2nd raid patrol of 2 enemy aircraft. No bombs dropped. 3rd raid 8 Ju.87s attacked 4 destroyers returning from enemy convoy patrol. No hits. 3 bombs filled with concrete dropped on edge of Takali aerodrome causing 3 small craters now filled up. No damage no casualties. 4th raid 12 Me.109s and 2 Ju. 88s came in from North and broke formation over Island. Bombs dropped in Luqa aerodrome. No damage, no casualties. 1 Me.109 destroyed.
 (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1655/13).

Convoy A.G.12.

Arrived Piraeus 1500/12.
 (N.C.S.O. Piraeus, 1720/13).

Balkans.

Phaleron Bay now believed clear of mines, ships entered this morning. Waters N. and W. of Salamis clear, including Eleusis and Scaramanga but not Salamis Strait. Piraeus still closed. Situation in Balkans (Rear Braig, Athens Desp. 2000/13) See Lion Copy.

Volos bombed
by enemy a/c.

Operational summary No. 123. Between 1220 and 1830 hours 20 enemy aircraft bombed Volos Harbour and scored hits on two ships. 33 Squadron sent 7 Hurricanes up to intercept and shot down 1 ME.110 confirmed.
 (H.Q. B.A.F. Greece, 2145/13).

/Tripoli bombed,
 M.V. hit.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

429A

From Rear Braig. Athens

Desp. 2000 13/4/41.

Recd. 0045 14/4/41.

Cipher

Addressed Braig Athens, C. in C. Middle East, The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

I/184 Cipher 13/4.

Telegraphic Summary No. 12.

1. Greece.
Phaleron Bay now believed clear of mines. Ships entered this morning. Waters north and west of Salamis clear including Eleusis and Scaramanga but not Salamis Strait. Piraeus still closed.
2. Albania.
Persistent unconfirmed reports that Jugoslavs have occupied Durazzo. Italian corps of three divisions reported operating in Debar area and force equal one division moving south from Stroga. Undefined M.T. activity road Pogradec Koritsa.
3. Turkey.
Turkish Government apparently impressed by German successes in Yugoslavia and Greece.
4. Yugoslavia.
12th April. Yugoslav General Staff reported at Pale east of Sarjevo. Situation in Croatia very confused but many Croat units refusing to fight. Following Croat divisions believed disintegrated. Murska Savska Slavenska Unska and Osijecska. Slovene Triglavaska and Jundravaska Divisions retreating southwards. Bosanska and Urbaska behind save between Zagreb and Brod. Poteska behind save west of Belgrade. Fifth army apparently reasonably intact in area south west of Krusvac. NO information from Albania. Jadranska attacking Zara. Dunarska moving north from Mostar. Kosovska advancing towards Kacanik Gorge. Comment. Yugoslav reports indicate that information is at present reaching General Staff tardily. Also indicate higher morale than situation might warrant.
5. Bulgaria.
More classes reported called up. Communists reported blown bridge on Dobruja frontier destroying two German trains.
6. General.
Reported discontent among German troops moved from eastern Bulgaria from invasion Yugoslavia.

Received by hand from
The War Office at 1325/14.

1st Lord
1st S.L.
4th 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.D.I.C.
D. of P.(2)
Head of M.
E.P.S.
D.P.D
W.D.
I.P.

430

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Tripoli
bombed,
M.V. hit.

Result Glenn Martin recco Tripoli 13/4,
3 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn. despatched to attack
Tripoli harbour night 13/14/4.
Over target from 1925 to 2000. 4 bursts
observed on land and 3 on shipping. 1 large
M.V. burning fiercely. All a/c returned
safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 2330/13).

Situation
Report.

C.in C. Med. 2353/13 See Lion Copy.

Suez-Port
Said oil
pipe line.

Adty's 1106/29/3 and my 2017/3/4.
In view of Situation in Iraq it is
considered more than ever essential to
build pipe line without delay.
Strongly urge that complete project be
undertaken as soon as possible.
(C.in C. Med. 2357/13).

4.3 0(A)

2353/13th April

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 16.4.42.

Recd. 0655.

NAVAL CIPHER (X R) BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.

12. Situation Report 1. Western Desert. Ships are continuing to use Tobruk where scale of air attack though increasing is not yet really serious. Army have about two months supplies if port is closed. PRACO bombed and damaged but still afloat, and may be salvable. R.N.O.I.S. who is at Tobruk suspects minelaying in Approaches but so far unconfirmed. Enemy is to eastward round Tobruk and also holds Bardia. Situation at Sollum obscure but fighting is in progress. R.O.I.C. evacuated. Gunboats and destroyers are operating from Tobruk against coast in enemy hands. APHIS appears to have burnt out at least five aircraft when bombarding Gazala aerodrome. Sweep for ships coasting carried out between Benghazi by three groups of destroyers supported by V.A.L.F. and with air reconnaissance on night 12/13 report not yet received. (*Unproduced - 0047/15 - page 457 A*)

2. Malta. 830 Squadron have tried three nights running to attack Tripoli convoys on last two nights D.14 with his 4 destroyers took part. Unfortunately contact only made on night 12/13 when Swordfish attacked a southbound convoy of five ships unsuccessfully two Swordfish being lost. Convoy was however forced to steer north during the night in its effort to avoid our forces. D.14 was also unable to intercept this convoy. Part of the reason for these failures is that Swordfish cannot shadow fighter escorted convoys by day and such Glen Martins as are available are so fully employed on day reconnaissance that they can ill afford time for shadowing duty. Have suggested to A.C.C. Mediterranean to try armed night reconnaissance by Swordfish

Air attacks on ports in North and Northern

3. Aegean traffic is very severe and sweeping resources cannot keep up with rate of minelaying at present. Piraeus still closed. MARIE MERSEK set on fire. RETRIEVER sunk off Phleba Island. Unloading from dispersed positions by lighters is believed to be continuing and convoys are moving at reduced rate. Shortage of lighters and tugs is acute at Piraeus owing to losses in air raids, but owing to similar shortage in Egypt it is not practicable to remedy situation.

2353/13

Advance copy sent 1st Lord, Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F) C.S.O. to 1st S.L. A.C.N.S.(F) D.D.I.C. and 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.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
Head of M (20).
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D.(2).
N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).
D.P.D.

M E S S A G E

From War Registry.

Date 16.4.41.

Correct C. in C. Mediterranean's 2353/13 paragraph 3 to

read:-

3. Aegean. Air attack on Greek Ports and Northern Aegean

traffic

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.N.A.D.
 D. of L.D.
 D.A/S.W.
 D.M.S.
 I.P.
 W.D.
 Duty Captain.
 Head of M (20).
 D.T.S.D.
 D.D.I.C.
 E.P.S.
 D.T.D. (2).
 N.I.D. 10 (Pay. Cdr. Wilson).
 D.P.D.
 D.S.D.

abd

431

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH

A.C.N.B's 0729/11. Re fuel required at Suez. (D. of S.T. 0052/13 to C. in C.,E.I.)

YARRA
B.M.7

Karachi YARRA arrived 1101 Z/11 and sailed 1230 Z/12 with B.M.7. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0606Z/13).

Situation at
Massowa.

My 1126/12. (i) Information regarding mine-fields E boats etc. most difficult to obtain owing to reticence of prisoners and all relevant documents having been destroyed. (ii) Northern Channel is being swept today to allow small vessels to enter with Army supplies urgently required (iii) Harbour entrance practically blocked but clear passage still exists. (?One) ship up to 400 feet in length could be berthed. Several other ships could be discharged into lighters of which a number are available. No tugs and only one five ton crane (floating) available. Water distilling plant and lighting intact. Both floating docks definitely sunk. (iv) My 1126/12 para. (v) No Naval craft seen during last three days (v) landing ground now available (b) Facilities. (vi) Latest information A one is that Sheikh Skid Island has been (?evacuated) and coast defence and A/A guns destroyed. On mainland north of Massowa all guns in our possession. (C. in C., E.I. 0744Z/13).

Assab.

L/c

My 1056/12 all three ships and wharf now burning. All A.A. guns have been removed from FATMA UM AL BAHER, AURIEKIYA but shore batteries still active and accurate A/A fire was experienced. (C. in C. E.I. 0746Z/13).

EMERALD
Basra.

Since approach of EMERALD has been accepted complacently, consider when she has arrived at Basrah it would be worth while informing Iraqi authorities that troops are arriving from India. Convoy arrives Outer Bar a.m. April 17th. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 0945Z/13, to Embassy, Bagdad). EMERALD arrived Basrah 1215.G.M.T. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1555Z/13).

/Troop Convoys....

432

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (Contd).

Troop
Convoys.

Forecast of troop convoy movements on E.I. Station for period ending mid-June. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C. E.I., 1208/13). See Lion copy.

GLASGOW.

My 0748/12 not to Force "T" and KING GRUFFYDD, GLASGOW is to proceed to Port Victoria, Seychelles instead of Mombasa arriving A.M./16. (C. in C. E.I., 1330Z/13, to GLASGOW).

DUNERA.

Your 0847/13 (Request to sail DUNERA direct to Berbera without escort) not approved. DUNERA is to sail in ballast. (C. in C. E.I. 1424Z/13. to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

C.-in-C.

If C. in C. E.I. should proceed to Sea the following arrangements are to come into force. (C. in C.E.I., 2146Z/13, to E.I. Squadron etc).

China.

Navicerts.

System in the event of war with Japan. (D.E.W.D., 1956/13 to C. in C. China, C. in C. E.I.) See Lion copy.

America and West Indies.

CANADOLITE

British CANADOLITE Freetown 22/3 for Caripito not arrived. (S.O(I) Kingston, 0827/13, to Admty. etc).

/ Suspicious Ship....

East Indies.

1208/13 April
OUT

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

To C.in C. East Indies 766.
Repeated S.N.O. Red Sea.

Date 13.4.41.

432A

C.in C. South Atlantic 475.
S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 574.
C.in C. Mediterranean 942 B.1.

NAVAL CYPHER D

From Admiralty.

The following is an approximate forecast of future troop convoy movements on your station for the period ending mid-June. Details should be regarded as approximate only. Movements for which you have indicated escort arrangements are excluded.

2. Item	<u>Date of Departure</u>	<u>Port of Departure</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Particulars</u>
A.	Shortly	Mombasa	Suez	2 ships 675 troops and vehicles, 12 kts.
B.	19th April	Mombasa	Suez	3 ships 5th S.African Brigade 3826 troops.
C.	21st April	Bombay	Mid. East	Reinforcements.
D.	22nd April	Capetown and Durban	Suez	W.S.7 15 knots.
E.	Blank	Capetown and Durban	India	3 ships ex W.S.7
F.	Blank	Capetown	Malaya	1 ship ex W.S.7
G.	26th April	Colombe	Suez	U.S.10 20 knots.
H.	24th May	Capetown or Durban	Suez	W.S.S(A) 15 knots.
I.	29th May	Durban	Suez	3 monster liners 2nd S.African Div. 12,000 troops. 20 kts.
J.	2nd June	Durban	Suez	9500 troops of 2nd S.African Div. Ships not nominated.
K.	6th June	Capetown or Durban	Suez	W.S.8(B) 13½ knots. Escorted by H.M.S. EXETER
L.	Blank	Capetown or Durban	India	1 ship ex W.S.8(B).
M.	Unknown	Mogadishu	Berbera	1,000 troops.

3. Moves between Port Sudan and Suez are not included in the above.

W.S.9 will leave U.K. about 22nd May, speed about 14 knots.

4. In addition, there are the following movements for consideration:-

(a) 12th and 20th April: Mules, and possibly some personnel, from Durban and Mombasa respectively to the Middle East.

(b).....

(2)

- (b) Return of monster liners from Suez after U.S.10 to Australia and Durban.
- (c) Return of any service personnel in returning ships of W.S.6 and W.S.7 if required.
- (d) Possible move of 3,000 Italian prisoners of war with guards from Middle East to U.K., using W.S.6 ships.
- (e) Possible move of 870 Jewish refugees from Suez to Mauritius.

1208/13

for D.O.D.(F)
Approved A.C.N.S.(F)

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

China.

M E S S A G E 1956/13th April.

MOST SECRET.

OUT.

432(B)

To C. in C. China 722.
C. in C. East Indies 774.

Date 13.4.41.

NAVAL CYPHER (F)

From Admiralty.

NITE.

In the event of war with Japan the compulsory Ship Navicert system will cover U.S.S.R. Thailand, Portuguese Colonies of Timor and Macao, Netherland East Indies (if neutral), Indo-China (if not declared enemy occupied territory), French Pacific Islands including New Caledonia and New Hebrides (if neutral), Phillipine Islands (if U.S.A. neutral) and the Shanghai International Settlement and French Concession.

2. These territories will be considered "adjacent neutrals" and all ships sailing to or from them will require Ship Navicerts.

3. All ships sailing westward across Pacific to Hong Kong, British North Borneo, Sarawak or ports (British or neutral) West of Singapore will require Ship Navicerts.

4. Should Netherland East Indies be at war with Japan (a) Ships sailing westward across Pacific and calling at Netherlands East Indies require Ship Navicerts; (b) Ships eastbound across Indian Ocean will not require Ship Navicerts if carrying cargo for Netherland East Indies only, but will require them if also carrying cargo for other territories in para. 1 above.

5. Ships bound TO any territories named in para. 1. are to be sent in to a British port for Contraband Control if NOT holding Ship Navicerts.

6. Ships bound FROM those territories and NOT holding Ship Navicerts are NOT to be sent in unless and until Reprisals Order in Council has been extended to Japan, but merely reported to Admiralty at first opportunity. (Note. Until issue of Reprisals Order such ships will be dealt with by Black Listing, denial of shipping facilities, etc.)

7. For purposes of Economic Warfare the whole China coast excluding Shanghai International Settlement and French Concession will be regarded as "enemy occupied territory."

1956/13

D.E.W.D. (791)

Appd. by A.C.N.S.(F)

1st Lord.	D.O.D. (H)
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)	W.D.
SEC.	Duty Captain.
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	Hd. of M.
D. of P. (2)	D.T.S.D.
D.O.D. (F)	D.D.I.C.
D.D.O.D. (F)	E.P.S.
Admiral Bailey.	N.I.D.10. Paym. Cdr. Wilson.
	D.T.D. (2)

433

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd)

Suspicious
Ship.

Following has been read QQQQ 62° 30' N.
31° 10' W. suspicious vessel, from
SILVERCEDAR at 1500 G.M.T. 1526/13. (Ends).
(Ottawa, 1245/13. to Admty).
UKARM 70, A.T. 0104/28/3. CANTON assigned
Tietjen and Lang yard, Hoboken, N.J. Request
you will sail ship as soon as possible
reporting date of arrival. (D.O.D. (F)
1249/13 to R.A.3 B.S).

Provision
Against
Jamming W/T.

Your 1906/22/3. Not considered that
provision of alternative frequency would
give any safeguard against jamming since
this frequency could not be kept secret
and either frequency could be jammed. Even
without jamming reception of alternative
frequency could not be ensured without
adding much complication to existing W/T
organisation. Investigation is now being
carried out to determine practicability
of transmitting on a frequency varying
slowly and continuously between 500 and
375 kc/s. (D.S.D. 1511/13 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

434

War Diary.13.4.41.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.RAJPUTANA.
A.M.C.

Have been hit by a torpedo on port side. Position 6450N 27.25W. (RAJPUTANA 0625/13 to Iceland W/T). Engines disabled. (RAJPUTANA, 0630/13) Both engine rooms, after stokehold No.4 flooded. (RAJPUTANA, 0709/13) Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side. (RAJPUTANA, 0735/13) My position is now 064. 50, 027.01, require immediate assistance, abandoning (RAJPUTANA, 0750/13). Is any air assistance coming? (RAJPUTANA 0758/13). RAJPUTANA torpedoed 064°50' N. 027°25' W.0625. Abandoning ship. ECHO, GARLAND ST. MARY's, LANCASTER have been sent. Also aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0851/13, to Admty). My 0851/13. Am retaining S.D.1 until ST. MARYS and LANCASTER available to escort. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0927/13, to C. in C., W.A.) Am proceeding RAJPUTANA with PIORUN. (LEGION, 0943/13, to N.O.I.C. Iceland). Request you will sail Tug THAMES with all despatch to assist RAJPUTANA torpedoed in 64°50' N. 27°01' W. at 0625 today (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0952/13, to F.O.I.C. Iceland). My 0851/13. Following received from LEGION (begins). Recovered 277, 41 unaccounted for. 2 known to be dead. Am carrying out search with PIORUN 1500/13. (Ends) No facilities available here at present for returning survivors to U.K. In view of conditions in Iceland consider it highly desirable that ship should be sent as soon as possible for this purpose. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1541/13 to Admty). My 1600. LEGION and *NERISSA E.T.A. Reykjavik 2339/13 with 40 per cent oil fuel remaining. LEGION has survivors of RAJPUTANA on board. LEGION'S Asdic set out of action. French Light Cruiser LEOPARD detached to refuel at 0900/13. GARLAND detached in accordance with your 0035/11. (LEGION, 16352/13, to C. in C. W.A.)

* ~~Legion~~ PIORUN

/RAJPUTANA A.M.C.

435

WAR DIARY.13.4.1941.
Sunday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships attacked.Contd.RAJPUTANA.
A.M.C. (Contd).

My 1541/13 to Admiralty. S.S. COPELAND could take 15 Officers and 85 Ratings leaving P.M/14 if she could join homeward convoy. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1821/13. to C. in C. W.A.) (15 Group (R) Force HQ (R) - IG/01/13/4) 1015 position XZBA 5035 RAJPUTANA obviously sunk eight crowded lifeboats much wreckage and oil 1127 sighted D.R.S. whom we led to lifeboats. 1140 DRS arrived at lifeboats. 1253 position XZSK 3822 sighted 4 DRS and gave them details course and speed to Datum Point XZDA 5035 1535 position XZSK 3000 4 DRS sweeping southward 1545 position XZDA 2410 sighted DRH 37 which we led up to join DRS FCHQ and ACHOE 0935 position BFSK 2220 left search (MANELA 2355/13)

JHELUM.
(torpedoed 21/3)

My 2041/8/4. Second boat reached St. Louis General 3/4 with Capt. Newman and 21 others. All in Hospital at St. Louis. Third boat landed Popenguine 8/4 with three Europeans, one Mauritian and 13 British Indians, two of whom have died. All suffering from extreme exhaustion. (S.O.I. Freetown. 1053N/13 to Admty).

COLLEGIAN

Intercepted from Cape Race Radio S.S.S.S. 4032. N. 55 14. W. COLLEGIAN chased. 1648 G.M.T. Ends. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1255/13 to Admty) W.D. Note. This S/M was TRIBUNE. See F.O.3 B.S. 1501/14. America and West Indies).

PRINS WILLEM II
(torpedoed 8/4).

Swedish KLIPPAREN 2100/12 with Captain and 12 crew Dutch PRINS WILLIAM II straggling from SICILIAN PRINCE (? convoy) torpedoed and sunk 2300/8 in position 059° 50' N. 024° 25' W.

/Survivors...

436

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

PRINS WILLEM
II (torpedoed)
8/4
(contd).

Survivors picked up 0130/11 in position 059° 16' N. 020° 05' W. One boat containing 7 (?Ratings) unaccounted for last seen daylight/9 steering E. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1745/13 to Admty).
My 1745/13. 3 of crew known to be drowned, second boat parted company in fog on 9/4 rescuing ship searched for it unsuccessfully for 3 hours during morning of 11th. Propose sending survivors Leith in LOCH GARRY sailing approx. 20/4. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 2355/13 to Admty.).

Unknown
ship.

Following has been read
SSSS de GKT. Unknown ship heard sending SSSS 1853 on 8333 kc/s, no further particulars. (Portishead Radio 1859/13)

VILLE DE
LIEGE.

Following has been read.
SSSS 59.40 N. 29.50 W. VILLE DE LIEGE, explosion. (Liverpool W/T 2326/13).

Submarines Reported.

1303/12.

Observed what thought to be periscope in SGDH 5856 course K 293 sighting very doubtful.

1330.

With convoy OB 308 informed convoy of suspected U-Boat.

1404

With convoy OB 307 informed convoy of suspected U-Boat.

1843.

Position HDTH 0320 left OB 307. (R.A.F. Iceland 0900/13).

Admty. Message AF Position 64° 50' N. 0 27° 01' W. at 0625/13 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1023/13).

Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1432/13).

MOST SECRET.

437

War Diary.

13.4.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

SEVERN.

Sightings and attacks on S/M's 8/4, 9/4
in approx 25° S. 18 - 20° W. (S.O. Force
U 1028/13) See South Atlantic.

438

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay
Patrol.

Force H is now returning to Gibraltar and C. in C. H.F. is again in the Biscay area. C. in C. H.F. assumed command of all units operating in this area at 1600 to-day. B.C. 1 in HOOD with KENYA and 3 destroyers, arrived at Scapa at 2030 to-day. QUEEN ELIZABETH and 2 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 0900 to-day.

Shipping
in Western
Approaches.

In future, small coasters may only be sailed independently in the Western Approaches Command when group sailing is impracticable. Commencing to-morrow, convoys, will leave Milford Haven and Barry every 3 days for ports to the South.

U-boat
Campaign.

Belgian S.S. VILLE DE LIEGE (independently routed) was torpedoed in 59° 40' N. 29° 50' W. at 0026 to-day. She appears to have been over 30 hours astern of her estimated position and consequently did not receive Admiralty messages diverting her from known position of U-boats.

X Sunk 13/4 (BR. 1237) See page 436 W.O.

British Air Activity.

Blenheims to-day attacked a convoy of 5 ships off Leiden and claim to have hit 2 vessels.

439

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

For the first time for several months there were today no indications of F.W. aircraft operating.

A/S Trawler KINSTON AMBER shot down an enemy aircraft off the Isle of Wight early this morning.

Trawler VESTRA was attacked and slightly damaged at 1410 today 25 miles S.E. by S. of Duncansby Head.

WOLFHOUND and Convoy E.C.7 were unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon 16 miles East of Yarmouth.

Two Free French M/S vessels laid up in the Trøuro River were bombed early this morning; SUIPPE was sunk and CONQUERANTE was badly damaged and was beached.

A convoy was unsuccessfully attacked this morning east of Hellwick L.V.

440

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation
S.N. 101.

R.A.(M) reported this operation completed at 1008 to-day.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Blyth.

The Clyde as far as Great Harbour was opened to traffic both ways without restriction at 1531 to-day. Cardiff and Penarth were closed at 1853.

North Atlantic.

FLEUR DE LYS made 8 attacks this forenoon on a U-boat in 35° 35' N. 8° 10' W. (110 miles W. by S. of Cape Spartel). After the last attack, the U-boat surfaced, apparently bottom up, before disappearing.

SCOTTISH this afternoon attacked a U-boat in 35° 35' N. 8° 30' W. (125 miles W. by S. of Cape Spartel) without apparent result.

South Atlantic.

There are indications that a U-boat has been operating to eastward of St. Paul's Rocks. A boat with survivors of S.S. ENA DE LARRINAGA, torpedoed 205 miles East of St. Paul's Rocks on 1/4, was picked up to-day.

x. Torpedoed 5/4 see BR 1827

441

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Attack
on
Valona.

At 2300 G.M.T. 6 Swordfish of 815 Squadron attacked shipping in Valona Bay and blew up a 7000 ton ammunition ship and scored a hit on a 6000 ton merchantman.

and
Tripoli.

Wellingtons attacked Tripoli last night and set on fire a large merchant ship.

Enemy
Air
Attacks.

Enemy A/c attacked Tobruk heavily early this morning; Hurricanes destroyed several of the attackers.

Some damage was caused by air attack on Malta last night and early to-day.

Piraeus and shipping in the Aegean were attacked last night by German aircraft. Piraeus was attacked by some 27 aircraft this afternoon. Most of the bombs fell in the sea.

Hospital
Ship
VITA
damaged.

STO Mersa Tobruk reports that hospital ship VITA was deliberately bombed by heavy bombs this afternoon whilst evacuating patients from Mersa Tobruk and returned to the port before being towed to Alexandria.

TAKU
attacked.

A U-boat attacked TAKU this evening about 30 miles S.S.E. of Malaga.

East Indies.

Massawa.

The North Massawa Channel has been found to be heavily mined from Shaik Abu up to Oristes Shoal (15° 48' 40" N. 39° 28' 30" E). Sweeping is proceeding.

14.4.41.
Monday

War Diary.

442

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

6 Corvettes for
S.A. Station.

On completion of working up ARMERIA, ASTER, BERGAMOT, BURDOCK, MIGNONETTE and WOODRUFF will now be required for service on the South Atlantic Station. C.-in-C., W.A. is requested to report in due course the dates on which these ships will be ready to leave U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1600/14).

Corvettes in
W.A. Command.

Your 476/W.A. 1123/11. Endeavour has been made to arrange the re-allocation of the corvette force so as to interfere as little as possible with your organisation.

2. There are no corvettes other than minesweepers in the W.A. Command equipped for tropical service.

3. To implement your request for the new construction corvettes to be allocated to your command, would involve withdrawing ten of the older corvettes from that service and taking them in hand for preparation for tropical service.

4. This would entail a loss of each corvette for five or six weeks, which, at the present critical stage of the war, cannot be accepted. It would furthermore add to the strain on our dockyards.

5. Regret, therefore, that, while concurring in your arguments, the proposal to allocate now the new construction corvettes to your command cannot be approved.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1924/14).

Movements

Operation at
Hammerfest.

My p. c. and s. 062° 50' N. 000° 12' W.
194° 16 Knots at 0700.
(MANSFIELD 0742/14).

Your 2035/13. Nothing is to be landed at Sullum Voe. After refuelling proceed to Liverpool, reporting your E.T.A.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1806/14).

War Diary.

14.4.41.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

443

Movements (Contd.)

HOOD
KENYA
ARROW

E.T.A. in HOOD with KENYA and 3 destroyers
1950 today. ARROW proceeding 15 Knots E.T.A.
about 0300/15.
(F.O.C., B.C.S. 1146/14 to A.C.O.S.)

DIDO

Proceed to Clyde at best speed forthwith.
(C.-in-C., W.A. 1201/14 to DIDO).

SOUTHDOWN
LIDDESDALE
QUANTOCK

Proceed at 1000 to Tyne for special escort
duty on 16th as ordered by F.O.I.C., Tyne.
You should arrive at Tyne before dark.
(C.-in-C., Rosyth 1227/14 and 2233/14).

ORCHIS

My 2240/9. ORCHIS sailing to Iceland cancelled.
(Captain (D) Greenock 1314/14).

A.F.D.8.

Your 1249/13. No Hunts available before
p.m./19 when FERNIE only can be sailed for
this duty.
(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1613/14).

Operations

East Coast
Patrol.

No A.P. between S buoy and Hearty Knoll
tonight.
(C.-in-C., Nore 1017/14).

Operations by
M.T.Bs. in Dover
and Nore Commands
since 1/3.

Your 1212/13. M.T.Bs. have operated on the
Enemy Coast on 3 occasions since 1/ as follows
(V.A. Dover 0953/14, C.-in-C., Nore 1130/14).
See Lion copy only.

Operation Q.F.

Operation Q.F. postponed 24 hours.
(C.-in-C., Nore 1040/14).

Owing to delay completion G.D.T. gear in
EREBUS operation Q.F. will probably not take
place before 17/4.
(C.-in-C., Nore 2252/14).

MESSAGE.

0953/14/4/41.

IN.

From : V.A. Dover.

Date : 15.4.41.

Read : 1200.

Basegram.

Addressed : Admiralty.

~~Z.~~ Your 1212/13.

1. M.T.B.'s have operated on the enemy coast on 3 occasions since 1st March as follows :-

(a) 5th April - M.T.B.'s 70 and 5 sent to intercept 3 destroyers located off C. Gris Nez by R.D.F.

8th/9th April - M.T.B.'s 102 and 71 sent to investigate an R.D.F. Plot in mid-channel.

10th/11th - M.T.B.'s 102, 35 and 70 sent on a sweep between Boulogne and Calais, but later diverted to attack an escorted Tanker off Treport, which had been reported by aircraft.

(b) As above.

(c) One possible hit on 10th/11th.

(d) No.

(e) As a general rule a wind of Force 4 or greater precludes the possibility of successful M.T.B. Operations. During the period 1st March to 13th April the weather has been definitely unsuitable on 12 days, and doubtful on 5 days.

During dark night periods the defensive anti-minelaying operation "N.C" has been carried out on 9 nights.

The few occasions on which operations were carried out off the enemy coast was mostly due to the fact that from 7th to 17th March only one M.T.B. was available for service, and from 18th March to 4th April only two. These were 60 foot boats.

(VA. Dover 0953/14 to Adts)

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

1st Ld.
1st S.L.
Vico Controller.
V.C.M.S.
A.C.M.S. (H).
A.C.M.S. (F).
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D.N.I. (4).
O.D. (5).
Ops. (4).
M. (2).
D. of P. (2).
I.P. ()
W.D.
O.I.C. (2).

443(B)

MESSAGE
From:- C. in C. Nore

1130/14/April
Date 14/4/41.
Recd. 2110

IN

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty repeated C. in C. Portsmouth,
V.A. Dover, R.A.C.F., BEEHIVE.
Basegram.

306. Your 1212/13/4. Details of own M.T.B. Operations as follows:-

- 2. 4th-5th March, Nos: 22,31,32 Sweep to Hook of Holland. Abandoned due to bad weather off enemy coast.
- 6th-7th Nos: 22,30,32. Hook of Holland. Nothing sighted.
- 9th-10th Nos: 22,30,31 Flushing. Nothing sighted.
- 17th-20th All available M.T.B's at Ramsgate for a Dover Operation.
- 20th-21st Nos: 30,34. Search for M.V's reported off Ymuiden. Broken off due to weather.
- 22nd-23rd Nos: 22,31,34,43. Anti-"E"-boat patrol off Aldeburgh L/F. Blank.
- 28th-29th Nos: 22,30,34.P.W.(6). Successful.
- 10th-11th April. Nos: 22,31,32,34. Operation Haltwhistle. Broken off due to swell in open sea.

Note 1.

First series of P.W. mining operations completed 25/2, second series ordered to start 24/3.

Note 11.

During this period there is evidence of "E"-boat activity on 12 occasions with successful attacks on 5. Principle employed in M.T.B. Operations has been to send out boats on all nights on which weather is considered suitable. Except for period 17th-20th March when M.T.B's were at Ramsgate it may be assumed that weather was unsuitable on nights on which M.T.B's did not operate. Period under review coincided with a spell of Northerly and Easterly winds which raise an awkward sea in this area.

(5) Provided that routine maintenance and the principles above are adhered to, reliability is reasonable. If M.T.B's are sent out in unsuitable weather or routine maintenance is curtailed or postponed, boats will suffer damage and break down. Written report follows.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1130/14 | |
| 1st Lord | O.D. (5) | |
| 1st S.L. | Ops (4) | |
| Vice Controller | M (2) | |
| V.C.N.S. | D. of P (2) | |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | I.P. (3) | |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | W.B. | |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | O.I.C. (2) | |
| D.N.I. (4) | D.T.S.D. | D.D.O.D. (M) |

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War Diary

14.4.41.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Northern Patrol.
CAMITO, MARON.

Admiralty 1902/12. Request you will allow CAMITO to remain in M. Two.

Intend MARON now on passage to L. Two in accordance with my 1428/11 shall proceed Southern Areas to be at your disposal. Request you will amend her orders as you consider necessary. Admiralty approves.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1210/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Iceland.

C.-in-C., H.F. 1549/12. Officer Commanding Garrison East Coast Iceland is based at Budareyri 065° 02' N, 01 13' W. not Seydisfjordur.
(N.O.I.C., Iceland 1233/14 to FORESTER).

Operation DUNLOP.
"Dunlop"

A.M. 1247/12 and your 1721/13. Request you will sail ARGUS 16th April.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1329/14 to C.-in-C., W.A.)

Biscay Patrol.

My 1859/8. Force H. is now returning to Gibraltar and C.-in-C., H.F. is again in the Biscay Area.

2. C.-in-C., H.F. assumes command of all units operating in this Area at 1600/14.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1435/14).

TIGRIS. Enemy
Tanker sunk
on 3/4.

My 2332/13. TIGRIS reports encounter with 10,000 tons Northbound tanker in 46° 36' N. 03° 38' W. commencing at 2235/2 ending at 0020/3. Two unsuccessful torpedo attacks were carried out, four and two torpedoes being fired respectively in each case. In subsequent gun action the enemy was brought to a standstill with a 40 degree list to starboard, the coup de grace was then administered by a torpedo. The success of the gun action was entirely due to flashless ammunition which it is impossible to praise too highly. Flashless ammunition of about 3" calibre was used by the enemy. Three nights later great quantities of oil were observed in a position 17 miles to Leeward.

War Diary14.4.41.
MondayHOME COMMANDSOperations (Contd.)TIGRIS. Enemy
tanker sunk
on 3/4. (Contd.)2. TIGRIS was hunted for three hours on 5/4
in 46° 41' N. 03° 04' W. by hydrophone craft.
No attacks were made by them.
(F.O.S. 1838/14).ASCANIAN.P. 72 untenable owing to ice conditions. Am
taking up N.P.71.
(ASCANIA 2010/14).British Air ActivityPatrols."Unst"
Patrol ~~Unit~~ now in operation. Following patrols
will be flown:- S A 2 and S A 3 extended to
Coast taking off 0930. ~~Unit~~, ~~S A 2~~, and ~~S A 3~~
taking off 1145.
(C.-in-C., Rosyth 0702/14).Orkneys. Proposed
reduction of
Fighter Squadrons.For information. 14 Group inform me that it is
intended to reduce the number of Fighter
Squadrons allocated to the Orkneys Area from
4 to 3 in the near future.
(A.C.O.S. 1700/14).13 Group. Colouring
of A/c.Admiralty 2012/8. 13 Group report that their
aircraft will not be able to revert to Duck
Egg Blue under-surfaces until 22/4 owing to
shortage of dope and request that all concerned
may be warned of this postponement.
(C.-in-C., Rosyth 1847/14).Identification
of A/c.In order to assist in the certain identification
of friendly and hostile aircraft. (one) It is of
the utmost importance that any escort identifying
aircraft should on all occasions inform all other
escorts and the Commodore. (two) It has been
arranged that when any friendly aircraft leaves
convoy finally to return to base she will inform
escort to this effect. Thereafter ships in
convoy should not hesitate to fire on any
unidentified aircraft which may come within range.
AMAZON pass to ships in company.
(C.-in-C., W.A. 1931/13).

War Diary

14.4.41.
Monday

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Brest.

A. PL/G21/14/4/41.

C. Bomber Command are attacking targets at Brest tonight between 2200/14/4 to 0400/15/4. Six Swordfish of 816 Squadron are to make torpedo attack on battle cruiser alongside torpedo station in two waves of 3 aircraft to synchronise with the bomber command's last attack which is timed to be on the target at 0400/15.
(H.Q. 19 Group 2130/14 to St. Eval).

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy A/c
shot down.

KINGSTON AMBER reports having shot down enemy aircraft South of Woody Point at 0529 today. Four survivors.
(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 0615/14).

Convoy ~~WHEEL ONE~~.
"Wheel One"

Being attacked by enemy A/c. One aeroplane bearing 086 from Helwick Light Vessel distance five miles.
(Rugby 0620/14).

Lowestoft bombed.

At 2237 enemy A/c dropped stick of bombs off Ness Point one falling in Waveney Docks. A/Ts. STRATHMAREE and DELAPOL slightly damaged by near miss.
(N.O.I.C., Lowestoft 0803/14).

A/c shot down off
Nab Tower on 12/4.

Chasseur 41 claims to have hit 1 enemy aircraft at 2025/12 with 37 M.M. guns. Vessel was in immediate vicinity of Nab Tower. Observer of Nab Tower confirms this and reports seeing the aircraft dive into the sea immediately afterwards.
(C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1114/14).

Harwich bombed.

At 1126/13 M.E.110 approaching from East dived from 12,000 to 7,000 ft. over Harwich dropping two bombs which exploded and possibly a third unexploded in water near S.S. GLENFINLAS. No damage nor casualties.
(F.O.I.C., Harwich 1145/14).

War Diary

14.4.41.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Convoy W.N. Odd.

1 enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy. My position 58° 2' N, 2° 12' W.
(ALYNBANK 1358/14)

Fighter protection has been sent to the aid of odd numbered W.N. Convoy.
(Rosyth W/T 2110/14).

One enemy aircraft driven off to Eastward.
(WESTMINSTER 1409/14).

SUIPPE (French M/S Vessel) sunk.
CONQUERANTE (French M/S Vessel) damaged.

French Minesweeping Vessel SUIPPE laid up in Tolverne Reach Truro River bombed and sunk about 0500/14. CONQUERANTE lying at same mooring badly holed and is being beached at H.W. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C., Falmouth 1441/14).

Convoy E.C.7.

Enemy is bombing Convoy ^{"Pattern"} ~~PATTERN~~ 52° 38' N, 2° 10' E.
(WOLFHOUD 1706/14)

My 1706. 1 Do.215 - 6 bombs no damage.
(WOLFHOUD 1729/14).

Convoy F.N.53.

Fighters are being sent to assist F.N.53.
(Rosyth W/T 1816/14).

Mining

S.N.9.

Propose to sail for S.N.9 at 2030/16 and lay between (positions) on 18/4. Time of return to port Z.A. 0800/20.
(R.A.M.L. 0851/14).

C.-in-C., Plymouth's 1620/14 and my 1422/12. As NEWARK does not leave Plymouth until 16th two additional destroyers instead of one will now be required for operation S.N.9.
(R.A.M. 2209/14 to C.-in-C., H.F.)

War Diary

14.4.41.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

S.N.101.

S.N. one nought one completed.
(R.A.M. 1008/14).

Thames Estuary.

Two mines detonated as follows on 13/4.
Details.
(Captain M/S Sheerness 1015/14).

One mine detonated as follows at 1430/14.
(Captain M/S Sheerness 1600/14).

Blyth.

One ground magnetic mine detonated at 0925/14
110° from Blyth East Pier light 46-1/2 cables.
(P.M./S.O. North Shields 1135/14)

Operation Z.M.E.29.

Particulars. To be carried out on night
15/4 or as soon after as practicable.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1335/14).

Clyde.

River Clyde is opened to traffic both ways
without restriction.
(F.O.I.C., Glasgow 1531/14).

Bristol Channel.

Owing to minelaying no ships are to enter or
leave Cardiff and Penarth until further
orders.
(F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1853/14).

14. 4. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Reconnaissance of Brest at 0730/14. One Battlecruiser seen at T.B. Station. Dry dock not seen owing to low visibility.

(D.D.I.C. 1102/14).

My 1102/14. No further R/C of Brest today 14th.

(D.D.I.C. 2309/14).

Following bearings probably of surface unit obtained at 2017/14 G.M.T.

(D.D.I.C. 2206/14).

Technical.

Oiling
Capital Ships
at sea.

Pending development of improved equipment the following method which has proved satisfactory for smaller ships is suggested for oiling large ships at sea.

(Head of M. 2032/14. A.M. 973.A).

WAR DIARY.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

450

Shipping and Convoys.

Independent
Coasters.

My 1634/6. Cancel last sentence. In future small coasters may only be sailed independently when group sailing is impracticable. All such ships when bound for Channel Ports must be sailed to Milford Haven or Barry for inclusion in Convoys which sail every 3 days commencing 15/4 from these ports to the South.

(C.-in-C. W.A. 0952/14, to N.C.S.Os).

Iceland Ferry.

Sailing date of Convoy D.S.2 is postponed to (date). Subsequent convoys will be at 14 day intervals from that date.

(D.O.D.(H) 1445/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.,M).

Descriptions
S.S. or M.V.
for Merchant
Ships.

The abbreviation MV for Merchant Vessel is now frequently used in p.l. versions of Signals. Although it coincides with the Self Evident Code group for merchant vessel, the abbreviation causes confusion at Ministry of Shipping where the actual type of vessel referred to often needs to be known and where MV is used to indicate Motor vessel. In future correspondence or signals, except Self Evident Code reports referring to merchant ships, the words "Steamship" or "Motor Vessel" as appropriate are to be used to indicate the type without any written abbreviation being made in any p.l. version of the letter or signal.

(D.S.D.1739/14, "A" Message).

Positions.

Cancel position G., add new positions:-

C. 56° 19' 24"N., 2° 18' 36"W.

D. 56° 06' N. 2° 29' W. (D.T.D.1934/14)

(See Summaries Folder).

Groups sailing
in Daylight.

Your 1425/11. For many months groups of merchant vessels sailing each way between Portsmouth and Plymouth during dark have been immune from attack. Naturally loath to give up a plan that has produced good results, I agree that low flying aircraft on moonlight nights do present a new problem and that E-Boats are not likely to attack by day. Remembering however, the devastating effect of strongly delivered daylight air attack off Isle of Wight last year, which forced adoption dark hour sailings, we must be on our guard against similar experience once enemy reconnaissance establishes that daylight sailings have been re-adopted. Seems unsound to rely on air cover or protection for daylight sailings, which are only fully justified if fighter escort can be provided as a routine matter. If this is impracticable I think the night will be best, with as many ships as possible flying kites or balloons at 300 feet, vide A.M.2007/7.

(C.-in-C.Portsmouth 2317/14 to C.-in-C.Plymouth).

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

451

Military Convoys.

ABDIEL.

Admty. 2202/13. Re transport of guns.
(D.O.D. (F) 1358/14 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

ASCANIA.

To leave N.P.72 to pass between Southern extremity of Q.Z.X.241 and Straumnaes about 2000/15 to arrive Reykjavik to refuel and embark draft for onward passage. N.O.I.C. Iceland requested to sail ASCANIA for Halifax when ready. WOLFE after refuelling is to take N.P.72 proceeding in order to pass between Southern extremity Q.Z.X.241 and Straumnaes during daylight.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1700/14).

14.4.41.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

452

North Atlantic.

Malta
Hurricanes.

Your 1743/10 (Faulty W/T equipment in Hurricanes in ~~WINDH.~~) Air Ministry request brief details so that recurrence may be avoided.
(D.S.D. 0048/14 to S.O. Force H.)

TORBAY

Intend to sail TORBAY for Malta at 1000/14 (route).
Approx. E.T.A. position (C) 0100/17.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0710/14 to C. in C. Med.)

See also next page

TAKU

Intend to sail TAKU for Malta at 1600/14 (route).
Approx. E.T.A. position (q) 1400/17. 0710/14.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0810/14 to C. in C. Med. Amended 1432/14)

See also next page

UNBEATEN,
UNION

Not to proceed East of longitude of Spartel during dark hours.
(S.5. 1031/14 to UNBEATEN, UNION).

Operation
G.W.

Fuel consumption nearly twice that expected. As they may run short intend to escort them to Gibraltar passing through new position C. in 014° 00' N. 017° 00' W. at 0800/15. Speed of advance 10½.
(KASHMIR 1100/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

CAMITO

Cancel my 1100/10. Proceed and assume V.1 and V.2 patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108/14 to CAMITO.)

CAMITO
MARON

Cancel my 1108/14. CAMITO comply with F.O.C.N.P. 1210/14. MARON proceed to V.1 and V.2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1714/14 to CAMITO, MARON.)

UNDAUNTED

Intend to sail UNDAUNTED at 1800/14. Route and instructions as in my 0710/14. Approx. E.T.A.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1110/14 to C. in C. Med.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH

Admty. 1152/11 QUEEN ELIZABETH should be ready for sea 0700/15. Request instructions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1158/14 to Admty.)
A.M. 1312/12. Estimated endurance as follows
(QUEEN ELIZABETH 1223/14.)

Suspicious
Tanker

Your 1755/13 and QUEEN ELIZABETH 1916/3. Suggest "tanker" may be P.L.M. 24 from Lisbon to Casablanca, vide my 1903/10.
(D.D.I.C. 1206/14 to S.O.I. Gib.)

14.4.41.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic Contd.

REPULSE
Destroyers

Admty. 1530/13. Detach destroyers to return to Gibraltar at your discretion.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1250/14 to REPULSE.)

FURY
AZALEA

Join FLEUR DE LYS L hunting submarine in position 285° Larache 100.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1254/14 to FURY, AZALEA) See also U-Boat Campaign.

AMARANTHUS
O.G. 58.

Request permission to proceed to Gibraltar, urgently require fresh water, provisions, stores, etc. Have escorted O.G. 58 as far as position D. Was routed for Freetown without company E.T.A. Gibraltar daylight / 18.
(AMARANTHUS 1400/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TAKU
TORBAY

C. in C. Med. 0956/14 and your 0810/14. Orders for TAKU for patrol Tyrrhenean Sea are being signalled. Request you hold TORBAY Gibraltar for full rest period prior to normal patrol 18 days which includes time on passage to and from area. Request also I may be informed of movements of TAKU prior to arrival at Gibraltar in order that length of patrol may be adjusted accordingly.
(Capt. S.l. 1725/14 to F.O.C.N.A.) TAKU attacked by enemy S/M. See U-Boat Campaign.

French Fishing
Vessel.VIGO.

French fishing vessel about 60 tons auxiliary motor, crew 3, no name painted said to be SAINT FRANCOIS, arrived 11/4 from La Rochelle bound for Leixoes. German and Italian Consuls said to have been on board. Skippered from France returning soon.
(Consul, VIGO, 1805/14 to Admty.)

SPARTA
(German)

12/4 departure SPARTA for Marseilles.
(VALENCIA T.H.I. 2108/14)

14.4.41.
Monday.

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Enemy
Unit

My 1830/13. Bearings from Bombay 185/3 suggests enemy surface unit in vicinity 15° S. 70° E. (D.D.I.C. 0043/14.)

Troops
for U.K.
NELSON
DORSETSHIRE
ILLUSTRIOUS

Admty. 2000/12. My 1921/13. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN should be sailed so as to be ready to leave Capetown with NELSON 18/4. DORSETSHIRE to escort if required and return to meet ILLUSTRIOUS at Durban from position off Capetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1027/14 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
C. in C. S.A.'s 1027/14. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and EMPRESS OF JAPAN escorted by DORSETSHIRE are to be sailed for Capetown as soon as EMPRESS OF JAPAN is ready to leave Durban. Report E.T.D. as soon as possible after arrival of EMPRESS OF JAPAN at Durban. On arrival at Outer End of Capetown Searched Channel DORSETSHIRE is to return to Durban and adjust speed so as to R.V. with ILLUSTRIOUS at Outer End of Durban Searched Channel. Report time for this R.V. DORSETSHIRE will then escort ILLUSTRIOUS to Capetown where both ships will fuel and embark stores.
F.O.I.C. Simonstown. 1845B/14 to N.L.O. Durban.)

W.S.7.

WARWICK CASTLE and STRATHNAVER have about 100 R.A.F. personnel and merchant seamen for Singapore who will have to transfer to DUCHESS OF YORK. To enable transfer to be carried out DUCHESS OF YORK is to proceed to Durban with Durban portion of convoy.
N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1204B/14 to NELSON.)

Enemy M.Vs.
Para.

Para reports both enemy merchant ships there are completely ready for sea. No intelligence received regarding their intentions but he regards them as only awaiting orders.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1402Z/14 to S.A.D.)

JEAN L.D.
VILLE DE MAJUNGA
(French)
(intercepted)

Your 1434/9. Ships logs of JEAN L.D. and VILLE DE MAJUNGA destroyed on interception. Charts indicate (routes).
(S.O.I. Cape Town, 1500/14 to Admty.)

Shipping
Signals.

During period 25/3 to 10/4, 14 signals we made by M.S.R. Freetown to Ministry of Shipping which duplicated information sent to Admiralty by N.C.S.O. Due to necessity of keeping W/T traffic to a minimum, request that reporting of shipping movements may be co-ordinated.
D.T.D. 1510/14 to C. in C.S.A.)

14.4.41.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic Contd.

S.L.
Convoys.

Question of enabling ships likely just to miss convoy to arrive in time has recently been investigated and scheme ordered in your 1043/13 rejected for the following reasons.

(C. in C.S.A., 1545/14 to Admty.)

My 1545/14. Best method is for all ships always to proceed at best possible speed to the convoy port.

(C. in C.S.A., 1947/14 to Admty.)

Life Boat
ANTOS CHIOS.

British ship CITY OF CAPETOWN reported passing waterlogged life boat in 001° 31' N. 039° 36' W. on 3/4 marked ANTOS CHIOS. See Lloyds Shipping Index 25/2/1941.

(S.O.I. Capetown, 1550B/14)

ENA DE
LARRINAGA

Torpedoed 1/4.

(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1606/14, 2323/14) See U-Boat Campaign.

x 514 222 DR 13371

"Q" Report

Following has been read. QQQQ de LDIM (TAI YIN) Position 22.10 S. 16.10 W. course X 331 speed 14 chased by German raider.

(TAI YIN, T.O.R. 1650Z/14) (Portions missed are indicated by X 331)

Cancel TAI YIN's QQQQ, unable to overtake.

(BRIDGEWATER 1717Z/14 to Force U, C. in C. S.A.)

Cancel QQQQ message from TAI YIN. This was BRIDGEWATER.

(C. in C.S.A., 1806/14)

BANFORA
(Intercepted
12/4.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE's 0732/12/4 and my 0935/12/4.

Ships are expected to arrive Freetown 17/4.

Request whether proceedings will be instituted against ship and cargo and ship likely to be requisitioned; whether passengers will be repatriated by Neutral shipping.

(C. in C. S.A., 1651/14 to Admty.)

Enemy
Unit.

My 0141N/8. D/F bearing at 1426Z/14 suggests

same unit within same area. Reliability 60 ?

C. in C.S.A., 1823/14 to S.A. Sqdn.)

AIDA LAURO
AFRICANA
(Italian)

Pernambuco reports that AIDA LAURO is now bunkering AFRICANA.

(S.O.I. Montevideo 2313Z/14.)

War Diary.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

GINMA.
(Italian)

14/4. Departure GINMA for Genoa.
(Barcelona. ?0100/4).

Military
Situation.

(War Office 0115/14 See Lion copy.)

S.S. DRACO.
(bombed.)

Steamer DRACO badly damaged by enemy aircraft on 11/4. Ship now afloat with anchor down and moored to wreck aft. Very little cargo remains on ship. Unable to make repairs locally, suggest towing ship be sent to tow DRACO to Alexandria. All of crew landed safely except Gunlayer Good killed. (S.T.O. Mersa Tobruk, 0824/14, to D. of S.T.).

Tripoli.

How are merchant ships and men of war generally berthed in Tripoli?
(1st S.L., 0918/14 to V.A. Malta)
Reply: V.A. Malta, 1823/14.

→ TRUANT.
Gulf of Sirte.

TRUANT is carrying out Coastal Operation in Gulf of Sirte to interrupt enemy's supplies. Signal following information as early as practicable. (i) Which anchorages enemy are using. (ii) Date, p. c. and s. of any ships sighted. (iii) Are ships escorted?
(iv) Detail air activity.

TETRARCH

Your 2100/13 (N.T. in W.R.) Was tanker northbound or southbound, laden or empty? Do you consider her sunk?
(Capt. S.1, 0945/14, to TETRARCH).

Tolmeita.
Benghazi.

Enemy is known to be landing supplies from coastal craft at Tolmeita. Indication that Benghazi is not being used at present.
(Capt. S.1, 1059/14, to TRUANT.).

Enemy Advance
in Libya.

13/4. Enemy occupied Capuzzo, Musaid and Sollum. 14/4. Tobruk heavily bombed in early morning by formations mainly of JU. 87's. Hurricanes destroyed 9 enemy aircraft. Enemy A.F.V's penetrated south edge perimeter defences Tobruk but were

/ severely

SECRET

MESSAGE

0115/14th. April

IN

M

From The War Office.

Date 14.4.41.

456(A)

Addressed C. in C., Middle East, C. in C. India.
 Governor and C. in C. Malta. Governor and
 C. in C. Gibraltar. Governor and C. in C.
 Bermuda. G.O.C. Hong Kong. G.O.C. Malaya.
 G.O.C. West Africa. G.O.C. Iceland Force. G.O.C.
 B.T.N.I. G.O.C. Burma. O.C. Troops Ceylon.
 O.C. Troops, Mauritius. O.C. Troops Jamaica
 O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands. O.C. Troops, Aden
 O.C. Troops, Falkland Islands. O.C. Troops Aruba.
 O.C. Troops, Curacao. O.C. Troops St. Helena.
 O.C. Troops, Trinidad. C.G.S. Canada. C.G.S.
 Australia. C.G.S. South Africa. C.G.S. New
 Zealand. M.A., Washington.

61503 cypher M.O.I. 13/4.

MESSAGE No. 210

HOME

Day 12th. No aircraft over land.

Night 12/13th. Slight activity Devon, Cornwall.

Balkans

Yugoslavia

North West Front Situation confused. Reported 5 Croatian Divisions ceased fighting. 2 divisions West of Zagreb withdrawing southwards. 3 Yugoslav divisions on line of the Sava.

Rumanian Front. Yugoslav troops resisting German advance from Nish. Yugoslav forces counter-attacked from River Morava, German armoured forces Topola area have been isolated. Yugoslavs now hold Kragujevac-Krusevac area and have retaken Prokuplje.

Southern Yugoslavia. Yugoslav troops drove back Germans to Suha Reka and advancing on Kaganik - 80 German tanks destroyed.

Greece

Macedonian Front 11th. April, our patrols contacted enemy Amyntaion. Night 12th. April, further air attacks on Piraeus - shipping damaged.

X Middle East

Libya

11th. April, 60 enemy M.T. between Acroma and El Adem. We engaged this column, which succeeded cutting El Adem-Tobruk road. 300 enemy M.T. observed between Tobruk and El Adem, at 14.30 our advanced units withdrew. At 1800 enemy medium tanks supported by infantry, attacked Tobruk perimeter from South. Attack repulsed. April 12th. Enemy column moving via Sidi Aseiz towards Sollum. Enemy infantry attack on Tobruk, west of El Adem-Tobruk Road repulsed and enemy withdrew. Further report states Bardia occupied by enemy armoured cars.

X East Africa

Our patrols in touch enemy Aselle (40 miles south of Adama)
 We occupied Finchoa (35 miles North of Yavello)

0115/14.

1st. Lord.

Ops (4)

1st. S.L.

D. of P (3)

4th. S. L.

M. (2)

X Not to Middle East

V.C.N.S.

E.P.S.

Ø Not to Malta

A.C.N.S. (F)

D.N.I. (3)

Nav. Sec.

I.P. (3)

C.S.O. to 1st. S.L.

D.P.D.

O.D. (5)

W

O.I.C. (2)

D.H.

War Diary.

14.4.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

457

Mediterranean. (contd.)

Enemy Advance
in Libya.
(contd.)

Rhodes bombed.

severely handled by our tanks and thrown out.

Night 11/12/4. 4 Wellingtons dropped 8,000 lbs. bombs on Calato aerodrome Rhodes.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1208/14.)

Enemy Convoy
near Kerkenah.

Commander S.1's 1928/14. Did destroyers make contact?
(1st S.L., 1252/14, to V.A. Malta.)
Your 1252/14. Neither Swordfish nor destroyers made contact. From information received later aircraft estimated enemy speed too high.

Convoy was probably proceeding at about 9 knots and probably turned southwest from Kerkenah Bank.

(V.A. Malta, 1934/14.)

TORBAY,
TAKU,
UNDAUNTED.

State of S/M's. TORBAY No.3. Bow cap defective. Three days in harbour since 6/3. TAKU. Earthing on starboard main motor rheostat, No.4. Fresh water tank contaminated by oil fuel. TAKU has two singing propellers vide my 1410/14. Seven days in harbour since 21/2. UNDAUNTED. No major defects. 11 days in harbour since 9/3.

(Capt. S.8. 1408/14., to Capt S.1.)

UNDAUNTED.

Your 1138/9 and 1304/13. Request you route UNDAUNTED, (positions.) Opportunity of attacks may be expected between Cape Bon and Pantellaria. Enemy convoys approach 037.05' 011° 13' on courses 01002120 and 2550. Request date UNDAUNTED expects to cross 009° E. and to arrive at Malta, and that in future S/M's proceeding from Gibraltar to Malta should be issued with this route until there is reason to change it.

(N.O.i/c Malta, 1445/14, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Mine.

Report Italian mine which has been recovered.

(C.-in-C. Med. 1600/14.)

War Diary.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

458

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Raids.

Report Malta up to 1600/14.
About 30 aircraft came over in 3 waves during night. Damage to military property. Civilian damage. 8 slight Army casualties. At dawn 4 CR.42s. escorted by 3 ME.109s machine gunned Luqa, no damage or casualties. 0740 hours 2 JU.88s escorted by 10 M.E.109s carried out recco, Grand Harbour 25,000 feet. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1700/14).

830 Sqdn., F.A.A., Malta.

830 Sqdn has (?following) flying personnel. Ground personnel still consists largely of Airmen on loan. When may ratings referred to in Admty. 2323/14/11/1940 be expected? No reliefs sent for casualties of last three months.
My 2015/12. If 830 Sqdn. is to be maintained in addition to Beauforts the Naval Ground Personnel is required at once and the flying personnel should be increased by four Pilots and two (?air) gunners.
(V.A. Malta, 1730/14, to C.in C. Med.).

Enemy M.T.B's.

Admty. 1312/11. From statements made by prisoners it appears about four hours elapsed between motor boats leaving escorting craft and final attack. Boats are capable of approx. 30 knots but last stage of attack while passing boom etc. must have been made at slow speed. Boats could only be transported in S/Ms if enclosed in pressure tight compartments Consider attack was almost certainly launched from surface vessel. (C.in C. Med. 2000/14 to Admty.).

Hospital ship VITA (bombed?)

Hospital ship VITA (a) Arrived 1015/14 (b) embarked patients (a) returned to Mersa Tobruk damaged through enemy action at 1700 hours. (S.T.O., Mersa Tobruk, 2159/14 to D. of S.T.). *See also for 487A.*

Operation M.D.1.

In view of important signal which will reach you tonight request you will postpone Operation M.D.1 for 24 hours.
(1st S.L., 2253/14, to C.in C. Med.).

Further postponement - page 523.

MOST SECRET.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

East Indies.

Landings
Kuwait.

Middle East 56551 13/4 addressed ^{"Trooper"} ~~TROOPER~~ is being passed to you. Understand landing of troops at Kuwait would be very slow and M.T. impossible without special lighters. Water also scarce. Do you confirm?
(C. in C. E.I. 0450Z/14, to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).
Your 0450Z/14. Your views are confirmed without considerable preparation.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0904Z/14, to C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.6
CORNWALL

My 0806/8. CORNWALL is to escort W.S.6 until dawn after passing Perim, when CORNWALL is to proceed Aden and convoy desperses. Ships then to proceed best speed to Suez. On arrival Aden CORNWALL is to report to C. in C. E.I. S.N.O. Red Sea and S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area date each ship of convoy will arrive Suez. S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area requested to inform G.H.Q., M.E. R.A., Alexandria.
(C. in C. E.I. 0502Z/14 to CORNWALL).

CANBERRA
R.A.F.A. ANNE.

My 2250/13. CANBERRA is to proceed to position 009° S. 066° and then, subject to no further intelligence of enemy units to Colombo passing south of Diego Garcia and arriving p.m./18 R.A.F.A. ANNE is expected to be at Diego Garcia from 14 to 17/4. She is to be sighted if in Harbour.
(C. in C. E.I. 0504Z/14. to CANBERRA).

NEA HELLAS
CARTHAGE

N.O.I.C. Kilindini 0749/8 being passed to you. NEA HELLAS left Zanzibar 1215Z/13. CARTHAGE is to contact NEA HELLAS a.m./16 and escort to Burban.
(C. in C. E.I. 0748Z/14 to CARTHAGE).

C. in C.

My 2148/13. C. in C. E.I. will proceed to sea in LEANDER at 1100Z/14 Colombo (corrupt group) has duplicate of all cypher logs.
(C. in C. E.I. 1012Z/14 to E.L Sqn. etc.)

See next page

MOST SECRET.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies. (continued)

Minesweeping
Massawa.

My 0744/13/4 (N.T. in W.R.) North Massawa Channel from Shaik Abu up to Orestes Shoal (15° 48' 40" N 39° 28' 30" E). found to be heavily mined. INDUS both floats blown up. SAGITTA proceeding with sweeping south of Orestes Shoal. (C. in C. E.I. 1150Z/14 to Admty).

C. in C.E.I.
LEANDER

Colombo Arrival 0801Z/14 LEANDER. Departure 1200Z/14 LEANDER wearing the Flag of C. in C. East Indies. (C. in C. E.I. 1218/14).

Attack
on U-Boat
3/3.

C. in C. E.I. 1914/Z/14 see Uboat Campaign.

TAIKOO

Your 1930Z/10. No objection to proposed use of TAIKOO but desired she should be used on Salvage Work at Massawa as soon as her equipment arrives. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1942/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

CALEDON

Return to Aden and complete with fuel. (1st S.L. 2255/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

NYUGAT
intercepted.

Hungarian ship NYUGAT seized by Dutch 0830Z/13 in position 11° 1' S 123° 44' E., being taken to Sourabaya. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0451Z/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

RANPURA

Leave Bermuda on completion of practices 15/4 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax so as to arrive 17/4.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1002/14 to RANPURA).

CALIFORNIA
REVENGE
H.X. 121.

Intend sailing CALIFORNIA as ocean escort to H.X.121. CALIFORNIA has been ordered to leave convoy in approx 0250 W and to proceed Hvalfjorder reporting E.T.A. to H.O. i/c Iceland when well clear of convoy. Intend sailing REVENGE a.m./17 as (?extra) cover.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1154/14 to Admty).

Vescas for
U.S. ships.

Your 1527/9 not to S.O.(I) Jamaica. Experience shows that very great expense is entailed by inclusion of U.S.A. ships on coastal voyages in VESCA telegrams to Admiralty. At present all U.S.A. ships in this traffic are being reported when entering or leaving three Areas, East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, West Coast.

Request permission to have movements of U.S.A. vessels on coastal trade between the above areas sent to Ottawa only except that Gulf Ports will send a copy to S.O.I. Jamaica. These reports will then be summarized in Ottawa and transmitted to Admiralty with minimum possible delay.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1223/14 to Admty).
Your 1527/9.

Suggest that a world wide separate Vesca telegram be instituted for U.S.A. ships. Then if and when U.S.A. ships entered the war copies of this special vesca could immediately be ordered to be sent to Washington who would undoubtedly demand such reports.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1224/14 to Admty).

SSSS Reports....

MOST SECRET.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies (contd).

SSSS Reports,
British S/Ms

* PIORUN *

ZOUAVE's ref. 1310/3 was THUNDERBOLT
NERISSA's ref. 1032/9 was Fr. S/M
SURCOUF. COLLEGIAN's ref. 1648/13 is
undoubtedly TRIBUNE.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1501/14 to Admty).

BOSILJKA

Have you any information of Yugoslav
BOSILJKA with cargo of war material for
Yugoslavia last reported St. Lucia 29/3?
She should be instructed to proceed on her
voyage to Durban.
(D.T.D. 1736/14 to C. in C. A.E.I.)

Fast American
ships for U.K.

R/V (A.C.N.S. (T) 1740/14) (See Operations
Volume),

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings at 1957/14 and 2017/14 B.S.T.
indicate enemy surface unit between
54° N. and 57° N. 30° W. and 40° W.
Possibly reporting T.C. 10 or H.X. 119.
(D.D.I.C. 2109/14 to Area B. A.W.I.
RODNEY., NORFOLK.)

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 four to five weeks
consequently do not anticipate boats
can be delivered U.K. until towards end of
June.
(Consul-Gen., New York, 2242/14 to Admty).

War Diary.

14.4.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

VILLE DE LIEGE.

(Belgian, 7463 tons, independently routed to U.K.). Pass through position 059° 40' N., 029° 50' W., in which VILLE DE LIEGE was torpedoed at 0026/14 and search for survivors as long as possible without delaying arrival at R/V. (C. in C. W.A., 0137/14, to HESPERUS.). Your 0137/14 and your 1852/14. Have been held up by weather and will be unable to search for survivors. Intend to pass through position of VILLE DE LIEGE and then proceed to R.V. in accordance with your 1549/11. May be two hours late. 58° 30' 25° 00' (Weather). (HESPERUS, 2000/14, to C. in C. W.A.).

See BR 1304 (Dunkirk) also WD. 436

RAJPUTANA.
(torpedoed 13/4.)

Your 1821/13. Survivors may be embarked COPELAND. Corvettes escorting TEAKWOOD are to escort COPELAND as soon as ready to join S.C.27, estimated position at 1200/15, 061° 50' N., 017° 00' W., (route) posn. (C. in C. W.A., 1030/14, to N.O.I.C. Iceland.). RAJPUTANA was sunk by torpedo at 0625/13, in 064° 50' N., 027° 25' W. 277 survivors now at Reyjavik, believed 40 missing. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1247/14, to 3 B.S.). Your 1541/13. No ship available until S.D.2. on 27/4. (D.O.D.(H) 2015/14, to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

ENA DE LARRINAGA.
(torpedoed 1/4.)

Brazilian ship ALMIRANTE ALEXANDRINO reports picking up this morning 14/4 near St. Pauls Rocks survivors from British Ship ENA DE LARRINAGA. Report states ship was sunk 205 miles east of St. Pauls by torpedo but does not state whether S/M or raider. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1606Z/14, to R.A.S.A.D.). My 1606/14, Ship was torpedoed on 1/4 in position 01° 10' N., 26° 00' W. (S.O.I. Monte Video, 2323Z/14, to R.A.S.A.D.) Pernambuco reports Brazilian ship ALMIRANTE ALEXANDRINO has reported 14/4, through local W/T that she has picked up 1 boat with 19 of crew of British ship ENA DE LARRINAGA near St. Pauls Rock.

See BR 17750

/Brazilian.....

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Monday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked. Contd.ENA DE
LARRINAGA.
(torpedoed 1/4.).

Brazilian ship is now searching for second boat with remainder of crew. British ship was torpedoed in a position 205 miles east of St. Paul Rock. (P.O.I.C. Freetown, 1926/14, to Admty.).

S.S. PORTADOC
TWEED
survivors.Twenty survivors from S.S. PORTADOC landed Benty French Guinea 10/4. Eleven Europeans and four (? Asiatics) from torpedoed S.S. ~~TWEED~~ landed Konakry 10/4. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1707/14.).CLAN OGILVY.
BENWYVIS.
(torpedoed
20/3.).

Report on sinking of British BENWYVIS, owners W. Thomson and Co., torpedoed 2235/20 position 20° N., 25° W., submarine not sighted confidential books thrown overboard, nine known survivors, eight Europeans one Chinese. Report on sinking of British CLAN OGILVY, owners Houston Line, torpedoed 2215/20 position 20° N., 25° W., submarine not sighted, confidential books thrown overboard, 15 known survivors, five Europeans ten Lascars. All survivors continuing in Spanish ship CABO VILLANO to Buenos Ayres. (N.C.S.O. Santos, 1725/14, to Admty.).

S/M.
TAKU.

Have been attacked by enemy S/M in position 036° 14' N., 004° 14' W. Have been diving for two hours. (TAKU, 2326/14, to Admty.).

S/M's Reported.

Estimated U/B dispositions. German. There are indications of a new period of activity, number of U/Bs, are in the area 57° N., - 63° N. 27° W. - 32° W. (D.D.I.C. 1433/14.). U-Boat in 59.40 N., 29.50 W., at 0026/14, VILLE DE LEEGE presumed attacked. U-Boat in 25 miles radius of 53° N. 22° W., at 0930/14-D/F report. (H.Q. 15 Group, 1925/14, to Air Min., C.C.F.C., etc.).

War Diary.

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Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By FLEUR DE LYS Have carried out 8 deliberate attacks on firm S/M contact in position 285° (?Tarifa) 100 miles. Am remaining in vicinity. Have lost touch with AZALEA and have 5 charges remaining. (FLEUR DE LYS, 0100/14.). Your 0100. If still in vicinity of contact remain till dusk today Monday. (F.O.C.N.A. 0923/14, to FLEUR DE LYS.). Join FLEUR DE LYS hunting submarine in position 285° Larache 100. FLEUR DE LYS confirm position. (F.O.C.N.A., 1254/14, to FURY, AZALEA.). Remain in area and conduct search until 0800/15, then return to Gibraltar, instruct Corvette to follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 1817/14, to FURY.). FLEUR DE LYS reported at 0100 14th carried out 8 deliberate attacks on firm submarine contact in position 036° N., 009° 25' W. At 1120 she reported contact regained and last complete pattern fired. Oil on surface. AZALEA who had lost touch with FLEUR DE LYS expects to rejoin at 2000. FURY was sent from Gibraltar at 1430. At 1555 FLEUR DE LYS reported that after her last attack hull surfaced apparently bottom up. (?Contact) then lost, thick oil in evidence on surface. Have ordered ship to remain in vicinity until 0800/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 1857/14, to Admty.).

By SCOTTISH.

Your 1413 (N.T. in W.R.) submarine approx. 17 miles W. of this (? position) have expended 24 depth charges on excellent echoes with no apparent results. (SCOTTISH, 1720/14, to F.O.C.N.A.). Your 2159 have lost contact. Am remaining stopped. LOCH OSKAIG is searching round me. Estimated position 270 P.O.L. 28. (SCOTTISH, 2300/14, to F.O.C.N.A.).

see p. 440.

S/m attacked
by R.A.F. in
Red Sea. 1/3.

My 1748/2/3. (1748/3/3 intended). Attack now assessed as follows in accordance with Adty. 1727/21/9/1940. (a) One (b) 1040Z/1/3. (c) R.A.F. M.E. (d) 015 deg. 33' North 040 deg. 14' East (e) C (f) No wreckage or survivors were ever observed. Assessment made on air photographs bombs striking submarine. (C. in C. E.I. 1914Z/14, to Adty.).

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

15.4.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

466

Home Commands.

Boundaries
of Home
and
Atlantic
Command.

An alteration came into force to-day, in the operational boundaries of the Home, North Atlantic and A. & W.I. commands. The most important alteration is the moving to 30° W. of the Home Commands boundary north of 45° N.

Enemy
battle
cruisers.

Visual R/C of Brest at 0845 to-day showed one battle cruiser at T.B. Station and one in dock. Photographic R/C at 1700 showed both battle cruisers to be present.

Disposition
of Home
Fleet
capital
ships.

See B.C.1. 1942/15.

Shipping.

An analysis of the times taken by liners in convoy bringing imports to the U.K. from North America gives a figure of 89 days for the round voyage.

The average speed of advance of convoys S.L. 66 and 67 was 6½ knots.

Since the introduction of E.C. convoys occasional difficulty has been experienced in meeting W.N. convoys near Pentland Firth with the additional sloop escort which has parted company from an E.C. convoy. Moreover, one part of escort trawlers arriving in Firth of Forth with a W.N. convoy will on occasions have no corresponding E.C. convoy to escort on their return passage to the Clyde. These difficulties arise from the fact that whilst 3 E.C. convoys run each week, W.N. convoys run every other day. C. in C. Rosyth suggests that W.N. convoys be reduced by one per fortnight in order to synchronise East coast and west coast sailings but the Admiralty cannot accept this solution and propose other remedies (see 18/4) A/S escorts in the North Atlantic are to be extended to 35° W.

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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British Air Activity.

89 aircraft, out of 94 despatched, attacked the SCHARHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest last night. A direct hit is claimed on the battle cruiser in dock. Torpedo aircraft of Coastal Command despatched to synchronise attack with conclusion of attack by Bomber Command had difficulty in locating the target.

Blenheims of Bomber Command today attacked Shipping off the French coast between Penmarch Point and Belle Isle and claim to have destroyed two small coastal ships and damaged a third.

8 Blenheims of Bomber Command attacked Borkum at dusk today and claim hits on a 4000 ton freighter at anchor.

Enemy Air Activity.

SCOTTISH MUSICIAN reports being machine gunned at 0621 off Helwick L.V. (Milford Haven).

Convoy "Mission" was attacked at 2225 today off Cape Wrath. No damage is reported.

It is reported today that S.S. DUXTAN^X was bombed and sunk at 1150/6 in 59° 9' N. 8° 6' W.

DUNSTAN See page 477

/Damage.....

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd). [REDACTED]

Damage was caused at Portland Dockyard by air attack at 0045 today by a single enemy aircraft.

Belfast was attacked last night. Damage caused to Harland & Wolff's Shipyard was superficial and war effort as regards material will not be affected after removal of debris. There were several naval and shipyard worker casualties.

Mining.

It is reported that flares and parachutes were dropped continually between 0000 and 0500 today in position 5 to 6 miles E by N. of South Roch Light ship (off Strangford Lough).

Liverpool will be closed daily until further notice at $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset until 0800. Further mines were detonated today and S.A. Trawler SATA was damaged.

Cardiff and Penarth were reopened at 0957.

Mines were detonated off Spurn Point and in the Thameshaven area.

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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North Atlantic.

S.S. AURILLAC signalled at 2145 today that she was being attacked by a warship raider in 37° 9' N. 18° 45' W. S.S. ORONTES reported being attacked at 2236 in 36° 9' N. 18° 45' W. (About 550 miles west of Gibraltar). CAMITO was ordered to search the area (see 18/4).

Mediterranean.

Western
Desert
Operations

C. in C. Med. reports that Sollum is again in our hands, largely consequent on the effect of bombardment of the escarpment road, transport and enemy positions by GNAT, STUART and GRIFFIN despite fire of the enemy line. Gunboats and destroyers are continuing to operate along the coast as requisite. It appears that the enemy is not yet using Benghazi or ports to the eastward. GNAT was damaged by a mobile battery in Sollum Bay and is returning to Alexandria. TRUANT 16/4 today sank an enemy barque laden with explosives off Appolonia.

See 16/4 - p.p. 504 & 527

/Malta.....

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Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta.

30 to 35 aircraft attacked Malta last night. Attacks were largely indiscriminate, the only apparent objective being the Mental Hospital, where there were several casualties. 4th D.F. proceeding to intercept an enemy convoy this evening was unsuccessfully bombed.

Piraeus.

20 to 30 enemy aircraft attacked Piraeus Harbour from 2000/14 to 0345/15 G.M.T. and apparently again today. S.S. GOALPARA was seriously and QUILOA slightly damaged in Eleftheris Bay. There are some 14 undamaged ships in Gulf of Athens which have to move at night to "funk holes". This policy has been fairly successful, but fighter protection is inadequate and if heavy scale attacks continue N.A. Athens expects further losses. S.S. CLAN CUMMING has been mined and sunk.

S.S. PERICLES (torpedoed 26/3 at Suda Bay) was lost after tow was abandoned as she was drifting over minefield.

Suda
Bay
bombed.

Two German A/c's bombed Suda Bay today. No damage or casualties occurred.

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SITUATION REPORT.

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America & West Indies.

VOLTAIRE.

PRINCE DAVID, who was ordered on 5/4 to search for VOLTAIRE reports oil, charred wood, clothes etc. and several sharks in 14° 31' N. 40° 32' W. on 7/4 and 9/4.

DESPATCH has been ordered to investigate a D/F fix at 2017Z/14 which placed an enemy unit within 200 miles of 32° N. 39° W.

S.S. CASTOR
sunk.

S.S. OTAIO arrived at Curacao today with 21 survivors of Swedish S.S. CASTOR left burning in 57° 59' N. 32° 8' W.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

472

Faroes.
Proposed
Aerodrome.

A.C.O.S. 1109/9. I have long felt the need for an aerodrome in Faroes, the chief value of propose lies in opportunity it offers:-
(a) To improve our weak R/C in North and thus allow our limited surface forces to be employed economically to protect shipping which in this area is vulnerable to surface attack. (b) To assist our hunting force to keep U Boats down along whole Scotland Iceland route and to drive them out of this area. (c) To attack surface force, expedition against our coast and U Boats on passage.
(2) There is a similar need for air R/C and air striking forces in Denmark Straits where large cruisers are continuously exposed, effective air co-operation would allow this passage to be watched by Trawlers or Corvettes Patrol backed by a cruiser force.
(C.in C. H.F. 0945/15).

5th D.F.

5th D.F. will be required to concentrate at Gibraltar and to be ready to proceed into Mediterranean by 23/4. (1st S.L. 1312/15).

Biscay S/M
Patrols.

Request I may be informed what S/M patrols it is intended to maintain in Bay of Biscay in future. (C.in C. Plymouth 1317/15).

M/V's
intercepted
by Northern
Patrol.
REMMAREN
ECUADOR
KLIPPAREN.

Your 1729/13. Particulars of cases. It might seem that when intercepted on T.R.lines on approximate course 065° ships movements, whilst justly suspect, do not prove intention of evading examination. Suggest therefore that ships so intercepted be escorted to Faroes, thus avoiding delay and greatly increasing risks incurred by diversion to Kirkwall. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1515/15).

GLIMMAREN.

My 1040/11. Sailing of GLIMMAREN now delayed indefinitely. (D.O.D. H. 2303/15).

Londonderry -
Culmore Area
Headquarters.

It is the Admiralty intention that only one combined area Headquarters and system of communications shall be provided in the Londonderry - Culmore area whatever forces may be finally based there.
(1st S.L. 2304/15).

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Defence of U.K.

Yarmouth
A/A Defences.

C.in C. Nore's 2230/11, No further redistribution of existing resources can be made at present.
2. Requirements for Yarmouth will be pressed when May allocations are considered. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2054/15).

Movements.

5th D.F.

Admiralty 1312/15. Following is state of 5th D.F. KELLY. Due for boiler cleaning. Intend taking in hand forthwith to complete under any circumstances 21 April. KIPLING. Has two tanks requiring weld and will be taken in hand to complete P.M./20. KELVIN. Completes boiler cleaning P.M./18. JERSEY. Ready for service.
(ii) Intend sailing the above in company for Gibraltar P.M./21 to arrive 23/4.
(iii) JUPITER completes refit at end of April and will be sailed for Gibraltar when ready.
(iv) KASHMIR and JACKAL arrive Gibraltar 18/4 with 3rd M.L. Flotilla. KASHMIR is overdue for refit. (C.in C. Plymouth 1803/15).

GREENWICH

In tow 3 tugs escorted by TARTAR sails ^{from} Scapa 2100/15th. E.T.A. May Island 1900/16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1812/15).

A.F.D.7.

My 2338/4, C.in C. Plymouth 1249/13 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1613/14.
A.F.D. 7 is required to be sailed from Portland on 19/4.
2. To avoid interference with trade convoy commitments, C.in C. Nore is requested to lend one HUNT to Portsmouth for next C.E. convoy.
3. C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to supply two HUNTS to escort dock from Portland to Milford Haven as arranged by C.in C. Plymouth.
4. C.in C. W.A. is requested to sail dock from Milford Haven to Clyde and to provide necessary escort. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1926/15).

EDINBURGH

Scapa arrival F.O. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH. (A.C.O.S. 2041/15).

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

Northern
Patrol.
Ice Limit.

My 1700/14. WOLFE takes N.P.71 closing ice daily to ascertain limit, reporting by Signal on return to Harbour. (F.O.C.N.P. 0940/15).

East Coast
Patrol.

3 motor launches will patrol on line 010° from 55 buoy tonight, returning Yarmouth at daylight. (C.in C. Nore 1143/15 and 1145/15).

Jan Mayen
Search for
Enemy Trawler.

Reference 1650/5. H.J. BULL searched neighbourhood Jan Mayen 9th to 13th April for trawler without success. H.J. BULL and VESLECKARI arriving Akuryyri P.M. today. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1557/15).

MANSFIELD.
Destruction
of Fish-oil
Factory.

Oy Finn

MANSFIELD reports that all machinery in Fish-oil factory near Hammerfest was destroyed. No prisoners were taken or refugees embarked. Local quisling leader decamped but his wife was shot accidentally whilst an entry was being forced into the house. No enemy shipping or troops were seen. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1745/15).
Your 1639/15. Arrived Oeusfjord 0100/12. Landing party destroyed all essential machinery in factory. Harbour works or buildings not destroyed. No Germans present. Left 0300/12. No enemy ships or aircraft encountered. (MANSFIELD 2330/15).

Sweep between
Boulogne and
Dieppe.

Intend to carry out offensive sweep with three M.T.B's between Boulogne and Dieppe tonight leaving Dover 2300 and returning at daylight. (V.A. Dover 1907/15).

M.T.B's off
Schelde.

M.T.B's 18 and 42 leaving Harwich 1930/15 to locate buoy in 51° 22' N. 2° 43' E. and then to operate Eastward of Ostend returning Harwich at daylight. Weather not yet good enough for P.W.7. (C.in C. Nore 1918/15)

Present
advantageous
situation of
Enemy Ships
in German
waters.)

(B.C.1. 1942/15) See Operations Volume

C.S.1.
and Iceland
Patrol.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

C.S.1.
and Iceland
Patrol.

C.in C. H.F. 2315/12 and Admiralty 0055/15 para. 4. In view of the number of U-boats in the vicinity of Iceland you should consider advisability of remaining in harbour with steam up at short notice as alternative to patrolling at sea. Your decisions must depend on reliance you can place in air and other reconnaissance and other local factors. (F.O. 2nd in Command, H.F. 2151/15 to C.S.1).

Reports of
Enemy A/C.

Your 1201/15. In order that fighter patrols may be established with least possible delay request these reports be made by fleet code group promulgated in Admiralty message 147 A Z, amplifying report being made in Naval Code subsequently. (S.O. Force H. 2235/15).

Operation
Q.F.

Operation Q.F. is postponed indefinitely. (C.in C. Nore 2230/15).

British Air Activity.

Convoy and W/T
and Power Stations
attacked.

Day 14 April. One Blenheim successfully attacked a W/T station 7 miles due North of Leiden. The second A/C observed a convoy of five merchant vessels with three escort vessels heading South. Twenty eight Blenheims were despatched to deal with the convoy and to attack power stations at Leiden and Haarlem. Direct hits claimed on two vessels and on both power stations. (H.Q.B.C. 0543/15).

Patrols.

Patrols ^{"Stab"}~~STAB~~ and ^{"Bart"}~~BART~~ now in operation. ^{1st STAB} Following patrols will be flown ^{1st STAB} ~~STAB~~. (C.in C. Rosyth 0720/15).

Swordfish Attack
on battle cruisers.

A/C set out in formation but, due weather, lost one another on way out. A/C attempted to deliver attacks individually. "A" Made three approaches. The other 3 A/C also made several attempts to attack but were not successful in picking out their target clearly enough to make the necessary run-up. A/C K released his torpedo in the direction of Brest, while H released his torpedo near Pte. St. Mathieu/9. A and B brought their torpedoes back.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Swordfish Attack
on battle
cruisers.
(contd.)

It would appear that the flak defences of Brest have been considerably reinforced in particular in positions covering the approaches from the west.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0830/15).

Brest.

Night 14/15. 94 aircraft set out to attack SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest in unfavourable weather. 89 aircraft dropped their bombs in the target area. Definite results could not be observed until the final phase of the attack, when the crew of a 3 group Wellington attacking from 3,000 ft. claim a direct hit on the Battle Cruiser in the dry dock. Several bursts were observed between the torpedo station and the river mouth, the area in which the battle cruisers are situated, but no other direct hits are claimed. One Wellington of 3 group attacked shipping four miles east of dock 1 at Brest but was unable to observe results. (H.Q.B.C.1550/15).

Convoy H.X.117
attacked on 12/4.
TRILLIUM
(Corvette)
casualties.

Air attack on H.X.117 at 1115/12 in 61°58' N. 16° 13' W. F.W. GONDOR approached port of beam of convoy just above sea level and crossed convoy at right angle to line of advance. She rose to clear ships masts and dipped between convoy lines. Bombs exploded under water; no hits and no damage. Fire from machine and cannon guns killed 5 and wounded 3 in TRILLIUM. Majority of escorts between convoy lines difficult to fire without endangering other ships but close and long guns fired without apparent effect. Suggest all escorts carry several P.A.C. outfits to meet this new form of attack.
(Capt. D. Greenock 1830/15).

Antwerp.
Proposed
attack on
Docks.

A report graded B.3 recommends immediate bombing of Kattendijk Docks, Antwerp as several vessels are leaving 17/4. Crews are arriving and guns are being placed.
(D.D.I.C. 1913/15 to C.in C. Nore).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

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Portland
bombed.

At 0045 bombs dropped by one enemy machine flying very low. L L maintenance hut demolished, considerable damage to walls of power station, pumping station and boiler house. Oil pipe line under construction damaged and minor damage to other buildings near by in dockyard. Borstal establishment hit and serious fire but now extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0334/15).

→ Convoy E.N.
Even.

Convoy ^{"Mission"}MISSION being shadowed by one A/C in 57° 55' N. 1° 52' W. (GLEANER 0650/15).

SCOTTISH
MUSICIAN

(British Tanker, 6998 tons) Reports being machine gunned by single plane at 0621 in 000° Helwick Light Vessel 6 miles. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0930/15)

F.W. A/C.

F.W. Aircraft is operating in your vicinity. Approx. position 38° N. 12° W. at 1135/15. (D.D.I.C. 1201/15 to Force H).

Convoy ^{"Chitty"}CHITTY.
CHITTY.

One enemy aircraft shadowing Convoy ^{"Chitty"}CHITTY. My position 57° 57' N. 2° 3' W. (JASON 1521/15). Fighters being sent to you now. (Rosyth 1554/15).

DUNSTAN
sunk on 6/4.
WESTPOOL.
SALEIER.

Bombed and sunk by aircraft at 1150/6 April in 059° 09' N. 008° 06' W. Steward and Deck Hand killed. Survivors of DUNSTAN, WESTPOOL, (5724) and SALEIER (6563) bound for U.K. in S.D.1. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1543/15).

Enemy A/C
Recognition
Signals.

Admiralty 2018/29th January. Reliable information indicates that German aircraft recognition signals during April are as follows:- (D.S.D. 2023/15).

→ Convoy "Mission"
MISSION.

Convoy ^{"Mission"}MISSION being attacked by enemy aircraft bearing 180° from Cape Wrath distance 8 miles course 270 degs. (STELLA POLARIS 2225/15).

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

Bristol
Channel.

My 1853/14. Ships may now enter and leave Cardiff and Penarth.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0937/15).

Z.M.E.29.

Intend leaving Milford Haven 1620 to-day for Z.M.E. 29 to lay at 0100/16 returning on completion about 0950 to-morrow.
(PLOVER 1056/15).

Liverpool
SATA
(M/S Trawler)
damaged.

Port of Liverpool including Q.Z.S.211 and 215 will be closed each day until further notice at half an hour after sunset and opened at 0800. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1217/15)
Mine report to 1800/15. 2 Mines detonated. Details. SATA sustained damage to bows, now docked. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1843/15).

Thameshaven.

Mine detonated by Sweeper Thames Haven area 1431. (F.O.I.C. London 1531/15).

Spurn Point.

At 0908 a red magnetic mine was detonated by a skid in 242^o Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.4 miles. (F.O. Humber 1924/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Visual R/C of Brest at 0845/15 shows 1 Battle Cruiser at T/B Station and 1 Battle Cruiser in dock. (D.D.I.C. 1106/15).
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0845/15).
My 1106/15. Visual reconnaissance at 1800/15 showed one Battlecruiser alongside T.B. jetty. Dry dock area was not observed owing to cloud. (D.D.I.C. 2042/15).
My 2042/15. Photographic R/C at 1700/15 shows two Battlecruisers in Brest.
(D.D.I.C. 2115/15).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

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A/A Guards,
exchanges.

Existing arrangement whereby Naval A.A. guard and their extensive equipment which includes heavy shields, have to be exchanged for soldier teams and their equipment at Falmouth involves waste of time and labour. Concurrence is urgently sought for Naval A.A. guards and soldier teams and their equipment to complete the round trip.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1038/15, to Admty.).

W.S.8A.

A.M. 1817/10, para. 4. Ocean escort W.S.8(A) RODNEY. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1159/15 to C.in C's W.A., H.F. Plymouth, etc.).

Group Sailings
By Day.

Your 2317/14. I fully agree with your remarks. Intention is that day sailings should only take place when fighter escort is available.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1323/15, to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Diversions
from Tyne.

With a view to saving shipping time by avoiding diversion of ships bound for Tyne ports when latter are closed due to mine-laying, request you will consider diversion only being ordered when it appears ships are likely to be anchored off the ports for too long a period from point of view of safety.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1600/15 to C.in C. Rosyth).

E.C. and
W.N. convoys.

Since introduction of E.C. convoys occasional difficulty experienced in meeting W.N. convoys in vicinity of Pentland Firth with additional sloop escort which has parted from an E.C. convoy. Further, one part of escort trawlers arriving in Firth of Forth with a W.N. convoy will on occasions have no corresponding E.C. convoy to escort on their return passage to Clyde.

These difficulties due to three E.C. convoys each week, while W.N. convoys run every other day, and could be overcome where W.N. convoys to be reduced by one per fortnight to synchronise E. and W. coast sailings.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1725/15, to Admty.).

/ Accelerating
Turn-Round.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Accelerating
Turn-Round.

Analysis of times taken by liners in convoy bringing imports to U.K. from N. America gives 89 days for round voyage. Every endeavour should be made to speed up turn-round of all shipping bringing imports to U.K. N.C.S.O's should work in close co-operation with M.S.R's to ensure that time lost in awaiting convoy is reduced to a minimum. (D.T.D., 1726/15, "A" Message).

H.X.116.

On time at R.V., average weather. No stragglers. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1759/15, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

S.C.26.

Convoy attacked from 28° W., ships scattered and rejoined later with A/S escort. Total casualties ALDERPOOL, BRITISH RELIANCE, BRITISH VISCOUNT, LEONIDAS, Z. CAMBANIS, WESTPOOL, INDIER, HELLE, WELCOMBE HARBLEDOWN and ATHENIC sunk, THIRLBY damaged. NEA and TENNESSEE arrived Iceland, remainder arrived U. Kingdom. (D.T.D. 1800/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Hartland Gap.

Neutral ships may now be routed through Hartland Gap without embarking an officer for passage. My 1838/14/10 is cancelled. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2026/15 to C.in C's Portsmouth, Plymouth).

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

My 1121/13. CUTTY SARK has developed a defect. (S.3. 0803/15).

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TORBAY.
UNDAUNTED.

Return to Gibraltar forthwith passing south of Alboran Island. UNDAUNTED left Gibraltar 1800 routed as in my 2318/13.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0010/15 to TORBAY).

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Your 1158/14. QUEEN ELIZABETH is to be sailed for Freetown at best speed after embarking as much 15" H.E. or C.P.C. up to 25 rounds per gun as she can take.
(V.C.N.S. 0120/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

TAKU
attacked
by U/Boat.

TAKU reports being attacked in 036° 14'N, 004° 14'W., at 2326/14. TAKU dived for two hours.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0322/15 to TORBAY, UNDAUNTED.) D/F report of enemy unit at 1937Z/14. (F.O.C.N.A. 0630/18)
See U/Boat Campaigning.
Cancel my 1731/14 return to Gibraltar forthwith as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (Capt: S.l. 1151/15 to TAKU).
Capt: S.(l's) 1151/15. Pass South of Alboran Island when returning to Gibraltar, adjust speed to pass through 036° N., 005° W. at 1400/16. UNDAUNTED sailed as in my 1130/14.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1410/15 to TAKU).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearing at 1937Z/14 indicates presence of enemy unit, possibly U/Boat within 100 miles 036° 30'N., 013° 00'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0630/15 to N.A.Station).

Operation
"Dunlop"
Air
arrangements.

Following received (begins) S.O.Force "H" from H.Q. Malta. A.538 14/4. Ref: Admty's 1636/12, operation "Dunlop". If Sunderland available suggest R/V carrier position down (? dawn) as occurred first ~~HERRY~~ operation August. If Sunderlands not available or sea conditions prevent take off could send Glenn-Martins Galita R/V, as before. If Galita R/V employed request pilot instructed to adhere closely to following arrangements.
T.O.O. 1709/14 (Ends).
(200 Group 0946/15 to S.O.Force H).

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

483

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

AMARANTHUS.

Your 1400/14 approved to proceed to Gibraltar for water, provisions, etc. You should however remain with O.G.58 as additional escort as long as possible. (F.O.C.N.A. 1038/15 to AMARANTHUS). Following received addressed F.O.C.N.A. from AMARANTHUS. (Quotes her 1400/14). Request your remarks. (D.O.D.(F) 1209/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Survivors
of
BRITANNIA.

My Tel: No.26 (0445/3) And my Tel: No. 27 (1130/3). With one exception all ranks are now fit to return to duty and await instructions. (Consul-Gen. Teneriffe, 1115/15 to Embassy, Madrid).

PANDORA
CAIRNDALE.

From 034° 00'N., 012° 00'W. pass through 035° 30'N., 010° 00'W. to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1151/15 to PANDORA, CAIRNDALE)

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 2017/14 G.M.T. indicate probable surface unit within 200 miles of 032° N., 039° W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1255/15 to N.A.Station).

Yugoslav
ships.

Your 1433/10. Request Yugoslav ships PAVLA TALAS SUD be held at Gibraltar in order to avoid further crew trouble here with Yugoslav ships. German activities causing trouble especially among Croat Seamen. (Lisbon, 1614/15 to Admty).

SHEFFIELD
LONDON
MAURITIUS
S.L.71.

SHEFFIELD is to be sailed so as to meet ARGUS on 21/4 and escort her to Gibraltar. On relief LONDON join Convoy S.L.71 and escort it to U.K. MAURITIUS is to remain with Convoy until relieved by LONDON or as long as fuel will allow and then proceed to Gibraltar. Route of Convoy S.L.71 is being altered to pass through position 35° N., 23° W. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1948/15 to F.O.Force H, MAURITIUS, LONDON).

WAR DIARY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

German
Ships.

Arrivals ATLAS, ~~SAMONA~~ TRAPANI, SVELLBERG,
Lisbon: LISBON. (See page 381)
(Valencia T.H.I. 2100/15). ~~→ could be~~

SULLBERG

AURILLAC.
raider
report.

AURILLAC RRRR position 27.09N., 18.43W.
attacked by raider.
(Valencia Radio 2143/15, Liverpool W/T no
T.O.O./15).

KING
MALCOLM.
raider
report.

Following has been read. RRRR 16.53N.,
28.25W. KING MALCOLM followed suspicious
vessel.
(Freetown, 2152Z/15).

ORONTES.
raider
report.

Following intercepted. RRRR ORONTES
position 36.09N., 18.43 W. attacked by
raider.
(Capt: I/C Port of Spain, 2236/15 to
Admty).

South Atlantic.

W.S.7.
PASTEUR.

Your 2231/8. Assuming that Capetown
section of W.S.7 would normally remain
only about 2 days at Capetown, request
whether repairs to PASTEUR can be com-
pleted in this time. If not can
sufficient be done to enable ship to
proceed to Middle East?
(D. of S.P. 0201/15 to S.T.O.Freetown).

STIRLING
CASTLE,
EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA,
DEMPO.

To release STIRLING CASTLE at Durban so
as she can proceed to plate to load meat
for U.K. propose to use EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA for on-carriage from Durban to
Middle East of 1440 personnel at present
in STIRLING CASTLE. Use of balance
of accommodation. DEMPO is to be
used for advance parties of 2nd South
African Division. Q.M.Z. of 31/3 not to
all addressees refers.
(D. of S.T. 0202/15 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

LARGS BAY
W.S.7.

S.T.O. Freetown's 1725/9. Request that 1 Officer and 88 other ranks R.A.F. arriving Capetown in LARGS BAY be transferred to any ship in W.S.7. for onward movement to Middle East. (D. of S.T. 0207/15 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
Reply 1149/18.

Enemy Unit.

My 2254/14. Transmission at 1937Z/14. Further bearings place target within 100 miles of 36° 30'N., 15° 00'W. Possibly a U/Boat Halifax 085/3, Bermuda 070/3.
Transmission at 2037Z/14. Further bearings give area in South Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 0435/15 to C.in C. S.A.)
Following bearings obtained at 2358Z/14. Suggest same unit as at 2037Z/14 and 2057Z/14. Transmission referred to in Simonstown's 2135B/14 considered to have originated from unit in the North Atlantic.
(D.D.I.C. 0510/15 to C.in C. S.A.)
At 0239Z/15 on 8470 kc/s and again at 0553Z/15 on 7640 kc/s, the following message was transmitted by an unknown enemy unit. Text e XX LOKQ.
(Bearings from both transmissions).
(D.D.I.C. 0817/15 to C.in C. S.A.)
S.O.(I) Monte Video's 1606/Z/14 and A.M. 0817/15 indicate that U/Boat has been operating to Eastward of St. Pauls Rocks and may now be to the Eastward of Pernambuco.
(D.D.I. C. 1038/15 to C.in C. S.A.
R.A.S.A.D., C.in C. A.W.I.)

NORSEMAN.

Cable ship NORSEMAN proceeding to work off Santos entrance where due this evening. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1011/15 to Admty).

DUCHESS OF
YORK.

My 1204/14. As NELSON reports DUCHESS OF YORK has insufficient water to reach Durban ship must remain with N.E. portion of convoy.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1108B/15, to NELSON, NEWCASTLE).

WAR DIARY.

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TUESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Missing
A/C.

C.in C. S.A's 1431 of 3/3 I have thanked Portuguese Authorities of Air search already carried out for missing Fulmar Aircraft.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1211/5 to Admty).

NELSON.

Your 08012/15. addressed C.in C. S.A. Impossible berth ship in Basin or provide fuel Simonstown. Arrangements at Capetown must stand. Minor repairs and provisions can be undertaken from there.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1245B/15, to NELSON).

BRITANNIA.
Survivors.

My 1734/10, all survivors left for U.K. by HIGHLAND BRIGADE 15/4. with exception of three passengers who were granted permission to proceed to destination via Argentine.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1527/15).

S.L.
Convoy
Escorts.

Your 1851/13. Average speed of advance of convoys S.L.66 and 67 was $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
"Successful" signal has been used to denote that all ships have arrived in port and that convoy has been to time. When information has been received that convoy was more than six hours late this has been sent A.T.1805/20/3 refers. Any other relevant information when available will be signalled.
(D.T.D. 1630/15 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

S.S.
GLENARTNEY.

Estimated position 1200/15 B.S.T. 10°N., 27° W. speed of advance $15\frac{1}{2}$ knots ordered to pass through 08° 30'N., 19° 00'W. thence to Freetown. In view of importance of this ship request you will provide A/S escort.
(D.O.D.(F) 1740/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

487

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BANFORA
(intercepted
12/4).

Your 1651/14. Information regarding point one cannot be given until details of cargo if any received. Details should include consignors and consignees of all main items. (D.E.W.D. 1930/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy
Units.

D/F Bearing at 2357Z/14 indicates surface unit within 150 miles 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ °S., 25°W. Reliability 80%. This may be that previously reported in my 1823/14 which is now thought incorrect. D/F bearing at 2037Z/14 suggests surface unit within 300 miles 025° W. Reliability 60%. (C.in C. S.A. 1935N/15 to S.A.Station).

FRISCO
LAURA LAURO
(Italian).

(Sailed ^{from} Ceara 28/3). Machinery said to be in a bad state. Boiler pipe burst when raising steam. 2nd engineer and some of crew deserted before sailing, and crew completed from LAURA LAURO, which is unlikely to sail owing to tearing up her decks for fuel to reach port originally (D.S.589).

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report.

Intend sending nightly situation report till further notice. Report No.1. follows. (C.in C. Med., 0047/15 to Admty). See Lion copy.

URSULA.

UPHOLDER reports focal point 037° 05'N., 011° 07'E. Approach and leave Cape Bon ship keeping within sector 030° and 050° from lighthouse. Southern portion of area comprised by UPHOLDER. (?advise) operate Northward. * (Cdr. S.l. 0052/15 to URSULA). * (Alternative signification "Mine-sweepers operating northward").

Mediterranean
IN MESSAGE
=====

0047/15th April

III 487A

MOST SECRET

From C. in C. Mediterranean

Date 15.4.41.
Recd. 0821.

NAVAL CIPHER (D). BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated I.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force H,
S.B.F.O. Suez Canal Area, I.O.I.C. Port Tewfik.

IMPORTANT

28. Intend sending nightly situation report till further notice. Situation report number one follows.

(ii) Western desert. Mersa Tobruk. Much enemy air activity SAUDD 4 and BAMORA damaged on 13th neither seriously though latter had 12 killed 56 wounded mostly Mauritius Harbour Corps. During heavy dive-bombing attacks on 14th at least 8 enemy shot down no serious damage reported. Hospital ship VITA deliberately bombed by depth charges outside harbour now in tow on way to Alexandria. Sollua now again in our hands largely consequent on effect of bombardment of escarpment road transport and enemy positions by H.M.S. GRIT H.M.A.S. STUART and H.M.S. GRIFFIN despite fire of enemy line. Gunboats and destroyers continue to operate along the coast as requisite. Sweep by V.A.L.F. reported in my 2353/13 was unproductive but as destroyers worked close inshore and went within three miles of Tolmeita and Benghazi and as he also made careful coastal examination it appears clear that enemy is not yet using Benghazi or ports to Eastward.

(iii) Aegean. For details of yesterday's attack see B.N.A. Athens 1930/13. The losses from air which in Northern Aegean are serious and the lack of adequate fighter protection or sufficient A.S. weapons makes it necessary to accept the fact that these losses will continue.

(iv) Malta. No enemy convoy sighted at sea on the night of 13/14.

(v) General. Damage of oiler PERICLES on passage Suda Bay to Alexandria ran into heavy weather and broke in two. After portion in tow and it is hoped to anchor foremost portion when it drifts into Aboukir Bay no craft being available to take it in tow.

(vi) Submarines. H.M.S. TETRARCH reports torpedoing a tanker on 12 April about 20 miles north of Tripoli. No details yet.

(vii) 815 Squadron. Isail 5 Cucumbers south of Lazaretto Island in Brindisi and torpedoed a 10,000 ton tanker on the night of 12/13.

(viii) Movements of H.M.S. See my 1447/13. H.M.S. CALCUTTA reports shooting down 1 J U 38 and damaging 2 others on 2nd and 3rd April.

0047/15.

Advance copy P.O., C.S.O., A.C.N.S.(F), D.P.D.

1st Lord.	C.S.O. to 1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D.(2)
1st S.L.	D. of P.(2)	D.H.S.	D.P.D.
2nd S.L.	D.O.D.(F)	I.P.	
3rd S.L.	D.D.O.D.(F)	W.D.	
4th S.L.	D.O.D.(H)	Duty Captain	
5th S.L.	D.D.O.D.(H)	Head of I. (31)	
V.C.H.S.	D.N.I.(4)	D.T.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.S.D.	D.D.I.C.	
A.C.I.S.(F)	D.N.A.D.	H.P.S.	
A.C.H.S.(T)	D. of O.L.D.	N.I.D.10(Foy, Mr. Wilson)	

MG

*Not necessarily W/D
Characterised
this but
W.R. says
they can't
get it.*

15.4.1941.

TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Dangerous Area.

Admty. 2021/20/2. In view of altered situation in Mediterranean it is proposed dangerous area should be extended as follows:- (a) to include whole adriatic (b) to be extended to eastwards to a line drawn from a position 180° Cape Khelidonia 3 miles in a direction 204° to Ras El Kansis. The area to include whole Aegeon except Turkish territorial waters.
(C.in C. Med., 0203/15 to Admty).

W.S.6.

Following are disposal instructions for troopships of W.S.6.
(D. of S.T. 0203/15 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

U.S.10.

Following is summary of stores which will be on board ships of U.S.10 on arrival in Middle East.
QUEEN ELIZABETH, QUEEN MARY, ILE DE FRANCE, MAURETANIA, AQUITANIA. Request advice as to length of stay at Suez.
(D. of S.T. 0213/15 to C.in C. Med.).

Tripoli Bombed.

As result Glenn Martin recco Tripoli 13/4, 4 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack Tripoli Harbour night 14/15. Over target from 2020 to 2236 hours G.M.T. Fire seen on ship near hauling up slipway. Sticks also dropped near entrance of harbour across collection of ships. Results unobserved.
All aircraft returned.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0220/15).

Enemy Ships.

Small ship carrying petrol reported to have left Benghazi for Derna today.
(Capt: S.1. 0919/15 to TRUANT).

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Swordfish
attack on
Shipping at
Valona.

2300 G.M.T./15 6 Swordfish 815 Sqdn. attacked shipping in Valona Bay. 2 failed locate target. One missed with torpedo. One scored hit on merchant ship 6000 tons. One hit ammunition ship 7000 tons which blew up with tremendous explosion. One aircraft failed to return. 2000-0345 G.M.T. 10 waves of 20 to 30 enemy aircraft JU.88's and HE.111 (?) dive bombed Piraeus harbour. Machine gunned gun position at Selinikil ship blown up by parachutemine. (H.Q. R.A.F. Greece 1017/15).

Enemy air
attack on
Piraeus.

M.D.l.

My 1447/13. Operation M.D.l. postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Med., 1019/15).

Genoa.

Result of P.R.U. of Genoa at 1315/14.
(D.D.I.C. 1059/15 to C.in C. Med.,
V.A.Malta.)

Hospital
ship
VITA
attacked.

Operational Summary No.309 up to 1200 hours 15/4/1941.
14/4. Hospital ship VITA damaged during afternoon raid now in tow to Alexandria. 1109/5.

REGENT.

Request you will sail REGENT when ready for patrol in Eastern Portion of lower Tyrrhenean Sea to operate between +Naples and Northern Approaches of Messina.
(Capt: S.l. 1215/15 to Cdr. S.l.)

3rd C.S.)
7th C.S.)

Your 1223/1. *Approved. Date should be reported.
* (Proposal to combine 3rd and 7th C.S. as 7th C.S.)
(Head of M. 1220/15 to C.in C. Med.)

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

490

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Piraeus
bombed,
14/4.

Operational Summary No. 125 Part 3.
1345 hrs. G.M.T. 27 enemy aircraft
reported JU.88's and S.E.110's dive
bombing Piraeus from 10000 feet. 3
empty houses demolished. Majority bombs
fell in sea.
(H.Q. B.A.F. Greece, 1242/15).

ARKADIA
(German).

Istanbul 14/4 arrival ARKADIA
(Galata 1246/15.)

SURCOUF.

A.M. 1940/8 and your 1914/9. SURCOUF
is to be sailed direct for Malta as
soon as special stores are embarked.
Outfit ammunition and reload torpedoes
are to be sent to Gibraltar in next
convenient O.G.Convoy.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1257/15 to F.O.S.).

Enemy Convoy.
11-12/4.

My 1934/14 referred to operations of the
night 11-12/4. On night 12 and 13 this
fast convoy turned north at 2115
presumably owing to being shadowed.
Destroyers did not make contact.
(V.A.Malta, 1325/15 to Admty).

Air
Patrol.

C.in C. 1447/13 para.K. Patrol P will
be carried out. Regret unable to
undertake reconnaissance of Messina or
Taranto at present. T.O.O. 1555/15.
(A.O.C. Med., 1557/15 to Med. Fleet).

Enemy
Convoy.

Combined services report Malta up to
1600 hours 15/4. All times G.M.T.
1330 second Glenn Martin despatched to
shadow convoy for destroyer striking
force. Convoy located 1455 hours
36° 12'N., 11° 16'E. course 180°.

Malta Raid.

Night 14/15. 30 to 35 enemy aircraft
operating. Bombs dropped in various
localities, no service damage or
casualties beyond temporary power failure.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/15).

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian
destroyers.
Susa.

Following from War Department. From Tunis 10/4 from a good source. Three Italian destroyers have taken refuge in Susa, Tunisia. (N.A.Washington, 1646/15 to Admty).

GREYHOUND.
VENDETTA.
TRUANT.

GREYHOUND and VENDETTA will be operating to westward along-side coast past Derna tonight 15/16. Withdraw northwards (? and) remaining at least 30 miles from coast during dark hours. (Capt: S.l. 1755/15 to TRUANT).

Ships
damaged
at
Piraeus.
(Air attack)

^{*}WARSAW

Position 15/4 DAISY MOLLER, ANTIULIT^{*}, HELKA, DEVIS, KATIE MOLLER, HAVRE unchanged CLAN CUMMING struck a mine and sunk. GOALPARA, QUILOA bombed and beached WARZAWA RAWNSLEY (B) Discharge (C) Uncertain. Agreed R.A.I.C.Alexandria. pass to G.H.Q. Middle East. (D.S.T.O. Piraeus 1839/15).

^{*} QUERY COULD BE ATTKI.
^{*} Greek Hospital Ships.

Corinth
Canal.

N.A.Athens 1822/11. We do not concur in last sentence. We consider that it would be a grave mistake to allow canal to fall into enemy hands unblocked. (1st S.L. 1956/15, to C.in C. Med.)

Situation
at Piraeus.
QUILOA
GOALPARA
damaged.

There are some 14 undamaged ships of Greek charter or Allied or British now in Gulf of Athens which have to move at night to funk holes. This policy has been fairly successful though if heavy scale attacks continue we shall have more losses. Have not sufficient escort to send (?ships) away nor does it seem desirable as they may be needed in (?) emergency. Do you consider it suitable to escort 8 or 10 to Suda Bay as stand by. Ships in Eleusis Bay damaged in this morning's raid were QUILOA(?) slightly and GOALPARA seriously. If adequate fighter protection was always available situation would be easier and also morale would be higher. (N.A.Athens, 2002/15 to C.in C. Med.)

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy
Reinforcements
in Libya.

06740. 58515 cipher. 15/4. My 56112 of 4/4. Further confirmation from Italian and German sources. 3 German Armoured Divisions and 1 German and 1 Italian Motorised Divisions now in Libya. Majority arrived in huge convoy during naval battle Matapan. (M.A.Ankara, 2019/15 to C.in C. M.E.)

MOOR
(mined 8/4)
Minesweeping,
Malta.

My 2211/16/3 and my 1516/13/3. 8/4 mooring vessel MOOR mined and sunk in position 270 yards 211° from Ricasoli Breakwater L.V. was taking unauthorised short cut. Probable delayed action 39 days.

Entrance to Grand Harbour and Marsamxett harbour and all suspected mines had been repeatedly swept with skid and S/A gear.

9/4 Drifter TRUSTY STAR was commissioned as single L Drifter fitted with Hopper gear and carried out (? L) satisfactorily she is also fitted with S/A gear.

11/4. Submerged mine was detonated by L sweep in position 044° 520 yards from St. Elmo Breakwater Light. Probable delayed action 56 days, depth of water 24 fathoms. (V.A.Malta, 2020/15 to C.in C. Med.)

TETRARCH
and
enemy
convoy
13/4.

TETRARCH's 2100/13 (N.T. in W.R.) is not understood. From this signal it is apparent that he had received all signals from you and me and was therefore fully informed. If TETRARCH retired N and W. as stated he was in an ideal position to intercept this important convoy, if he retired in any other direction he showed complete lack of appreciation. (Cdr. S.1. 2025/15 to Capt: S.1.)

Situation
Report No.2.

GNAT damaged. D.14 bombed. PERICLES lost. (C.in C. Med., 2351/15) See Lion Copy.

M

492A

IN MESSAGE

2351/15th April.

MOST SECRET

IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean.

Date 16.4.41.

Recd. ?

NAVAL CYPHER X Cable.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated V.A. Malta, F.O.H., S.B.N.O. Canal Area.

45. Situation report No. 2. Western Desert. Gunboats bombarded in Gazala and Bardia areas. GHAT damaged by mobile battery in Sollum Bay returning Alexandria. Hospital ship VITA had to return Tobruk and evacuated patients, not clear if ship has been saved or not. Attack was with heavy bombs not depth charges.

2. Aegean. See N.A. Athens 1153/15 Rear Admiral Baillie Grohman proceeding Athens to discuss matters referred to in first sentence of N.A. Athens message quoted. Convoy A N 27 sailed for Greece A.N. today Tuesday. GLENROY returned from Lemnos with Bedfordshire and Hartfordshire Regiment. A S F 25 and G A 12 arrived.

3. Malta. Convoy reported steering South on Tripoli route at 1700. D.14 sailing to try to intercept aided by Swordfish night reconnaissance. Heavy air attacks but no serious damage. Destroyer have now been attacked twice off Malta.

4. Submarines. Tanker torpedoed by TETRARCH was southbound and fully laden.

5. General. PERICLES was lost after tow was abandoned as she was drifting over minefield.

2351/15.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.,
P.O., C.S.O., A.C.N.S.(F), D.P.D.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D.N.I.(4) |
| 1st S.L. | D.S.D. |
| 2nd S.L. | D.N.A.D. |
| 3rd S.L. | D. of L.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D.A/S.W. |
| 5th S.L. | D.M.S. |
| V.C.N.S. | I.P. |
| A.C.N.S.(II) | W.D. ——— |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | Duty Captain |
| A.C.N.S.(T)(2) | Head of I. (20) |
| C.S.O. to 1st S.L. | D.T.S.D. |
| D. of P.(2) | D.D.I.C. |
| D.O.D.(F) | E.P.S. |
| D.D.O.D.(F) | D.T.D.(2) |
| D.O.D.(H) | N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Odr.Wilson). |
| D.D.O.D.(H) | D.P.D. |

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ DAUNTLESS.

To leave Colombo T.0230Z/16 and proceed to Singapore at 15 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0506Z/15 to DAUNTLESS).
My 0506/15. As D/F bearings indicate possible raiders active south of Ceylon intend DAUNTLESS to proceed through position 002° N., 081° E. subject to your concurrence.
(C.in C. E.I. 1010Z/15 to C.in C. China).

Cancelled - See below -

Zula
Captured.

Zula aerodrome ours. Road Kuba now open for supplies. Possibility of temporarily using Kuba to load motor transport required for Suez under consideration. One Swordfish force landed Zula 14/4 after reconnoitring Perim Island. Aircraft with repair personnel proceeding today.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0558Z/15 to Admty).

D/F

Enemy transmissions reported in following signals are considered to have originated from positions in North Atlantic. Bombay Fort's 1643Z/14, 1706Z/14, 1826Z/14, 2317Z/14, Singapore's 2016Z/14. Awarua's 2018Z/14, Colombo's 1953Z/14.
(D.D.I.C. 0752/15 to C.in C. E.I.)

→ DAUNTLESS.

278. Cancel my 1010/15 in view of A.M. 0752/15 to C.in C. E.I. and C.O.S. Singapore only.
(C.in C. E.I. 1314Z/15 to C.in C. China).

Enemy
Ships
Assab.

On 11/4, 3 enemy merchantmen were at Assab. 2 of them on fire. Ships previously reported at Assab were German GERA, 5155 tons, and Italian ARABIA, 5943 tons, NAZARIO SAURO 8150 tons, and TRIPOLI-TANIA, 2722 tons.
(D.S. 588 15/4).

WAR DIARY.

15.4.1941.
TUESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

494

China.

Singapore
conference.

Chiefs of Staff Nos. F.E.3. and F.E.4.
Terms of Reference.
(1st S.L. 1156/15, 1157/15 to C.in C's
China and E.Indies).
See Lion Copy.

ELSA
ESSBERGER
REGENSBURG.

Kobe 14/4 ELSA ESSBERGER absent from
port, one unidentified ship present
resembling REGENSBURG.
(Capt: O.S.Singapore, 0823/15).

China

M E S S A G E

1156/15th April.
OUT.

POST SECRET

To: C. in C. China. 728.
C. in C. East Indies. 800.

Date 15.4.44.

494A

NAVAL CYPIER (D).

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

Following from Chiefs of Staff, No. F.E. 4 to Commanders in Chief, Far East, China and East Indies. (Begins).

Reference to telegrams Nos. 83 and 109 from New Zealand, 187 from Australia and 0915/26th March from C. in C. China. Full report of A.D.A. Conference not yet received but following tentative views based on telegraphic summary are communicated in connection with Part II of forthcoming Conference at Singapore.

2. Influence of U.S.A. in Restricting Freedom to move southwards. Admittedly this is a letter of opinion. Some Japanese capital ships would certainly be available for Malayan area but we doubt whether cruisers would be available in large numbers for attack on trade. We concur with views expressed in paragraph 2, repeat 2, of report of conference and C. in C. China's 0915/26th March. matter

3. Scale of attack on South Pacific Trade Routes.

The view expressed by the conference appears to us to be a fair description of the likely scale of attack.

4. Establishment of bases by Japan in New Guinea - Fiji area. We agree with the view expressed by the conference, and note with satisfaction that a good deal has already been done and that the matter is continuing to receive active consideration.

5. Major attack on sea Communications.

While not ruling out the possibility we do not regard this course of action as likely. A world wide re-distribution of forces would be necessary in such an eventuality and it would, we consider, be useless to attempt to draw up plans now on account of the many variable factors which make it impracticable to forecast the forces which might be available over and above those already provided for. All we can usefully do at present is to draw up plans for what we regard as the most probable situation with the forces likely to be available.

6. Protection of Troop Convoys in Indian Ocean.

Initially we shall have only one capital ship in the Indian Ocean. To provide capital ship escort for convoys it will, at first, be necessary to accept reduced frequency in sailings. As regards further reinforcements see paragraph 5 above. Although capital ship escort appears desirable it may be found possible, depending on the actual course of events, to

accept a lower scale of escort, e.g. two large cruisers.

7. Definition of Act of War by Japan.
Our views on this subject have already been made clear in telegram No. 56253 cypher H.O. 10 13/3. We agree with great importance attached to avoiding delay in reaching decision and this point is receiving attention on political plane. The advance notification to Japanese Government of interpretation we should place on certain actions by them is open to the objection that it would amount to prejudicing that would constitute an act of war by Japan. On military grounds we regard this as dangerous except in collaboration with U.S.A. We agree with Commonwealth Government as regards Philippines.

8. Australian Forces for Keopang and Ambon.
We agree that on military grounds it is desirable that these moves should be completed prior to outbreak of hostilities but we consider it would provoke Japan to take counter measures. The feasibility of so doing is receiving attention on political plane. We presume that control of troops at Ambon will be cleared up at forthcoming conference.

9. Progressive Naval Reinforcement East of Suez in event of a serious threat to Australia.
Our view is that no useful purpose would be served by attempting to draw up plans for such an eventuality at Singapore at this stage. To attempt to forecast the forces which might be available is quite impracticable and would therefore be misleading. (Ends).

1156/15.
Secretary to 1st Sea Lord.

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

MOST SECRET

494B)

From War Registry.

Date. 16.4.41

Please amend the word "letter" in the second sentence of paragraph 2 of Admiralty Telegram 1156/15 to C. in C. East Indies and C. in C. China to read "matter".

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.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.H.S.

I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain.
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.
D.T.D. (2)
N.I.D. 10 (Pay.Cdr. Wilson)
Admiral Bailey.

494(6), China

MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT 1157/15/April.

To: - C. in C. China, 729. Date 15.4.41.
C. in C. East Indies, 801.

NAVAL CYPHER D.

From Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

Following from Chiefs of Staff, No. F.E. 3 to Commanders-in-Chief, Far East, China and East Indies (begins)

1. Reference C.O.S. telegram F.E. 2. following are terms of reference for Part II of conference subject to concurrence of Governments of Australia and New Zealand and Netherlands East Indies defence authorities.
2. Hypotheses as for Part I but U.S.A. neutral. Plans should be based on the assumption that the question of what would constitute an act of war by Japan could only be decided by H.M. Government in consultation with other Governments concerned, in light of circumstances at the time.
3. Object of Conference. To clear up outstanding points arising out of Anglo-Dutch-Australian conversations at Singapore in February 1941, and to draw up plans for disposition and employment of British and Dutch forces in the Far East.
4. Representation As for Part I but U.S. representatives present only as observers.
5. Particular points for discussion are:-
 - (a) Naval plans on basis of Forces outlined in para. 12 of report on Anglo Dutch Australian Conversations distinguishing between situations before and after re-distribution of forces referred to in paragraph A of Admiralty telegram 1135/24th February.
 - (b) Provision of escorts for troop convoys.
 - (c) Protection of troop movements from Australia to Ambon and Koepang and subsequent maintenance.
 - (d) Protection of supply routes in Indian Ocean and route to the United Kingdom via Panama.
 - (e) Any re-organisation of Naval Commands or spheres of operational control considered necessary to dovetail in with results of Part I of conference.
 - (f) Any further steps considered necessary in connection with defences of ports in New-Guinea-Fiji area.
 - (g) Promulgation of monthly reports of progress.
 - (h) Command of troops at Ambon.
6. Action is being taken here to obtain concurrence of Dominion Governments concerned in above terms of reference. Commander-in-Chief, Far East, is requested to obtain concurrence of Netherlands East Indies defence authorities ends.

1157/15.

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

MOST SECRET.15.4.1941.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.→ Enemy Unit,
DESPATCH.D/F Fix places enemy Unit at 2017Z/14
within 200 miles of 032 N. 039 W.
Investigate.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0809/15 to DESPATCH).CANTONYour 1249/13 Adm. French has requested
CANTON should not be sailed until he
gives me a firm date for her arrival
at Hoboken.
(B.S.3. 1032/15 to Admty).→ Enemy UnitMy 2206/14. Further bearings give
estimated position of enemy unit at
2017Z/14 within 200 miles of 32 N. 39. W.
(D.D.I.C. 1033/15 to C. in C.'s H.F.,
W.A., A.W.I., S.A., FO.C.N.A.)Signal letters
for British &
Allied Merchant
ships.Your 1851/31/3 and your 1354/22/2.
Ships whose signal letters are unknown
here are reporting amended times
of arrival. Could allocations of
signal letters be passed by signal as
soon as issued since the time lag of
asking Admiralty for signal letters
destroys value of ship breaking W/T
silence to amend time of arrival.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1102/15 to Admty).SNELAND IMinistry of Shipping 1128/19/3 Norg.
ship SNELAND I not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1117/15 to Admty)Newfoundland
Fuelling Bases.Your 1947/27. Assume ships after
refuelling would normally return to
Halifax for repairs provisions etc.
anchorage on S.E. coast seeming preferable
Those on West coast in any event would
prolong the passage. Order of suitability
is considered to be St. Mary's Bay,
always ice free and in proximity to
U.S.A. base at Argentia. Smith Sound,
available in summer and well hidden.

Botwood, well.....

MOST SECRET.

15.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

496

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Newfoundland
Fuelling
Bases. (contd).

Botwood, well protected anchorage with advantage of proximity to air station but only available in summer. Present lack of A/S protection in any of these anchorages would be an anxiety. (B.S. 3, 1159/15 to Admty),

CANTON
Crews for
M.V's

My 1032/15 CANTON now sails 0800 Q/16 arriving off Ambrose at 2100 zone + 5/17. Ship is carrying three complete crews for fast merchant ships. A fourth complete crew is being retained at Halifax to man ship being handed over St. John N.B. (R.A.3 B.S. 1614/15 to Admty).

CARIMARE

Trinidad reports French ship CARIMARE sailed France 31/3 for Fort de France carrying 4½ million francs in bank notes. Censor holds bill of lading. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1655/15 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

FRIESLAND
(scuttled
?1/4)

Wreck of German FRIESLAND on side in 7 fathoms in 004 58' S 081 09' 30" W. Danger to navigation. (S.O.(I) Callao 1739/15).

Possible
U/Boat.

Five U.S. Coastal Stations have picked up signal on 6,660 k/cs considered to be from S/M 200 to 300 miles east Newfoundland at 0114/15. It was not possible to obtain a fix. (N.A. Washington, 1840/15 to Admty).

Pitcairn.

MAP. 4999 15/4 For Baker from C.N.R. Re Briny 4152 (0355/ 1 N.T. in W.D.) Admiralty most interested. Request you keep the position open pending further consideration and that you take up the question of priority. (Min. Aircraft Prodn. 1920/15 to Brit. Air Com. Washington).

Escorts to 35 W.....

497

15.4.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Escorts to
35°W.

Decided to extend A/S escort to 35° W. approx. by using escort groups based on Iceland. Iceland escort groups will operate between 35° W. and limit of normal escort from U.K. This scheme will start with S.C. 28. In view of this decision following general policy for Atlantic Ocean Escort is now being introduced:-
(A) Battleships are to leave Convoy in 35° W. and return to Halifax.
(B) A.M.C's are to proceed to Iceland escorted by Iceland Escort.
(C) Submarines are to leave Convoy 12 hours before Iceland Escort is due to meet.
(A.C.N.S.(T) and (H) 1936/15 to R.A.3 etc.).

REVENGE
RESOLUTION
DERBYSHIRE

Your 0618/15 to R.A. 3rd B.S. and C.O.A.C. Halifax only, REVENGE escorted by SAINT CROIX and BUXTON sail 0830/17. Adjust speed to arrive either before or after this convoy. RESOLUTION is to enter harbour before DERBYSHIRE and berth at pier 40. DERBYSHIRE is subsequently to berth at 39. You may expect air escort weather permitting.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 2105/15 to RESOLUTION).

VOLTAIRE

My 1211/5 PRINCE DAVID reports very heavy oil patch in position 1431' N 4032' W on 7/4. Strong smell of oil in whole area of one mile by three miles. Water was full of very small black pieces of charred wood. Clothes and newspapers sighted below surface. Several sharks seen in area. Oil patch again found in same position about sunset 9/4. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2212/15 to Adty.).

Australia.

NYUGAT
(Hungarian)
intercepted.

Following information supplied by A.C.N.B. that Capt. Zoller, Master of Hungarian NYUGAT, en route from Fremantle to Manila and Taku Bar, intends taking NYUGAT to Japan, C.in C. Netherlands E.I., Naval Force despatched a destroyer to intercept vessel. Report now received that NYUGAT was seized 0830Z/13 in 011 18' S. 123 44' E. and is being taken to Sourabaya. NYUGAT is under charter to Australian Wheat board and has a full cargo of flour. (A.C.N.B. 0237Z/15 to Admty.).

10-2-58

Torpedoed skipper will thank U-boat man

By BETTY WILLIAMS

A MERCHANT NAVY captain's 12-year search for the German U-boat commander who torpedoed his ship, then helped the crew to reach safety, has ended.

And last night Captain Howard Baker, who now keeps the Poole Arms on the quayside at Poole, Dorset, wrote to the German commander, Wilhelm Schultz, a 53-year-old industrial salesman in Hamburg, inviting him to Poole.

"If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here today," said 47-year-old Captain Baker. "He was a perfect gentleman."

The story begins in April, 1941. The British merchantman Tweed, sailing off West Africa, is dodging the U-boat packs.

Schultz, aboard the U-124, gets her in his sights. He fires. She sinks so rapidly that one lifeboat is not launched properly. It floats upside down.

Several seamen manage to

cling to it, among them Captain Baker.

The U-boat surfaces. The wounded are taken aboard and treated; the lifeboat is righted and, with others, stocked with food. The lonely convoy of lifeboats is headed towards Africa—550 miles away.

And there, as far as Schultz is concerned, the story might have ended.

But Captain Baker made a vow that day: To find the German and thank him.

When the war ended he was told the commander was dead. Then, recently, a German paper published the story. And Schultz was found.

DUIPS W...

War Diary.

15.4.1941. 498
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

MEMNON.
(torpedoed
11/3.) *by U. 106*

(a) British Ship MEMNON torpedoed 1515/11/3
G.M.T. in 020° 41' N., 021° 00' W.
(C. in C. S.A., 0334/15, to Admty.).

VILLE DE
LIEGE.
(torpedoed
0026/14.).

No sign of ship or survivors. Expect to
join Convoy 2000/15, 59.45N30.14W (weather)
(HESPERUS, 1051/15 to C. in C.W.A.).
VILLE DE LIEGE appears to have been over
30 hours astern of her estimated position
and consequently did not receive Admiralty
messages diverting her from known position
of U-Boats. Attention is drawn to C.A.F.O.
241/41 indicating speed of 13 knots against
14-1/2 and 15 knots speeds of advance in
your 1643/5/4. Masters are inclined to
overstate speed of their vessels and
N.C.S.O's should exercise caution in accept-
ing estimates in excess of those indicated
in relative C.A.F.O's. (D.T.D. 2012/15, to
N.C.S.O. New York.).

S.C.26.

Total casualties in S.C.26 when attacked on
3/4. (D.T.D., 1800/15, see Shipping and
Convoys.).

TWEED.
(torpedoed
8/4.).

Sunk by U. 124

Remainder of crew landed Dakar 11/4 except
radio operator and two Sierra Leone natives.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1210/15, to Admty.).
TWEED, 2697 tons, has been torpedoed and
sunk 100 miles off Freetown on 8/4. 11
Europeans and 4 Asiatics landed at Conakry
on 10/4. (D.S. 590, 17/4.).

BRASIL
(missed by
torpedoed
4/4.).

Norwegian Tanker BRASIL attacked by S/M
1230 S. A.T.4/4 in 56° 15' N., 27° 50'
W., one torpedo fired which missed. S/M.
not sighted and made no further attack.
(N.C.S.O., New York, 1644/15, to Admty.).

RAJPUTANA.
(torpedoed
13/4.).

TULIP, HYDRANGEA, sailed with COPELAND.
COPELAND has 12 officers and (?80) ratings
ex RAJPUTANA for Greenock.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1655/15, to Admty.).

War Diary.

15.4.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

499

S/M's Reported.

0216. By D/F at 0216/15 position of German U-Boat was 50° - 52° N. 22° - 29° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0317/15, to C. in C. W.A., etc.)
1009. D/F at 1009/15 gives position of a German U/Boat as 50° N., 20° W. The position is only an indication of the area. (D.D.I.C. 1108/15.).
0114. Five U.S. Coastal Stations have picked up signals on 5660 k's., considered to be from a submarine 200 to 300 miles east of Newfoundland at 0114/15. It was not possible to obtain a fix. (B.N.A. Washington 1840/15.).
Estimated U/B dispositions.
(D.D.I.C. 1230/15.).

South Atlantic.

D/F transmissions. (D.D.I.C. 0435/15, 0510/15, 0817/15, 1038/15.).
See FOREIGN STATIONS, South Atlantic.

America & West Indies.

0114. 200-300 miles E. of Newfoundland. (N.A. Washington, 1840/15.). See FOREIGN STATIONS, America & West Indies.

War Diary.

15.4.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

500

S/M's Attacked.

By SCOTTISH
14/4.

Nothing more to report. Ships have resumed patrol. Target was definitely submarine and was attacked 10 times. (SCOTTISH, 0900/15, to F.O.C.N.A.). SCOTTISH on Y.1 patrol south sighted and attacked submarine on a bearing (?272°) from Cape Espichel 28 miles at 1450/14. (F.O.C.N.A. 1403/15, 1712/15, to N.A.Stn.). My 1403/15 LOCH OSKAIG from Y I North was ordered to join SCOTTISH. SCOTTISH reported at 1720/14 that she expended 24 depth charges on excellent echo with no apparent results and at 2300 that contact had been lost. Normal patrols were resumed at 0800/15. (F.O.C.N.A. 1713/15, to Admty.).